

certain theories not because he thinks such a course popular and likely to get him votes, but because he is convinced in his own mind that these views and doctrines are sound, and if carried into effect will advance the interests of the people and of mankind at large. To us his economic beliefs appear utterly unsound and fallacious, but this tribute to his sincerity is due him.

Mr. Bryan really counts. The honesty of his demand for the purging of the body politic need not be questioned; even though it may be tactically necessary for him to be more specific in his radicalism than President Roosevelt is, in order to prevent Mr. Roosevelt appropriating all his thunder. An increasing number of the populace listens favorably to the expounding of Bryanite doctrines. There is a certain amount of demagoguery in every political leader, but he never so patriotic and self-denying. But the more the element of demagoguery is dominated by unquestionable humanitarian impulses, the more seriously must the propositions of the extremists be regarded. The spokesman for the Toronto Trades Council is not a Bryan. But he represents a power which has thrown down the challenge—prematurely it may be, but unmistakably all the same. You cannot estimate nicely what emerging strengths in the political rough-and-tumble, will amount to. You must watch the evolution of new ideas and powers, and take such measures as will secure you from misfortune at their hands. The current of history and of commerce cannot be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Forces that become permanent appear from out of nowhere with signs of their permanence upon them, recognizable by all who can discern the signs of the times. They often assume the guise of impracticability for a long time. The generation that sees their advent may count with reasonable security upon things as they are running upon pretty even lines for a considerable time. There is to be reckoned with, of course, many early effects of economic rearrangements. Such is the higher cost of living which accompanies higher wages—a hardship which those who, like clergymen and schoolmasters outside the big cities, often have to endure inequitably, because they are the last to reap directly the advantages of changing conditions. But even the man who once was passing rich on forty pounds a year, enjoys, in time, a more munificent income; because, even in a world so imperfect as to be unsatisfactory to the well-dressed laborist at Toronto Exhibition, things do have a knack of improving, for those whose fortune can be measured only by the comparative absence of misfortune.

Consider the neatest of Mr. Bryan's propositions, for the reversal of business conditions. He is for the public ownership of railroads—a specimen of theorising which is specially grateful to the apostles of the two-cent mile, and the government exploitation of white coal. Mr. Bryan's idealism leads him into a curious misappreciation of everyday things when he proposes to revolutionise the railway systems of the United States. He propounds the theory that the more you centralize government in a Capital, which must of necessity be far distant from the bulk of the citizens, the more you increase the danger of political corruption, because by attenuating lines of communication, you practically segregate the politician from his constituents, and facilitate precisely that class of financial impropriety against which honorable legislation is supposed continually to war with might and main—you put all the precious machinery of the republic at the mercy of the corruptionists.

And so, in order to overcome the grievous tendency to political corruption which overcentralization is apt to promote, Mr. Bryan would cause the trunk lines of the country to be operated by the Federal government, and the state lines to be under the control of the State governments. Surely the effect of such an arrangement would be that, without

diminishing the risk of political impropriety in national service at the national capital, you would multiply opportunities for little grafters in little capitals who, under other circumstances, would scarcely raise the price of the fare to Washington; and when they got there, would cut inconsequent figures in either honest or dishonest society.

While the laborite and the Bryanite go their way uninfluenced by the blandishments of older-fashioned politicians, and add yearly to the number of their own elect, it is comforting to be able to endorse the assertion of Acting-President George at the Toronto Labor luncheon, that the relations between capital and labor are, on the whole, improving. Let the laborist delight as much as he will in portraying his hard lot to-day, he cannot deny that he is immeasurably better off than his fathers were; that, compared with them, he is, with his means of transportation, his fine clothes, his piano, his books, his everything, a Sybarite, compared with those who lived only a few short decades ago. The improvement is going on, in spite of ogreish capitalists, and unthinking grumblers. That is because efficiency is the last test of progress; and because it is even more profitable to help the human worker to become as intelligent as his natural capacities will permit, than it is to improve metal machinery. Where mechanical devices have been amazingly extended in every branch of industry, this is increasingly so, seeing that high skill and nimble intellect must be employed to operate them to the best advantage. That is the best business which has the most efficient staff. That is the best staff which receives the best remuneration. There is no more reason to fear the enlargement of the average man's capabilities than there was to believe that the power-loom or the steam thresher and the railway locomotive were going to throw men out of work for the rest of their days.

### ILLUMINATE THE FIGURES.

The gospel of efficiency in public business preached here a week ago, is being exemplified and enforced in several ways—outside of Canada. Knowledge is power. Just as no man can thrive under modern conditions without intimate knowledge of his own business, viewed in half a dozen different perspectives, no country can keep its place, much less advance to higher eminence among the nations, unless it is thoroughly familiar with the conditions and tendencies of the complex mechanism which goes to make up that peculiar entity called national commerce.

The states which are obviously the most backward in government administration and businesslike progress, such as Turkey, Russia, and Spain, are also distinguished by a complete or considerable lack of reliable statistical returns as to their industries. The Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic peoples are distinguished for the thoroughness with which they collect, for their own edification, statistics about trade which, though they are more or less imperfect, provide a valuable thermometer indicating the changes in international business relationships.

Conditions have so radically changed within the last generation that returns which were adequate towards the end of last century, are woefully incomplete in this year of grace. The value of co-ordination of parts has become much better understood than it was. Indeed, the whole movement of public affairs is just as inevitable towards greater co-ordination as the manufacture of machinery—agricultural machinery, for instance, has tended towards standardization to the advantage of manufacturer and purchaser alike.

This quality of standardization has been a large factor in the success with which the manufacturers of this continent have captured the Australian market, and have made inroads upon the home domain of British makers. There are almost as many British

local customs in machinery. Much machinery is in use if possible to obtain ready-made if parts have to be replaced, high expense because those have been kept in stock for ten

There are just as many types of governmental methods in a region of manufactures. In any there is unnecessary expense effectiveness. In a federal system diversities are liable to become some strong current towards sets in, and accomplishes a

There is a Union of Canada is good. If there is a case for frequent interchange of departments between departmentalists of the wide Dominion. Only in that direction shall we apotheosis of sectional interest alism which, in the United States estate of matrimony to so depl

Take a concrete illustration. According to the census returns of the Government for the year 1901, in Ontario some 372,477 acres of 1,115,156 acres under fall wheat is given as 6,540,000 bushels, 21,879,000 bushels. According to the report of Ontario there were only 5,499,000 bushels and 16,017,000. For the year 1901, therefore, there is a total of 209,000 acres and 6,000 in excess of the Provincial returns show for Ontario an average of 19.6 bushels and 17.6 bushels per acre of spring wheat respectively, the comparison of the two sets of stock shows the same discrepancy shown in the case of crops.

The Bill for procuring a comparison of the United Kingdom is a sign of statistical perspective in the will approximate more to the the Washington expects the captain public to illuminate the returns while the United Kingdom is United States, the United States Thirty-six years ago, the United exports into the products of Manufactures; (3) Mines; (4) Since then manufactures have m Bureau of Statistics of the Dep and Labor has changed this me The classification of imports, twenty years ago, when the classification of imports, differed considerably to-day, is also to be changed, partly intrinsically inadequate for the part and partly because it afforded comparing exports and imports, them of tariff legislation.

The new classification is to be of the United States foreign trade alike. It is:—

- (A). Foodstuffs in a natural state
- (B). Foodstuffs, partly or wholly
- (C). Crude materials for use in
- (D). Manufactures for further
- (E). Manufactures ready for
- (F). Miscellaneous.

This classification is being