

# Mayor of New York Talks of Its Possibilities

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**N**EW YORK, April 14.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—I give you today an interview with a man who represents the biggest city combination of capital and labor on this hemisphere. It is hardly a talk on capital and labor, but rather on the product thereof. New York grows in spite of capital combinations and labor organizations. It grows so fast it has not time to theorize why it grows. It is like a great green boy who plunges along doing what is before him, and only stopping now and then to double up his arms for a look at his muscle and to show his fellows how big it is. It was to inspect the great muscle of New York that I came here, and to get its accurate dimensions called upon the mayor in his office at the city hall.

General George B. McClellan was lovingly called "Little Mac." Still he was big enough to be one of the great generals of our civil war and a candidate for president of the United States. The mayor of New York is the son of that "Little Mac," and in many respects he resembles his father. He looks like a boy, and he is still in his thirties, although he has been an editor, a business man and a representative in congress. He is now mature enough and strong enough to act as the ruler of the second city of the world, and there are those who say he yet may be the democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States.

About two years ago I met the lord mayor of London in his palace across the way from the Bank of England. It took letters of introduction, much parliamentary correspondence and interviews with flunkies in livery before I came into his presence. I got to the mayor of New York with my visiting card, which was taken in by a policeman with a brass badge on his bosom. His honor received me without ostentation, and like most of the big business men I have met he seemed to have leisure to talk. The conversation was rapid. The young mayor knows his own mind and there is no one better posted upon the great city of which he is ruler.

"I have come from Washington," said I, "for a talk about New York. What is the condition of the town, and how is it getting along in its struggles with capital and labor?"

"New York is having no struggles just now," replied Mayor McClellan. "We had some trouble with the building trades last year, but today our condition is thoroughly healthy, and, barring some temporary annoyances as to our theaters, we are at peace with ourselves and all the world. Our labor is in a good condition, and it promises to remain so."

"Is the city growing?"

"Yes," replied the mayor. "It grows so fast that we must be always on the alert or it oversteps us. Our chief trouble now is as to the schools. We have not enough buildings to accommodate all the children, and at present there is 90,000 who can go to school only half the time. We have already about 600,000 children in the schools; and the natural increase for the next year will be something like 35,000, and for the year following 38,000, so you see we have to build far ahead."

"How many people has New York?"

"Just about 4,000,000," replied the mayor.

"How does that compare with the other cities of the world?"

"It is exceeded only by London," was the reply. "New York is now more than a million in advance of Paris; it is twice as big as Chicago, Berlin or any city in Asia, and three times as big as St. Petersburg. There are only four states in the union which exceed us in population, and we have one-twentieth of all the people in the United States."

"Will New York ever equal London?"

"I think there is no doubt of it," answered Mayor McClellan. "London is almost full grown and New York is just beginning its youth. We are increasing faster now in proportion to our population than London, and London is gray-haired compared with New York. It was a city in the days of the Romans, although later on its population dropped. New York is only 280 years old. When New York is as old as London what may it not be?"

"But has New York room for growth, Mr. Mayor," I asked. "Have you available space here for many more people?"

"Yes, indeed," replied the mayor. "We can accommodate five times as many people as are in the New York of today. We can house 15,000,000 and give them plenty of room. The island of Manhattan is pretty well covered, but we have Brooklyn, Long Island, Staten Island and possible suburbs in every direction. We are now making a rapid ferry system for Staten Island. It will be owned by the city and it will cause that region to grow. There are only 70,000 people there now, but there is room for millions. The Williamsburg bridge gives us another outlet to Brooklyn, and the tunnels which the Pennsylvania company is to dig under the North and East rivers will furnish rapid transit to suburbs whose capacity is enormous. Yes, we have room here for 15,000,000, and when they come we will accommodate them."

"But, Mr. Mayor, I have recently been in Chicago. The people there think they are the real hub of the United States and



MAYOR GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, OF NEW YORK CITY.

say their city will eventually surpass yours."

