

when he was about to accept his third nine-year term as Mayor of Freiburg, in Germany:

The past eighteen years were the best of my life. They were spent in the service of your city. It was a time of restless activity and I am now of an age when I should rather seek repose than new burdens. One hope has actuated me for many years. If I thought that it could be realized during my next term of office I should accept the responsibility once more.

About fifteen miles from our city there flows the Father Rhine. You all know how arbitrary are the prices of coal fixed by the Coal Kartell. You remember that grand effort of the Prussian government to break this monopoly. You remember how they bought stock in the Helvetia mines, but failed to get control. We are at the mercy of those who own the coal. They tell us what it will cost to heat our houses; they determine the expense for power that operates our factories. In addition our coal is inevitably becoming more expensive because the sources of supply are being depleted. There in the Rhine west of us flow thousands of horse-power waiting for the control of man. When the State government last year proposed to give a concession for this to a private company I protested without waiting for action of the councilmen. I told the government that this was God's heritage to our children and that it was wrong to cede it to a profit-making organization. I reminded them of that company that fifteen years ago came so slyly to one department of our State and said: "If you will grant us this water power we will, at our expense, undertake the arduous and expensive work of experimenting on the distance transmission of electricity." They gave them the power and then discovered that all this experimentation had been done by others before, and that when they promised to attempt to try whether it would be possible to send a current sixty miles they already knew that, and the whole was merely a device to get control of an excellent water power site.

Electricity is the "white coal" of the future. Every invention will make it more available. As long as the sun shines our rivers will flow, and so long we shall have the power that we need. It will be my plan to have the city of Freiburg build a dam that will develop 24,000 horse power. It will take an investment of about five million dollars. We shall transmit the current over the country, operate our own street car lines, and sell light and power to the citizens of our town; furnish energy at a low cost to the factories of this district, sell the surplus to the neighboring villages and mountains, and we shall leave our children a plant that yearly will become more available, instead of delivering them to the machinations of a corporation that will always strive to get the last cent of profit.

If, with your support, I shall succeed in this I shall count it as the greatest work of my life. If I have reason to believe that the City Council will carry out a plan of this kind, I will accept the re-appointment.

Dr. Winterer was re-elected. The city of Freiburg is carrying out this plan. Over all Germany the government has inaugurated a policy which

will become an Imperial law, making it possible for any city, State or community to get water power right for an indefinite period.

Just two years ago, about fifty miles above Freiburg, a private corporation sought a water power franchise, the provisions of which read that all the profits beyond a certain fair rate on the investment are to go, to a large extent, into the public treasury, and that the price of electricity is to be under public control, and that after the lapse of forty-nine years the franchise, with the plant in running order, is to become the property of the government without any payment whatever. In the meantime the government has the right to purchase at the investment price, plus an additional ten per cent.

Just across the Swiss frontier the Swiss Government has gone even further. Soon there will be a network of live wires spanning that country like a telephone system, into which water plants located at ends of mountain falls will feed their quivering energy, and from which energy various towns, villages and factories can draw their supply. The State railways will soon be operated by electricity exclusively. And back of the whole development there is the deliberate and conscious policy of the Swiss people to conserve for themselves and their children the advantage of this new development, which is certainly not the result of the efforts of those who are scheming in all countries to get control of water power rights. It is truly a social product.

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Shall we of this Republic, who have been despoiled of our common heritage of coal and oil, free gifts of ancient energy from the sun—shall we despoil ourselves and our children and our children's children of the gifts of energy which the sun perennially pours down upon mankind?

EDWARD A. RUMELY.

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CONGRESSMAN BURTON'S AMERICANISM.

Is the House of Representatives representative? Are the people of the United States a flock of sheep following a bell-wether, as the House follows its leaders? If the House is a deliberative body as it is supposed to be, when does it deliberate and who are its deliberators? Cast your eye over the rows of puerile puppets, bound by ropes of "rules" of their own making, and seldom you see one measuring up to the inches of a Man. Seldom, indeed, but praised be! there is one once in a while.

