

Size of 1905 In History

Impression Left on the Mind of the Reading Public by Another Year's Drama of Human Activities That Shape Forth Civilization's Future.

By EDWIN S. POTTER

Prosperity's Presence Brightens the Business World

One fact is writ large over the face of the year's industrial and commercial activities, especially in our own land. Whatever may be said of the equity or inequity of the existing economic system and of the distribution of opportunities, an unprecedented era of business prosperity is with us beyond cavil. The hesitation which marked the presidential campaign of 1904 gave way to confidence after Roosevelt swept the country. Money became plentiful.

Prices of staple products and negotiable securities advanced. At home and abroad enormous orders for iron and steel products, machinery and agricultural implements, fuel and all kinds of raw material set mills, mills and factories to running overtime.

The settlement of extensive strikes in the building trades paved the way for a phenomenal spurt in residence and office construction in nearly all of our cities. Railroads, trolley combines and shipping interests went into new and vast schemes of extension and improvement. Lastly, but at the foundation of the whole structure, was the decision of our farmers to increase the acreage under cultivation, an exception being the cotton planters, who made some restriction in order to maintain prices. The result, weather favoring and improved methods helping, made possible Secretary Wilson's story of record breaking crops to gladden the nation's Thanksgiving day, the total increment of agricultural wealth being estimated at \$6,415,000,000.

In the spring of the year this condition of affairs was noticeably reflected in the universal shortage of freight cars on all the great railroad highways, notwithstanding that the car construction companies had been running full blast to fill enormous orders for rolling stock. The Missouri Pacific and the Burlington engaged in a sharp rate war in the rivalry of gulf and Atlantic ports for western grain last spring, and later in the summer eastern trunk lines suffered slightly from a temporary period of rate cutting. Progress was made toward through trolley lines between Buffalo and Chicago and other western points. The management of the Vanderbilt system of railroads was centralized under the single headship of President Newman. Gould became supreme in the Wabash after forcing Ramsey out. Hill and Harriman reached a settlement by dividing the northwest between them. Our foreign commerce as recorded at the end of the fiscal year was over \$2,500,000,000, an increase of \$184,000,000 and the largest on record. This meant prosperity to shipping interests, notwithstanding that the trust as such reported a million deficit.

Our export trade encountered one dangerous antagonism in the Chinese boycott, which was begun May 15 by the action of the Shanghai chamber of commerce, presumably inspired by powerful officers of the empire in retaliation for the rigors and insults connected with the administration of the American exclusion law.

The great life insurance companies, which began the year with their customary reports boasting of gains and surpluses, have passed through the chastening fires of investigation and reorganization following the strife between the Hyde and Alexander factions for the control of the Equitable. Just as that great institution appeared about ready for a receivership the powerful financial hand of Thomas F. Ryan seized control and handed it over to the trusteeship of ex-President Cleveland and two others in the interest of mutualization. At the same time Paul Morton became the society's official head. The extravagances and irregularities disclosed in the Equitable by its own investigation and that of the state insurance commissioner were followed by similar disclosures in the New York Life, the Mutual and others and shocking corruption in all of them under the scalpel of Counsel Hughes for the Armstrong New York state legislative committee. The McCurdys had to get out of the Mutual and others were expected to follow. The immediate effect on the commercial side was reform and economy. Missouri led the way in the campaign for restitution by ordering the offending companies to quit the state.

The trend toward commercial combinations which was notable in many lines, such as the locomotive trust, smelters' trust, bank and trust companies' combination, and holding companies and the pottery trust, encountered sharp but futile opposition in the state of Kansas in connection with the oil industry.

It has been a period of great industrial achievements, among which the Lewis and Clark expedition at Portland, Ore., from June to October, with \$2,250,000 and a 30 per cent dividend

to its credit, ranks high. The 10,000 horsepower turbines at Niagara were set in motion in January. The Cornell dam in the Hudson, said to be the greatest masonry job in the world, was completed Feb. 5. The Simplon tunnel under the Alps from Switzerland to Italy, twelve and a half miles long, was opened April 2.

