Our Government was influenced by some of our Social Classes

Commencement Thesis.

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In our country the persons and institution through which the affairs of state are administered stand in close relation to the people.

The expression "a government of the people" is more or less significant depending upon what part of the populace have in mind, but however the phrase may vary it is certain that a relation, subjective or objective or both, can always be found between a government and its citizens or subjects.

These have been times and governments when this relation was not so apparent where for long periods of time the complexion of the nation was guided by a few who stood nearest the hand that held the reins, where only after studied intervals of oppression did this vital relation; this vital dependency show itself either in wreck or result. France has furnished good illus-

trations of both cases. A nation is an organic unity of people and domain and no matter whether it is a republic or a monarchy if the people are hind- and in their natural development they will finally break on the barriers and take a
mighty river breaking at its dam, not only
ruled away those who had usurped its
channel and used its forces but lay
waste the lowlands which it might other-
wise have enriched.

The limits of a nation's power and the
guides to its conduct are found in the
nature and development of its people
and those who have been overthrown or
disregarded; but the weak greater has
through disaster been obliged to submit.

As the people become closer and
more direct contact and communication
with their rulers or administrators
influence more upon another is more
constant and there is less chance
for long continued action in one direction,
followed by the violent reaction which formerly
accompanied almost every step in
national progress.

Though the real lines of the two nations
the government and the farmers may sair
again be manifested by such indicators as
formerly they have becoming more cruel
y and their than list. As in a highly
developed industrial system with
informed
transportation, one man may through his international influence the whole world of producers with the more civilized countries with modern means of communication and travel among all elements of population is felt almost irremediably throughout the entire community.

This is especially the case in the United States where every man is a politician or a political tool.

The liberty, or perhaps more properly, the freedom of our public sentiment makes it easy for any mass character to lead its rigid passion upon state affairs that our government has become a sort of composite personality.

On considering that for want of a better viennae have been called social plastics attention is usually given to those of doubtful utility here and also to those with sensitive such that the cause of humanity and themselves of the nation and that attention to gain them.
These classes which long ago gave us this nation and which our fathers have supported themselves and their
fathers in, our well-to-do farmers and business men generally, our authors and educators and professional men,
and our home owning wage earners give but little trouble to economists and
socialists. Is it enough to say of them that they are inconsiderable?
I believe that they are the pride and hope and
strength of our country for it is they
who do and shall maintain it Americ-
can. If their development could
follow its normal course unhindered
by the unnatural conditions and vices
which surround them we would
have little to fear.
The immigration of foreign poor has
been permitted to come at the bottom
of all that is not as it should be in
our industrial, social and political
life.
Taking a much more moderate view
of the case we still cannot realize the
deformities of this influence easily.

Some came to an end more from being absorbed into the life of the Barbadian communities than through the war they waged.

Yet, whatever its greatness as it was, and bringing with it its institutions and people, peaceful as well as warlike, is small when compared with the great stream of immigration which has so long poured into our land.

We in the vast majority, little did we, immigrantly and less yet, seek for the foreign population and know so a few

special and assimilated ones in our larger cities and in the mining region of the East and to a lesser extent in the West, is an almost pure foreign element.

It is not the old names and accent that we know, but a population that is wholly new. Nor only the accent and the names but the Latin language, the manners and customs, the chef-lieu food and the guns, remain unchanged by contact.
with our people and influence of our laws.

Every slum has its "foreign quarter" if it is not all foreign and the pol-
gest districts are usually the worst.

In the Coal Region of Pennsylvania is a transplant of section of South-
ern Europe. Whole districts and
towns are settled entirely by im-
igrants from around the Medit-
erranean. Almost without excep-
tion they are ignorant, filthy and dan-
groous. They never will seem Amer-
ican as in any other of the world and
that was the last thought in their
coming here. Still they hold the
political privileges of American citizens.
They are nothing socially or in des-
irability but work animals. They are
kind and paid by numbers instead
of by names and are held in some
sort of subjection by what is called
"Coal and Iron Police." The name of which
mildly suggests the nature of its work.

To follow the poisonous effect of this for-
ign matter in the body politic would
later unites every department of
industries and government and would
organize volumes to let it.

The fact that they live is marvelously
that live or fifteen cents for day and
ported them at home and but they
more supplies here gives some sug-
gestion of the harm they do, our workers
to the other live while their effect as
directly by bosses in politics is quite as
hurtful.

In New York every year thousands of
them are "naturalized", sworn in
by professional listeners and used as
bids in the prosecution of the political and
municipal fat franks which continually
threaten wider and wider destruction to
all just government and trade.

