

GOVERNMENTS.

[The views of a Pennsylvania republican.—For THE CONSERVATIVE].

MR. EDITOR—My Dear Sir :

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Allow me to state I was in the convention held in our city that organized the republican party and was familiar with the acts and feelings which dominated the men that gave birth to that party. As also an eye-witness and interested spectator of the thrilling events which followed. I have arrived at this conclusion (reluctantly I must confess) that the American experiment of manhood suffrage, or Abe Lincoln's government of the people by the people and for the people is a most dismal failure and is not possible of a successful issue.

Startling.

This will no doubt startle you—coming from a native-born American citizen—and yet the truth of our American history verifies the statement to the letter. No one will pretend it is the function of a good government to destroy its own people; and yet that is all we have to show for our first century's experiment at self-government. You will possibly point to the great achievements of the American people as an evidence of the success of our nationality. I answer these great achievements were in no measure attributable to our political system of government, but in spite of its great drawbacks, and are proofs of the great natural advantages of our agricultural and mineral resources and the genius of our people in all lines but that of common-sense political economy. If the destruction of a million of lives of the flower of the land, the sacrifice of six billions of treasure, the devastation of the homes of one-third of the people of our nation along with the destruction of untold millions of property is the function of a good government then our American much-vaunted popular sovereignty is a howling success; otherwise it is a dismal failure.

Spoils.

I hold no other result was possible and as sure as cause and effect continue to succeed each other the second century will prove even a greater failure than the first. How is it possible to be otherwise with a people who regard their city, state and national government franchises as "legitimate spoils belonging to the victors?" When 75 million people are all united, or 95 per cent of them, upon the one great purpose of plundering their own government no other result than failure is possible.

Then again, even if the integrity was not lacking, the intelligence essential to good government is clearly wanting. There is not one man in ten of the voters knows, much less cares, what are the issues involved in an election held by the state or nation. Hence this

affords unscrupulous demagogues the opportunity to promote their own selfish ambitions by the facility our American manhood-suffrage affords them. If you tossed a copper in the air, "heads you win and tails I lose," you have as intelligent a decision as a popular vote of the American people affords. The natural consequence is that the industrial classes of the people are made serfs to support a corrupt official aristocracy colonized at the capitals of state and nation and fastened upon our municipal governments, prostituting all our public offices from the public school teacher to the president of the United States to pot-house politicians, avarice and greed.

Bankrupts.

Hence we have as a natural result all our city, state and national governments in a bankrupt condition only awaiting the hands of a receiver and the universal repudiation that awaits the proud American people long ere their second century of manhood suffrage has rounded up.

Some Causes.

Allow me to call your attention to some of the causes that as inevitably lead to this result as day and night succeed each other. The first two great factors which are working to this end are our American educators—the public schools and public press. (I am aware I am touching upon two boasted idols of the American people and will not find many who will agree with me.) But a state or nation no more than an individual "can do nothing against the truth but for the truth" saith the inspired Word; and all human experience fully verifies the fact. "What a people sow that they also reap." This is also an inspired truth which the experience of the American people during their first century's attempt at self-government most clearly established.

Debts and Taxes.

The bankrupt condition of the Keystone state treasury in the face of the fact that her ten million tax-payers are so burdened with taxes that their farms will no longer yield crops that will meet the necessities of the farmer and pay the taxes, along with the additional fact that all her industries and business enterprises are under such tribute to meet the burdens that the unscrupulous political adventurers impose upon them clearly demonstrates the fallacy of our state and national government paternalism; or of fastening upon the industrial classes the hordes of political drones that are using our public school system to escape the necessity of earning their own livelihood. I will mention one of the many ways our public schools are used as plausible excuses for fastening these drones on the hive. We

have among the innumerable leeches that have imposed the vast sum of 5½ millions of dollars on our citizens to be sweated out of the industrial classes what is styled county superintendent of public schools. The most important requirements of this state official is that he shall be an expert ward heeler, capable of rendering the political boss through whose grace he secures the office the most efficient service. The office is of no more real benefit to the public school children "than a fifth wheel is to a wagon," and if public schools were conducted as private schools or individual business enterprises the fraud would not be tolerated a single day; and yet this political henchman and dead-beat through collusion with school-directors whose daughters depend upon his certificates to teach (on the principle of you tickle me and I will tickle you) has in the past ten years worked the salary-grab racket up from \$2,000 a year to \$5,000 a year. He is adding house to house while scores of poor men for whose benefit the schools are intended or pretended have seen their own little homes pass out of their hands as a result of a decreased wage and increased cost of living, arising from the burdens fastened upon them under our sham public school system of education.

The Press.

Again, take our public press; it sets up the claim only second to that of the public schools (which have contributed the most to the present deplorable corrupt state and condition of the American people as evidenced by such scandalous criminations and recriminations as those of Major-General Miles versus President McKinley and his cabinet.) I am not prepared to say, but these facts along with the no less disgraceful acts attending the attempt of the majority of our Keystone state legislators to re-elect that prince of political knaves to the United States senate; and we have as clearly demonstrated as experience can demonstrate a truth, the character, not only of the educators who are fitting up our citizens for the duties of citizenship but the results from which there is no possible escape—that is, that of our American republican system of government being built upon a foundation of sand.

Permit me now in conclusion to call your attention to some of the natural results flowing out from our political economy and system of education. And I challenge the history of the world to show in the same length of time like results.

Cost of Government.

The expense of our general government in 1860 when we were 30,000,000 of people was \$60,000,000. In 1899 with all the advantages of cheaper transportation, etc., the cost to govern 70,000,000 American people has increased to over seven hundred and fifty millions; our