

position is exceedingly delicate and hard. Many Brazilians are insured with the American companies. They naturally write to the American representative for information about recent disclosures, probably garbled in cabling and not adequately understood by anybody unable to follow the developments here from day to day. Mr. Thompson would be constantly called upon, just as the American minister is called upon anywhere, to give the best explanation in his power. It is one of the most important and least advertised duties of diplomacy. Such inquiries are invariably handled by means of a private communication to each applicant, and, even at that, these communications, as anybody who remembers the cast of Lord Lyons will understand, call for the exercise of a great deal of caution and tact. Mr. Thompson might have been forgiven if he had merely committed himself to the unquestionably true statement that the New York Life Insurance company was financially sound, and that foreign policyholders therefore need be under no alarm. But after stating that the company is conducted by "good men," and admitting that he knows nothing of the truth or falsity of the charges published, Mr. Thompson goes on to state positively that "any irregularity could not be more than insignificant, compared with the vast assets of the company." It is, of course, impossible to say, at this distance, what kind of irregularity Mr. Thompson would consider "significant." Are oral accountings, dual transactions, doctored statements, contributions to political committees, open house at Albany, significant or not?—Wall Street Journal.

#### TRIUMPH OF REFORM

The election results continue to afford inspiration for the moralist. Everywhere the interests of good government won complete or partial victory. In Toledo, Ohio, the people are still champions of the "golden rule" in municipal affairs, having chosen Brand Whitlock, a friend and supporter of "Golden Rule" Jones, as their mayor:

We may have been a fickle people, but earnestness and intellect are rapidly taking the place of the changeableness which manifested itself in the nation a few years ago. When Sam Jones was elected mayor of Toledo for the first time there was much discussion as to the kind of government he would administer, for his "peculiar" beliefs concerning his duty toward his fellow men were known. By many his election was considered no small calamity, and death to morality and observance of law was predicted. But Sam Jones' rule was so clear a demonstration that the old, and all but forgotten, golden rule, is yet the wisest and most effective law by which modern men can be governed, that the citizens of Toledo re-elected him again and again, and the city became famous the world over because of its golden rule government, and the names "Toledo" Jones and "Golden Rule" Jones stood as examples of justice and mercy which has been followed, in more or less degree, by those in authority in the entire United States. Once the long-buried principle had been resurrected, the people of Toledo were determined that it should never again die; and on Tuesday they placed the government of their city in the hands of a man who was the close friend of Golden Rule Jones, a man who shared his confidences, who felt his inspirations, who understood his motives and who sympathized with his purposes. And thus it is that the people are no longer fickle, but are rooted and grounded in their devotion to the perpetuation of that kind of government which deals with men as individuals, worthy of consideration, too often victims of their environments, subjects of their passions, and slaves of their appetites.—Columbus Press-Post.

The general feeling of satisfaction over the uprising against political machines in the recent elections reflects a stronger optimism concerning the fundamental moral soundness of American life. There is probably today less pessimism over the scandals and frauds in business, finance and politics than seemed to exist six or three months ago. One gets a certain tonic from the spectacle of millions of voters expressing in an emphatic way their discontent, their reprobation, their wrath over the evils that surround them, for the prevalence of such a spirit among the mass of the people cannot but signify the existence of an atmosphere which is hostile to evil growths and practices. It is a good time to take fresh courage.

One is even helped in estimating correctly the moral tendencies of our age, especially in politics, by recalling how wicked our ancestors were. There is much concerning "the good old days" that would be gladly forgotten, but occasionally it is necessary to compare the old and the new in the effort to keep a steady judgment concerning the real drift of things. One comes across interesting evidence of this character in a new book on Rhode Island by Mr. Richman. He tells us a significant story, showing that the struggle against corruption began as soon as the commonwealth had been founded by Roger Williams. These isolated passages present the salient facts: In the seventeenth century, as early as 1649, it was found necessary by Providence Plantations to pass an act in restraint to fraudulent voting, and in 1666 (under the charter) a penalty of five pounds was prescribed against voting on the part of persons who were not freemen. In the eighteenth century—between 1710 and 1750, the paper money era—fraudulent voting and bribery were practiced with extreme boldness. Throughout the period of the Hopkins-Ward controversy, which did not end until 1768, votes (especially in Narragansett) were bought quite systematically. In 1799 ratification of the federal constitution is said to have been secured through purchased votes—those of delegates from "back towns." If the American people of this generation were not alive to the perils of moral degeneracy in their political life, the prospect would be most dark. They have lately proved that honesty and a high sense of honor appeal powerfully to their nature, and, so long as such is their character, why dread the working out of their political destiny?—Springfield Republican.

With the one notable exception of Mr. Jerome's canvass it has been the "organization" that has conducted every political canvass and has given the character for honesty or dishonesty to election methods. The candidate stands for the issues; the party mechanism controls such physical attributes as ballots, ballot boxes and campaign funds. The recent remarkable rise of the independent voter attests the conviction of the voter that mere legal devices are not sufficient to guard against or prevent corrupt practices by party organizations. The way to keep them pure—or even more honest than dishonest—is to vote against them when they do not act "on the level."—Kansas City Star.

