

all classes and talking with them. It is as necessary to be acquainted with the atmosphere of a public-house in a mining village as with that of a West End drawing-room or a country house party. More so, in fact, for the latter is fairly constant and the former often changes.

Any strong self-willed enthusiast can command some kind of a following and make a noise in the world out of all proportion to the importance of the cause which he advocates. The great bulk of the people are quiet and are never heard at all, but the weight of their votes, silently given, determines the results of elections. We heard a great deal of opposition to the Education Bill of 1902, but who expected that labour would have half a hundred representatives in the Commons? It is the thoughts and wishes of the quiet class which the Agents and Sub-agents must discover, for there is no fear that we shall not hear the voices of the enthusiasts from the house-tops. The latter may safely be left alone, for their demands will always be too impracticable to be granted by any government however subservient, just as were those of Hume, Cobbett, and O'Connell in the past.

It may be urged that trained politicians would develop into opportunists, and only study to discover the wishes of the voters. This is very unlikely, for a knowledge of politics leads involuntarily to the creation in the mind of broad general principles by which all leaders of men are actuated. A staff of technically trained men would both educate the country and advise Statesmen when the time is ripe to apply their principles in practice. The stages in the development would be simple. Instead of bouncing an ill-understood and half-digested scheme suddenly on the country or House of Commons, and then hoping to amend it into a practical shape, Statesmen would carefully sound the constituencies and educate them first.

Now comes the question of funds. By far the heaviest item of expense in political propagandism is printing posters, catch phrases, cartoons, and leaflets, and distributing them. The average voter is not affected to any great extent by seeing