

The Ministers' Corner

BRYCE'S DEMOCRACIES

By The Rev. Eneas B. Goodwin

There is no Book Review Department in The Reporter so I shall use this column for the purpose of directing attention to an important work published during the past few weeks. It is "Modern Democracies" by Lord Bryce, the famous English jurist and author of "The American Commonwealth."

Lord Bryce is an example of the power mind has to prolong life. He is eighty four years old, but he thinks and writes with the calm, logical cogency and steadiness we are accustomed to consider characteristics of middle age. For fifty three years he has been an active participant in British politics. As a legislator he has aided in the enactment of educational bills that have been of inestimable benefit to the poor of England, and as a writer he has spread the knowledge of liberalism and democracy far beyond the British Isles.

"Modern Democracies" consists of three parts. Part I contains preliminary observations applicable to popular governments in general. Part II describes democratic governments as actually existing and practically working. Those governments are: France, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Part III summarizes and digests the facts set forth in Part II, and indicates inferences that may be drawn from them.

The treatment of Democracy in general in Part I is interesting. The fact that Democracy is in reality a revolt of the many against the few is brought out clearly from a practical consideration of the development of Democracy from monarchy or oligarchy. There never was an attempt to establish democracy for the sake of democracy. It seems the mass of the people are indifferent to the form of government under which they happen to live so long as the government is not too oppressive or does not bear too heavily upon their individual interests. As soon as it does there develops a movement to assume control or at least to obtain a larger share in government. This is the democratic movement, and if carried far enough leads to a democratic form of government.

This is interesting because it shocks some ideas that many of us have been carefully formulating. We have been led to imagine that Democracy is the result of the very nature of things. That it is the ultimate ideal toward which all peoples were naturally tending we had hoped and some sincerely believed. Instead, we find that Democracy is merely an escape from social or political or industrial evils, and that often it is nothing more than a political step toward some thing really different. It is unnecessary to repeat that the People, that is the voters or even the small body called legislators may be more tyrannical than the vilest despot that ever ruled an oriental empire.

The most valuable part of Lord Bryce's work is his description of actual democracies. The difference between Republics is startling. In fact it is difficult for an American to believe that some of the European Republics are really Republics. Probably in this country in a few years the difference will not appear so impressive. But at present our idea of a Republic is the idea which a free man has of his ability to govern himself. It can hardly be said that the people govern themselves in some of the European Republics. They are governed by their representatives.

The Representative form of government is undoubtedly a great improvement on the monarchical form. Not so long ago as the time of John Stuart Mill representative government was considered to be the ideal government. Since his time it has been tried and many today are seriously doubting its supreme excellence. The representative has almost ceased to be a thinking human being. His ear is close to the ground and he responds to the louder noise. He has become a toy of the active and vociferous minority. The results if not dangerous are lamentable. Respect for the Law is fast disappearing because the enormous number of unnecessary laws have brought the Law

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HUNDREDS SEE "MAY FETE" AT NORTH SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 1)

on being offered pomegranate she had tasted it and had held a poppy, the flower of death; so she is condemned to spend half her time below and half above, as a pomegranate is half seeds. Upon her return with Mercury to the upper world all the flowers return and the merry making goes on.

The Cast of Characters was:
Demeter—Goddess of Harvest
..... Mary Curtis
Persephone—Goddess of the Spring
..... Grace Greene
Hermes or Mercury—Messenger of the Gods
..... Hazel Bensley
Pluto or Hades—God of Underneath
..... Martha Shaffer
Attendants of Demeter
..... Lillian Wilhelm, Neelata Miskelly
Altar Boys
..... Howard Miller
..... Howard Leibundguth
Train Bearers
..... Lloyd Jones
..... Leland Hamblin

Demeter's Maidens
Ruth Thatcher Jeanette Phelps
Edith Wells Vance Gesner
Irene Tank June Beidelman
Marjorie Whiffen Eleanor Wheeler
Virginia Woodson Elizabeth Plumley
Marie Woodson Florida Waples

Shades
Eleanor Bird Ruth Boland
Lucille Heintz Verne Deach
Bernice Jones Lillian Elarton
Edith Perron Ruth Henderson
Margaret Stough Hope Kingsley
Marjorie West Geraldine Lacey
Eleanor Hanchett Lillian Riehle
Ruth Thomas Alice Conley
Marion Klinefelter Elma Kelly
Fannie Radell Dorothy Towsley
Margaret Deegan Bessie McCollum
Catherine Deegan Lurabel Sherman

It was a beautiful and colorful scene as the youngsters in their special costumes and the older girls in the stately dances twisted and swayed over the lawn. Miss Harris is to be congratulated on the successful showing. It was an artistic and a financial success.

into disrepute.
But what better alternative can be offered for Democracy? "The rule of the Many," says Lord Bryce, "is safer than the rule of One, and the rule of the multitude is gentler than the rule of a class." The people can govern when they are interested. Mrs. Gertrude Atherton said that the trouble with the people of this country is that they have a kind of smug satisfaction with themselves personally. So long as their representatives do not interfere with their satisfaction they are willing to tolerate almost any legislation that may be imposed on them. But the representatives may in their anxiety to retain office listen too eagerly to the minority and go too far in their legislation. Then will come action by the people.

"Hope, often disappointed but always renewed, is the anchor by which the ship that carries democracy and its fortunes will have to ride out this latest storm as it has ridden out many storms before." "Democracy," says Lord Bryce, "will never perish till after Hope has expired."