Inclusion which is not a su-
net result is has been made easily
possible by the hungry mass of foreign-
ervy in our cities as what was known as
the Scurrying System.

Hand in hand it affects may well be given
as typical of the work and lives of some
of our city poor whose conditions are
too miserable to be seen suggested by the word poverty.

The people working under this sys-
tem are probably little worse off than
those who find work outside of it; are they
much better situated than those with
no work at all who live by crime and
begging.

The Suratian System is merely a
special phase of which has been more
widely studied and is better understood.

It is a system of contract labor mostly
in the clothing industries, that brings the
one in which women and children are
most employed.

The goods made is got from whole-
sale clothing and tailors and is
returned made into garments by
contractors who sell it to others who
in turn may suffer again until
the clothing reaches the cheapest
labor to be had.

The contractors are usually brutal
foreign tiers of the lowest type, who
pass the margin of profits from one to another until there is scarcely a living left for the poor wretches who must work almost incessantly ten hours or fifteen hours a day in the most unhealthy, crowded and uncomfortable rooms imaginable. The work is done by the fires and the longfiers and foremen masters compel work to the limit of endurance and are only less terrible than the slavation or crime which stand as the only alternatives. Comparatively few men are employed making the conditions all the worse for the work which is most exhausting and at the same time most brutalizing falls upon women and children where it can do the greatest harm.

In the Chicago shops 20,000 women and children are unwaged. In New York there are 65,000 sewing girls working at wages which will not support life. The greed of employers and under bidding of foreigners have dem
This and these girls must either fall an additional load upon already overburdened parents or face starvation as best they may.

Particular cases and cases have been cited but the conditions attached to them are general and any economic significance which they have is true of a large population in every city.

In each of these there are thousands of men whose degradation and ignorance make them utterly unfit to perform the service they have in their hands or to do anything better than obstacles to the work which as citizens they should aid.

The letter concludes with struggle for life which is the rule with normally of them as dwarfs the moral and intellectual part of a man that by the time he becomes a worker he is easily used as a tool to struggle on the terrain which already shuts him but from the part of life most worth living.

These people have through their degradation not only become worthless but utter them
selves but careless as to the welfare of
In those densely settled districts where the English language is as foreign as any education and religion can yet at permanent hold.
Hunger, want, illiteracy, and thence are no conditions on which to build intellect.
Many of them, hard as condition that they are, have their own, and if they did not seem almost fatalistic to hope for our own achievement through their own efforts.

Think of 25,000 children in one "slum" in Philadelphia, half clothed, half fed and every day exposed to the influence of vice and crime, perhaps born in it, toiling at the harddest kind of drudgery when work can be found and earning as large on the street when it cannot, wholly ignorant of schools and churches and the world outside and so blunted in their higher susceptibilities by hardship and the rough scenes about them that ideas of comfort and beauty sometimes slight and wrong and are familiar to be
almost beyond their comprehension.

This is the foundation for a good

present of our next generation of

voters. How near do they come up to

the ideal?

That they are absolutely without value

for good. Any gum with its patent,

that they are already a sewer for

the bad as shown in these defeats and

check of reform and advancement

which the fact that they may become

extremely dangerous to falsehood and

violence and plundering which they

accompanied as many of our indus

trial disturbers, especially the

Pullman strike in '79.

Here in the West we can hardly real

ize what we may read from reliable

writers every day that the army of troops

is becoming mere and much com

mon under all of the causes of

fairly and rightful further task,

and the many of our western cities

may now be found miniature

"bodies" with perhaps more than

a professional accompaniment of law.
lessens.

The usual policies are here as in the west and the secret annals of many of our municipalities show fearful evidence of the fever, gress to immorality, and by these multitudes whose lives no patriotism, feel no responsibility, and who have little to live for and nothing to lose.

How greatly or in what direction the nature and course of government may finally be changed by these social forces and others which might be named can be little more than guessed at by even the best of thinkers.

Calculations based on the nature of men are no more certain to allow of a definite statement of results, but whatever the uncertainty of conclusions an understanding of the conditions is none the less necessary.

The stability and prosperity of a nation is based directly upon the earning health, happiness, ability, industry, and opportunity of its people but under these lies another factor which though in-
direct is essential and powerful. A nation can realize its strength only through unity and paralleled alignment of interest and action. This means unity of purpose, sympathy and understanding that through understanding and appreciation of the needs and interests and conditions of every class is essential.