

ment is more highly regarded than it is in most of the large cities of the United States.

I observed with interest the enthusiasm manifested by the officials in the work being done by the respective cities. At Birmingham, Mr. Roland H. Barkeley, a member of the city council, by request of the lord mayor, called upon me, and not only showed great familiarity with the work of the city government, but manifested an intense desire to secure for his city the methods that had been proven by experience to be the best.

Mr. Black, recently mayor of Nottingham, is a very successful lace manufacturer, and yet he seemed as much concerned about the affairs of the city as about the details of his own business. Lord Mayor Harrington of Dublin, Lord Mayor Dixon of Belfast and Lord Provost Primrose of Glasgow, were all alive to the importance of their work, and seemed to make the discharge of their duties their chief concern.

In this connection, I desire to record my appreciation of the public service of one of the most interesting and agreeable men whom I have met in the Old World, Mr. John Burns. He began his industrial life at the age of ten as a maker of candles. He was afterwards apprenticed as a machinist, and after acquiring proficiency in his trade followed that line of employment until his associates made him their representative in the city government. He was soon afterwards sent to parliament, and has for some fifteen years represented his district in both bodies. He is only 45, but his hair and beard are so streaked with gray that one would think him ten years older. He is a little below medium height, strongly built, and very active and energetic. A diligent student, quick-witted and effective in speech, it is not surprising that he stands today among the world's foremost representatives of the wage-earners. He is opposed to both drinking and gambling. He receives no salary either as a member of the county council or as member of parliament, but is supported by his association which pays him what is equivalent to a thousand dollars a year. With this very meagre income he devotes his life to public work, and I have not met a more conscientious or unselfish public servant. And yet what Mr. Burns is doing on a large scale, many others are doing in a lesser degree.

I wish that all the citizens of my country could come into contact with the public men whom I have met, and catch something of the earnestness with which they are applying themselves to the solution of the municipal problems that press upon the present generation. It would certainly increase the velocity of American reforms, and arouse that latent patriotism which only needs arousing to cope successfully with all difficulties.

While it may seem that the leaders of municipal government in Europe are somewhat altruistic in their labors, there is a broader sense in which they are quite selfish, but it is that laudable selfishness which manifests itself in one's desire to lift himself up, not by dragging down others or doing injustice to others, but by lifting up the level upon which all stand. Those who add to the comfort and happiness of their community are making their own lives and property more secure—those who are endeavoring to infuse hope and ambition into the hearts of the hopeless and despondent are really working for themselves and their children—and working more wisely than those who are so short-sighted as to believe that the accumulation of money is the only object of life.

Let us hope that the time is near at hand when the successful business men in the United States, instead of continuing their accumulations to the very end of life, will be satisfied with a competency and when this is secured give to their country the benefit of their experience, their intelligence and their conscience, as many of the business men of England, Scotland and Ireland are now doing.

W. J. BRYAN.

Teaching Boys to Shoot.

In a pamphlet issued by the National League of Republican clubs, in 1891, and describing "the principles and policies of the republican party" it was said: "In the affairs of the United States, happily enough, the war department does not cut a conspicuous figure."

Evidently "the principles and policies of the republican party" have undergone a marked change since the pamphlet referred to was issued. In his annual report, Secretary of War Root says that he knows of nothing more important in the way of preparation for war "than to teach the young men of the country to shoot straight;" and

he adds that "it is of no use to pay, equip, subsidize, and transport a soldier to the battle field unless he can hit the enemy when he shoots at him."

Mr. Root says that two recent changes in conditions require that we make continuous and active effort in this direction. One of these changes is "the greatly increased range of the modern rifles which determines battles while the combatants are at a great distance from each other, and which make practice more necessary for good marksmanship than ever before." The other is "the decline in the use of fire arms among the greater part of our people." Mr. Root says that it is not now the case as it once was that every house has its rifle or shotgun, and that every boy is taught to discharge these weapons; and he explains that it is probable that a majority of the young men in the thickly settled parts of the country have never fired a gun and would be quite harmless to an enemy until taught to shoot. He thinks that we should not wait until we are actually engaged in hostilities, and he recommends an appropriation for the promotion of rifle practice and the formation of rifle clubs and contests to which citizens generally shall be admitted.

