

be the great captain in command.—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat of December 18.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

##### WALKS MUST BE KEPT CLEAN.

A new ordinance relating to clean sidewalks was approved by the board of control Monday. It provides that the walks before all property, vacant or otherwise, must be cleaned of snow and ice by nine o'clock each morning. If the walk is of flag stone it must be cleaned from property line to curb, and if of brick or other material, other than flag or cement, a path five feet in width must be cleaned. Where it is impossible to scrape off all the ice the owners, occupants or agents of the property must cover it with ashes, sand or other substance so that people will not slip. If any person fails to obey this ordinance the director of public works has power to send out men to do the work and the cost will be charged to the person owning or occupying the property. If they don't pay the amount will be certified by the city auditor to the county auditor, who will place it against the property as a lien, the same as taxes.

While the board was considering the measure Attorney General Foster entered the room and asked that it be amended to provide that dead trees and dead limbs be removed by the owners, or by the city at the owner's expense. The amendment was made. It was further provided that no grass or weeds should be allowed to grow between the curb and walk, more than six inches in height. If the owner or occupant of the premises, the agent, if the lot should be vacant, and the owner out of town, fails to keep the grass or weeds trimmed the city will do the work and charge the cost against the premises.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of December 17.

#### NO UNREA-ONABLE PRICES.

The Gamewell Fire Alarm company may not be among the bidders when the sixth set of proposals for a fire alarm signal service are opened by the board of control. The agent of the company, who, by reason of storms, failed to reach this city in time to submit a proposal, Monday, called on Mayor Johnson yesterday with another agent who was here in time, but did not have the company's bid in his possession.

"We want to know, Mr. Johnson,"

began one of the agents, "whether it is worth while for us to come back here again and bid?"

"Not unless you follow the pace set by other companies and cut your price down from what it has been in the past," was the reply. "Let me see, if you come in on the next set of bids that will be six times, won't it?"

"That's what it will, Mr. Johnson, and we have spent a great deal of money running back and forth and paying hotel bills."

"Knowing considerable about machinery, as I do," said the mayor, "I am perfectly willing to admit that I think you have the best fire alarm system in the country, but it is because I do know something about machinery that I tell you that you are asking too much money for what you have. You have a good thing, but you are playing the hog on price."

"As we have the best system, it ought to be worth more money than any other."

"Exactly, but not as much as you ask. We'll keep on rejecting bids until we get the right thing at the right price; in fact, we may never buy a system. I tell you frankly, gentlemen, that before I would consent to the city paying you the price you ask for your system I would invent one myself."

"That's what we are trying to get at. We—"

"You want to know if we will give you the contract if you bid about the same price you did last time—is that what you want to know?"

"Yes."

"Well, we won't give you the contract. Unless you are prepared to come in with a bid that is reasonable you may as well stay at home and save your postage stamps. Does that answer your question?"

"Not the way we wanted it answered, but you are certainly frank enough to suit us," laughed the agents as they bowed themselves out.—Plain Dealer of December 18.

#### MORE ABOUT THE THREE-CENT FARE ORDINANCE.

Councilman Howe proposed an amendment to the three-cent fare ordinance yesterday, and insisted on it against the strong opposition of Mayor Johnson. The amendment was not inserted in the ordinance, but it may be yet, as Howe will have another chance at four p. m. Monday to urge it, and again after the measure gets back to the council.

The important amendment proposed at the meeting, which came from Howe, was that there should be a clause in the ordinance giving the city the right, after five or ten years, to rearrange the schedule of fares charged by the new company.

"If a three-cent fare road is an attractive proposition at this time," he said, "it will be twice as attractive ten years from now. If there is money in it now, what will there be then? Unless the city has the right to reduce fares still further, if, on examination, it is shown that the company can well afford to do it, we will then be in the same position toward the new company that we are now toward the old ones. Perhaps they could not afford to give us a three-cent fare 20 years ago, but they can now."

"I grant you," said the mayor, "that if money can be made now on the basis of a three-cent fare more can be made ten years from now, but nothing like as much as you think. Fifty-five per cent. of the cost of operating a street railroad is in the labor. You do not think there will be much chance for economy in that direction, do you? The natural tendency is for labor to increase in cost. That is certainly the history in street railroad matters. Wages have gone forward but never backward."

"Possibly, you think there may be room for economy in the matter of motive power. The cost of the electricity to operate a street car line does not amount to quite one-twelfth of the total cost. It is the smallest item in the list of expenses, so there won't be much chance for reducing the cost of that."

"Another point which we have to consider is that we must not burden this measure down so that bidders will not be able to finance their road. While they probably will make more money out of the line the second ten years than they will the first, why should they not be allowed to do it? Won't the city be getting the benefit of the reduced fare? You must also remember that after ten years the item of betterments and repairs will also be very large."

"As a practical street railway man, I say that the suggestion you make is a vital point in this ordinance. If you put it in, two bidders that I have in mind will not come in, I believe. If at any time the city believes that the company is making too much money out of the road it can buy it and run it itself."

