

REVIEW

Politicians:

There is a great fascination in the study of politics and politicians, probably because all men have a certain taste and turn for intrigue, which, to them, is synonymous with politics. Of course, a great number conceal this weakness from the world, and even some are able to hide it from their most intimate friends. There are many, indeed, who rail against politics as a corrupt excrescence existing on the body of the State, and against all politicians, as merely the parasitic survivals of a once useful class, now sunk in contemplation only of those personal advantages, which may be gained by attaching themselves, leech-like, to the body politic.

They say: "Analyse the elements which make for political success. First of all comes command of language, so that the person in question can direct a steady stream of words at any strange fellow who has the impudence to challenge the actions, words, or sentiments of the party, which, of course, can do no wrong. Secondly, this flow of words must not be so intelligible as to convey any definite meaning which may be brought up against the speaker at some future time. Thirdly, is the necessary accomplishment of what is called illogical logic, that is, convincing argument which will delude one's hearers into a belief that the speech is based on a close adherence to facts." There are also one or two other things necessary to complete the vulgar picture of the full fledged politician, such as the art of throwing the blame on somebody else, and taking the credit for oneself, the knowledge of the proper end at which a cigar should be lighted, the carrying of a corkscrew always on one's person, and such like important, though subsidiary points. They go on to say that the intelligent unscrupulous possessing these traits, or rather, attributes, are bound to succeed, but that the great mass of would-be politicians are too stupid to grasp them all, and so, eventually are failures. These, they continue, are the only classes of politicians; for the men who take up politics are usually either too stupid to succeed, or too unscrupulous to be safe at anything else.

We are compelled to dissent from this view. We believe that politicians (of course there are politicians and politicians) are not an anomaly, but still a living and vivi-

fyng force—the inheritors of a great tradition. It is possible to vision a world without them, but we believe that all the tangible and intangible forces at work, the psychological atmosphere, the present day moral trend tends to produce the politician—one of the consummate achievements of civilization—because the institutions, traditions, discipline and method of our day all work together in the construction of an edifice which is most suited to the prosecution of the government of this country under the conditions and circumstances now existent.

Imperialism:

This word, which is such a stumbling block for some, which acts as a rallying cry for others, and which becomes the occasion of the wildest outbursts of passion on the part of still others, seems to me to be very imperfectly understood by its critics. Imperialism means the Spirit of the Empire according to the dictionary; to many it means the subjection of the colonies to Britain and to British interests. Imperialism has ceased to have any real meaning in connection with the predominance of home interests over those of the other parts of the Empire. The era of complete autonomy for the component parts of the Empire will show to the most casual observer the absurdity and futility of that view. Imperialism now means, as we understand it, a pride in the Empire, and above all, in our part of the Empire—a pride in the traditions that we have inherited, both political and social—a wish that the Empire may take the lead in promoting the welfare of the world, the attempt to realize the ideal of life in peace and harmony with our kindred.

Imperialism means the realization of the fact that our Empire is complete in itself, and that it can be absolutely self sustaining—dependent on no outside Power—as the great Exhibition of Wembley showed. It means that under its aegis any people can and will have the fullest freedom for its self development, that under its flag all racial customs and ideals may be preserved and worked out to their destined end. It means that our system is, at the present time, the best system—it does *not* mean that this system necessarily remains in its present form. We believe that if Imperialism means anything to-day it means the very best system for the promotion of peace among the nations, and the freedom and development of the Empire peoples.