

dishonesty. On the contrary, every one admits that he is an honest man. This is enough in itself to give the people of Chicago a new sensation and to give Mayor Dunne honorable distinction in local public life.

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Mayor Dunne's honesty in public office has not been of the wax doll variety. It is easy to be honest according to petty conventional standards, and the fact that a public official does not rob the public treasury in indictable ways is no test of his inherent honesty. The true test in these days of Fierce Finance and Business Graft, is that the official withstands the temptations and defies the thunderbolts of great financial interests. This is the test by which Mayor Dunne has been tried and found true.

All the great public utility interests have been in alliance to thrust "honorable" greatness and "honest" fortune upon him, if he would but be their man, and to ruin him politically and personally if he thwarted their predatory purposes. They have, indeed, asked of him no favors for the granting of which he could be sent to the penitentiary if detected. They have asked nothing that would make him disreputable as the standards of "business" respectability go. They have solicited only such co-operation against the public good as respectable newspapers with side interests in finance openly stand for. He could have yielded and been accounted able and good. Nevertheless he has stood as a granite wall against both their blandishments and their assaults. Mayor Dunne is the only Mayor in the history of Chicago since the era of the Allied Interests began, whom those Interests have not controlled. Neither by flattery nor by favor nor by fear have they been able to seduce him. He has not only been honest, but he has been courageously honest.

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Whether Mayor Dunne shall be re-nominated and re-elected is of comparatively little concern to him. His personal interests are not best served in public office. But he has made his record a memorable one and one of high character. The question of his retention as Mayor depends not upon any political maneuverings of his own or of his friends, but upon whether the resentment of the Allied Interests has been effective in fooling the people of Chicago. He would be re-elected in a perfect cyclone of enthusiasm if the people knew him and his administration as well as the Allied Interests do.

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What labor needs is not protection, but justice.—
Tom L. Johnson.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IN CANADA.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Jan. 11.—The returns from the "plebiscite," or referendum, on the question of public ownership of the telephone business in Manitoba (p. 750), show that the question as it was put to the voters carried by large majorities in the larger towns, while it was defeated in a number of the rural municipalities. The total for the Province, however, was about 10,000 for, to 7,000 against. In consequence the Government has now called for tenders for poles for 1,000 miles of line. Mr. Edward Brown, the leader of the Liberal party in Manitoba, who kept a discreet silence regarding his own proposals—giving as his reason that he did not wish to mix politics with the affairs of the municipalities—has now made an announcement of the Liberal program on this question. This program is favorable to public ownership of the 'phones, but differs from the Government's program in that it would have the 'phones owned and operated by the Provincial government only, instead of by the municipalities and the Government jointly, as the Government proposes. The executive of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities on the 9th inst. thanked the "Provincial Government for its action in giving practical effect to the representations of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, thereby recording recognition of the paramount importance of municipal rights in regard to the ownership and control of public utilities," also suggesting certain courses of action with respect to the construction of the system.

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In the new Province of Alberta much progress is reported along the line of public ownership. A government owned and operated telephone system is reported in project between Edmonton and Lloydminster. Edmonton might be called the Glasgow of Canada. In addition to a progressive system of taxation she also owns her own street railway, telephones, water works and electric lighting system. A number of the new towns throughout the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are following the same course.

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In Toronto, Ont., a large majority has just voted for cheap electrical power which is to be owned and operated by the city, and to be brought from Niagara Falls. A significant victory has also been won by the single taxers of that city in the election of one of their number, Mr. J. W. Bengough, the cartoonist of *The Public*, to the city council.

PAUL M. CLEMENS.

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Perhaps we can forecast the career of woman, the citizen, if she is permitted to bear an elector's part in the coming period of humanitarianism in which government must concern itself with human welfare. She would bear her share of civic responsibility, not because she clamors for her rights, but because she is essential to the normal development of the city of the future.—Jane Addams.