Purification of Politics Begun by Anti-Graft Revolt

In the history of American politics the year 1905 will mark an awakening of the nation's voting citizenship to a new realization of its responsibilities and its powers and as the beginning of the end of the kind of commercialized party dictatorship which for more than a generation had held the mass of voters in thrall. The fact that the national issues of monetary standard, tariff and imperialism had been left behind with the receding presidential year and that the Republican party was more strongly entrenched in power by reason of President Roosevelt's phenomenal personal popularity with the people of all sections tended to clear the track for the entry of reform knights in the several cities and state tournays armed with the lance of an awakened popular conscience against which the puppet riders for the party bosses could avail nothing.

Next to the president himself in his ceaseless advocacy of new legislation to give central government adequate power to fix railroad rates, prevent rebates and otherwise control the great interstate corporations, no personal figure has stood out with so much meaning and promise of better things as that of William Travers Jerome, who was re-elected as district attorney of New York city as a free lance candidate in open defiance of all party machines and bosses and with all the forces of the great city's criminal and graft elements arrayed against him. Jerome's fight was for a principle of direct and unrestricted popular expression, which is typical of what any community in the land may do in overturning party machinery and boss dictation.

The demolition of bosses caused by the flood of conscience ballots on Nov. 6 is recent enough to be fresh in every mind. Pennsylvania's turning of the half million majority for Roosevelt into a 50,000 plurality for the Democratic state treasurer candidate, Berry, and the crushing defeat of the Philadelphia contract combine by the reform forces under the leadership of Mayor Weaver were only comparable to the decisive retirement of the Ohio Republican bosses by over 100,000 in favor of Pattison, Democrat, for governor. The shake-up in both of these

great Republican strongholds of the east, which elected Democrats to office, was conceded by all to mean a triumph for the Roosevelt administration. In Philadelphia no one thing so much strengthened the hands of Weaver as the letter from Elihu Root just before the great New York attorney entered the cabinet to take the chair vacated by the death of Secretary Hay. His bold characterization of the Penrose-Durham organization as "a corrupt and criminal combination masquerading under the names of Republicans" gave courage to the long enslaved party worshippers of the Keystone State. A similar note of independence on the part of the administration was sounded by Secretary Taft's Akron (O.) speech in October. In big and little cities wherever an individual or an organization stood squarely for some moral principle of local affairs the voters responded effectively.

The enormous vote for Hearst in New York city as the candidate of the Municipal Ownership league, such that Mayor McClellan's official majority was contested in the courts, was merely an echo of another electoral triumph for municipal ownership earlier in the year—namely, Chicago's choice of the Democratic candidate for mayor, Dunne, by 24,000 over Harlan, the Republican. Although Mayor Dunne has been able to accomplish little toward immediate city ownership of the street railroads on account of the majority in the city council against that policy, his election on that issue has gone far toward committing the national Democratic organization to the general principle of government ownership of public utilities. The Socialist vote fell off wherever the municipal ownership candidates were put up. In this return of the Democracy toward radical policies the figure of William J. Bryan loomed up again with a prospect of dominance. He urged the Democrats

to support Roosevelt in a trust busting policy and started with his family on a world tour Sept. 27.

But of all the political reactions of the year nothing had more far reaching effects than the course of the New York legislative investigation of the great life insurance corporations, begun Sept. 6 under the chairmanship of senator Armstrong and the skillful probing of the committee's counsel, Charles E. Hughes. This was brought about by the rivalry between the Hyde and Alexander factions in the Equitable, which is a part of the year's commercial record.



Charles E. Hughes.

Worse than the worst expectations have been realized by this investigation, which extends into the new year. Not only the Equitable, but the New York Life, the Mutual, Mutual Reserve and others, under the relentless vivisection of Counsel Hughes, shocked the public by their various diseases of extravagance, legislative bribery and political corruption. Both of New York's senators, ex-Governor Odell and minor political lights were dimmed in one way or another by these revelations. The admitted large contributions to campaign funds, mostly to the Republican party in recent years, tended to place that party's campaign managers on the defensive, and the administration voiced a quite general demand for federal control of the great interstate insurance concerns.

