

water of those tanks, where the washerman washes dirty clothes, the dishwasher cleans his dishes, and people in general take their baths, is used for cooking and drinking purposes. The British government does not help materially to remedy these evils. It is regarded as a case of rare fortune if the villagers get any help from the government to dig a well when the reservoir is dried up. I thoroughly agree with Mr. Russell, the eminent sociologist and author of "The Uprising of the Many," who observed that millions of people in India live in huts and hovels whose sanitary condition is worse than those provided for cattle in this country.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan, after visiting India, remarked wisely:

"So great has been the drain, the injustice to the people, and the tax upon the resources of the country, that famines have increased in frequency and severity. Mr. Gokhale, one of the ablest of India's public men, presided over the meeting of the last Indian National Congress held in December, and declared in his opening speech that the death rate had steadily risen from 24 to the 1,000 in 1882-1884 to 30 in 1892-1894, and to 34 at the present time.

"I have more than once, within the last month, heard the plague referred to as a providential remedy for over-population. Think of it! British rule justified because 'it keeps the people from killing each other,' and the plague praised because it removes those whom the government has saved from slaughter." (From "British Rule in India," by William Jennings Bryan.)

Here we want to emphasize that in England the death rate is decreasing, and the statistics read thus: "England has become successful in bringing down her death rate from 20 to 15.5 per 1,000 during the last twenty years."

It is very interesting to note the statement by Sir Henry Cotton, M. P., contradicting the views of Mr. Roosevelt. His observations, published in the "New York World," January 22d, 1909, are as follows:

"Mr. Roosevelt doubtless delivered his eulogy to please Englishmen who, he well knows, are always willing to swallow such praise. But the English need no glorifying of their work in India, for they will do that themselves. We denounce foreign countries when they pursue immoral policies, but we will not seriously criticize our own government, which too often acts in opposition to the wishes of the people. It is interesting to point out that Mr. Roosevelt's conclusions are directly opposite to those of Mr. Bryan, who traveled in India and the East and then wrote his impressions after mature consideration. While I have no desire to belittle the work of my countrymen in India, my own views, I do not mind saying, coincide with those of Mr. Bryan, who gave, I believe, a very fair appreciation of England's work in India. Comparatively speaking, I think America has made more progress in the Philippines than England has in India. I attribute this success to Mr. Taft and to the helpful attitude of Americans residing in the Islands."

Some people make the indiscreet remark that the people of India have no idea of sanitation, and that they never lived in a sanitary way; but such is not the case. Students of ancient history testify that when the Anglo-Saxons were living in caves, then

India had her days of prosperity; medical science, astronomy, ethics and philosophy flourished there. Megasthenes, an early Greek historian and contemporary of Alexander the Great, has fortunately left a very valuable testimony to this early Indian civilization.

Under the existing economic conditions, the people of India cannot undertake independently any work of sanitation, because they are poor—they are taxed to death. There are districts where the people are forced to pay a land tax of 65 per cent of the products. The average income of the people is now one and one-half cents a day, while it was four cents a day some fifty years ago.

All nations condemn the Spanish exploitation of South America, as they also condemn her treatment of Cuba. Under Spanish rule Cuba was in a state of horror, but under the progressive and benevolent influence of the United States the conditions are changed; there shines forth the success of the American democracy which raised Cuba, a country of enslaved people, a resort unfit for human habitation, to a land of free people, blessed with all the latest sanitary developments.

The United States saved the Cubans from the yawning jaws of yellow fever, and the British Government has become the cause of plague, malaria and famine in India. Then shall we call the British Government in India a colossal success?

BANDE MATERAM.

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THE RECALL IN ACTION.

Los Angeles, Cal.

Los Angeles has the distinction of being the first city in the Union to make use of the "Recall." It was also the first American city to incorporate in its charter this new instrument for the control of its officials. This it did in 1903 by a vote of 5 to 1, being induced to do so mainly through the efforts of Dr. John R. Haynes, president of the State Direct Legislation League, one of its citizens who brought the idea from Switzerland, where under another name it has been in use many years. Los Angeles has a progressive people who take kindly to anything new that seems likely to be an improvement on the old.

To invoke the recall against an elective officer the Los Angeles charter requires that a petition signed by 25 per cent of the legal voters shall be presented to the City Council demanding that a new election, for reasons briefly set forth in the petition, shall be held. The election must occur not sooner than 30 nor more than 40 days after the petition is filed. The officer against whom the recall is invoked, must be a candidate to succeed himself at the recall election, unless he in writing declines to run. To illustrate this new device for securing popular government, let me describe the recall in action.

A. C. Harper, who was recently driven from his office by the recall movement (p. 318), became mayor of Los Angeles in January, 1907, for a three years' term.

He had a good reputation, was well connected and promised well; but it soon became apparent to many that he was too closely allied with, if not controlled by the quartet that so often combine and rule our

large cities, viz: public service corporations, liquor dealers, gamblers and dive keepers, all working through the political machines.