"We have not begun to worry about Chicago yet," replied Mr. McClellan. "We think this the natural gate of the United States and that it will always be so. New York is already the chief port of the world, and it is increasing its shipping every year."

"But your honor," I said, "suppose a ship canal should be built in connection with the great lakes, so that ocean steamers could go right into Chicago?"

"That possibility is far in the future," replied the mayor of New York. "We propose to have a little canal ourselves from here to Buffalo, which will largely increase our business. At any rate, we are not afraid of Chicago at this present time. New York is Uncle Sam's chief gateway."

"Where is New York growing just now, your honor?" I asked.

"For an answer to that question," replied the mayor, "you have only to open your eyes. It is growing everywhere, both in the city and in the suburbs. The borough of Manhattan is fast becoming one of steel skyscrapers. Bronx has been cut up into building blocks and a vast number of dwellings and flats are going up there. Brooklyn is growing faster than New York in short the whole of Greater New York has on its seven-league boots. Within the past two years more than eighty large real estate companies have been incorporated, with a total capitalization of more than \$75,000,000, and they are putting up buildings of all kinds, residences, business blocks, apartment houses and great hotels. The increase in the apartment houses is very great. In 1902 something like sixty-six were erected, representing a total investment, including the land, of about \$50,000,000. It is the same as to department stores and office buildings. Indeed, it is hard to realize how fast New York is growing."

"How about public improvements?"

"The city is being bettered right along," replied the mayor. "The Williamsburg bridge, which was formally opened in De-

ember, is one of the wonders of Greater New York. It is forty feet wider than the Brooklyn bridge and with its approaches, is a mile and a half in length. It has cost about \$20,000,000, and it will soon be carrying a large part of the traffic between New York and Brooklyn. And then there is the new subway system, which will soon be completed at a cost of \$35,000,000, and there also are the Pennsylvania improvements, which are to cost about \$50,000,000. There are other things, but these are enough to show that New York is not falling behind."

"It must cost something to run a city like this, Mr. McClellan," said I.

"It does," said the mayor of New York. "It costs just about \$32,500,000 a year, or if you take in certain county and state items the amount is \$108,000,000 a year."

"That is an enormous sum," said I. "Does New York get the worth of its money?"

"I think so," replied the mayor. "There is a vast deal of work and it takes a small army to do it."

"But where does all the money go?" said I. "The salaries must be high. How about the mayor? What does he get?"

"Fifteen thousand dollars," was the reply.

"Does he earn it?" I asked.

"I think he does," replied Mayor McClellan. "He gets here at 9 o'clock in the morning and is kept here until 6 o'clock at night, and every hour of his day is a busy one. Yes, I think the mayor earns his salary."

"If it were not a personal question, your honor, I should like to know how the present mayor likes his job?"

"He likes it well," replied the young mayor of New York, with a smile. "The position is a responsible one, and one that makes a man feel he is doing something and makes him hope to do it well."

"But, your honor, can you really do things? Does not politics control? It is said that Tammany is the real head of New York?"

"That is a mistake," replied the young mayor with emphasis. "Tammany has

nothing to do with this office. I am the mayor of New York."

"Is New York a Christian city?" I asked.

"What do you mean?" replied the mayor, rather surprised.

"I mean that many people who live back in the country think this place a sink of iniquity—a sort of a Hades with the lid off."

"I believe the people here are as good as they are on the average anywhere in the United States," replied Mayor McClellan. "We have more than 1,000 churches, synagogues and cathedrals. Our people are church-goers and we observe the Sabbath better, perhaps, than any other large city in the world. Yes, we are a Christian city in the broadest sense. We believe in things. We don't all believe the same way, but we do believe in something, and, on the whole, I think we are up to the average as regards personal and municipal morality."

"Speaking of municipal morality, your honor, how about the grafters and bootleggers? Is not New York City overrun with them?"

"If it is," replied the mayor, "I have not seen them. They have not shown their heads since I came into office."

"But, your honor, you certainly have a large number of the criminal classes here. Are there not places in New York City where a man would risk his life by going about alone at night?"

