

LIVE QUESTIONS.

Agencies of Articles Contributed to These Columns by Advanced Thinkers.

THE PEOPLE AND THE POLITICIANS.

Between 1861 and 1865 our people expended billions of treasure and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives to save the Union and to keep our flag flying. But a more subtle and a more dangerous crisis menaces free government today. Democratic government in this country is endangered, and there is much reason to believe that it may be destroyed.

Our people are being deluded by the idea that they live under a free form of government; that they are the rulers; that they make laws, elect candidates to office and control public affairs, while in truth and in fact the forms of democratic government are today being employed by artful and designing politicians to delude them into the belief that they are shaping legislation and controlling government. A boss in New York and a boss in Pennsylvania as completely control all lawmaking in those states as does the emperor of Germany control the making of law in Germany. But power is conferred upon the emperor of Germany with the consent of his people, while the boss in New York is a private individual, owing no allegiance to the people and under no obligation to perform their will. Much more can be said in favor of a monarchical form of government than can be said in favor of boss rule. The constitutional monarch in Europe has every inducement to preserve his people and to create and perpetuate them in prosperity to his son as their ruler, but no such inducement exists with the boss. He cannot hand down his power to his eldest son. There is no inducement upon his part to give the people good government. If the American people are to relinquish to the boss their right to free government, a right purchased by a struggle commencing with Runnymede and carried on continuously until our own day, why in the name of common sense should they not make the boss ship a hereditary institution in order to create some motive in the boss for giving them good government?

DO THE PEOPLE RULE?
We are not overstating the case when we maintain that the condition of government which we have reached in the last few years is more grievous than an actual monarchy. When men who do not hold official positions select the members of our state legislatures, dictate the candidates who fill executive offices, secure for their henchmen official positions and completely control states and even the nation, and dictate every law, throttle all legislation and the interests of the people, is it too much to say that democratic government is ceasing or has ceased in this country?

In 1860 about 80 per cent of the wealth of the country belonged to 90 per cent of its people. In 1890, 80 per cent of it belonged to less than 10 per cent of its people. In the city of New York alone we have to exceed 1,100 millionaires. In the whole country we have upward of 4,000 millionaires. Never in the history of any country during a like period of time has the wealth so speedily changed from the hands of the many into the hands of the few.

Legislation in the national legislature and in the state legislatures is almost completely controlled by political bosses, or, as too frequently occurs, purchased by great corporations. A careful examination made in the state of New York in 1892 showed that over 2,000 corporations in one year paid tribute to a political boss who controlled the legislature either for legislation favorable to their corporations or immunity from hostile legislation.

WHY PEOPLE ARE DISSATISFIED.

There is throughout all the country a state of unrest. The people have long known from grievous experience that the shoe pinched, but they have been slow in finding out why it pinches. Unrest among the common people always means injustice, wrongs to be righted, property wrongly diverted from the hands of the many to the hands of the few, unequal and unfair legislation. Never has so much apprehension existed as to the future as exists today among intelligent men. Every student of history, of political economy and of finance knows that the policy of legislation pursued in this country during the last few years has not only tended to divert the wealth of the country from the hands of the many to the hands of the few, but has brought about a terrible condition of degeneracy and corruption among public men. Does any intelligent man for one moment believe that you can safely place in the hands of the congress of the United States the right to transfer tens of millions of dollars from one part of the community to another and not at the same time subject it to temptations beyond the power of man to resist?

With all the legislation for the protection of home industries which we have had during this period of 30 years, are the farmers of the country happier or more prosperous than in the good old days when our grandmothers at their wheels were our only manufacturers? Have the people the confidence in their public servants which they felt in the days before special legislation came to be the rule in congress and in our state legislatures? The fact is that every intelligent man knows that our public men and our politicians are neither sincere Republicans nor sincere Democrats not sincere in anything except to keep themselves afloat on the tide of money making at the expense of the taxpayer. The Fifty-first congress cut off \$50,000,000 of the public income by the passage of a tariff measure which kept foreign imports out of the country. It added \$50,000,000 to the expenditures of the country. It borrowed \$50,000,000 of

the national banks by turning the redemption fund into the treasury, and it added over \$100,000,000 of legal tender notes necessarily redeemable in gold, while it diverted an equal amount of public revenue to the purchase of pig silver at double its real value to be stacked in the treasury vaults. The last Democratic congress, although the Democratic party had pronounced itself as strongly as words would allow in favor of the unconstitutionality of special legislation for the benefit of the few and to impose burdens upon the many, nevertheless passed a tariff bill which continued the sugar trust and other trusts in power. The present congress was opened by the prayer of the chaplain to the effect that the Lord would make us "quick to resent insults." He has continued his praying by asking the Almighty for "additional protection to American manufacturers, so that they might put an end to the privations of the American workmen." And it now appears that he ought to close the session with the general confession: "We have done those things we ought not to have done; we have left undone those things which we ought to have done. Spare us, good Lord, miserable sinners."

