

"They call me 'old Pingree,' 'demagogue Pingree,' 'crank,' and a lot of other things, but if you'll scratch the back of the fellows that are hollering the most about me and against me you'll find that what I'm doing or advocating is hurting some property right of theirs that isn't exactly on the square. You can go up and down the streets of Detroit, in all the stores and houses, and where you find a man that calls me all sorts of mean things, you'll discover that he is interested in some property or some political job that my reforms would make over; would correct abuses in. I was over in Chicago the other day and I stopped at the Annex, and Mr. — came to me, and while we were talking (we're old acquaintances) he said to me:

"'Ping, why are you making all this muss about municipal ownership of street railways? Why don't you let well enough alone?"

"'Sam,' said I, 'how much street railway stock do you own in the companies in the United States?"

"He got red in the face and wouldn't answer me—said that had nothing to do with the question.

"'Yes,' said I, 'it has a great deal to do with the question. If you didn't own a share and was a thinking man, instead of a money-maker, you wouldn't call my efforts a 'muss.' You'd use a better term; you'd be complimentary and would help me along. But you've got stock in these companies, you know it's watered, you know you have a thousand privileges that ain't right, and you're sore when I come along and urge the people to make you be square. You call me a fool and the people anarchists.'"

The governor thought this a capital story, and he laughed long over it. Then he took a new tack. He said:

"Most men can't get a great deal of money on hand without becoming selfish and cowards. In war times few men had money, and there was bravery on every side; the idea that money was better than honor wasn't very strong in those days. But during our little trouble with Spain I saw more middle-aged men get white at the prospect of having to go to the front than I supposed were in existence. Why? They've got money-fat on the brain, and that's a form of paresis that kills all courage.

"We're getting too much money in the hands of the few in this country. I don't believe our governmental system causes this or that it's any fault of the republic. It's due to selfishness—greed—the desire to have every-

thing and boss everything. We're going to be badly hurt by this selfishness some day if we are not able to reach it by legislation, because it will breed violence, riots and destruction of property. You can't steal from ten people with one hand and give to two people with the other hand, and square your conscience.

"That's the trouble with the republican party to-day. It's got a ham-fat brain, and money is its curse. The young, the independent, the free-thinking, can't stand for it, and if the democrats ever get any sense and put forth a good platform they'll give the republican machine just such a jolt as it got when Tilden ran and after Blaine was defeated."

Mr. Johnson came into the ante-room just then. Later that night I wrote this interview or talk out, and asked the governor's permission to print it. He read it, then laughed, and said as he handed the manuscript back:

"You don't want that until I'm dead."

He is now at rest.—H. I. Cleveland, in Chicago Record-Herald of June 23.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

THREE-CENT FARES.

A special to the Plaindealer from Lorain last night said:

Tom L. Johnson will put his Lorain street railroad on a three-cent fare basis on and after the 21st of the present month. In a notice to the public the officials of the line say they desire to put in force the three-cent fare because it is more nearly adjusted to the requirements of its patrons than existing rates. The new rate of three cents will carry patrons anywhere within the corporate limits of either Lorain or Elyria, but a nine-cent fare will be charged between the two places.

"This is the road to which I referred recently when I said that a three-cent fare line would be in operation in Ohio within a few days," said Mayor Johnson last night. "I own only one share in the line, however, and the directors of the road are entitled to all the credit if there is any credit to be given.

"I believe I am on the board of directors, but requested that my name be dropped some two weeks ago. What action has been taken concerning the request I have not as yet been notified.

"It was decided about two weeks ago by the directors to place the line on a three-cent fare basis. The result will be watched closely, as the matter is somewhat in the nature of an experiment in so small a town. The directors can change back to the old basis

at any time, as there is no ordinance compelling a three-cent rate. This will be the first line in Ohio to operate on such a basis.

"A large part of the stock of the line is held by the old Johnson company, in which I have holdings, but by no means a controlling interest. Stockholders in the old Johnson company include members of the Dupont family, and a number of Cleveland, Louisville, Wilmington and New York parties.

"While the action to put the line on a three-cent basis was taken exclusively by the directors of the road, many of the stockholders in the old Johnson company were fully aware of what was going on." — Cleveland (O.) Plaindealer of June 20.

GAMBLING MUST BE SUPPRESSED.

Orders for a strict enforcement of the laws relating to gamblers and gambling were issued by the mayor Wednesday after a conference with police officials and other city officials. Police Judges Fiedler and Kennedy were present, as were also Chief Corner, Deputy Rowe, Police Director Lapp, and Director of Law Beacom.

The conference lasted about two hours. Those present refused to give out anything for publication at its conclusion, but it is known that the mayor insisted on gambling being suppressed and told the police officials that he would hold them accountable. The police judges said they would do all that they could when the cases reached their courts to dissuade gamblers making their home in Cleveland. The mayor was particularly insistent on the suppression of slot machines.—Plaindealer of June 20.

THE SLOT MACHINES MUST GO.

Four owners of slot machines waited on the mayor as a committee, yesterday afternoon. They had been given a hint that the mayor would like to see them in his office at five p. m. and they were on hand to the minute. The men in question own perhaps half of all the slot machines that are in operation in Cleveland.

"Gentlemen," began the mayor, "I am informed that among you you control a great many of the slot machines of the city. I want to know whether you will put them out of business or whether you prefer to have the police do it. I am aware that these machines are of considerable value and that it would mean quite a loss of money to you if they were destroyed. That is why I have