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NO CHANGE IN VILLAGE LIMITS FROM 1873 TO 1921

Only One Man Still Living of Thirty-Eight Who Signed Petition For Incorporation.

Until the Bunge Subdivision was admitted into the corporate limits of Downers Grove last month, the boundaries had remained unchanged from the time the village was first incorporated in 1873. For almost fifty years the original territory of Downers Grove has remained the same.

Thinking that some facts of the early history of Downers Grove might be interesting at the time when the agitation for the annexing of adjacent territory is at its height, we have dug them up.

The original petition for incorporation was presented at the County Court on December 16th, 1872. It was signed by the following thirty-eight men, only one of whom, E. W. Farrar, is living today.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| D. K. Foote | J. W. Rogers |
| D. Kimball | T. G. Wilcox |
| Charles Curtiss | Thos. Lyman |
| E. S. Beardsley | R. R. Rogers |
| E. Thatcher | Thos. C. Marsh |
| Daniel D. Escher | E. W. Farrar |
| Chas. Carpenter | A. S. Loomis |
| O. C. Gibbs | D. F. Richards |
| T. S. Rogers | L. Havens |
| I. N. Hobart | F. O. Woods |
| J. H. Lyman | O. E. Crittenden |
| John Stanley | U. H. Balcom |
| Val. Wetten | L. C. Schofield |
| D. Klein | R. C. Bates |
| J. M. Barr | Hiram Goodnough |
| B. Randall | G. L. Blackburn |
| J. Papenhausen | Ed. Goodnough |
| A. B. Austin | J. H. Hill |
| Austin Richards | H. Goodnough |

There are still living in the village descendants of most of these old pioneers, the first residents of the village.

The petition recites that there are living in the territory described, Section 8 and the east 1/2 of the east 1/2 of Section 7, 350 people. Great excitement prevailed at the time and the main topic of discussion was the proposed incorporation.

Voters living within the territory were much wrought up over the question and it was conceded that the vote would be close. The election was held on Saturday, March 29, 1873. Eighty-seven votes were cast, 49 for and 38 against, the proposition winning by 11, and shortly after the village was organized with Capt. T. S. Rogers as the first president of the Village Board.

PARENT-TEACHERS ELECT OFFICERS NEXT THURSDAY

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees to be Read At Meeting.

Election of officers for 1921-22 and reports of standing committees and officers covering the past season will mark the annual meeting of the Parent-Teacher association which is to be held in the High School assembly room next Thursday evening, May 19.

In addition to the formal part of the program there will be some special musical numbers and those attending the meeting will be given an opportunity to inspect exhibits in art, sewing and chemistry, samples of the work done by the pupils of the high school. Refreshments will be served. A large attendance is desired as this probably will be the last meeting of the association before September.

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GREENE BROTHERS TO ENTERTAIN IN HONOR OF SISTER

"Big Green Red Barn Dance" at the Oak Cottage, South of Lisle Tomorrow.

Invitations are out for a "Big Green Red Barn Dance" as the invitation is read, to be given tomorrow evening, Saturday, May 14th, at the Greene home, Oak Cottage Farm, south of Lisle. The three Greene brothers, H. S., and W. B., of Aurora, and Arthur R., of Lisle, will entertain in honor of their sister, Miss Marian Greene who will be a June bride and Dr. C. R. Deindorfer.

Invitations have been sent to many friends and relatives of the families in Aurora, Naperville, Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove and Chicago, and it will be one of the biggest affairs of the season.

Sunday, May 8th, Harold Walter Kropp was baptized in the home of the parents, Mr. John W. Kropp and Martha, nee Pesczinski, 40 N. Elm st. The grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Kropp and Mrs. Ida Kropp, acted as sponsors. Pastor Wm. Grotefeldt officiated.

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Building a Modern Home Different from the Old Timer

In figuring the cost of constructing a modern home the expense of conveniences, facilities and finish must be considered when we compare cost with the old time home of our fathers. It's the extras that make up the bulk of cost.

Now-a-days in constructing a modern home we start to spend on the foundations. We must have a full basement, all concreted, with furnace room, coal bin, vegetable cellar, wash room with stationary tub, hot and cold water. These good things cost money.

The modern house is better built, foundation walls to the bottom of basement, attractive style of architecture, wide porches well screened, and concrete walks. The chimney must be built from bottom of basement.

In this twentieth century home we must have high rooms with the best class of furnishings. Hot and cold water in most of our rooms, handsome lighting fixtures, hard wood floors, high class interior finish, the best type of stairs, a fire place and at least one mantle. Furnace that will heat every room, a few French windows, and other ornamental and useful things, including sun parlor and sleeping porch.

When we compare the new with the old it is readily seen that the added cost is represented very largely by added conveniences and up-to-date styles. If we had put all of these things in the old time home the cost would have been a good deal more than doubled.

So we must consider all of the modern conveniences when we compare the cost then and now. Just plain building is not so expensive; it's the good things justly demanded now that counts most in the complete expense. Nobody wants an old time house these days. We are living on a higher plane and demand better things in the home.

The price of lumber is down. There's a substantial decline from last season, from thirty to forty per cent. We will gladly quote you the lower prices. We sell lumber on the basis of replacement cost. Talk to us about your building problems. We will gladly give you the facts, prices and service.

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