

reject as a whole. They always accept. Last, but by far the most important, are the men. Four, five, six years ago, efforts were made to get direct legislation, headed by Henry C. Dillon, Fred S. Baker, and others. I know of at least two determined efforts to get direct legislation into the city charter, and spoke to audiences in Los Angeles for these people. They were beaten, and at least one leader was so discouraged that he said Los Angeles was not fit to have direct legislation, and he retired from the work. He had worked hard and could see no results, but there were results. Every effort had produced an education of the public mind, which was needed for final success. The public were educated by defeats, and what some people called apathy was only a fit conservatism in taking up a new method. And this conservatism has justified itself. It has educated the leaders. The first charter amendments drawn up were crude and would have worked badly. The amendment just adopted is the best in any city—it is far stronger, clearer and better drawn than that adopted in San Francisco three or four years ago.

Among the men converted by the earlier movements and active in the one before this, was Dr. John R. Haynes, a wealthy, cultured, tactful, popular and very busy physician. He had been on the previous charter commission and had been defeated in his efforts to get direct legislation then. "Ad astra per aspera." "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." He did. He made the time among the multifarious duties and pleasures of a very busy and full life to write and speak for direct legislation, to gather friends around him, and to organize a local Direct Legislation League with the names of prominent bankers, clergymen, politicians, etc., on its list of officers; and some of the young men he enthused were most efficient writers and workers.

In this work he was greatly aided by Joseph Asbury Johnson, of the editorial staff of The Los Angeles Herald. Mr. Johnson was one of the committee of one hundred, which drew up the San Francisco charter, and he was the original direct legis-

lation man there. Of course he knew all about it. The editorial and news columns of the Herald give a full history of the movement. Thus, on

July 5th it said in part editorially:

The committee on charter revision have revived fresh interest in their work by the adoption of the principles of direct legislation, which, it will be recalled, were recommended by the last board of freeholders. Briefly, the principles recommended for embodiment in the new city charter, the instrument for which Los Angeles has so long been pining, are as follows:

The Initiative—Upon presentation of a petition signed by 15 per cent. of the voters, asking that an ordinance be submitted to the people at a special election, the council may pass the ordinance, or must call a special election within 15 days from the presentation of the petition. It will require a petition of only five per cent. for a request that an ordinance be submitted at the next municipal election.

The Referendum—No ordinance, except in certain contingencies duly provided for, shall go into effect before 30 days from the time of its final passage, and if during that interim a petition signed by seven per cent. of the voters be presented, the ordinance shall be suspended until repealed by the council or acted upon by the people at a special or general election, as the council may see fit.

The Recall—The holder of any elective office may be removed after a petition has been signed by 25 per cent. of electors by a special election held not less than 30 days after a certificate of the qualifications of the petitioner has been filed. In any such removal election the officer sought to be removed shall be a candidate to succeed himself, unless he requests otherwise, and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

It is satisfactory to note that five out of the nine councilmen were present and voted in favor of the report. There is nothing in the proposed legislation as outlined that any honest official need fear or that any thoughtful citizen will seriously object to. The majority of the people are given the right to initiate reforms, to veto objectionable ordinances and to remove a dishonest official. If the people are given the responsibilities of a more direct hand in municipal affairs, they may be trusted to use it faithfully and wisely, and the result should be a much more satisfactory condition of city affairs.

But why go into the details of the petition, letters, newspaper articles, meetings, tracts and various forms of propaganda. There are numberless methods and many ought also to be mentioned, but space forbids.

Perhaps almost the best propaganda were the cartoons in the Herald. These struck the eye vividly and were remembered by the average man. They contain the best arguments for direct legislation.

"Ad astra per aspera." "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." "Go thou and do likewise."

ELTWEED POMEROY.

NEWS

Venezuela war news is confined this week chiefly to the diplomatic negotiations. Our last report on that phase of the war (p. 694) ended with the submission by Mr. Bowen to the blockading powers of what was virtually an ultimatum. Taking the ground that the question of preferring debts had come now to be the only issue (p. 695), and positively refusing a preferential arrangement, he proposed that the dispute be submitted to the international arbitration tribunal at The Hague. To this proposal replies were then (Feb 4th) hourly expected.

If they came they have not been published. It is possible, of course, that the news dispatches were in error, or merely gossip transmuted into news, and that no such formal ultimatum as was then reported had been made. At any rate it now appears that on the 5th Mr. Bowen submitted to the representatives of the blockading powers a series of proposals which are summarized by the Associated Press as follows:

- (1) Venezuela to make a cash payment of \$27,500 to each of the three blockading powers.
- (2) The blockading powers to have preferential treatment for three months, in the division of 30 per cent. of the customs receipts of Puerto Cabello and La Guayra, after which all creditor powers to be on equal footing.
- (3) A number of mixed commissions to adjust the claims of the blockading and non-blockading powers. Each government interested to appoint a representative, the government of Venezuela to appoint the second, and if they are unable to agree the king of Spain, or President of France, to appoint the third member, who will act as umpire.
- (4) A protocol to be drafted in which all conditions will be included, and the blockade to be raised.
- (5) The king of Belgium to take charge of the customhouses at Puerto Cabello and La Guayra and administer the finances until all claims have been paid, if Venezuela fails to make payments as agreed.