"I don't think so," said the mayor. "I should not be afraid to go anywhere in New York alone any time of the day or night."

"What is your ideal for New York, Mr. McClellan. What would you like to see the city become?"

"That is a big question," was the reply. "I do not deal in ideals. All I can do is to grapple with things as they come up and settle them as far as I can. I want to see the city improved, and I think we are steadily improving it. I want to see it made clean, healthy and safe before trying to build up a plan by which it may be made beautiful. At present our chief business is with the utilities."

"What do you think of New Yorkers, Mr. McClellan?" I asked. "Some people imagine that they are a little smarter than the average American in other parts of the country."

"I don't think that," replied the mayor, "although there is one thing in favor of such a supposition and that is that the best of everything comes to New York. This is the national center of wealth and business, and those magnets attract brains and skill from every part of the country. In that respect New York is milking the United States, and steady streams of the best ability produced by the country are always flowing here. We get not only much of the best milk, but the very cream of the country."

"What are the chances for young men in New York?" I asked.

"I think they are good," replied the mayor. "The place to make money is where the money is. The place to do business is where the most business is. This city needs good young men and lots of them. It has never needed them more. There will always be room for the right kind of young men in New York."

"How about politics, your honor? I see it said that New York is opposed to the renomination of President Roosevelt."

"I am too busy to consider politics," replied the young mayor, "and I don't care to discuss them. I can't see, however, why New York should be singled out as having special friendships or antipathies different from those of the rest of the country. In this I do not refer to President Roosevelt nor to any man; but to the fact that New York is often spoken of as having special individual interests. That is not the case. Our interests are the same as those of the rest of the United States. We are an American city and are as anxious for the general prosperity of the country as any people in the country. There is no place where private interests reach out so far or where the desire for the common welfare of the country is so great. Within five minutes' walk from where we are now sitting are men who have financial interests, I might say, in every great undertaking in the United States and in every locality. No, New York is not provincial in its interests. It is tied to every part of the Union, and it is for the welfare of the whole country."

"Can you not give me a word or so about the presidency, Mayor McClellan?" said I. "I see that some of the newspapers advocate your nomination as the democratic candidate?"

"I have already said," replied the mayor, "that I do not want to talk politics. As it is now I am not so much interested in that subject as I am in New York. I have already told you something of its business, and you can see that I have all I can do to attend to it."

"But, your honor, suppose you were nominated and elected, would not your having been born in Saxony prevent your holding the office?"

"I think that matter has been pretty well discussed in the newspapers," replied the mayor. "At any rate I am not seeking the nomination for the presidency and I don't want to discuss it."

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## Furnishings for the Bed Room

**N**EWEST wrinkle in bed room furnishings for spring and summer is the use of the crown tapestry canopy for the dresser and bedstead.

The chief thing to recommend the tapestry canopy is its economy. Any old bed room suit can be used as a foundation, or even a pine frame work, painted white, for the dressing table and wash stand. The latter is draped with figured tapestry along the simplest lines to give the valance effect. The dressing table has a crown foundation overhead, from which the tapestry falls in graceful folds and extend to the floor.

The background for the mirror is also of the tapestry, and in this frame work is set an oval beveled glass at a height convenient for a woman to sit when making her toilet. The entire dressing table is enveloped in the tapestry, over which a

white point d'esprit frilled dresser scarf is spread.

A bedstead painted white, or a brass one, is draped crown fashion to correspond with the dressing table, and also has valances of the tapestry. White ruffled point d'esprit pillow shams and spread give the little dainty touch and tone down the brilliancy of the floral coloring.

A slipper ottoman, upholstered and lined with plain saten, which has pockets around the sides for the footwear, goes with this set.

A chair, which is the epitome of comfort, is an addition to the set. It is called the "Thirty Winks," "Forty Winks," or "Fifty Winks," according to its size. It nearly envelops the occupant, as it has not only a high back, but high side pieces which extend out to the padded arms.

A box couch upholstered in the tapestry, with cushions, is offered as an alternative to the chair.