It cannot be doubted that if such clubs were organized, there would be many applications for membership. The gun is a very attractive weapon and there would be little difficulty in persuading the boy to engage in target practice. And yet is it to the best interests of this country that the thoughts of war be ever kept uppermost in the minds of our citizens? Is it to the interests of our government, to the interests of civilization, that on every occasion the boy be taught that war is one of the chief features of life? Would it not be better if the boys of our land could be trained in the art of peace? Would it not be better if they were persuaded to devote their energies in obtaining an education, not merely from the text books, but also from humanity's statutes? Would it not be better to teach them that the greatest nation is the one that is foremost in peace, that the most powerful government is the one that makes every effort to lead in the good order of the world?

Is it possible that our boasted civilization has made no greater progress, even at this day in the presence of The Hague court of arbitration and within a few months after the czar of all the Russias made bold to suggest the disarmament of the world, than that an American secretary, referring to preparation for war, deems it necessary to say that nothing is more important than "teaching the young men of the country to shoot straight?"

Is He a "Resistless Force?"

The Pittsburg Post printed a story to the effect that Mr. Rockefeller and his associates are devising a combination of the steel and railroad interests which will result in a monopoly of the steel traffic. Commenting upon this announcement, the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, says that whether the scheme is near perfection or not, it points "merely to a natural evolution." The Record-Herald draws a striking picture when it says:

"Mr. Rockefeller's enormous fortune is founded upon the most complete and elaborate system of combination that has ever been established in the country. Very early in his career he conceived the idea of destroying competition, and he carried it out with extraordinary skill and a relentless persistence. His rivals were crushed one after another in their futile campaign for independence, the chief instrument used against them being the railroad rebate. He should have been an expert in rate juggling before his investments made him a powerful factor in the directorate of railroad companies.

"He starts now in this new enterprise with much greater advantages than those which he enjoyed as the builder of Standard Oil. His methods are approved by a phenomenal success. He has a much larger capital at his disposal than any other man in the country. He is already credited with a controlling interest in the steel corporation, he is the owner of vast mining properties and of fleets of lake vessels, and he is the holder of large blocks of stocks and bonds in many railroads.

"Power to divert traffic follows as a matter of course. He can do as he pleases with freight that might make or break a carrier company. His investments play into one another in such a way that he may favor this or that one as it pleases him. That he should

give the enormous steel tonnage to a pet railroad would not be at all surprising. That in his capacity as a railroad director he should be kind to the steel corporation would be quite in keeping with his old practices."

And then, after making this showing, this republican paper makes a melancholy confession as follows:

"The truth is that he has become a resistless force in the industrial world, and that he will proceed from one monopoly to another regardless of all that is said and done to prevent. If he could live to the age of the patriarchs the United States would come to be merely one of his appurtenances."

Is it possible that in this government presumed to be of, by and for the people, the man who has done the things described by the Record-Herald has become "a resistless force?"

Is it possible that this man may "proceed from one monopoly to another regardless of all that is said and done to prevent?"

If these statements be justified, then who will say that popular government in this country is not in peril?

This republican paper speaks truly when it says: "If Rockefeller could live to the age of the patriarchs, the United States would come to be merely one of his appurtenances." But, remembering what this man has already accomplished, realizing the great plan he is now undertaking, and reading in one of the great newspapers of the country that he has become "a resistless force," and that he will "proceed from one monopoly to another regardless of all that is said and done to prevent," then it may be said Mr. Rockefeller need not live to the age of the patriarchs in order to make the United States of America "merely one of his appurtenances." That deplorable condition for this proud government would, at the present rate, be brought about within comparatively few years.

But the Record-Herald is entirely too pessimistic. Mr. Rockefeller only seems to be "a resistless force." The time will come when the American people will call him and all other men who seek to manipulate this government to their own selfish ends to a rigid accounting.

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