

in Cleveland and Cincinnati owned by these "business" statesmen.

Columbus (O.) Press (Dem.), Oct. 22.—In response to the universal demand for home rule, the people have had saddled upon them a vicious and iniquitous system of board rule that will so diversify official responsibilities as to breed discord and consequent disaster to local government.

Pittsburg Post (Dem.), Oct. 28.—Regarding the complex system as a whole, executive responsibility is so divided up among the boards that it can never be easily located. The principle of home rule, by bringing the governor in, is violated as badly as the principle of executive responsibility, by depriving the mayor of needed powers to secure effective administration.

Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), Oct. 22.—The municipal code as passed is designed to take the government of the larger cities of Ohio out of the hands of the people and vest it in the Republican State machine, which is subservient to the public-service corporations, Hanna being the largest owner of street railways in the State.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.), Oct. 27.—Now we have Ohio playing leading lady to that great star in ripper legislation, Pennsylvania. What ripper legislation means can be seen in Philadelphia and Pittsburg politics. What the regulation of municipal affairs from a State capitol means can be seen in Chicago's west park board. Experience and reason, facts and theories, the record of the past and the spirit of the present, all cry aloud for home rule for great cities. Does the new Ohio code conform to this cry? It not only does not conform to it, it violently disregards and flouts it.

Chicago Evening Post (Rep.), Oct. 25.—Study any part of it, and the trail of the time-serving and spoils-seeking politician becomes visible. The welfare and interests of the communities affected were deliberately disregarded; the vital and generally recognized principle of home rule has been trampled under foot, and the claims of honest and disinterested citizens have been cynically repudiated. The code vests the executive powers not in the mayor, but in "boards." As well might the power of the chief executive of the State or the nation be transferred to a lot of "boards." Concentration of responsibility is a condition of efficiency and popular control; only grafters, franchise grabbers, boodlers and spoliemen are benefited by division of executive power and responsibility.

#### MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

Pittsburg Post (Dem.), Oct. 27.—Municipal ownership is making greater progress in Great Britain than in the United States. According to statistics in Cassier's Magazine, there are now in Great Britain 931 municipalities owning waterworks, 99 owning the tramways, 200 owning the gas works, and 181 supplying electricity. Most of these are in England. Municipalities were not allowed to work the tramways until 1896.

#### WHAT IT IS TO VOTE.

Cole County (Mo.) Daily Democrat (Dem.), Oct. 26.—Behind every political question there is a moral question. Truth is truth, whether in politics or religion. You must stand with truth or against it. When you approach the polls to cast a freeman's ballot, a voice is calling to you: "Choose ye this day whom you will serve." And you must choose. No political party may be wholly right in all things, but some political parties are allied with the forces that make for righteousness and justice, while others are not.

It would be just like science rudely to discover, one of these days, that a cucumber is no cooler than a potato.—Puck.

## MISCELLANY

### IF YE BE SLAVES.

For The Public.

If ye be slaves and may not rule,  
I count him fool who sits and sighs.  
Down, dog! and at the tyrant's stool  
Learn to be servile to the wise.

But if ye stand as freeborn men,  
Strike, in God's name! Usurpers hold  
Your country's land. Take back again  
The birthright that your fathers sold.  
GERTRUDE COLLES.

### THE SACRED TARIFF.

For The Public.

To the Editor: In common with my friends the Morgans, the Gates, and the Rockefellers, I have been considerably alarmed during the last three months by the din and clamor over the coal strike.

The perilous advance in the price of coal at the beginning of the inclement season inflamed the minds of the people to such an extent that some of them began to question the righteousness of our title to the coal fields.

Of course the cool-headed and well-instructed citizen would remember the many, many hard days of back-breaking labor, which we put forth to acquire the title to these coal lands, and gazing on our horny hands, and weather-beaten countenances, would recognize the truth, that the property we earned by such painful exertion could not be touched by a righteous government, even though all the rest of the people froze to death.

The beneficent Creator, they would admit, put the coal deposits there for the purpose of rewarding our spine-dislocating exertions, and of assuaging the pains of the blisters on our brawny hands, but in times of excitement even the well-disposed forget the equities, and the alarm among our circles was very great.

We do not object to the epithets. Coal Baron may be a sought-for title some day. But we do object to any disturbances which may unsettle the titles to the substantial thing upon which the Baronies must rest when things get settled down, and the common people get reconciled to those conditions in which Providence has been pleased to place them.

We were truly very much alarmed prior to the settlement of the coal strike, and yet there was one rock upon which it seemed to me we could found our faith that we should come through the storm unscathed, and I pointed that out to my friend Morgan.

The effect upon him was so pronounced that he smiled in the midst

of his dyspeptic pangs and loaned me five dollars without security.

The rock which I pointed out as our sure foundation was the abiding faith of the people in a tariff. I insisted, and I think I was right, that as long as the people look upon the tariff systems of the world with such respect and veneration, our hard-earned property will be safe. I pointed out to him the fact that you may call a man a burglar, a thief or a swindler, and still he would retain his standing among a portion of the community. Some of the people would think he was a smart man and hardly dealt with. But if you call a man a free trader, his reputation is irrevocably ruined. People may speak to him, but they look upon him as a poor, miserable, fallen creature, whose thinking apparatus is loose in its joints, and his influence in the community is very much less than that of a boodle alderman.

I insisted that as long as the people believed that the tariff was not a tax, the Christian gentlemen to whose care God has consigned the property of the country, could rest secure in their jobs.

Morgan saw the point at once, and went out to help them settle the coal strike. Yours respectfully,

JACKSON BIGGLES.

### VISIONS OF WEALTH IN MANUFACTURING WIRE AND WIRE NAILS.

#### THE WISE GUYS OF KOKOMO VS. THE BILLION DOLLAR STEEL GIANT.

The Guys Are Knocked Out in Two Short Rounds—They Lost All Their Money and Are Wondering Where They Are At.

We are "up against it"—"it" being, of course, the trusts which are charging exorbitant prices for their products and will not permit us to purchase goods outside of their dominion. We cannot beat them. They are the "whole push" while their party—that is, the Republican party—is in power.

Some wise Guys in Indiana thought they could beat the tariff trust combination. They figured out the great profits to be made by manufacturing and selling wire, wire nails, etc. at present prices. They saw visions of great wealth right in front of them. They built a mill at Kokomo, Ind., which cost them nearly \$1,000,000. They got ready a few weeks ago to manufacture—that is, they thought they were ready. They then discovered that there is in this country