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Our Political Problems

And How to Solve Them.

By ANALYST.

New occasions teach new duties.
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still and onward,
Who would keep abreast of Truth.

WHEN POLITICAL MEDIOCRACY BECOMES AN IDEAL.

Somebody has said that, in politics, as in everything else, there is a point where toleration sinks into sheer baseness and patronage. The toleration of the worst leads to look on what is barely better as good. Woe to that man, or that country, to whom mediocrity has become an ideal! Has our experiment of self-government succeeded, if it barely manages to rub and go? I shall try to answer this question as I proceed with my comments.

HOW TO BECOME A CONSTRUCTIVE CITIZEN.

Obviously, every individual must sooner or later come to realize that all he has of the world is his consciousness of it. He must realize that the world is his, his to make better, his to improve. Only from this viewpoint can he become a constructive citizen. Proceeding from the standpoint of this basic truth, instead of demanding that something be done for him, the individual sees that his hope lies in doing what he conceives of as being most needed. He sees the necessity of employing his time constructively, and investing his surplus in constructive enterprise.

THE FALLACY OF THE COMMUNIST.

We are told, and believe, that the fallacy of the communist lies in his desire to have the state lift the responsibility from the individual. The communist is a materialist. He looks upon material objects as substance and demands that these be supplied him, whereas the enlightened democracy places emphasis, above all else, upon initiative and enterprise, recognizing that substance is to be found in these forces and that they are spiritual. The communist demands that housing, transportation, and material possessions be given to the individual. Democracy gives nothing free but education. It is based on the understanding that the real substance of a thing is not in its objectified form, but the understand-

ing which produces it. Democracy rests upon the right use of education, upon the knowledge that all things will be added unto initiative and enterprise.

THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENTAL REFORM.

With regard to the question of governmental reform, there is only one course to pursue. You cannot find it by railing at the processes of democracy or by attempting to secure their abandonment or limitation. You must work out the solution through democratic methods. Your hope must be in liberty of opinion, in that freedom of speech and of peace and order. Use the new facilities to present truth as you see it and trust to experience, the best if the most extensive of teachers, to develop the discriminating judgment which alone will make democracy an instrument of progress.

PLAYING POLITICS AND THE RESULT.

Of course, playing politics, in the ordinary sense of the term, usually results in a confusion of the issue in the public mind. If the ordinary citizen is to understand what has been going on to produce the confusion, he needs to develop his own political sense, and learn by relying on as independent an interpretation of the facts as he can find. Above all, he needs to seek the very centre of every political problem for him. In proportion as he does, he will often arrive there before many of the politicians. In a democratic community like ours, every citizen has to be politically minded, in the true meaning of the phrase. He needs to bring his own innate sagacity into full play as he studies every policy as a way to the achievement of what is really for the public welfare.

"Then it is the brave man chooses.
While the coward stands aside,
Doubting in his abject spirit,
Till his Lord is crucified,
And the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they have in him."

WHERE THE HEAVIEST BURDEN RESTS.

Touching the all-important matter of taxation! By various means the

heaviest burden falls upon those who are least able to bear it. This was not intended probably, but it has happened, and very largely accounts for the fact that discontent and restlessness are especially acute among the producing classes. It is not to be supposed, however, that the Legislature does this from pure cussedness. Decent and intelligent men, such as are most members of both Houses, do not vote away money for mere amusement. Not a few of them are uneasily aware that they are sowing, if not a tornado, at least a very big wind. They have reasons for their extravagance—reasons which seem to be compelling. So, unless those reasons are learned, and until they are changed, there is little to be gained by scolding the Legislature, however eloquently. How will the new Government approach the financial situation, I wonder, and what will they do in connection therewith? Let us patiently wait and see!

A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF COURAGE.

The people expect much from the new Prime Minister. Mr. Moore has a tremendous amount of courage, without any sadness about things at all, for he is a real "progressive" who enjoys being a "progressive," no matter what the old time political interests may try to do to him. Thinking not at all merely of his own reputation or fame or prospects, he is first of all a public-spirited citizen, ready to lead instead of to follow. With a liking for people, particularly for "the toilers of the sea," and a determination to depend upon an accurate understanding of conditions in their relation to fundamental ideals, he can be both ingratiating and firm. His sympathy is balanced by a certain discretion, on the one hand, and by a sense of dash in his makeup on the other. The great thing about him is that he gives his primary attention to what is strictly his business. As the problems which are his business and his opportunities become broader and more complex, he is ready for them, because of his essentially patient vigor in doing the work at hand. Then, again, he is just the man for the masses, for

"Not a deed will he do, nor a word will he utter,
Till he's weighed its relation to plain bread and butter."

STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THOSE IN AUTHORITY.