Howe suggested that there were obstacles in the way of municipal owner-

ship which it might not be possible to remove. The mayor said that he did not agree with him on that, but, if it were true, he was still opposed to the proposition, as it would endanger the success of the whole scheme.

"We mustn't try to get everything at oncè," continued the mayor, "or we won't get anything. This is in the nature of an experiment, and, while I firmly believe that a three-cent fare road will be a paying institution, and I know of others who think as I do and will back their opinions with their money, I also know that I would never make a bid if I had to face the probability of the city stepping in at some time and reducing my fares for me. If I were not in office and wanted to go into business I would like nothing better than to prove my faith in my opinion than by making a bid for this franchise if you leave out that clause."

"I guess we can release you so you can do it," remarked Councilman Springborn, laughingly.

"I have no doubt a lot of you would vote to do that," answered the mayor, "but I am not going into business, Mr. Springborn, in office or out of office."

"A majority of the people refused to release him," interjected Director Lapp, looking at Springborn.

"I was only joking, Mr. Johnson," said the councilman.

The discussion on Howe's amendment, which Springborn favored after a fashion, continued until the close of the meeting, but without a definite understanding being reached.

"I believe I am satisfied with the ordinance in every way excepting as to the proposition which we have been discussing," was Howe's parting shot. Mayor Johnson is anxious to have the substitute go to the council, Monday night, but he will never consent to the amendment proposed, and unless the point is agreed on Monday, when another joint meeting will be held, the ordinance will be held out another week, or it will go to the council, and the discussion continued there. As the original ordinance was introduced a week ago, and this is a substitute, only one more week will have to elapse before it will come up for passage, if it is reported back Monday night.

Mayor Johnson would not be sur-

prised if, when bids are opened, it is shown that there are some people willing to build a new street car system in Cleveland and give nine, and possibly ten tickets for a quarter.

"I don't look for anything less than a three-cent cash fare," said the mayor yesterday, "but there are chances for all kinds of propositions on the question of tickets. I know this much: I will veto any ordinance to give a franchise to any company that bids more than a three-cent cash fare. Under the terms of this ordinance the successful bidder is not the 'lowest and best bidder,' as is ordinarily provided, but the 'lowest' bidder. Prospective bidders have warning in advance that there won't be any chance for an argument unless there are two or more 'lowest bidders.'"—Plain Dealer of December 21.

CHRISTMAS ANTHEM.

For The Public.

Hark! the herald Angels sing:  
"Gatling guns to you we bring;  
Hear our dum-dum bullets singing,  
Freedom to poor Tagals bringing!

"Peace, good will, with shot and shell  
To all who do on Luzen dwell—  
We bring to you, ye small brown men,  
From Uncle Sam! Amen, amen!"

T. W. LODGE.

Ha Ha Tonka, Mo., Dec. 26, 1901.

"Is a diplomat ever justified in using prevarication?" asked his friend.

"Well," said the diplomat, "he is certainly not justified in calling it by that name."—Puck.

"Let me but own the earth," said the financier, with characteristic bravado, "and I care not who writes the people's songs!"—Life.

BOOK NOTICES.

Herbert Quick has tried the experiment, with "In the Fairyland of America, a Tale of the Pukwudjies," (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. Price \$1.20 net), of introducing to readers whose fairy lore is of alien origin a fairy realm distinctly American. The little Pukwudjies of one of Hiawatha's tales are with light touches transformed by Mr. Quick into mischievous but not malicious elves inhabiting our western ravines, with native birds and beasts as their familiars; and this whole fairy outfit gets into friendly relations with a healthy American boy. The book is one of those best of all children's books, books which children live in and their elders enjoy. It is dignified without density, youthful without childishness, and humorous without horseplay. Breaking through the story here and

there are touches also of good-natured satire, the application of which is so artistically concealed that while no reader is likely to appropriate it to himself none will fail to see its admirable fitness for some of his neighbors.

M. M. Mangasarian, lecturer of the Independent Religious society of Chicago, offers "A New Catechism" (Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co.), as an effort in the direction of expressing "the thoughts of men and women and children living in these new times." Doubtless this catechism will meet the wishes of those who have escaped from the trammels of conventional piety but have not yet awakened to the truths of the spiritual universe. It is a catechism of the new credulity—faith in materialistic "science" and external morality.

PERIODICALS.

—The Direct Legislation Record for December (Newark, N. J.) has begun a new department in which proportional representation is to be the specialty, under the editorship of Robert Tyson, of Toronto.

—The Pilgrim for January (Battle Creek, Mich.: Willis J. Abbot, editor. Price 10 cents) includes in its varied collection of readable matter two articles on Chinese exclusion, one by Wu Tingfang, and the other by Henry George, Jr.

—When so much respectable ignorance about anarchy finds expression in high places, some good may be looked for from Heber Newton's leading article



CHINESE EXCLUSION

The editorial article of THE PUBLIC entitled,

"The Chinese Exclusion Act,"

has been put in pamphlet form. For price, etc., see list of PUBLIC LEAFLETS on next page.

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