The issue as to Chinese exclusion was raised by the anti-American boycott in China, and the president promptly moderated the execution of the existing law. The personal popularity of President Roosevelt and support of his policies were increased by his extensive journeys, first in April through the southwest territories and states to his hunting vacation in Colorado and in October through the south to New Orleans, not to mention several shorter excursions.

The short session which brought the Fifty-eighth congress to a close March 4 was noted chiefly for what it failed to do. Aside from the appropriations, totaling \$818,478,914, the only important matter agreed upon by both houses was placing the Panama canal administration entirely in the president's hands. The house passed, 326 to 17, the Esch-Townsend rate bill, indorsed by the president, but it was pigeonholed by the senate. The seven arbitration treaties failed owing to the insistence of the senate on its right to amend, influenced somewhat by the administration's reported agreement with Santo Domingo. Later the formal Domingo treaty reached the senate, but failed of ratification, and a conditional agreement for the collection and holding of Domingo's revenues was made by the president. A blot on the session was the house's effort to get mileage allowed for the constructive recess, the bill being killed by the senate. Other important bills that failed after much effort were those for statehood of the territories and pure food. The house impeached Federal Judge Swayne of Florida, and on Feb. 27 his trial by the senate resulted in acquittal of the Compton charges.

The Fifty-ninth congress began its career Dec. 4, with many vital problems to solve, chief of which was that of the federal rate fixing and control of corporations so strongly urged in the president's message. Its first notable action was the \$11,000,000 appropriation to meet the current obligations of the Panama canal commission.

Protestant Churches Reaching Out For Federation

Doctrinal fences between Protestant denominations in the United States, which had been getting more and more shaky for several years, virtually fell into disuse when, Nov. 27, the delegates to the interchurch conference on federation, at New York city, adopted unanimously a plan for a "council of the churches of Christ in America." Thus the 20,000,000 communicants of thirty different church organizations were brought into the promised land of moral and missionary unity. This forward stride is the one thing above others which has put new hope and enthusiasm into American Protestantism. The apparent inconsistency of the conference in excluding the Unitarian delegates, not on personal but on doctrinal grounds, is not regarded as altering the essential importance of the movement for those great bodies which are directly concerned.

The Presbyterian church in the north took the lead in active affiliation with organized labor. During the summer the unity spirit was shown in great revival meetings in all our larger cities, with all the Protestant churches uniting. In Philadelphia and New York the churches took an active part in politics, praying and working for reform candidates. The northern and southern Baptists united after sixty years of separation, adopting a constitution at their St. Louis conference in May. The Catholic church as well as the Protestant churches joined in the movement against divorce. The Zionists in convention at Basel, Switzerland, split, a majority favoring Palestine rather than a British colony in Africa. The Methodists adopted a revised hymn book.

The protest made by the Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden of Columbus, O., against the acceptance of a Rockefeller donation to the Congregationalist foreign missions on the ground that the money was "tainted" by the frauds and corruption connected with its acquisition started a discussion which raged furiously in his own denomina-

tion and then spread through the whole Christian world, although the Congregational church itself finally decided that such donations for church enterprises were acceptable.

Manifold Activities Of The Federal Executive

On the 29th day of August the whole world bowed its acknowledgments to the chief executive of the United States for having been the instrument of bringing to a close one of the greatest wars of all history. The peace of Portsmouth was negotiated by the Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries on that day, and its terms and bearings properly belong to the record of foreign affairs, but of all the varied activities of President Roosevelt's year nothing has brought him so much and so well earned applause as the fact that he, through his official initiative, first made possible the peace conference and, second, by his tenacious and forceful personality brought the representatives into agreement after almost all hope had been abandoned on account of Russia's unwillingness to pay a single kopeck of the big indemnity demanded by Japan.

