ALS IK KAN
"STANDING UP TO BE COUNTED"

THE time has come in this country," said President-elect Wilson in a recent speech, "when men have got to stand up and be counted and put their names down, on this side or on that." And he added: "I believe that when they do there is going to develop a wonderful enthusiasm for the right things." Glancing back over the history of 1912, not only in the United States but in the world at large, we find much to justify Mr. Wilson's confident and stimulating optimism. Behind the tumultuous and confused events of those twelve months we see the stirring of the great idea of democracy—the idea that would set men free to follow their best impulses.

The old cynical attitude of mind which honestly regarded the purification of politics as "an iridescent dream," and which dismissed most reform movements with the remark that it is "impossible to legislate humanity into heaven," is neither as common nor as confident now as it once was. It has been said that the difference between the statesman and the politician lies in the fact that the statesman keeps ever before him the shortness of human life and the momentous fact that the state must go on though men die. With the irresistible growth of the democratic spirit in the Old World as well as the New, the statesman is supersedeing the politician in public life. The world is striving toward a system of government which shall reveal man to himself, showing the strong what right is, and teaching the weak where strength lies.

Abroad the working of the leaven of democracy during the past year has produced epoch-making changes. Chief among these was the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty in China and the creation of a Chinese Republic—a change affecting directly some 400,000,000 persons—and the Balkan revolution, which destroyed the power of Turkey in Europe. In England certain experiments in social and industrial legislation—including the minimum wage and the employees' insurance laws—have been put into effect, and have given impetus and inspiration to industrial democracy in other lands. The universal spirit of unrest has worked everywhere toward the amelioration of conditions for the world's workers.

But if we wish to fortify our faith in democracy we do not need to look beyond the borders of the United States. Here, out of what seemed to many timid persons merely a seething of discontent and blind agitation, has been born a new party pledged to a definite progress of social justice and human betterment, while the old Democratic party has been returned to office under the leadership of a strong man who has dedicated himself uncompromisingly to the same general cause. As one observer puts it, "the unrest has become the dynamo which animates the great plan, and without which it would be nothing but a splendid theory." Out of our yeasty conflict of ideals we are developing an authoritative national conscience.

The extent of this unrest may be inferred from the increase of more than 100 per cent. in the Socialist vote and the support that more than 4,000,000 citizens gave to Colonel Roosevelt's candidacy on the new Progressive party's ticket. Probably never before were the fundamentals of democracy so closely studied and widely discussed as they were in 1912. As one historian of the year remarks: "Hardly a single phase of democracy has been left untouched by criticism; party platforms have taken the form of declarations of constitutional principles; radical changes in both the theory and practice of government have been demanded; and the year was rich in real progress along new and fruitful lines of political reform." Congress voted to submit to the States an amendment of the Constitution to provide for the direct election of Senators, and the Supreme Court handed down several decisions increasing the efficiency and scope of the Sherman Anti-trust Law.

Labor during the year gained many victories. Wage advances ranging from six to ten per cent. were granted to some 450,000 workers in the coal mines, and the Lawrence strike resulted in a ten per cent. increase in the wages of the textile workers of New England. The arbiters of the dispute between the railroads and the locomotive engineers granted higher pay to the latter, and the United States Steel Corporation introduced several reforms affecting its employees. Turning to the legislative field, we find the gains of labor even more striking. Thus Congress passed an amendment extending the Eight-hour Law to include all work done for the Government by contract, and since the change went into effect a number of ship-building and other
plants employing thousands of men have been placed on an eight-hour basis. Other Federal laws passed during the year prohibited the use of the deadly yellow phosphorus in the manufacture of matches and provided for the creation of an industrial commission and a child-welfare bureau. The same tendency was reflected in State legislation. Thus of the fourteen States whose legislatures were in session eleven improved their child-labor laws.

And for the future we can ask no better omen than is afforded by some of the recent utterances of the man who on March 4th will become the nation's official spokes-man. As Mr. Wilson says, "we have got to square the biggest things with the simplest standards of morality and obligation." He repeatedly emphasizes, not only as the ideal that his party must keep before its eyes, but as the lode-star of every citizen, the idea of service. Speaking in Staunton, Va., on his birthday, he had a sharp and memorable word of warning alike for the politicians and the business men who will not open their eyes to this ideal. We will close this brief backward and forward glance with that admonition:

"I could pick out some gentlemen not confined to one State, gentlemen likely to be associated with the Government of the United States, who have not yet had it dawn upon their intelligence what it is that the Government sets up to do. These men will have to be mastered in order that they shall be made the instruments of justice and of mercy.

"This is not a rosewater affair. This is an office in which a man must put on his war paint. Fortunately I am not of such a visage as to mind marring it, and I do not care whether the war paint is becoming or not.

"The one thing that the business men of the United States are now discovering, some of them for themselves, and some of them by suggestion, is that they are not going to be allowed to make any money except for quid pro quo, that they must render a service or get nothing, and that in the regulation of business the Government, that is to say, the moral judgment of the majority, must determine whether what they are doing is a service or not a service, and that everything in business and politics is going to be reduced to this standard. "Are you giving anything to society when you want to take something out of society?" is the question to put to them."

AN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SCHOOL

THE Massachusetts Agricultural College is following out its policy started last year of holding a number of agricultural extension schools scattered throughout the State. The first school this year was held in Ashfield, the 2d to 6th of December, and was attended by a large number of the most progressive and practical farmers of that good farming district. The courses given were on soil fertility, dairying, fruit-growing and poultry for the men, with a homemakers' section for the women. The attendance was good from the start, but increased through the week until a number of about 100 was reached on the last day. The school for men was held in the basement of the town hall building, and the school for women was held in the basement of the Congregational church, which was provided with a stove, running water, cooking utensils, etc., and made a very acceptable place for holding this part of the work.

The work in which the most keen interest was taken in the men's school was that given in fruit-growing and in poultry; these two subjects being especially important in Ashfield and vicinity. The homemakers' course was equally successful, the good practical housekeepers of Ashfield attending regularly and allowing their own work to go undone in order that they might profit by the talks and discussions taking place in the homemakers' sessions. Because of chores and rush of work, together with long distances to drive, many men had to make considerable sacrifice to be present during the whole six hours of each session, some driving as far as 13 miles to attend. That all were well satisfied and highly pleased by the work of the week was evidenced by a unanimous vote of thanks accompanied by a rousing cheer which came at the close.

THE MARCH "CRAFTSMAN" WILL BE A GARDEN NUMBER FILLED WITH INTERESTING AND PRACTICAL HINTS FOR YOUR SPRING PLANTING. IT WILL BE A NUMBER OF UNUSUAL INSPIRATION TO LOVERS OF THE OUT-OF-DOORS.