Once in a while a representative actually has an idea of his own and dares to voice it, whether it suits the party, the President and the puppet-puller or not. Among these once-in-a-whilers shines Burton of Ohio. Burton is no Lucifer, no Eternal Rebel daring to assault the walls of heaven. Neither is he a Luther to overturn the Highest Hierarchy and erect a new altar for his own worship. Seldom does he lay hands upon the ark of the Republican covenant; but when he does, he smites it solidly and he usually jars a commandment loose.

On the subject of ship subsidy he stood forth and spoke in tones which his party heard, and the attempt to heap favors upon one more special interest at the expense of the rest of the people failed—temporarily at least. And now he speaks again (p. 73) just as bravely and, let us hope, as effectively.

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The other day Hobson got out a special edition of his "War Cry," donned his "Salvation Army" costume, and made his demand for an overwhelming navy, and hang the expense. It was a good speech as speeches go. It ought to be, for he has been rehearsing it for ten years around the Chattanooga circuit. It's an easy thing to beat the drum, cry "Hurrah for Us!" and yell for the Old Flag and an appropriation. It always goes with the galleries, and Geo. Cohan and R. P. Hobson know it.

Hobson did well, but he reckoned without his Burton. Rising in his place, Burton delivered an impromptu reply which took all the fizzle out of Hobson's rocket, and showed its flimsy stick. Of course, as far as the actual action of Congress went, it depended upon what Cannon and his coterie decided. But Burton is to be commended for all that.

The familiar fallacy that the peace of the world depends upon every nation straining every nerve to maintain the largest navy, is just as reasonable as the supposition that the man who carries two self-cocking revolvers and a bowie-knife is a peace-loving citizen, and the man who goes unarmed is dangerous.

England has been "mistress of the seas" for over a century and has had more wars than any other country, so effectively does a large navy make for peace. And look what a handful of Boers did to her on the kopjes and veldts where she couldn't use her "largest navy."

It takes a large man to fight the Administration of his own party on a popular measure which is so easily dubbed "patriotic," and to do it effective-

ly. Burton is that size of a man. The people of Cleveland who rebuked him so decisively for his stand upon the municipal traction question, commend him just as readily for his Congressional independence.

EDMUND V. COOKE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, May 19, 1908.

Democracy in Ohio.

The Democratic campaign in Ohio (p. 155) may be said to have opened with a conference at Columbus on the 15th between Tom L. Johnson and Judson Harmon. Ben L. Allen, the Cleveland Plain Dealer's representative at Columbus, reported this conference as having been arranged by Senator Schmidt of Cleveland, and as having resulted in harmony between the candidate and Mr. Johnson. He says:

Harmon will stand squarely on the platform adopted at the State convention. That his position will be made clear in a public address before the end of the month seems certain. "Mayor Johnson is all right, and there is nothing but unanimity in the Democratic party," said Harmon at the conclusion of the conference. "Do you accept the platform adopted by the State convention?" was asked. "Accept it! Why, have I not been running on it for a week?" was the reply.

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Mr. Allen's understanding of the matter is confirmed by the following address issued by Mr. Johnson from Cleveland immediately after the conference:

We are all interested in the nomination and election of Mr. Bryan. At our State convention, it is true that some of us did not accomplish all the things we would have liked to accomplish, but I am sure that we have very reason to feel greatly encouraged. In making our fight we all believed we were working for the best interests of real democracy. A majority of the Convention thought otherwise. I make my fights in the open—before conventions, not afterwards. The most democratic platform ever adopted by a State convention is ours. I sincerely hope all the candidates will stand squarely on it. The vital planks are the Initiative and Referendum, or Direct Legislation, and the Franchise Tax. The former gives the people absolute control of their government. The latter proposition means that a thousand million dollars of franchise value now untaxed will be placed upon the tax duplicate,