A correspondent reports that a friend who went to New York to manage a large corporation received notice that the company's personal property tax would amount to \$11,317. A few days later a man called who announced himself as a Tammany agent and offered to "fix up" the assessment. As a result of their deal the agent was paid \$1,200 and the tax was reduced to \$265. This, the correspondent says, is a sample of what is going on all the time in New York. Having found that the people would not stand for police blackmail, the organization has largely transferred its operations to business. Perhaps, by the way, this may help to explain "dough day" of Tammany hall.—Kansas City Times.

#### A VIEW OF RUSSIA'S CRISIS

Eltweed Pomeroy, the writer and lecturer on social, economic and political topics, is a keen observer. Writing to the editor of *The Independent* recently, he stated his views of the Russian situation as follows:

Of course we are sorry for Russia, and the poor, weak, well-meaning czar. But we now recall the wild tales told of the few Russian grand dukes who visited this country, how they drank champagne out of actresses' shoes and such like folly, and really we are not surprised. Our rulers even in sodden Philadelphia could not do such. Anyway Russia never bought much from us and her rulers have outrageously stolen from most of our business men who invested in Russia. Thus Russian wheat was becoming a serious competitor with our wheat. Well, suppose the mutineers and rioters do close the harbor of Odessa, the greatest wheat shipping port in Russia. That means that wheat will go up, that the western farmer will make better profits and he is a good customer of the eastern manufacturer. Lastly we believe in representative institutions and Russia has

not got them and of course she will get them out of all this turmoil and trouble. Business can get along much better with representative institutions than with an autocracy and of course we felt sure that the autocracy would show itself inefficient, which it has done. Think of that Russian admiral disbanding his Black Sea fleet because one ship of the fleet had mutinied. It is a subject fit for a comic opera. We cannot conceive of Dewey, Sampson, Schley or Fighting Bob Evans ever thinking of such a course. Russia has proved that she was simply big, not great. And out of the impending anarchy a new nation or nations will come up, who will become good customers of ours. Think of the vast opportunities for business with a business government in Russia and Siberia. We are only sorry that the task of re-organizing the government of Russia on business lines could not be entrusted to a Rockefeller or a Morgan or a Carnegie, and it would be done much better, much quicker, much cheaper and the doer of it would get a big fortune out of it. But these men will come later.

We need not be surprised if the people of Russia are hot against their late bosses. We were hot against our bosses last Tuesday. Our way of expressing our indignation does not go to the point of violence because it is not necessary, but it goes to the point of contempt, hatred and a serious contemplation of the penitentiary as their future abode. Suppose we had had Murphies and McCarrens and Coxes for centuries instead of years and saw finally one man striving to rid us of them. Would it not be our part to come to that man's assistance with all our might, even though that might strayed over the lines of law? The Russian people have borne so much, have been fooled so often and have been so wickedly treated that they cannot be expected to treat the revolution as a friendly lawsuit. They are mad to the core and terribly in earnest. Revolution may be averted if the people are convinced that their masters are sincere in their abdication, but it may go to any lengths if suspicion of the motives of the czar are not entirely removed by frank dealing.—Minneapolis Journal.

Undoubtedly the massacre of Jews which is going on all over the Russian empire is the gravest indictment of all the counts in the black arraignment of Russia's belated civilization. Nothing more convincingly shows it to be but little yet about the slough of the Dark Ages Europe. It is especially damning when it appears, as it does, that the massacres have, or have had till the fall of the political head of the Russian church, some sort of official prompting and authorization. Pobiedonostseff had prescribed for the cure of all the ills of Russia the reduction of the Jewish population to one-third its existing size: one-third to be sent out of the country, and another third to be disposed of by the process now in full fury. It is a disgrace to the nineteenth century and all Christendom.—Boston Transcript.

It is a wonderful dream that Russia is dreaming. Here is one-fourteenth of the world's people aroused and angry, hungry for liberty, and determined to have it at any cost. Opposing them is a bureaucracy already partly deposed and trembling for its life, yet controlling for the present a great military machine. Between the mad masses and the bureaucrats and the army is De Witte, the man of the hour, holding back with one hand the impatient people, while with the other he strives to fashion the reforms that they demand. In the background, impelling the people on, looms a dark spirit which presses itself forward with almost irresistible force, crying, "I am revolution, I am civil war, I am anarchy, I am terror, murder, lust, rapine, destruction. I have nothing to recommend me to the established order. I am conceived in oppression and nourished by hatred. I trail my foul length across a country, and the face of it shrivels up, and in its place is the desolate horror of sacked and burned towns, dead men and women and children bereft and left alone. I am that which makes all men shudder when they behold me. I am sin, I am death. I am all the angry passions aroused. But I begot freedom, light, and liberty. Therefore I am justifiable." It is a bad dream, but it is out of such dreams that liberty seems to spring. It is a nightmare, but there is hope in it for Russia. The world stands by with bated breath, wondering if the dream will come true.—Chicago Tribune.