The progress made on a large scale toward the realization of this nation's ambition for a waterway across the American isthmus stands well at top of the list of doings chargeable to the executive, especially since congress, Feb. 23, put the whole management of that project in the president's hands, with \$10,000,000 to start with. Six days thereafter the old cumbersome canal board was ousted and a new one went to work, headed by Theodore P. Shonts and with all executive responsibility centralized in himself and two others, Magoon to look after the law and sanitation and Wallace as chief engineer. The last mentioned suddenly quit the job on June 30 and was succeeded by Stevens. The progress made by the commission is mainly in laying the foundation for health and contentment of the canal employees and in getting an adequate equipment on the ground.



Theodore P. Shonts.

The pursuit of governmental grafters and drones which began in 1904 with the purging of the postal service has been extended and intensified systematically through all the executive departments by the Keep commission. Hitchcock, in the interior, has made surprising headway in the prosecution of the land grabbers of the far west, scoring among many convictions that of the late Senator Mitchell of Oregon. Secretary Wilson's statistical bureau was ripped up, especially as to a leak in the cotton report, causing the dismissal of Assistant Statistician Holmes early in July and later the voluntary retirement of his chief, John Hyde. The Keep investigation committee is still at work. Even the state department has had its share of scandal to publish and live down in the dismissal of Minister to Venezuela Bowen after a hearing of his charges against Assistant Secretary Loomis and the subsequent voluntary retirement of the latter in September to be succeeded by Robert Bacon. After the death of Hay, Root became the secretary of state July 19, and Charles J. Bonaparte of Maryland became secretary of the navy June 1. A census of the Philippines disclosed a population of 7,635,426. The army in the Philippines completely subdued the rebellious Moros. The Philippine government completed its purchase of all friar lands. The body of John Paul Jones was brought to Annapolis from Paris with great naval ceremony July 24.

Science Expecting The Conquest of Tuberculosis

Although the actual chemical agent capable of conquering the tuberculosis microbe in human tissue has not been so definitely announced in any quarter as to be authoritatively acknowledged in the medical section of the scientific world, at least one world famous medical pioneer, Professor von Behring, did claim before the international tuberculosis congress at Paris in September that he had solved the problem and had in his possession a positive remedy for the great white plague. At least twenty medical experts are hot on the trail of a real consumption cure as the year ends. Dr. Levi, the Italian specialist, claims to have cured consumption by the use of iodine, and Dr. Russell of New York reported success in a series of hospital cases by using a diet of the juice of mixed raw vegetables.

The unending rivalry of navigators for the honor of discovering the north pole took on new interest for Americans, in view of the starting, July 16, of Commander Peary in his specially constructed ship, the Roosevelt, for the polar regions. He goes prepared for the supreme test of accumulated experience and modern inventions. Less than a month after Peary sailed, the Ziegler arctic expedition, under Anthony Fiola of New York, was found by the rescuing party. In December came word from Captain Roald Amundsen of Norway, who had reached Eagle City, Alaska, navigating the northwest passage in thirty months and locating the magnetic pole on King William Island.

Astronomy was enriched by a number of important discoveries, chief of which were the photographing of the canals of Mars by Professor Percival Lowell at Flagstaff, Ariz.; the finding of the sixth and seventh moons of Jupiter by Professor Perrine of the Lick observatory; the discovery of several new stars in Aquila by Mrs. Fleming of Harvard; the observation of sodium in the photo sphere of the sun by M. B. Snyder of Philadelphia; the successful observation of the total eclipse of the sun Aug. 30 by scientists of all nations, and the location of the tenth satellite of Saturn by Pickering at Harvard. Numerous successful experiments in air navigation were made.

Leading Interpretations And Infractions of the Law

Beginning with the Jan. 30 decision of the United States supreme court, which sustained the Grosscup injunction against the beef trust, several opinions handed down by the higher courts have seemed to lean toward the validity of anti-trust legislation and extension of the larger corporations' obligations toward the public. The highest court also upheld the Kansas and Texas anti-trust laws in February. In May the same court declared the New York franchise tax and the Kentucky corporation tax laws to be valid, and in July it sustained the Arkansas anti-trust law.

