

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

WILL THE REPUBLIC STAND FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME?

Prominent Men of Many Classes Have Been Interviewed on This Most Important Question—All Reply Hopefully Save Ex-Master Workman Powderly.

Every American citizen regards the republican institutions and forms of government as the greatest safeguards of our country.

Recognizing this fact, the Chicago Tribune submitted the following questions to a number of public men qualified to answer them:

First.—Will our present republican form of government last 100 years longer?

Second.—If not, why not?

Third.—What is its greatest peril?

Fourth.—Is there any danger that aliens may so buy up the land and foreign syndicates so buy up the business enterprises as to obtain control of our country and eventually change its form of government?

Their replies are interesting, and an interesting abstract will be found below:

The first question to which you desire an answer from me is: "Do you think that our present republican form of government will last 100 years longer?" To which I reply that I not only fervently pray and trust but also firmly believe that it will.

In view of my answer to your first question your second one—"If not, why not?"—requires no answer.

Next you ask: "What is its greatest peril?" I answer that its greatest peril lies in a departure from those Christian principles upon which our very laws and institutions are based. As long as those Christian principles are maintained our institutions will, under God, survive and flourish. Our laws, which are only expressions of eternal law, will command our respect and therefore our loyal obedience. On the other hand, every departure from those Christian principles upon which our social fabric rests, especially in respect to the marriage tie and the freedom of popular suffrage, tends to the loosening of the foundation stones of our republic.

One of the most admirable features of our present system of government is the happy balance of federal power with state autonomy, and as long as this golden mean is observed we shall possess strength and liberty and indestructibility as a great nation.

To your fourth query I reply that, in my judgment, we need have no fear of foreign capitalists and foreign syndicates. Those who invest in our public lands and our business enterprises will naturally be brought into closer acquaintance with our present republican form of government, and there is little doubt that our institutions and our laws will gain upon them upon closer acquaintance and finally win their complete respect and loyal support.—James Cardinal Gibbons.

"Will our present republican form of government last 100 hundred years longer?" I answer yes. The constitution may be amended, changes in form may occur, but our republican government will endure for all time.

My answer to your first question renders it unnecessary to give you one for your second.

Your third question, "What is our republic's greatest peril?" I will not undertake to answer categorically. The danger to our republican form of government arises from the ignorant, the vicious and venal classes, controlled by designing and corrupt men. To guard against this danger we should educate the rising generation, prevent the coming to this country of the criminal classes of other nations, maintain the standard of American wages and thus secure the independence of the American workmen, frown down by public opinion and punish by law all corrupt practices which debase the voter and cheapen suffrage.

I do not think there is a particle of danger that aliens will so buy up the land and foreign syndicates so buy up the business enterprises as to obtain control of our country and eventually change its form of government. The inducements to foreign investors in this country are created by our system of government and our republican institutions. Foreigners who have invested their capital here for greater safety and better profits will naturally be interested in maintaining those institutions, and I doubt if a majority, other things being equal, would prefer a monarchy or an aristocracy to a republican form of government.—Ex-Senator J. N. Dolph of Oregon.

Our present republican form of government cannot last 100 years longer and continue to drift under the power of monopoly and wealth as it is doing now. In fact, the money power at the present day forms an aristocracy or a plutocracy which entirely nullifies every section, clause and article in our bill of rights whenever they are called in question in behalf of the people.

In reply to your second question, I would say that our present republican

form of government cannot last 100 years longer for the reasons I have given.

Third.—The greatest peril menacing our government is the poverty and indifference of our people. The poor are so oppressed that they are forced to sell themselves for what they can get and are thus at the mercy of the bosses, the pliant tools of monopoly, who forge to the front in our political parties.

In reply to your fourth question let me say that I do not care whether it be an alien or a native syndicate that buys up the land or the business enterprises of the country, for the instinct of greed is the same in an American as an Englishman, and we have therefore as much to fear from land stealing in one form as another.—T. V. Powderly.