But the worst feature of the whole situation is that our people rightly conceive the idea that their rulers are dabbling in unclean things, and the corruption of the people themselves is bound to follow this belief, for they will reason that, if purity in office does not pay, then purity at the ballot box does not pay either, and every citizen may as well sell his vote for what it will bring.

Out of these conditions have come a class of public servants who do not command respect because they are not respectable, who do not command confidence because they are neither honest nor intelligent. It was only the other day that the Hon. Julius Caesar Burrows, who represents the state of Michigan in the United States senate, actually introduced a bill to restore to the dutiable list the articles that were taxable under the McKinley law, but which had been placed on the free list by the tariff act of 1894. He did this in ignorance of the fact that the constitution expressly provides that all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives. A few days later Senator Tillman of South Carolina, in an outbreak of pulmonary eloquence and noisy declamation, so vilified President Cleveland and Secretary Carlisle that even the sensational newspapers did not repeat his language. It was while viewing this senate that a traveler from other climes has recently said that "if the American people can stand that they can stand anything."

With these humiliating spectacles before us, it is not strange that there is a general diminution of attachment and reverence among the people for a political system which betrays so many grounds of infirmity and disappoints so many of our flattering hopes.

RIGHT WILL TRIUMPH AT LAST.

Although the outlook is dark, I believe in the ability of the American people when they are face to face with these evils and recognize in them a great danger to our free government to remedy them. We must, however, appreciate the fact that every law passed for the benefit of a few men or of a corporation, that all species of special legislation are dangerous and destructive to honesty and purity in public legislators. We must step out of our inaction and do our duty fearlessly if we would avert the danger. Courage, abnegation, virtue and patriotism made our country, and these qualities will alone preserve it. In fact, before a remedy is effected, we must become conscious that we have been recreant to our public duty in these days of money making, and solemnly vow to atone for such recreancy.

The spirit which will redeem the people in the breast of a few courageous men must be that which Otway, in his "Venice Preserved," gives to Pierre:

Pierre—Yet, Jaffier, for all this I am a villain.
Jaffier—A villain?
Pierre—Yes, a most notorious villain. To see the sufferings of my fellow creatures And own myself a man; to see our senators Cheat the deluded people with a show Of liberty, which yet they ne'er must taste of. They say, by them our hands are free from fetters, Yet whom they please they place in basest bonds; Drive whom they please to infamy and sorrow; Drive us, like wrecks, down the rough tide of power; Whilst no hold is left to save us from destruction. All that bear this are villains, and I one Not to rouse up at the great call of nature And check the growth of these domestic spoilers. That make us slaves and tell us it's our charter.
FRANKLIN PIERCE.
New York, Feb. 1.

THE NEW EDITOR.

We hear much of the new woman, the new man (and even sometimes an echo of the "old man"), the new education, new books, etc., ad infinitum. Why not discuss the question of the new editor or the new newspaper?

The new editor is a man (or woman) who is not only up to date, but is even anticipating the future. He is both a man of theory and practice. "He stands four square to all the winds that blow." He is in touch with every interest of his community, state and nation. He belongs generally to some political party, but is larger than any or all parties. He sees things with his own eyes and writes what he thinks or does not write at all. He knows men and books, and urges every good move that looks to the betterment of the community in any sense. He can make a speech, tell a joke well, laugh at one that you tell poorly, enjoy the best plays, musicals, lectures and sermons. He has great power for good and uses it for noble ends. He is a reputation maker, for hundreds of men every year soar into prominence on the wings of the newspapers. He is all this and very much more. Along with the new woman let us all hail the advent of the new editor. CHARLES MARSHALL.

THE JEWISH PASSOVER.

A Religious Observance of Importance in Hebrew Circles.

The annual observance of Passover began last Saturday evening. For eight days the Hebrews carefully eschew leaven, although seven days covered the original proscription. During the captivity a doubt arose as to the Jewish calendar, and in order to avoid the possibility of abbreviating the prescribed time, for some time subsequently they consumed two days in special opening services and the same in the closing observances. While the calendar is now well understood, the orthodox Jews follow the old custom, but the reformed wing consume but one day in the opening and one in the closing of observance.

The feast is commemorative of the deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egypt, and the passage through the Red sea. The ceremonies are elaborate, and each house is a temple in which service is held. The orthodox Jews observe the commemoration with much more detail than does the reformed wing.

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