

we'll simply have to close the headquarters on the square. I don't see anything wrong in asking officeholders under a democratic administration to contribute to the expenses of a democratic campaign. They all expect it and the people expect it, too. Officeholders are the ones who are supposed to pay for the music."

Just where the money is to come from to keep the democratic machinery in the county oiled during the fall campaign is not quite clear. Candidates' assessments will likely be pretty stiff, and Mayor Johnson will have to go down into his own pocket for a large wad.—News Article in Cleveland Plain Dealer of July 19.

Mayor Johnson's order against the collection of political assessments from employes of the city has caused surprise among politicians and sneering insinuations of insincerity from party organs opposed to him politically. They cannot understand how one who holds a municipal position can take the stand assumed by Mayor Johnson, because the assessment of officeholders "for the benefit of the party" has been the regular custom for many years.

It is true that the custom has long existed, but it is none the less pernicious, demoralizing to the service, a wrong to taxpayers, and sometimes cruel to the employe, who is compelled to give up part of his pay that is badly needed for the support of his family. Under previous administrations assessments have been various percentages of the employe's salary or wages, generally at least two per cent. Under a late republican municipal administration the assessment went as high as seven per cent. This was nothing short of downright robbery, and either the employes or the public, or both, were the victims of that robbery.

The pretext for these political assessments is that the employe owes his position to the party, and therefore should contribute of his earnings to the party's support. The plea is of itself one of the strongest arguments for the complete divorce of municipal government from partisan politics. Make employment in the city's service dependent wholly on fitness for the position and retention in that employment dependent on faithful and efficient service, eliminating altogether considerations of political "work" or "pull," and there would be no occasion or excuse for

political assessments of municipal employes.

Take the situation as it now is, for example. Mayor Johnson owed his election to his declaration that he would run the affairs of the municipality on a business basis, and not use his position for the building up of a political machine. The people believed in the sincerity of that declaration. Mayor Johnson is responsible for the entire force of municipal employes and it is his duty to see that they perform efficient service and earn the pay they receive from the money of the taxpayers. They did not get their places from any political party. They are the employes of the people of Cleveland, without regard to political views. They are paid by money collected from the people in taxes. They are responsible to Mayor Johnson as the chief servant of the municipality. No political party appointed them or retains them in their positions, or pays their salaries or wages. They are under no obligations, legal or moral, to contribute against their will to the fund of any political party.

If an employe of the city holds a \$1,200 position, and performs its duties satisfactorily, he is entitled to all the money he has earned. If it is a \$600 position the same is true. What right has a political collector to demand of the one \$24 or of the other \$12 "for the benefit of the party?" If the employe is worth to the public what the public pays him, he is entitled to all his earnings. If he is not, he should be dismissed, or the pay of the position reduced to the value of the services rendered. That is what is done in the business world and the municipal establishment should be run strictly on business principles.

The injustice of the political assessment system is more sharply defined when it is known that a number of republicans are holding positions under Mayor Johnson's administration. The political assessor makes no distinction of individual politics. Such a position is assessed so much. No matter what the political views of the holder of that position, he is expected to pay promptly, and he pays. The wrong of compelling a republican to contribute to a democratic campaign fund, or a democrat to a republican political fund when the conditions are reversed, should be apparent to every fair-minded person.

If any man, democrat or republican, officeholder or in no way connected with the municipal government, chooses to contribute to the fund of his

political party, that is his privilege as a private citizen. If he declines to contribute, that, too, is within his rights. But political "assessments" are indefensible, both from the individual and public point of view, and Mayor Johnson is entitled to credit for taking a firm stand against the practice under his administration.

The radical remedy for the manifold evils attendant upon the municipal political assessment system is to absolutely divorce municipal affairs from partisan politics. When that is done the people will have a right to expect the full value of their money in faithful and efficient service. There will then be no excuse for political assessments, either of two per cent. or seven per cent., with the dishonesty the higher assessment suggests or induces.—Editorial in Plain Dealer of July 21.

STREET CLEANING IN CLEVELAND.

Electricity now cleans Cleveland streets with a new sweeper, the first of its kind, that was given its first working test last week. It will sweep all the streets on which there are car tracks with the exception of Superior, which is 200 feet wide and is cleaned by the "white wings" men. The electric sweeper is the invention of General Manager Ira McCormick, of the Big Consolidated Electric railway, and grew out of a suggestion of Mayor Tom L. Johnson.

One of the first things the mayor did after getting into office was to start a clean streets campaign. He found that the contractors, working with the ordinary horse-drawn sweepers, charged one dollar a square. He sent for McCormick and called his attention to a forgotten clause in the street car company's franchise that required it to keep its tracks clean. The result is the electric trolley street sweeper that will revolutionize the cleaning of streets on which there are electric car lines all over the world.