I most certainly think that our present republican form of government will last 100 years longer. This answers both your first and second questions.

In respect to your third query I remark that I think the greatest perils to our republic are insufficient education, excess of the foreign element and political corruption. As to your fourth, I think there is no danger of any considerable portion of the lands of the United States falling into foreign control, nor that any considerable portion of its business enterprises will ever be owned or controlled by foreigners.—Ex-Senator George F. Edmunds of Vermont.

In my judgment, the constitution of the United States is better and stronger than it was 100 years ago. The great nation that has grown up under its protection is more capable of sustaining free institutions than at any earlier period, for every generation, no doubt, will find evils to be guarded against and good principles to need development and defense. A more intimate unity of feeling throughout the nation, and a subordination of local and particular interests to the general good, and a watchful attention to preserve our industrial and social independence of Europe must for years to come be the great duty of this people.

I can foresee no danger of a serious or permanent desertion of this duty on the part of our fellow citizens. So long as there is no such desertion we can readily overcome any perils that may menace us, whether from foreign syndicates, individual aliens or other sources.

If I am correct in my views on the matter, I see no reason why any patriotic American citizen need feel any apprehension for the perpetuity of his beloved nation. Therefore I cannot possibly feel any degree of concern as to the stability of the noble institutions which this great country is now in the enjoyment of. In a careful and thoughtful perusal of what I have here written I think that any reflecting person may find a full and complete answer to all four of the questions.—Ex-Senator William M. Everts of New York.

I have no accurate data which would warrant me in expressing an opinion as to how long the present government of the United States will endure.

Your second question, "If not, why not?" I am equally unable to answer satisfactorily.

In reply to your third question, "What is its greatest peril?" I would say that, in my judgment, the indifference of the people to righteousness in their rulers and to integrity in the administration of the government is the greatest peril with which we are threatened as a nation.

In reply to your fourth question I would say that there is not the smallest probability that aliens and foreign syndicates will ever obtain control of this country by buying up its land and business enterprises and eventually change its form of government.—Bishop H. C. Potter.

Time alone can give the answer to your first question, "Will our present republican form of government last 100 years longer?" and also to the second, "If not, why not?"

With regard to what is the greatest peril of our government, I think it is the accumulation of money in the hands of a few persons and the unscrupulous use of wealth.

I apprehend no danger to republican institutions from foreign capital or immigration in the way pointed out by your fourth question, but I think that great harm is done to the country by allowing nihilists, communists and paupers of other lands to become citizens of ours.—Ex-Senator Wade Hampton of South Carolina.

I never venture to prophesy for the future. No one can answer your question with any confidence, though I hope most earnestly that our present glorious republican form of government will last for many, many years. The perils of the future cannot be anticipated. Any man would usurp the properties and attributes of the Infinite if he attempted to reply to your questions.—Senator John Sherman of Ohio.

I would say that I have full faith in the perpetuity of our republican institutions. I firmly believe that our present republican form of government will improve steadily and endure lastingly. This answer, I think, covers all the questions you present to me, and they are most important ones.—John Wauwau-maker, ex-Postmaster General.

I think the Anglo-Saxon race on this continent have thus far overcome every obstacle in their unprecedented experiment of popular self government. They have made too many sacrifices to leave any doubt that they will solve the problems of the future as successfully as those of the past.—Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls of Kansas.

The Latest Fad.

The artificial ice rinking craze seems to have a very tight hold upon fashionable London just now. "Everybody" of the smart sets makes "Niagara hall" a meeting place, and 5 o'clock tea at "the freezeries" is a regular institution.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Relative Importance.

The Wisconsin legislature laid upon the table the equal suffrage bill and passed bills securing to negroes all the rights of white men in hotels and places of amusement.—Galveston News.

The Cream of It.

The Trilby foot is the latest and favorite up to date design for an ice cream mold. "May I help you to a little toe?" "No, thanks. Some of the instep, please!"—Boston Herald.

Peeling the Commons.

The latest change in English parliament is the dropping out of A Peel from the speakership.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.

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