

men whose life was sacrificed to his cruel sentiment. At his funeral attended by a large and influential gathering of the citizens of Richmond, the minister pointing down to the casket which enclosed the victim's remains solemnly said "There lies the body of John Hampden Pleasants." And then looking up into the faces of the great audience the preacher dramatically exclaimed, "And ye are his murderers." And so of Christian citizens, it may be said that their indifference to their public duty stifles and of-time kills the patriotism of our public men, for they can but remember the political death of so many of their contemporaries who had earnestly taken up the cause of the people against special interests only to be forgotten by the people on election day and left to be slain on the field of battle.

CONCLUSION

And now in conclusion, summing up the thoughts which I desire to leave with you concerning the vital importance of our political duties and ideals which should actuate us in their performance, let me ask:

Are children anywhere in this country permitted to grow up in ignorance and vice?

Are women permitted to be overworked in factory and shop?

Are employees compelled to give up their one day rest in seven?

Are railroads and factories permitted to run without the most efficient safety devices for the protection of life and limb?

Are preventable contagious diseases allowed to spread throughout the community laying low our children and our young men and women?

Are lawyers allowed to defeat or delay justice by interposing technical pleas having nothing to do with the merits of the controversy?

Are some portions of our citizenship overburdened with taxes while others are allowed to go comparatively free?

Are powerful interests allowed special favors or exemptions from the government?

Are profiteering combinations allowed to wring exorbitant prices for the necessities of life from the pockets of the poor?

If so, it means that somehow and somewhere the government is failing in the performance of its proper functions. In fact there are few human wrongs for which the law is not more or less responsible. And if this be true, how can the patriotic citizen escape the duty of contributing his just share to the correction of these evils, by giving his thought and his time to the political affairs of his community, his state and his nation.

A great preacher has recently said "The two most powerful weapons for righteousness today are the ballot and the Bible. The ballot,—the Bible. Citizenship,—Christianity. Politics,—Patriotism. We must get the ballot UP to the Bible,—Citizenship UP to Christianity,—Politics UP to Patriotism." If we make these our ideals our country will endure to bless us and to lead the world to the reign of right.

Other nations of the world have their ruling classes, their aristocracy, with inherited titles passed down from father to son. But not so with us. Yet sometimes in my fancy I have set up a new American aristocracy,—merited not inherited; one of which every loyal American may become a member. It is not the aristocracy of money. It is not the aristocracy of blood. It is not the aristocracy of learning. But it is the aristocracy of public service. Let us have no ambition to belong to any exclusive set, but if our association is to be limited to any one class, let it be with those noble men and women who have caught the spirit of Him who said, "Whoever would be chief among you, let him be your servant." And, if on the other hand, there be a class whose company we are permitted to shun, let it be those who declare with Cain, "I am not my brother's keeper," and who not only refuse to enter into any movement to make this world a better place in which to live, but who belittle the efforts and impugn the motives of those who earnestly and honestly strive to serve their day and generation.

If I could bestow titles of nobility, I would not bestow them upon the rich, for I have known rich men to use their wealth to oppress rather than to help. I would not bestow them upon the blue-blooded, because I have known men to disgrace the family name which they bear. I would not bestow them upon the learned, because I have known many educated men to use their knowledge to little account. But I would bestow the titles on those noble men and women who recognize that they have a duty to perform to the community in which they live, and who bravely proceed to perform that duty. No, my friends, aristocracy is not determined by the blueness of the blood which

City and Country Population



McCutcheon + W.J. Bryan

One hundred years ago the population of the U. S. was two-thirds farming and one-third city population.

Today the city population is greatly in excess of the country population. —Copyright: 1921: by The Chicago Tribune.

flows in one's veins but by the nobility of the impulses which direct the heart, the head and the hand,—the heart throbbing with love for our fellow man; the head thinking just and generous thoughts; the hands doing deeds of kindness. This I conceive to be the American ideal of public service.

FARMER AND CITY MAN

Two men who know a lot about the folks and how they feel about things collaborated in a striking cartoon in yesterday's Tribune. The men were John T. McCutcheon and William Jennings Bryan. The cartoon was in two parts, the left hand depicting the "Farming Population" as a giant bearing the "City Population" in costume of a century ago on its back; the right hand depicting Farming Population much shrunken and bowed under an enormously grown City Population. Lines under the cartoon assert that a hundred years ago the population of the United States was two-thirds farming and one-third city population. "Today the city population is greatly in excess of the country population."

Now in all matters appealing to the cardiac region we know of no one we would rather follow than Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. Bryan, and our first sensation upon looking at this eloquent pictorial appeal was remorse as a representative of the city.

Then we took a second look at Mr. McCutcheon's City Population. For one thing he was too large, for as it happens the city population is not "greatly in excess" of the farming but only 2 per cent larger. But we will waive that. What is seriously erroneous in the McCutcheon-Bryan cartoon is the presentment of the City Population as a dead load on the back of the worthy farmer. We, of course, concede that production is essential to life. The farmer can exist without the city man, and the latter could not exist without the farmer. But the existence of the farmer without the city man,

who includes the mechanic, the inventor, the merchant, and manufacturer, would not be an existence which the modern farmer would welcome.

The city is as essential to life on a civilized plane as the farmer is to mere physical existence. Without the city population the farmer would be plowing with a stick. He would not have the chilled steel plow, the reaper, and the thrasher, to say nothing of the tractor, the automobile, the telephone, the trolley, the railroad, the gramophone, books, store clothes, the movie, the newspaper, or any of those ameliorations of the mere animal existence which he enjoys in civilized countries.

Moreover, the farmer is not fundamental to mere existence. Before a farmer appeared men existed as huntsmen and fishermen. He did not till the soil, but took what nature produced of her own initiative. We could go back to the cave and the pathless forest and steppe.

We could, but we won't, unless we imitate the Russians and mistake reaction for progress. The city means civilization and progress, and the city man is far from riding the farmer with a dead weight, as Mr. McCutcheon's and Mr. Bryan's striking picture argues. He labors in the sweat of brain and sinew to produce those useful and life enriching devices which the farmer covets, which mitigate his toil, and raise him above the level of the caveman and brute.

Yet Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. Bryan are right in so far as they regret a tendency to deplete the country at the shortsighted profit of the cities. Said the late Mr. Goldsmith:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay."

If the American nation is truly wise and far-seeing it will in its collective wisdom establish as the foundation of its system a policy of fostering agriculture, which is, we freely concede, the basis, though not the only essential, of our national welfare.—Chicago Tribune.