

year there is a great excess of exports and imports. In the year 1901-02 this excess amounted to more than £21,000,000.

Now, this is not only a serious loss to the country, but it is not the whole loss. In his "Principles of Political Economy" (Bk. III., ch. 21, sect. 4), Mill shows that in consequence of the tribute there must be an excess of exports to pay it. Foreign countries must, therefore, be induced to accept a greater quantity of exports than they would take, if there were no tribute to be paid and this can only be done

by offering these exports on cheaper terms, or in other words, by paying dearer for foreign commodities.

The result is that a country which makes regular payments to foreign countries, besides losing what it pays, loses also something more by the less advantageous terms on which it is forced to exchange its productions for foreign commodities.

How long can India support this loss? How can India be other than poor while this drain of wealth continues?—India for Dec. 18, 1903.

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH TOM L. JOHNSON.

"Speculation as to your attitude in politics is a matter of general interest. What, if any, effect will the recent defeat that you have sustained produce upon your future political action?"

"In announcing as I did a few years ago my intention of devoting myself to certain political ideals, I did it with a full appreciation of the task, and reckoned on not only one defeat but possibly a long line of defeats. Again I repeat, that while Truth may lose some battles, it never lost a war. The man that lightly contemplates the overthrow of special privilege is surely shortsighted and reasons without either sufficient knowledge or careful consideration."

"The eye of the nation has been resting upon you as a favorite son of Democracy. What about your leadership of the Democratic party?"

"No one can rightfully accuse me of ever having encouraged the thought of leadership. I have at no time aspired to do more than fight the battles of today; to undertake the work that I saw must be accomplished in my own city and State which would lead to the placing of our party upon a solid foundation. In order to do that, a stand had to be taken against those who assume the cloak of Democracy for selfish political advancement; and it was necessary to point out clearly the needs of the people; to show them that the Democratic party—tested by its ful-

fillment of every pledge—was the one hope to which they might turn. To accomplish this end we have fought for the fulfillment of every pre-election promise, and to the best of our ability, have weeded out those people who by their past acts had shown that they could not be trusted to aid in the progress of true Democracy. There is no hope that the people will ever place their affairs in the hands of the Democratic party as long as it is dominated by those who are opposed to the very principles for which Democracy should and does stand."

"Considering the result as a whole, what lessons do you gather from the campaign?"

"That the Democrats have made some astonishing gains, with the independent voters, and suffered some losses among other classes that are but temporary."

"Will the three-cent railroad fare question come up again?"

"Undoubtedly."

"Will home rule continue to be a question of interest?"

"Yes, and outside of a national election, together with the question of an equitable system of taxation, it will attract the attention of the people of this State more than any other issue."

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 28, 1903.

#### FIRE INSPECTION IN CLEVELAND.

Telegraphic news from Cleveland, Ohio, published in Chicago Chronicle of Jan. 3.

City Electrician Dunn thinks the Iroquois theater fire was due to defective electrical apparatus. Mr. Dunn forms this opinion from his inspection of the electrical appliances of the Bluebeard company made when the play was given in Cleveland two months ago.

"I inspected the electrical apparatus when the company reached here," said Mr. Dunn. "Fully one-third of it was deficient and I condemned it and ordered that none of it be used in Cleveland."

"Despite this fact one piece which was used, although I did not sanction its use, almost caused a disastrous fire here. As the electricity was turned on at an afternoon performance a wire became crossed. In an instant every lamp in the piece was smashed to bits and the scenery about it was set afire."

"The operator let the apparatus drop to the stage, where it was picked up and carried to the wings. For three days this burned piece lay in the hallway leading to the opera house stage."

"Two fires were caused by the electrical appliances of the company, but neither was serious. Both were due to

short circuiting of wires, but fuse boxes were attached and the fires amounted to nothing."

#### A BETTER THAN MILITARY HEROISM.

From the Chicago Chronicle's account of the fire at the Iroquois theater, Dec. 30, 1903.

Robert Smith, a little elevator boy, made three trips through the dense flame and smoke to the roof of the stage and down, carrying to safety the girls who had been caught there. At the bottom of the elevator shaft they were caught by a chain gang of ten men stretching 20 feet to the door, headed by Archie Barnard, chief electrician, whose hair and clothes were on fire. They were carried over the chain and thrown out of the door. . . .

The elevator boy stuck to his post, and by his coolness saved many lives. On the first of three trips through the smoke and flames to the dressing-rooms on the upper tiers he found Nellie Reed, who was in the sixth tier and had inhaled so much smoke that she had fallen to the floor. The elevator was full.

"Please, oh, please, take me down," she pleaded.

"Keep cool and stay where you are," Smith told her. "I will get you on my next trip and you will get out all right."

The same advice was given to the other girls who had to wait, and in two more trips all of them were taken to the stage floor and turned over to the human chain formed by the men. . . .

On his second trip up with the elevator young Smith ascended into an atmosphere that was so thick with smoke that he could not see nor breathe. He found Miss Reed on the sixth floor and then took on another load of girls from the fifth. By the time he had come down with these, the flames and smoke were threatening the men in the chain. The clothing of Barnard and William Price was on fire and their hair was burning. Nevertheless they threw the girls out and waited for the third load.

This load came near not arriving. The smoke was so thick that Smith had to find the girls and drag them into the elevator and by the time he had done this he was almost overcome. The elevator was burning at the place where the controller was located, and Smith had to place his left hand in the flame to start the car. The hand was badly burned, but the car was started and came down in time for the girls to receive assistance from the