

Urquhart has ceased to be a servant of the people and aspires to be a ruler over them.

His point of view has changed from that of a democrat to that of an autocrat. The grand dukes around the Czar of all the Russias say the people do not know what is good for them and that they do know. Mr. Urquhart says the same. His spirit is that of the bureaucrat or official class. They know how to rule, and the people are a beast to be governed.

In the United States or Canada, where there are frequent elections, Mr. Urquhart is an anachronism, a belated survival of a past political epoch. If he does not change back, the people, when they get to know him, will relegate him to private life and he will be discontented and think they are ungrateful.

But that is not important. The vital question is, What caused the change? One word answers that question: Irresponsible office-holding. The largely irresponsible power of any important executive position, and the subtle flattery that surrounds it, slowly changes even the best of men, until they get what Whitman calls "the insolence of elected persons."

What is the remedy? Frequent returns to the people for re-election, and the recall, are good. But there will be no permanent remedy till the people have in their own hands, all the time, the supreme power, the power to initiate and to enact laws; and this can only be secured through direct legislation—the Initiative and Referendum.

ELTWEED POMEROY.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALASIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, March 1.—The prosecutions in connection with the Newcastle (N. S. W.) strike, mentioned in my last letter (p. 790), have come to nothing. In the first four trials the men were acquitted, so the rest of the cases were withdrawn.

In a case arising out of another dispute, the Supreme Court decided that, in the absence of an agreement between employers and employes, the arbitration court could not make an order against strikers as a body. Proceedings must be taken against individuals. If a large number of men were on strike

this would of course be practically impossible.

It has also been ruled that the arbitration court had exceeded its powers in making "interim injunctions" to compel employes to continue at work pending the settlement of a dispute. This power was relied upon to prevent strikes.

Altogether it may be fairly said that the New South Wales arbitration act has broken down; but of course the Ministry, like Gilbert's Mikado, promises to "have it altered"—next session.

As soon as I saw it in print, I noticed that the first paragraph of my letter of January 21 (p. 661) was wrong. I should have said the decision was that the salaries of Federal civil servants and members of the Federal parliament are exempt from State income tax. Mr. Reid, the prime minister, has promised that if the decision be upheld on appeal to the English Privy Council, he will, if still in power, submit an amendment of the constitution on the subject to the people at the next Federal election. This looks rather like cracking a nut with a steam hammer.

Max Hirsch, author of "Democracy versus Socialism," and next to Mr. Reid our most prominent as well as ablest free trader, was very ill some months ago, through overwork. It was feared his health had permanently broken down. But he has gradually improved, and is now almost as well as ever. A very able, well-educated man, Mr. Hirsch might have made a good living for himself in business; but he has devoted his life to reform work, principally as a single taxer. As Mr. G. H. Reid once publicly stated, "Mr. Hirsch has been content to live on \$500 a year when he might have had \$5,000."

He has probably been the best abused man in Australia, for almost everyone opposes a single taxer on some point.

The most discouraging thing in Australian politics is the fact that while the power is in the hands of the people, actually and not merely nominally as in many countries—yet the leaders are on the wrong track. It is better to stand still than to follow them.

ERNEST BRAY.

"Oh, I couldn't possibly talk half-an-hour on that subject!"

"Nonsense! Why, you can fill 20 minutes explaining the difficulty of treating so important a subject in so short a time."—Puck.

NEWS NARRATIVE

Week ending Thursday, April 13.

Mayor Dunne of Chicago.

The official count of the vote of the recent municipal election in Chicago (p. 6) was published on the 9th. It is as follows:

Dunne (Dem)	163,189
Harlan (Rep.)	138,671
Collins (Soc.)	23,034
Stewart (Pro.)	3,297

Total vote	328,191
Dunne's plurality	24,518

Pending the official count the mayor-elect made a hurried trip to New York (p. 7), where he addressed an audience that packed Cooper Union. The meeting was called to order by William Randolph Hearst, as chairman of the executive committee of the Municipal Ownership League of New York. J. G. Phelps Stokes presided. Among the speakers was Thomas E. Watson. After speaking to the audience within the hall, Judge Dunne addressed a large overflow meeting on the broad street adjoining.

Returning from the East on the 9th Judge Dunne was installed as Mayor on the 10th. The installation ceremonies were simple, and there was no inaugural address beyond a brief speech of courtesy, prefaced with this explanation:

On an occasion like this it is usual and customary to deliver what may be called an inaugural address. On this occasion I forbear to deliver any such address, in view of the fact that my inaugural has been framed and delivered to you by the people in the issues presented to you in the last campaign and crystallized in the platform upon which I ran. This is the policy I have been elected to carry out, and in the administration of my office I shall use all the energy and all the ability with which my maker has endowed me. I shall endeavor to use my utmost energies to carry out to a conclusion the programme which the people have set forth.

Municipal Ownership in Chicago.

The official count on the traction referendum questions (p. 8) showed the following result:

Shall the tentative ordinance of 1904 be passed.....	No...150,785
	Yes.. 64,391
Negative majority.....	86,394

Shall any franchise to the Chicago City Railway be