The necessity of sweeping the company's tracks for nothing started the street railway manager thinking, and he went back to the mayor with an offer to sweep the streets through which the lines of his company run for 20 cents a square, a fifth of the present price the city pays. The mayor told him he could have the business, and McCormick went to work on his trolley sweeper. He built in the company's shops a ponderous car, having, in addition to the motors for driving it, another 35 horsepower motor for driving revolving

brushes under the car. In front of the car is one brush eight feet long that sweeps the center of the street. Behind is another brush 16 feet long that sticks out on one side of the rear of the car. It is swung clear out over the pavement at the side of the track until it reaches the curb. The brushes are whirled and the car propelled by current taken from the wire over the tracks by the trolley pole, and the dirt is swept into a long, neat pile in the gutter. In the first test it swept the dirtiest street in the city, Broadway, at the rate of seven miles an hour.

This first sweeper cost \$2,800, but succeeding sweepers that are under way will cost less. The machine makes a noise like a cyclone, but two dashes through a double-tracked street clean it better than any other street sweepers ever made.

To sprinkle the miles of streets the sweeper cleans without stopping, a great sprinkling-car with a 5,000-gallon tank is used, the streets being sprinkled to prevent dust and make it possible for the sweeper to leave them cleaner. The trolley sweeper is so fast that McCormick thinks the company will make an immense profit at 20 cents a square for sweeping the streets. Mr. McCormick's company has over 100 miles of tracks in the Cleveland streets, and as the sweepers are completed they will run over the tracks of Senator Hanna's street railway, the Little Consolidated, and a large proportion of the infamously dirty streets will be kept clean by electricity.—Cleveland correspondence of Chicago Record-Herald of July 21.

Superintendent of Streets Wilhelm stated yesterday that he would add about 15 men to the force of white wings in the course of a few days. That will bring the force up to a total of about 60 men. Wilhelm says he would like to put on about 100 more men, but the street cleaning fund will not permit of such an expense.

The scope of the department is being broadened gradually. Wilhelm hopes that before long the city will not only own all the apparatus used to clean and sprinkle the streets, but that it will also own the necessary horses.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of July 21.

If we were all satisfied with things as they are they would soon be worse.—Puck.

"THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN."

For The Public.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.—Jesus.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago the declaration of independence was signed. It declared that all men were created free and equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights, and that among these rights were life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And now, while we are supposed to be astonishing the world with our progress, few men are in the possession of the right to earn a living, though many have been fortunate enough to find masters to hire them. Considerable numbers, however, traveling both at home and in foreign lands, are unable to get even a master's permission to support themselves and families.

Whatever may be the shortcomings and defects of Kipling's greatest song, if I have read it aright he meant to assert the white man's duty to civilize the savage and barbarous peoples and teach them the way they should go. The most obvious of necessary qualifications for the prosecution of this work would seem to be a knowledge of civilization and the way men should go. Despite our lack of knowledge of these things, however, we have enthusiastically taken up "The White Man's Burden" and made it, as it were, our national hymn.

Is it not amazing that, after the centuries of teachings by men whose doctrines have raised them to the universally reputed dignity of God's inspired mouthpieces, men and nations should still act toward each other as if they were inhabiting a desert island, scantily stocked with provisions, instead of the bountiful earth, or as if this were the chance world which Hafed dreamed of, in which there were no such things as natural laws and consequences?

The Hebrew prophets were gifted with singular insight into the nature of things. The natural rewards of conforming our individual and collective lives to the principles of equity, the vast abundance of the earth under proper apportionment and development, and the penalties of disobeying the law of justice were ever the burden of their prophecies, songs and denunciations. The direst consequences were predicted as the result of national unrighteousness—prophecies which have been most

terribly fulfilled. Isaiah's parable of the vineyard is as applicable to the modern world as it was to that of his day. God still gives the world to man, filled abundantly with all things necessary for his happiness and highest development. He still "looks for judgment, but beholds oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry." And the law that "the wages of sin is death" has not been repealed. Sacred and secular history unite in testifying that national unrighteousness and aggression lead to ultimate national destruction. And our common sense teaches us that force exerted in aggression must inevitably raise up force in resistance.

If it is true that the schoolmaster has been abroad in the land, and that as a result of his labors enlightenment has taken the place of intellectual darkness, let the nations give evidence of the fact by adopting methods superior to those employed in the dark ages.

The sword is not the proper implement of true civilization; it is fatal to victim and victor alike. Our ancestors stole, enslaved and debauched a race of human beings, making veritable cattle of them. It is in the nature of things that such national crimes should bear fruits, and we reaped some of them in the awful civil war. We are still reaping others. We despise the black man because he still remains in some degree what we made him. We hang and burn negroes in order to make them virtuous, without reflecting that it is not in the nature of such atrocities to make them virtuous, but to make them revengeful.

If we have failed to civilize the negro, the reason is plain enough to those who will see. We have neglected to first civilize ourselves. How shall we give the colored people here or abroad a better civilization than we ourselves possess? We can but "compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and, when he is made, make him twofold more the child of hell than ourselves."

As we contemplate the encroachments of Europe and America in the far east, let us remember the time when Rome was enlarging her borders, extending her sphere of influence and forcibly civilizing the barbarians according to her notions. Rome taught the barbarians her ways—taught them by object lessons and express training the science of war, thus utilizing them for further conquests. They bettered the in-