

movement which in this state, at the time that I was police commissioner, resulted in the enactment of a law permitting contests between professional boxers under conditions which were meant to safeguard the sport against brutality and the other evils which have everywhere resulted sooner or later in the suppression of the prize ring. I saw several of these public boxing contests in which the intent of the law was carried out in good faith. Nevertheless, even under this law, abuses crept in, and, finally, one or two fights occurred where the surrounding circumstances were so scandalous that when I was governor I was obliged to advocate, and finally to secure, the repeal of the law under which the contests took place, feeling convinced, together with the great majority of the citizens of the state, that under it almost all that made prize fighting objectionable and demoralizing had gradually been revived. Now this was my experience, the experience of a man who, so far from being prejudiced against boxing, was and is a warm advocate of it, and who, at the outset, had not the slightest prejudice against professional boxing—that is, boxing for purses of money—and who has numbered among his friends many men who were professionals and had fought for money prizes. I am sure that what has happened in New York will happen in the nation at large, and that prize fighting will be, as it ought to be, stopped in every state of the union. Since it was stopped in New York the conditions surrounding the ring have grown worse and not better. The money prizes fought for are enormous, and a potent source of demoralization in themselves, while they are often so arranged as either to be a premium on crookedness or else to reward nearly as amply the man who fails as the man who succeeds. The betting and gambling upon the result are thoroughly unhealthy, and the moving picture part of the proceedings has introduced a new method of money getting and of demoralization. In addition, the last contest provoked a very unfortunate display of race antagonism."

HENRY BARRETT Chamberlain, writing in the Chicago Record-Herald, gives an interesting story of the greatest showman of them all, P. T. Barnum. Mr. Chamberlain says: "Probably no modern advertiser has equaled the resourcefulness of Barnum in attracting attention, nor is it likely that his daring methods would be countenanced today. While there are many living who remember his notable efforts—the naming and exhibiting of General Tom Thumb, the bringing of Jenny Lind to America and the purchase of Jumbo, the great elephant—his first effort is not of such common knowledge. Embarking in the show business in 1835, on July 15 of the following year he wrote this description of his enterprise: 'One of the greatest natural curiosities ever witnessed, viz., Joyce Heth, a negress, 161 years old, who formerly belonged to the father of General Washington.' The audacity of this gave Barnum a recognized place with the fraternity of showmen of the time and enabled him to make a moderate success of his wandering exhibition, consisting of odds and ends of ten performances, music hall specialists and attractions of various sorts until 1841, when he began his career as a museum proprietor in New York at the corner of Broadway and Ann street. There was a museum at this corner, but it was a profitless concern until Barnum induced a capitalist to furnish the money for its purchase with the understanding that he was to have the option to buy if he made it pay. He made a success by consistent advertising, expending every dollar of his profits except \$600 a year, which he reserved for his family expenses. He printed pages in the newspapers about the great moral show that he was running, billed the whole town with glaring posters and worked up such a business that he was giving twelve performances a day and turning people away from his doors."

BARNUM'S FIRST speculation, according to Mr. Chamberlain, "was the engagement of Charles S. Stratton, whom he exhibited as General Tom Thumb. He first saw the midget at Bridgeport in November, 1842, and thus described him: 'He was not two feet high; he weighed less than sixteen pounds; he was a perfectly formed, bright-eyed little fellow, with light hair and ruddy cheeks and enjoyed the best of health.' The little fellow was engaged for four weeks at \$3 a week, with all traveling and boarding expenses for himself and mother. Barnum personally trained him to sing, recite and give imitations. The second engagement was at \$7 a week and the third at \$50 a week,

Including all expenses for Stratton, his father and mother, a tutor and a trip to Europe. In London the 'general' was exhibited for a short time at the Princess theater. This was just to make sure that the English public would like this sort of entertainment. Satisfied of this, Barnum closed the show and went into comparative retirement with the general 'because the royal family was in mourning for the death of Prince Albert's father.' The showman rented a private house in Grafton street, Mayfair, hired a full staff of servants, liveried as if they were serving royalty, and sent out a few invitations to titled people to call on the general. The general's afternoons at home became a craze with London's social set. Titled folk without invitations visited the Grafton street mansion only to be denied admittance. They received cards the next day. The Baroness Rothschild sent her carriage for the general, and finally the queen herself commanded the general's attendance at Buckingham palace. By this time General Thumb was exhibiting at Egyptian hall in Piccadilly and the audiences represented the wealth and fashion of London. When Barnum had worked his advertising campaign to a point where the queen asked the midget to her palace, Barnum turned it to account by closing Egyptian hall and putting on the door a placard reading: 'Closed this evening, General Tom Thumb being at Buckingham palace by command of her majesty.' After that lords, dukes, duchesses, ambassadors and foreign princes showered invitations upon the general. Barnum put a price upon all visits except to royalty and besides giving afternoon and evening entertainments much money was received for entertainments in private houses. Under Barnum's management the general accumulated a large fortune."

