

Chap. II. The First Year of Fighting.)

This camp where they kept the women and children is called a concentration camp. It sounds very bad to think of having everything burned up and it *was* very bad, for you would have to leave your house and go and be all in one camp and they probely got very bad food. Some people think that the British rule is not very bad, but you have to do just what they say, and you cannot feel free to do what you want, like you could if they had their own rule. Many babies died in the concentration camp and the women were all the time crying because they could not see their husbands. (From Chap. III.—The Farm Burning.)

One day the British tied 10 billy goats to try the affects of some lideight shels and so he fired about 20 at them and then went up to see how many were left and he found that there were 11—one had been born. (From Chap. IV. The Second Year of Fighting.)

During the latter part of the war the Americans have been exporting horses to South Africa for the British to use. The people who are having it done dont know how much it helps the British. They think if they send 1,000 horses to South Africa that it wont be much to 300,000 trupes but they think that they can get money and not help the British very much, but they keep on doing it till it does amount to sumthing. I think that England is big enough to get her own horses and if not she ought not to have started the war, for she cant depend on other nations to supply England with horses. This exportment of horses to South Africa is not done by the government but by private people for the reason the Government cannot stop it. (Chap. VI. The Exportment of Horses to South Africa.)

If the gold mine in Johannesburg failed the British would soon get tired of fighting for the land and go back to England. The Boers want peace but England has to have the gold and so she goes around fighting all the little countries but she never dares to fight eather China or Russia. All the people that have their independence should like to see the Boers win for England is trying to take it from the Boers.

All this talk about the Boers having slaves is not true for the Boers have not had any slaves since 1832, for a Boer captain told me so. America cannot say anything about the slavery for the Americans let men have slaves in the Philpens now. (From Chap. VII. The Last.)

#### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

THE REPUBLICAN PROSECUTING ATTORNEY ON MR. JOHNSON AS A POLITICIAN.

"They may say what they please about Mayor Johnson," said Solicitor Kaiser, "but they all have to admit that he knows how to get the votes. As a political leader who understands the art of making circumstances and men carry out his ends he has few peers in the country. And I admit that his ends are not often bad. He has ideas that mean good to the people and he always seems to be doing or planning something for the masses. I cannot but be amused to see how easily Johnson makes the conditions serve his purposes. He brought this 3-cent fare question to a focus just at the right time, and he puts the Republicans on the unpopular side of the controversy. Here right on election day we find a Republican attorney getting an order of injunction from a Republican judge for a Republican client against Johnson and the new 3-cent fare company. In the eyes of the masses this lines the Republican party up with the old street railway companies and the opponents of low fare, and the result is injurious to the Republicans."—The Cleveland Plain Dealer of Apr. 9.

#### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM AT LAST.

The declaration of City Treasurer Coffinberry that he does not intend turning out the present employes in the treasurer's office, merely because they are Republicans, to make room for Democrats, caused bewilderment among politicians of all parties. They could not believe he made such a declaration or holds such a purpose. Professions of conducting municipal affairs on a strictly business basis are all well enough during the campaign, but after election the "business," as the politicians understand it, is to "turn the rascals out"—all opposition holders of "jobs" being of necessity rascals—and fill the vacancies with the "faithful." If the incoming administration is Republican, then all Democrats found in employment are "incompetent" and must get out, and all Republicans recommended by the party bosses are "competent" and should be appointed. If the incoming administration is Democratic, then "turn about is fair play" and the Republican employes must go. It is the rule of the game and newly elected officials are expected to play strictly according to that rule.

But here is a Democratic city treasurer who will not recognize the rule.

He actually believed in the practice as well as profession of conducting municipal affairs on a strictly business basis, regardless of partisan politics. On the death of the Republican city treasurer, Mr. Coffinberry was requested by Mayor Johnson to take the position for the short time before the election, but declined. At last he accepted and also consented to become the candidate on the Democratic ticket, with the result of his election. During his occupancy of the office by appointment he had an opportunity of studying the manner in which his subordinates discharged their duties. Being satisfied on that point, he now announces that he sees no reason for making any changes, at least for the present. As it is not likely that Republican employes under a Democratic official will make themselves "perniciously active" in politics, but will probably stick faithfully to their duties, the prospects of changes in the immediate future are not as bright as office seekers would have them.

Here we have real civil service reform at last. It is gratifying that it has come under a Democratic administration, for the Democrats have been represented as hungry for spoils and as being even more opposed to the practice of civil service reform than the Republicans—although the local illustrations of Republican practice have not been conspicuous. Mr. Coffinberry is a citizen who loves his party, but who thinks he is doing his party more substantial service by identifying it with honesty and efficiency in the administration of public affairs, and with genuine business principles in municipal government, than by turning out efficient employes, merely because they are Republicans, and filling their places with untried men, merely because they are Democrats who are alleged to have done partisan work.

School Director Cadwallader has taken one important step in the same direction. Instead of following the precedent set by his predecessors, Directors Sargent and Bell, and appointing a skilled partisan politician his secretary, that the construction of a partisan machine might be carried on at school headquarters with every facility at command, he appointed Mr. John M. Siddall, who is without any known experience as a politician, but who has been a hard worker in fields that afford good preparation for the intelligent and efficient discharge of the proper duties of his new position.

Mr. Siddall has been associated with Mr. Cadwallader for some time and they are in thorough accord. The appointment of a secretary was regarded as in some degree an indication of Director Cadwallader's intended course and of his strength of character in view of the influences that would naturally be brought to bear upon him at the outset of his administration. Belief in his purpose to carry out the nonpartisan pledges he gave before election has been materially strengthened by this appointment.

The new departure in the waterworks office by Superintendent Bemis, with the support given Mr. Bemis by the mayor when the issue between the civil service reformer and the politicians was made, was also hope inspiring. . . .

Within the last few days there have been several things tending to make the friends of municipal civil service reform "thank God and take courage."—Editorial in the Plain Dealer of Apr. 12.

**BOOK NOTICES.**

It is not often that the leading editorials even of a weekly paper, however interesting they may be as they appear, make good reading when gathered together in a book. An exception is "Little Leaders" (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.), by Wm. Morton Payne. Mr. Payne has long been associated with Francis Fisher Browne, editor of the Dial, and these essays are some of the leading editorials he has written for that excellent periodical. Although the Dial is a literary paper, Mr. Payne's reprinted editorials are interesting for other than mere literary reasons. Literature for the barren sake of literature is not a Dial ideal. Besides being charming simply as works of literary art, they are interesting because they also say things worth reading. The spirit is democratic, as is that of the Dial. This in itself lends them interest and power and distinguishes them from much of the literature of the time, which is usually aristocratic, plutocratic or inane. One of Mr. Payne's essays is on "Democracy and Education." It emphasizes the importance of expertism in democracies, for the sake of democracy, but is not sufficiently careful to distinguish the function of the expert—

which is not to direct general policies (expertism in that, being kingcraft), but to manage the details of general policies decided upon by the people. Another of the essays is a common sense repudiation of the undemocratic notion that literary workers should work without pay.

**PERIODICALS.**

—The reorganization of the American army, by Oswald Garrison Villard, and Pan-American diplomacy, by John W. Foster, are the important political subjects discussed in the April Atlantic.

—Out West for April opens with the first installment of an illustrated story of "The Discovery of Our Pacific Coast." This truly independent, instructive and interesting monthly with the western flavor will again enlarge, with the June number, at the same time increasing its price from \$1 to \$2.

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