

proposals and remedies will be wise, or should be accepted on sight. But he has thus far undoubtedly met and even exceeded the expectations of the people. There was a wide and legitimate desire for change and reform. At certain periods of political development it is safe and wise for a ruler, when called upon to alter old customs, to say with Lord MELBOURNE: "Why can't you let it alone?" But our troubles were such that they could not be let alone. They would not let us alone. They would have had no pity for the repose of President ROOSEVELT, had he sought it. And the energy and chivalrous leadership with which he undertook to set right the times out of joint are largely accountable for the remarkable approval which his first seven days in the White House have brought him.

LEADER AND LED.

A study of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S first week as President may hereafter be required of classes in government. It should yield much from several different points of view. One of them, and perhaps the most striking, has to do with the political mentality of the American people. With what eagerness have they welcomed the coming of a new man to the Presidency! Their admiration has been kindled by the firm and resolute way in which, with high and confident spirit, he set his hand to tasks that might have daunted the stoutest heart. Taking office amid the crash of the country's whole financial system, he moved swiftly and surely to set it up again, and the people rose to his support with extraordinary unanimity. For the time being party lines were obliterated. Prominent Republicans, from Mr. HOOVER down, urged the country to back up President ROOSEVELT in every way. It was a response to courageous leadership such as we have seldom seen except in time of war. This acclaim for the new President may not last long. Certainly it will not survive undiminished into the Congressional elections of 1934. But as it stands today, it is most instructive regarding the ways in which the institutions of democracy can be made to work.

What will those now say who have been week in and week out proving to their own satisfaction that representative government has broken down in the United States? In particular they explained at great and wearisome length that it had become impossible to get satisfactory legislation from Congress. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate were pictured as, in the first place, broken up into little quarreling groups, and then so given to protracted debate and obstruction that nothing good could be expected to come out of that Nazareth. Yet even while these complaints were still echoing, Congress acted with unexampled speed in passing through all its stages in less than eight hours the highly important emergency bank bill. And now the House by an overwhelming majority has adopted his economy measure. The President demanded it, the country evidently desired it, and Congress obediently answered. like the jinn of the Arabian Night: "Here am I." This shows that, as the Yankee farmer said, "Everything depends. Some things can be done as well as some other things."

It is said that all this is a great tribute to the power of "action" to impress the popular imagination. But it was not haphazard or impromptu action. President ROOSEVELT evidently came to his difficult questions prepared to take them up. Even of the banking crisis he had ample forewarning. For his rapid decisions in other matters, it is clear that he had made himself ready in advance. Although he had pretty steadily declined to join with Mr. HOOVER in announcing policies and making public appeals before March 4, he had not been idle. Unofficially, he was able to collect information, to seek competent advice, to sound out Democratic leaders in Congress and in the country. Thus when the time came for him to strike, his weapons were at hand. He was not simply yielding to the plaintive but vague cry that "something must be done." That "something" often turns out to be the wrong thing. But President ROOSEVELT had analyzed the pressing needs of the Administration, and had made up his mind concerning the definite things that he would recommend. Thus his action, which has been so much admired, was not a nervous and impulsive and ill-advised attempt to still public clamor, but a plan deliberately wrought out.

This is not predicting that all of his