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THE WAY TO GOVERN.

Switzerland is presented by some publicists as the model republic of the world, and this prompts the Boston *Herald* to observe that the next great reform in governmental methods may come from there. The principle of the people governing directly is applied, this being democracy pure and simple; this is accomplished through two instrumentalities known as the referendum and the initiative. It could not very well be applied to large communities because of their unwieldiness and the confusion and uncertainty which would result as a consequence; but in the smaller ones—and no Swiss cities are large in a comparative sense—the plan works excellently well, the absence of the representative system not producing anything inconvenient or annoying while cheapening the public bill of expenses to the people.

It is shown that representative government has long been held to be the best possible form, but with its extension and application serious defects have been revealed. The principle trouble seems to be that such government seems to be like a rule that works but one way, that is, the people delegate authority to others to make, execute and interpret laws without exacting sufficient guarantee in return for such delegation. "It has been found," says the *Herald*, "that the checks and safeguards ordinarily prevailing are often inadequate to prevent an abuse of power on the part of those to whom it is thus delegated, and the people are helpless to avert such abuses, except so far as those holding the reins are responsive to public sentiment, which, however, too frequently does not assert itself until irretrievable mischief has been done. The result is that those who are meant to act as the servants of the people are too apt to assume the bearing and authority of masters. To this practical irresponsibility of lawmakers, is the widespread and deeprooted legislative corruption largely attributable."

We who live in territories have a much better comprehension of the meaning and scope of our cotemporary's point than others have, because we are constantly and without variation confronted with an object lesson in one-sided government. We have all the form, go through all the procedure that those commonwealths which are independent of the general government go through, and to the casual observer are in the full enjoyment of a representative democratic system; that is, without the directness and, we may say, immediateness of application of power from the people themselves, we are as sovereign as

Switzerland or any canton or city thereof is. How different it is! How greatly behind the advanced position occupied by other communities, in governmental respects, are Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma, where the officials, instead of being at least indirectly accountable to those whom they represent, have no account to render whatever! In any of the states of this country, where no other influence can ascend from the sovereigns beneath to those who prescribe and regulate there is arranged a more or less short term of office for each and every one, and then the time comes for an official or the principles which he upholds to be endorsed or rejected, and thus is the man sooner or later confronted by his master and the deeds done in office made to pass in review. Perhaps this is as near to the Swiss system as this great, bulky, widespread country can ever come or as it desires to come, and ours is a long way from being a bad system, especially when the safeguards are upheld; but by reason of being alongside of it, how much more anomalous does the territorial arrangement seem!

The fact that we may have no special fault to find with those who are sent to govern and regulate has nothing to do with the case; that, oftener than otherwise those who preside over our political well-being are disposed to be fair, to accomplish justice, to impartially administer the laws and be on favorable terms with those for whom they act, is our good fortune, not in any sense an illustration of the wisdom or correctness of the system. That we are doing quite well as we are, do not envy our neighbors who have been ushered into full-orbed sovereignty and are content to wait till, from a sense of justice long delayed, those who oppose will approve, shows merely that we take a practical view of life and the things therein, without being ignorant of the fact that such treatment so extended is all wrong—that the system which continued and continues it is the result of an oversight in the framers of the great charter; that, in fact, an error having been discovered, it has been deemed the cheaper and less annoying plan to continue it with an occasional substitution, alteration, addition or subtraction, as the peculiarities of the case may seem to require. It will all come out right in the end, beyond a doubt.

NON-RESIDENT COLLEGE COURSE.

There is a growing tendency among educational institutions to extend opportunities and aid in the acquirement of higher education to persons who cannot attend any institution of learning. We are pleased to observe that the authorities of the Brigham Young College of Logan, Utah, have decided to establish a course of home study leading to a diploma. The course is offered by a board of examiners, comprising eight members of the faculty. The board does not give regular instruction in the prescribed studies, but will consider any difficulties the student may encounter. The work of the examiners consists in laying out the courses of study, and naming the books to be studied in the order named,

In giving such instruction and suggestions as from time to time may be deemed necessary, and in setting the examination questions and reading the answers thereto.

Naming suitable texts for study is a labor requiring much discretion. The examiners have endeavored to prescribe the best of modern text-books suitable for private study, and have named no book that has not been tested and approved by their own use. This selection indicates at once, both to the general reader and the special student, the proper lines of study upon any of the topics included in the course. Thus the guidance of prepared lines of reading is offered to any one that desires to avail himself of the experience of the examiners, whether or not he chooses to undertake a regular course of study under their direction. We are informed, too, that a person may pursue any single line of study he desires and receive due credit for its completion, in case he does not care to undertake the course as a whole.

Reference to the courses of study offered shows a careful selection and arrangement of studies extending over a period of from two to three years each in physical science, biological science, mathematics, philosophy, English language and literature, history and political science, Latin, German, Spanish, and pedagogics.

After an examination of the courses of study offered, we can say that we approve the undertaking and endorse this attempt to extend the benefits of collegiate training and to cultivate among the people a taste for higher education. We trust that the offer will meet with prompt patronage. Full particulars may be had by addressing Prof. J. H. Paul, Logan.

THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION.

The oft-times promised and consequently long looked-for proclamation of amnesty for certain citizens of Utah was issued by President Harrison yesterday and appears elsewhere in this number of the NEWS. It is scarcely worth while to discuss the literary features of such a document, containing as it does nothing distinctive in that class; the aim and intent couched in any other terms expressive of the same object would have done just as well, and of course we all know what the object is so far as its general effect is concerned. As to the scope and ultimate result of the proclamation there seems scarcely room for divergent opinions. Accepting as sincere the manifesto put forth at the Conference of the Church in October, 1890, and the acquiescence therein of the members of the Church, the President grants full pardon and amnesty to all persons liable to the penalties of the Edmunds act against unlawful cohabitation who, since November 1, 1890, have abstained from said unlawful cohabitation, but upon the express condition that they shall in future obey the law hereinbefore named, and not otherwise. In other words, clemency is extended to all who violated the law prior to November 1, 1890, but since that date have not done and in the future shall not do so.

We believe the proclamation will be