Some unpleasant incident or other had meanwhile occurred. It is reported to have originated in a statement to the foreign representatives by Mr. Bowen, which he was accused of making public, wherein he broadly intimated that the powers were trying to force Venezuela into a position that would result in maintaining the Anglo-German alliance for years to come. This is said to have aroused

British sentiment, already disgusted with the debt collecting alliance with Germany, to a dangerous pitch of hostility to the British ministry, and consequently to have culminated in the utter ignoring of Mr. Bowen by the European representatives. The British minister promptly announced that the alliance would end immediately upon the signing of treaties of arbitration, and that the blockade would be thereupon raised. Whatever the origin and character of the unpleasantness may have been, it is certain that on the 6th the British ambassador communicated directly with Secretary Hay without notifying Mr. Bowen. His communication proposed that President Roosevelt sit in judgment upon the demand of the blockading allies for preferential treatment. Secretary Hay submitted the proposal at once to the President, who, after a cabinet discussion, declined to act. Thereupon, so say the Washington dispatches of the 9th, the allies agreed to leave the question of preferential treatment to The Hague tribunal, and the British ambassador submitted to Mr. Bowen Great Britain's proposed protocol, which Mr. Bowen promptly accepted. Following are the terms of the British protocol, so accepted, as summarized by the Associated Press:

The British protocol provides that the blockade shall be raised; that the dispute over the preferential treatment question shall be referred to The Hague court; that Venezuela shall immediately pay Great Britain \$27,500 in cash; that 30 per cent. of the customs receipts of the ports of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello shall be set aside as a fund to liquidate Venezuela's foreign indebtedness, the scheme of distribution among the creditor nations to be determined by The Hague court; that a British-Venezuelan commission shall adjust the claims of Great Britain against Venezuela and if unable to agree upon the amount due British subjects the ruler of a European country shall be asked to serve as umpire; that if Venezuela fails to begin the payment of British claims agreed upon within a fixed period the government of Belgium shall appoint commissions to administer the customs at La Guayra and Puerto Cabello, and that new treaties of amity, commerce, and navigation shall be negotiated between Great Britain and Venezuela.

Italy has agreed to similar terms, but Germany holds out for better. According to the Washington dispatches of the 11th she has made a demand for a cash payment of \$340,-

000, accompanied by an offer to accept in lieu thereof the exclusive possession of a Venezuelan port indefinitely. This is regarded as a disclosure of the German emperor's supreme desire to get a foothold on Venezuelan territory, it being suspected that he supposed Venezuela would be unable to raise so large a sum and would gladly compromise upon the surrender of a port. Mr. Bowen promptly declined the offer, notifying the German ambassador that rather than consider it for an instant Venezuela would pay the whole demand of \$340,000 in cash.

The only other news of the week bearing upon this subject has to do with the revolution, which President Castro appears to be holding in check in spite of the encouragement it has received from the European blockade. On the 9th his minister of war, Gen. Ferrer, captured Guatire from the revolutionists and was marching to the relief of Rio Chico, about 50 miles from Caracas.

But little regarding the revolution in Honduras (p. 695) can be added to last week's report. It has since been explained from Managua, Nicaragua, that the election of Gen. Bonilla to the presidency having failed of confirmation by the Hondurian congress, President Sierra placed the administration of the government in the hands of the cabinet, and accepted from them a commission as commander-in-chief of the military forces to resist the insurrection which Gen. Bonilla began on the 1st by proclaiming himself provisional president. The island of Amapala, which lies in the Pacific bay of Fonseca, about three days' journey from Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, is the only part of the country of which Bonilla has secured possession, and the government has decreed that this island be blockaded.

Pursuant to the naval orders reported last week (p. 695). Rear Admiral Glass, of Rear Admiral Casey's Pacific fleet, left his station at San Francisco on the 10th with the New York, the Boston, the Marblehead and the Ranger, all the ships in his squadron, bound for Honduras.

Other considerations than an insurrection in Honduras have doubtless caused the sending of this large American squadron to that region. It is highly probable that all the Central American states will soon be em-

broiled in war. This has been expected for some time, and on the 10th it was reported from Guatamala that war had been proclaimed between that country on one side and Salvador and Honduras on the other. Although this report lacks confirmation it is well known that the Guatemala government sympathizes with Bonilla, the insurrection leader in Honduras, and it is suspected that Costa Rica will follow Guatemala's lead. Salvador and Nicaragua on the other hand are believed to be acting in conjunction with the hold-over government of Honduras. These complications are said to have grown out of the efforts of the presidents of Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras to establish a federated republic of Central American states. The scheme was considered at a conference of the Central American republics held at Corinto, Nicaragua, last year, where it was opposed by Guatemala.

The possibility of another war between republics to the south of us, a war between Bolivia and Brazil, is averted by the dominance of Brazil, which has delivered an ultimatum that Bolivia accepts. The dispute was over the course of a boundary line which determines the sovereignty over the rich rubber territory known as the Acre country. Vague reports of this dispute have come northward at intervals for several years, until they indicated late last year (p. 599) that war between Bolivia and Brazil was imminent.

The Acre country comprises 80,000 square miles. Its resources for rubber production are said to have been discovered by the celebrated mountain climber, Sir Martin Conway, an Englishman, who procured from Bolivia a grant of the land, with vast powers of government, in which American capitalists are now deeply interested. The region is described as lying far inland, 2,500 miles or more from the mouth of the Amazon, a wild section of South America, untraversed by any railroad, without telegraph lines, and a three weeks' journey by the uncertain river boats from Para. It is watered by three great tributaries of the Amazon—the Javary, Jurua and Purus—and their affluents, deriving its name from one of the latter, the river "Aquiry" or "Acre." It is bounded on the north and east by the Brazilian States of Amazonas and Matto Grosso, on the south by Bolivia and on the west by Peru. When the original boundary