THE SWEET Singer of Sweden became famous through Barnum's efforts. Mr. Chamberlain says: "Jenny Lind arrived in this country September 1, 1850, under a contract with Barnum to receive \$1,000 each for 150 concerts, he to pay all her traveling expenses, to provide her with horses and carriages, to pay the expenses and salary of a male and female servant, a secretary and traveling companion and such articles as she wished to assist her. A provision in the contract called for the deposit with Baring Brothers in London of sufficient money to pay all of the salaries and expenses. Barnum borrowed this money, and entered into the venture, although he had never seen Jenny Lind and knew her only by reputation as 'The Swedish Nightingale.' So well did Barnum conduct his advertising campaign, however, that when the singer arrived the entire city of New York turned out to welcome her and the first tickets sold at auction for the first concert at \$225. Afterward, in other cities the choice of seats brought three times that amount, and the receipts for the first concert were \$17,864. Because of differences of opinion between the showman and his star but ninety-five concerts were given. The total receipts for these were \$712,161.34. Despite this great success Barnum was absolutely penniless at the end of six years owing to some unfortunate land speculations. From this he recovered, however, and organized in 1874 'Barnum's greatest show on earth,' to which during his lifetime approximately 100,000,000 tickets were sold. Barnum's most lasting fame is probably as a showman, but he won many other laurels. He wrote a book, of which more than one million copies were sold. He lectured before the largest audiences in Europe and America. He laid out and built up the eastern half of Bridgeport, Conn., was a member of the Connecticut legislature for several terms and was mayor of Bridgeport, and made a most enviable record. The property and buildings in Bridgeport of the Fairfield County Historical Society, the Bridgeport Scientific Society and the County Medical Society are his gifts. He died at Bridgeport, April 7, 1891, where he had made his home for almost half a century, and to the prosperity of which he contributed more than any other citizen."

WELCOME, ROOSEVELT, JOURNALIST

Editor Roosevelt will receive a cordial welcome to the ranks of journalism. The newspaper, the magazine and the periodical are an inviting field to one who has opinions and is willing to express them. The weekly newspaper is even more attractive than the daily to the man who desires to reach and influence a thinking clientele. The daily paper is read hurriedly; the weekly is read more deliberately and its contents are more thoroughly digested.

Speaking through The Outlook, Ex-President

Roosevelt will exert an influence upon the political thought of the nation measured only by his candor and by the correctness of his attitude on public questions. One of his first editorials, that in the issue of July 2, deals with the management of "small states which are unable to manage themselves." It is evidently an explanation of his speech in London. He does not reiterate the most objectionable parts of his speech. He does not urge the doctrine that the custodian should deal with a strong hand, but contents himself with a general defense of the colonial idea that some people are unable to govern themselves and should, in the interest of civilization, be governed from the outside. The theory stated as mildly as language would permit is still objectionable from the American standpoint. It is not fair for Mr. Roosevelt to put us in a class with the colonizing powers. We did not take possession of the Philippine Islands for the purpose of civilizing them or to supply them with a better government than they could furnish themselves. The chief defense made of our Philippine policy by the republicans is that we got the Philippine Islands by accident and are not yet able to let go. No republican platform has declared for colonialism, and our government has never been guilty of an official utterance that can be twisted into the support of Mr. Roosevelt's doctrine.

However, it is always an advantage to have an erroneous doctrine stated by its strongest exponent, for when the strongest can not defend a position weaker men need not try.

The Commoner expects to co-operate with Mr. Roosevelt wherever it can agree with him, and expects to combat his doctrine wherever they seem dangerous to public welfare. But whether it agrees with the new editor or dissents from him it joins the newspaper world in bidding him welcome, and it congratulates journalism upon the accession to its ranks of one of such distinguished ability and great prestige.

IF THE PEOPLE RULE WHY DON'T THEY GET WHAT THEY WANT?

(Continued from Page 5)

be depended on for reform work. The second and third classes have reason to fear results.

William W. Anderson, Forsyth, Ga.—If the people don't get what they want, it is apparent they do not rule. If the people do not rule it is plain that some other corps does. If some one else does rule, will it not be conceded that the lawmakers do. If the lawmakers rule is it not likely we have more of them than we need. If we have more of them than we need, would it not be the logical remedy to reduce their number—say half.

E. C. Martindale, Plymouth, Ind.—My answer to this question is: Because there are just as many wants as there are people. Every man's wants differ from every other man's wants in some respects; therefore the people can not agree as to what should be, to guarantee to all, the greatest degree of personal liberty and happiness.

W. T. Williams, Greenville, Pa.—My answer is, that the majority of the people do rule, and through that majority the politicians and grafters rule the whole bunch, and will continue to do so until each voter takes this question up and studies it out for himself, and votes for men who stand for truth, and honest principles, in place of being voted for men whose sole aim in life is to make the opulent more and more opulent, and destroy the means by which the masses are supposed to make an honest, decent living.

N. H. Baldwin, Laconia, N. H.—The question of Senator Owen can not be answered. There is a big "if" in the way. If all persons thought alike it would be easy to satisfy all of them in regard to beliefs or objects desired. One thinks he would have things his way, another would have them different. That settles it. All of them can not get what they want! Never! The people of this country rule all right, but they differ in thought.

Deacon Donham, Publisher "Donham's Doings," LeSueur, Minn.—I would suggest that they are deceived by the newspapers into voting too many men into office who disregard their party platforms, and ignore their ante-election professions, if not out-and-out promises, to the masses.