The city had recently authorized the issue of \$25,000,000 of bonds for needed public improvements, and the fear of corruption in the disbursement of this great sum combined to make weighty two moral and financial reasons for drastic action. Two hundred intelligent and determined citizens therefore assembled January 20 at the call of a few leaders to discuss the question of invoking the recall against the mayor. Admission to this and the three subsequent adjourned meetings of the same body of men, was by card only, or by invitation, as was the case with myself.

It was one of the most critical moments in the history of Los Angeles. The meeting was held within a stone's throw of the city hall, where the mayor ruled in fancied security; the leading journals of the city were sustaining the mayor and were luke-warm as to the recall itself, or openly opposing it as un-American and brutal. Libel suits claiming heavy damages were pending before the courts, brought by the mayor against the two journals, the Herald and the Express, which were vigorously exposing the alleged bad conduct of the mayor and his subordinates. The grand jury which was investigating these charges had not then reported, a fact that caused a few to counsel delay. The leading politicians of the city were friendly to the mayor or keeping quiet; and there was uncertainty as to whether the voters would sustain so radical a movement. These circumstances would have discouraged men less determined.

Among the 200 were four ex-circuit judges, one of whom, Hon. John D. Works, a contributor to the Arena magazine, was chosen permanent chairman. He briefly and clearly stated in a dignified manner the purpose of the meeting, and was followed with timely remarks from others. The vote to proceed with the recall was then passed amid suppressed but intense excitement.

The citizens responded to this action with unexpected enthusiasm. In a few days about 11,000 signatures were secured for the petition, 3,000 in excess of the legal requirement; and the City Council, as directed by the charter, appointed March 26 as election day.

In the meantime Wm. D. Stephens was named at a subsequent citizens' meeting as Harper's opponent at the recall election, but in a few days Mr. Stephens declined to run on account of sickness in his family.

On February 17, Hon. George Alexander was recommended as a candidate against Mr. Harper, and on February 24 a petition was filed with the city clerk officially placing Mr. Alexander in nomination.

At this time any body of citizens had the right to file petitions nominating candidates for the recall election. The Socialists nominated Fred C. Wheeler, a very worthy man, as their candidate, but the other political parties failed to nominate, some of the leaders of the Republican party having been reported as saying: "Mayor Harper is good enough for us." Some went so far as to circulate and wear campaign buttons with the foregoing legend printed upon them.

On March 11, Mayor Harper tendered his resignation in writing, to prevent the publication of facts in possession of Mr. E. T. Earl, of the Express; and also withdrew as a candidate for re-election. His action was generally regarded as a confession of guilt. This action also created great excitement, both among the friends and enemies of the recall, the latter claiming that the vacancy in the mayoralty should be filled by the City Council for the unexpired term of Mayor Harper, i. e. to January 1910. The council, however, under advice of the city attorney, Leslie Hewitt, in view of the recall election having been ordered, voted to fill the vacancy only until the person chosen at the recall election should be qualified. The council then elected Wm. D. Stephens to serve as mayor for the few days that remained until the result of the recall election should be known.

Enemies of the recall at once asked for an injunction from Judge Walter Bordwell to annul the recall election because of the resignation of Mayor Harper and thereby save the taxpayers the expense of the special election.

On March 23, only three days before the date set for the election, Judge Bordwell in an elaborate opinion, taking the ground that as between an election by the voters or by their representatives, the Council, the voters should have precedence, refused to grant the injunction; and on the 26th of March, the election was held. There were only the two candidates, Alexander and Wheeler.

The enemies of the recall, in order to discredit the movement, combined all their forces upon the Socialist candidate, who received about twice his normal vote; while many friends of Mr. Alexander, feeling sure of his election, failed to vote. Mr. Alexander received 13,929, and Mr. Wheeler 12,421 votes.

The new mayor, Mr. Alexander, is a retired business man, about 70 years old, an ex-Union soldier, a Methodist, a Knight Templar, and has been for eight years County Commissioner. Familiarly he is known as "Honest Uncle George."

JAMES P. CADMAN.



A Traveler from a Distant Country came to Sacramento, in the Season of Plagues, of Rains and Sessions. Among the Strange Sightings he beheld was a man who progressed by Walking Backward, and, turning to a Native, the Traveler begged him to explain this strange Phenomenon.

"That locomotively reversed Personage," replied his Courteous Informer, "is a Legislator. He walks Backward because the God he worships is Precedent; and he is ever under the Illusion that he is Backing out of his Deity's Presence."

"How interesting!" exclaimed the Traveler. "But do all your legislators walk backwards?"

"No," said the Native, "not All. Many of them progress Sidewise like a Crab."

"But why, Pray, why?"

"In order to sidestep Issues, of course," responded the Native patiently.

"Then what ever gets Done in this Remarkable Country?" cried the Traveler.

The Native looked Pityingly upon him. "The People, of course," he said.—Liberator.