It would be well, perhaps, at this juncture for us to strengthen the hands of those in authority, and curb our own tongues, remembering that Captain Walt commonly proves in the end more than a match for Captain Headlong, and that the Good Book sacrifices safety to a multitude, indeed not to a mob of councillors. Let us remember and perpend the words of Paulus Aemilius to the people of Rome that, "if they judged they could manage the situation to more advantage by the leadership of any other, he would willingly yield up his charge, but if they confided in him, they were not to make themselves his colleagues in his office, or raise reports, or criticise his actions, but, without talking, supplying him with means and assistance necessary to the carrying on of the campaign; for if they proceeded to command their own commander, they would render this administration more ridiculous than the former. As Ben Jonson says—

"Each petty hand
Can steer a ship becalmed; but he
That will
Govern and carry her to her end must
know
His tides, his currents, how to shift
his sails;
What she will bear in foul, what in
fair weather;
Where her springs are, her leaks, and
how to stop 'em;
What storms, what shelves, what
rocks do threaten them."

Just Folks.

By EDGAR A. GUEST

WHEN A BOY IS TWELVE YEARS OLD.

When a boy is twelve years old,
Brown of cheek and bright of eye,
He gives little thought of gold,
Or the dangers lurking by.
All he thinks of is to run
Just as fast as legs can go.
Life is just one round of fun,
And I'm glad that it is so.

There's a thrill in climbing trees,
Walking fence rails, jumping
streams,
Doing things with daring ease
Which old age too dangerous deems.
Then he follows every whim,
Unrestrained by fears we know,
Caring naught for life or limb,
And I'm glad that it is so.

When a boy is twelve years old,
Free has yet to hold him back;
He is keen and overbold,
Free from all forebodings black.
Age must walk with studious care,
Fearing many a fall or blow,
But a lad runs everywhere,
And I'm glad that it is so.

Age with many a doubt is filled,
Age feels duty's harsh restraint,
Age must serve where care has willed
Without whimpering or complaint.
But a boy is free to run,
Seeking pleasure high or low,
Thinking life one round of fun,
And I'm glad that it is so.

Great variety of Chocolates—
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DON'T MISS A CHANGE.

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Dogs Destroy Four Sheep Valued at \$70

Four sheep owned by Messrs. Moore & McLeod, butchers, Hamilton St., were killed by four hungry dogs on Thursday. The sheep which were in a pen behind the stable opposite the Methodist Orphanage cost \$70. Mr. Redman's son of Cornwall Avenue, who was delivering milk for his father saw the dogs tearing the sheep and ran for his father, who immediately came to the rescue. He lodged a complaint with the Council. Mr. Mahoney got in touch with Inspector Barber and asked him to try and locate the dog. Mr. Barber immediately got on the scene and shot the dog. While waiting around the stable he saw two dogs coming from Cornwall Avenue, and Mr. Redman and his son identified them as the dogs which were tearing up the sheep in the morning. The dogs were captured on Pleasant St. by Mr. Moore and Mr. Barber and immediately shot.

New Steamer for Newfoundland Trade

FURNESS WITHEY & CO. WILL BE MANAGERS.

An order has been placed with Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness, for the construction of a passenger and cargo steamer by the Warren Line, Ltd. (Messrs. Furness, Withey & Co., managers). The steamer is designed specially for the Liverpool-Canada and Newfoundland passenger service. The principal dimensions of the vessel will be as follows:—50ft. x 64ft. 6in. x 34ft. 4in. and the deadweight about 7,000 tons.

There will be accommodation for 100 first-class and 80 third-class passengers. The ship will be fitted with quadruple expansion engines with cylinders 31in., 43in., 62in., and 90in. x 57in., for which the steam will be supplied by five boilers 16ft. 6in. dia. x 12ft. with a total heating surface of 15,000 square feet. The speed of the vessel will be 14 knots loaded.—Daily Mail.

History in Hats

The Turkish National Assembly has decided that every citizen of the new Republic shall be at liberty to choose his own headgear—a momentous change, as the fez has for long been the badge of the Turkish subject, willing or unwilling.

For the non-Moslem citizens of Turkey, indeed, the fez was the symbol of subjection, and when the Greeks occupied Salonika, during the Balkan War of 1912-13, the first act of the local Christians was to throw away the hateful headgear. Similarly, many refugees leaving Turkey after the Armistice of 1918 threw their fezes overboard.

The headgear we wear has often had a special significance. The cap, for instance, has been supposed to have an affinity with revolutionary doctrines. And at one time the top-hat was the symbol of Republicanism.

No remedy can cure all ailments of the human body, but an immense number of people suffer from anæmia, pains and diseases when the red corpuscles in the blood are low. It is the iron in your blood that enables you to get the nourishment out of your food. Without iron your food merely passes through you without doing you any good; you don't get the strength out of it. There is one universally known tonic that has helped thousands because it contains iron like the iron in fresh vegetables and like the iron in your blood.

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