

# YALE LAW JOURNAL

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THE popular loan has been the great event of the month past, overshadowing a revolution in Cuba, and even Lord Dunraven's farewell. Unquestionably its striking success surprised even the best financial judges, some of the shrewdest of their number having bid considerably beneath the requisite purchase price. At the time of the preliminary negotiations the majority of our financial leaders were in favor of a repetition of last year's scheme of purchasing gold by an issue of bonds to a bankers' syndicate under a contract on the part of the latter to bring the gold to the Treasury from beyond the seas. But these disbelievers in a popular loan proved to be false prophets. The recent loan, by its immediate success, amounts to an emphatic vote of confidence in our national credit on the part of our holders of wealth such as no syndicate deal could have possibly denoted. Subsequent movements of the market have shown how strong has been the favorable reaction. England herself is recovering confidence in our soundness and the rates of exchange have quietly dropped to a very comfortable figure. More than this, now that the gold for these bonds has been actually paid in, we know that the purchasers have lived up to the spirit and not the mere letter of their contract of purchase, and but little gold has been withdrawn to be immediately returned for the purpose of payment. We have thus gained a breathing spell after the financial whirlwind, and even the voice of the silverite for the moment does not rise much above a whisper. Still the money situation is not

clear for any distance ahead. It never will be thoroughly clear until we get on a hard gold basis, and the Government retires from the banking business. But at present the threatening clouds on the financial horizon are the two great party conventions. No prophet can tell what these days will bring forth on the currency question, but there is a good chance that each party will play fast and loose with this most important of all issues. If this is the result, there will be a strong move among our long suffering financial interests to revolt and form a third party with a ringing gold platform. Of course this is still in the clouds. But it is a possibility which the chief engineers of each party cannot afford to ignore in their plans for the coming campaign.

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A LARGE part of what is wrong in our political life is due to lack of special training upon the part of those who conduct the affairs of state. Much that is attributed to dishonesty and corrupt motives is rightly chargeable to ignorance. The people of this country entrust their most vital interests to men who would in most cases serve them well if they could, but who simply cannot do it; not for lack of natural ability, of which the modern office-holder has considerable, but for the want of special training which the peculiar character of the work requires. The government of a nation which claims to lead in civilization as the great exemplar of democracy, is not so easy a matter as, judging from the qualifications of the representative, the constituent thinks it to be. The test is applied to the ability to attain office, more than to conduct in office. It is thought by many who are desirous of improving the condition of affairs that the remedy lies in choosing business men of high character to fill public office, instead of those who make a business of politics. This is an erroneous conclusion, we think. It is the character of the training of the man who to-day makes politics a business, which disqualifies him for good service, and not the fact that he devotes himself exclusively to it. A knowledge of the conditions of business is, of course, essential to the legislator, and doubtless actual commercial experience is highly valuable in acquiring such a knowledge, but this alone is not enough. It is, however, all that the man who goes from mercantile life into politics ordinarily brings with him. Naturally a person actively and successfully engaged in commerce, becomes so engrossed in the problems of business, as not to give much time and careful consideration to the other questions with which the publicist has to do. The gov-

ernment of men is a science. It has a history, a philosophy of its own. Politics is a profession, with professors, practitioners and students like any other. It is none the less so because the practitioners are below the professorial standard. This profession is of its nature closely allied to that of the law. The practicing lawyer would probably better serve his clients if he abstained from the practice of politics, although he can never be a great lawyer without a knowledge of political science, but the legislator cannot serve his clients well if he neglects the law. The broader science includes the narrower. A knowledge of law and political science can undoubtedly be obtained outside of the schools by the private study of treatises and otherwise. The university is, however, the place where a fundamental knowledge of these sciences as of all others can be best obtained. We believe that at no other great center of learning in this country are opportunities offered for special preparation for a public career, equal to those which the Law Department of Yale University, in its graduate courses, presents to the student who has completed an undergraduate course in law and whose preliminary education justifies his entering professional life at all. The work leading to the degrees of Master of Laws and Doctor of Civil Law includes in addition to the advanced study of American Law, courses in the Civil Law, English Constitutional Law, Political and Social Science, Railway Management and Economics of Transportation, General Jurisprudence, Comparative Jurisprudence, American Diplomatic History, and others, with professors of the highest reputation in their respective departments. Such opportunities should not be overlooked by those who are qualified to embrace them and who are now preparing for graduation. The training will be of inestimable value to the practicing lawyer—to the lesser number who may later enter political life it is essential to real success. That it may be obtained here in fuller measure and of better quality than elsewhere is a fact worthy of consideration.

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THE JOURNAL notes with pleasure the recent establishment of a branch of the Civil Service Reform League at Yale and trusts that it may become as popular as its object is patriotic. For nearly forty years after constitutional government began in the United States, it was the rule under all administrations not to remove from office except for just cause. The purity and dignity of the politicians and politics of that period as contrasted with

the corruption and abuses which have arisen since Marcy declared the doctrine, "To the victors belong the spoils," affords a most striking proof of the necessity of reform in the Civil Service. Under the spoils system every political vice pervaded each department of our government. Independent action of both executive and legislative branches was destroyed and even the judiciary did not escape suspicion. As a result an army of incompetent supernumeraries was forced into our public service to feed and fatten upon the public treasury. This abuse continued in full sway until President Grant, in 1872, initiated a system of competitive examinations for service in certain departments of the government. But members of Congress, foreseeing a loss of patronage, opposed the president's action and defeated the appropriation for a commission which had been recommended by him. Ten years later Congress was forced by popular demand to pass the Pendleton Bill, which was a long step toward the reform. The application of the law has not been too rapid, but to-day there are more than 56,000 government positions held by virtue of the merit system. The movement is opposed only by the small type of politicians who still chafe under this law and mourn the loss of their departed greatness. The party "boss" hates the reform as the devil hates holy water, because it destroys his power; the corrupt politician hates it because he can no longer levy his assessment on the faithful public servant or control his vote by threats of removal. But the patriotic and intelligent citizen, and the far-sighted statesman, and every political party fit to be trusted with power, recognize in the progress and ultimate triumph of the principles of Civil Service Reform, the strongest safeguard for the stability and security of our government.