

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The popular sentiment in favor of the application of business principles to the public service is growing every day. The disinterested members of all parties agree that political association should be no more considered in the applicant for public position than should partisan affiliation determine the choice of an individual for employment in a private business. President Cleveland greatly stimulated the growth of these liberal ideas during his second administration by a sweeping extension of the merit system among government employees.

In 1896 the platform adopted at Chicago repudiated the work of Mr. Cleveland, openly attacked the merit system and advocated a limited tenure in the public service. The declaration of the platform and the interpretation of it by the candidate alienated from the party almost the entire support of the friends of civil service reform. The latter while repelled by the position of this party were attracted by the record of the opposing candidate, who, as a member of congress, had been a consistent advocate of civil service reform.

In his first inaugural address Mr. McKinley took no backward step but made this patriotic declaration of his views relative to the civil service:

"Reforms in the civil service must go on. But the changes should be real and genuine, not perfunctory or promoted by a zeal in behalf of any party simply because it happens to be in power. As a member of congress, I voted and spoke in favor of the present law, and I shall attempt its enforcement in the spirit in which it was enacted. The purpose in view was to secure the most efficient service of the best men who would accept appointment under government, retaining faithful and devoted public servants in office, but shielding none, under the authority of any rule or custom, who are inefficient, incompetent, or unworthy. The best interests of the country demand this, and the people heartily approve the law wherever and whenever it has been thus administered."

The friends of civil service reform were delighted with this wise and patriotic declaration. It was welcomed with genuine enthusiasm among those who believed in the merit system. They looked upon the new president as a man who would faithfully and fearlessly enforce the civil service law and continue the splendid work begun by Mr. Cleveland. Mr. McKinley has just completed a term of four years service as chief executive. Has his administration fulfilled the expectations of those who were so enthusiastic over his civil service reform declarations when he assumed his executive duties? Has he been faithful to the trust reposed in him?

The Indiana civil service reform

association have made public the result of an investigation into the condition of the Indianapolis postoffice. It shows a most scandalous condition to exist in that office. Senators and congressmen have made it a place of refuge for political favorites, personal friends and superannuated relations—all in direct violation of the letter and spirit of the civil service law, which Mr. McKinley so solemnly promised to uphold. The reference made by the association to the wily scheme of Senator Beveridge is particularly interesting as typical of the methods employed to avoid the law:

"George J. Langsdale, the father-in-law of Senator Beveridge, was appointed to the postal service in Porto Rico on April 15, 1899, without examination, on the 'temporary' plan. He was transferred to a clerkship in the money order bureau at the New York postoffice on July 2, 1900. He was placed in the New York office and in the classified service without examination. In New York he received a salary of \$1,200. On February 10, 1901, he was appointed bookkeeper at the Indianapolis postoffice at a salary of \$1,700. He is not a trained accountant; there is no work for him to do. He is sixty-two years old and in poor health.

"Charles N. Elliott, secretary of the republican county committee, and an active political worker, reported for duty on or about February 10, 1901, as the postmaster's private secretary. The place in this office was created, and the appointment made, at the request of Senator Beveridge. Mr. Elliott, much to his credit, declined to take the place when informed at the office that there was no need of such an employee."

The condition of the Indianapolis postoffice is illustrative of many others throughout the country. There has been a general disregard of the civil service law. Political pulls have had too much to do in determining the selection of employees and the creation of offices. All of which has been greatly to the detriment of the efficiency and economy of the public service. Mr. McKinley is almost as consistent in fulfilling his civil service reform pledges as he is in carrying out his promises for Cuban independence and self-government or as he was in the performance of a "plain duty" to Porto Rico.

CARNEGIE PLUTOCRACY.

Wail! Wail! and gnash thy teeth oh! ye Populists and Bryanarchists. Andrew Carnegie the plutocrat has placed five millions of dollars in trust from the income of which disabled workmen who have incurred their disability in the service of Carnegie corporations, are to be pensioned. But how insignificant are Carnegie gifts compared to populist declamations about the poor and down-trodden from

the lips of peerless statesmen? Carnegie has placed these diabolical dollars above the men. From their exaltation they may drip down interest money year after year to nourish those who have fallen from the ranks of active labor in the service of the dangerous Carnegie. And could they not have lived more comfortably and fared more sumptuously every day if they had been furnished with the succulent and fattening orations of Bryanarchy instead? To a hungry man a speech from W. V. Allen, Champ Clark, Joe Bailey, Soliloquist Morgan, the Peerless One or Bill Dech would be so much more nutritious and reinvigorating than mere material food purchased with the dirty dollars of plutocracy. Let the vagarists build a great home for aged fakes and endow it with words!

MORE COMMON PEOPLE.

Frank A. Vanderlip, who recently retired as first assistant secretary of the United States treasury department, is another splendid example of the common people of this republic. His career aptly illustrates the possibilities for a boy whose capital is limited to energy, pluck and brains. Conditions have not materially changed since Mr. Vanderlip started, as a poor boy, to work in a local factory at Aurora, Illinois, and from this humble beginning attained, at the age of 31, a position second to a cabinet minister. THE CONSERVATIVE is indebted to the New York Evening Post for the following sketch of the career of this representative of the common people:

"From a machine-shop to the second place in the treasury department is the brief story of the career of Frank A. Vanderlip, who has just retired from public life to enter private business under most flattering auspices. Mr. Vanderlip was born in Aurora, Ill., about thirty-five years ago, of poor parents. As a bare-foot boy he seized every opportunity to pick up an education; and, his father dying, he was put to work in one of the local machine-shops and learned to be a good mechanic. But he aspired to higher things, and presently obtained employment on the Aurora Post, a very small sheet, with a circulation of 356 copies. When not gathering items as a reporter or assisting in the make-up, he used to help push the circulation. When he had mastered all there was to be learned in Aurora, he sought a wider field in Chicago, and on one of the big dailies took assignments to describe fires, write up police incidents, and the like. From that work he was promoted to do the local markets, then the exchanges, and presently general financial reporting. It was while thus engaged that he met Lyman J. Gage, who took a fancy to him for his untiring industry and shrewd judgment.