In twenty-eight states extensive prosecutions have been instituted against commercial or political graft, while the federal government has actually brought a number of the land grabbers to conviction and beef packers to trial. On Sept. 24 at Chicago four beef packers were convicted of accepting rebates and were fined \$25,000. Prosecutions were begun at Philadelphia, Chicago and other railroad centers Dec. 13 by the federal government against railroad officials for violation of the rebate law. The gamblers, big and little, have been checked by Jerome in Indiana, and the Sunday race track betting, reduced by Governor Folk of Missouri. A big nest of professional swindlers was destroyed at Philadelphia in March following the failure of the Storey Cotton company. The third trial of Senator Burton for his connection with the Rialto Grain and Securities company of St. Louis in November resulted in his conviction and sentence to six months' imprisonment and \$2,500 fine.

War and Revolution Crowd the Foreign Horizon

The 1st day of January, 1905, went into history with an event pregnant not only for the year, but for all time, for on that day a Russian soldier emerged from the inner fortress of Port Arthur bearing from its commander, Stoessel, the letter of surrender to that victorious Japanese general, Nogi. At that moment the long cherished dream of an oriental empire and world conquest by the imperial house of Romanoff through the exploitation of 125,000,000 of Muscovite subjects vanished into thin air.

This event, the fall of Port Arthur, which began the year, was also the beginning of the end of the Russo-Japanese war. The siege had cost Japan 55,000 casualties, but the remaining veterans under Nogi were hurled directly northward to re-enforce the left wing of the greatest army ever put afield, commanded by Oyama,

along the Hun river, in Manchuria. Though facing the entrenched Russian army of Kuropatkin along the front of a hundred miles or more in dead of winter, the Japanese center advanced to the Sha river and there resisted a terrific attack, while the Russian left flank was turned with Nodzu's flying column—this in two weeks of fighting, ending March 12, compelling the entire army of Kuropatkin to retreat in the utmost disorder from the fortified base about Mukden with immense loss. The Russians retired toward their base at Harbin, closely followed by the Japs. Kuropatkin was superseded by Linvitch.

Despite this crushing defeat the war lords at St. Petersburg persisted in sending the patched up Baltic fleet, under Rojestvensky, onward into eastern waters to its inevitable defeat, May 27, in the Korean strait, at the hands of Togo's unbeaten sea fighters. Russia's sea power had been completely wiped out, and consequently the time was ripe for the entry of the great American peacemaker, President Roosevelt. His suggestion for a conference between the warring powers was accepted June 15, and the peace envoys met at Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 8. In the meantime the Japanese occupation of the island of Sakhalin had taken place. The peace of Portsmouth was concluded Aug. 29, the main features of the treaty being: Transfer of Port Arthur and control of the Manchurian railway to Japan, Japanese preponderance in Korea, integrity of China, evacuation of Manchuria, division of Sakhalin and Siberian fishing rights for Japan.

Russia's year has been one ceaseless reign of terror. The chaotic condition of the existing regime at the close of the year was foreshadowed in the mysterious firing of a cannon over the head of the czar during the ceremony of blessing the waters of the Neva at St. Petersburg on Jan. 19. That ominous incident coincided with the first of the series of strikes which have paralyzed industry and commerce and rendered the government almost helpless. That

strike culminated in the "bloody Sunday" of Jan. 22, when a crowd of trusting subjects, led by Father Gapon, who came to present their grievances to the czar in person, were set upon by the soldiery, shot down and trampled in the streets by order of General Trejoff, who had been made dictator of the capital.

