

Newton D. Baker, Dreamer.

Critics of Newton D. Baker call him a dreamer—at least they did before his opponent had indorsed so many of Mr. Baker's campaign arguments. Since then not so much has been heard about dreaming. Mr. Baker himself has not denied the charge, and there is no reason why he should.

The progress of the world is written in the deeds of dreamers. The epochal achievements of all ages are built upon the acts of those who have had the breadth and courage to dream.

There are thousands of people in Cleveland who five years ago were calling Tom L. Johnson an impractical dreamer, but who are now willing to acknowledge the success with which he wrought. The best mayor this city ever had was a dreamer and gloried in it. No man ever dreamed more persistently, and few ever saw more of their dreams come true.

One of Mr. Johnson's dreams was Warrensville. And about the first announcement which his opponent and successor made on taking office was that he would continue to develop the Warrensville plan along the lines laid down by Mr. Johnson and his associates. Today no one suggests that the Warrensville dream was other than philanthropic and constructive.

Another dream of Mr. Johnson's was a street railway system that should furnish satisfactory service at a cost then deemed impossible by hard-headed business men everywhere. This dream, too, materialized. Few have anything now to say in condemnation of it.

The present city of Cleveland, sixth of American municipalities, famed for good government and industrial progress, for social advancement and political independence, was first a dream. The still greater Cleveland to come is today's dream of tomorrow.

Unless a man is a dreamer he is a plodder. Unless he can see beyond the needs and demands of one day to the possibilities of the day to follow, he is a plodder. Plodders, of course, have their useful role to play, but no wide-awake city wants one for mayor.

A dreamer who dreams large while he labors hard and never lets theories get in the path of accomplishments—such a man has from the first been the world's chief reliance in times of stress. Such a man is needed today as much as ever before in history, and nowhere more than in the midst of the present fight for better American cities.

Mr. Baker a dreamer? Let no one attempt to deny it. And Cleveland needs a dreamer of his type in the mayor's office.