Next in the order of revolutionary acts came the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius at Moscow on Feb. 17 by Kolaieff, an avowed terrorist. On Feb. 23 the accidental firing of the Baltic fleet on British fishermen, with several fatalities, was brought to a peaceable settlement by an arbitration commission at Paris. The czar celebrated Easter by graciously conceding to his subjects liberty of conscience. Following the May riots throughout Poland the zemstvos congress at Moscow May 8 boldly asked for universal suffrage. The next outburst came at Odessa when the sailors of the Kniiaz Potemkine mutinied and held the city for several days, while unruly classes pillaged and murdered. The zemstvo men demanded a constitution July 18, and the first congress of peasants was held Aug. 15. On the following day the czar, through his minister Boulogne, who had succeeded Mirsky, summoned the national assembly, or douma, on a basis of property and class limited suffrage.

The restrictions did not suit the people, and a general railway strike was begun Oct. 24 which for the first time showed the immense power of the labor organization. About this time Count Witte was called to head a liberal cabinet, and through him on Oct. 30 the czar's great manifesto was issued, making a complete surrender of his autocratic powers and granting a constitutional form of government, with guarantees of free press, free speech, free assembly and other civil rights. Even this and the steady hand of Count Witte did not suffice to stay the revolutionary avalanche. The Jewish massacres at Odessa, Kiev and other parts of southern Russia made terrible the early days of November, and the government acknowledged official connivance therein. Then came the mutiny of sailors at Cronstadt on Nov. 9, after which the railroad strike was resumed. Sailors of the Black sea fleet again mutinied at Sevastopol, Nov. 26, and a mutinous army pillaged Vladivostok and Harbin. All Livonia set up a provincial government on Dec. 12.

Europe's other storm centers during the year hovered around Morocco, Turkey, Hungary and the Scandinavian peninsula. Not until the resignation of the French foreign minister, Delcasse, June 6, did France and Germany relax their tension. This left matters in the hands of the more conciliating Premier Rouvier, who had succeeded Combes Jan. 19. The outcome was an agreement for the Franco-German conference at Madrid, with which the year ends. The bill for the separation of church and state passed the French senate Dec. 6. Germany's greatest trouble has been the costly war with her rebellious colony in southwest Africa.

Turkey's repeated refusal to relinquish her hold on Macedonia necessitated the mobilization of the international fleet in Grecian waters and the taking possession of two Turkish ports before the sultan surrendered on a technical compromise Dec. 15.

The unrest in Hungary reached that point where open civil war was only to be averted by the government's introduction of a bill for manhood suffrage Nov. 28.

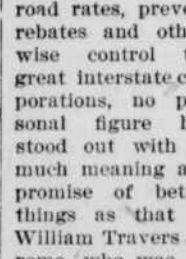
When King Oscar vetoed the plan for a separate consular service Norway denounced her union with Sweden, June 7. For a time there was fear of war, but a basis of separation was agreed upon by arbitration. Prince Charles of Denmark accepted the call to the throne, entering Christiania Nov. 25.

Great Britain passed most of the year waiting for the Balfour ministry to die. Balfour held on, perhaps to perfect the friendly understanding with France and to complete the new Anglo-Japanese treaty of Aug. 12, and did not resign until Dec. 4, when he was succeeded by a strong Liberal ministry, headed by Campbell-Bannerman and committed to home rule for Ireland.

Educational Tendencies, Hand Craft and Self Expression

From a comprehensive study of the entire field of public and private education, and especially in this country, from kindergarten to university, it is apparent that the two most notable advances of the past year have been in the direction of free manual and artistic expression of the growing pupil on the one hand and of dependence on public opinion for establishing and preserving the requisite degree of order and a safe standard of progress.

Princeton has begun introducing the tutorial system. Columbia has led the way by establishing the principle of international university co-operation, a definite alliance with Berlin university being arranged. Oxford and Cambridge both voted in March to retain Greek. Pennsylvania exonerated Professor Hilprecht of the charges of unscientific conduct brought against him by Dr. Peters. Columbia and the New York university led in a movement of eastern colleges toward the abolition or reform of football. The effort to merge the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Harvard failed on legal grounds. The Carnegie technical schools were opened in the building at Pittsburgh Oct. 10.



Elihu Root.



District Attorney Jerome.



Marshal Oyama.



Thomas F. Ryan.