

ing the proposed traction extension ordinance and its sponsors (p. 305), is now at hand. Judge Murray F. Tuley's careful analysis of its provisions and exposure of its iniquities is in itself enough. His ability and sincerity, for which his reputation is established beyond question, are a guarantee both of the good faith and the soundness of his objections. But if Judge Tuley had never spoken, Mayor Harrison's treatment of the Referendum League's protest should be a sufficient warning to the public to accept this ordinance with the utmost caution. If the ordinance were not corrupt, the Mayor, as its chief official champion, would be under no great temptation to descend to the level of the buffoon and indulge in the pettifogging which characterizes his response to the Referendum League. Their protest is dignified and argumentative, and as the protest of the useful organization that has secured every public policy petition thus far voted on, it was entitled to respectful consideration at the hands of the Mayor of the city. Instead of that, the members are regaled with artful dodging and insulted with vulgar abuse. When the chief magistrate of a great city can find no better response to a respectful protest against a public policy which he proposes, what is to be thought of that policy—especially when it involves a violation of his pledges, and, as Judge Tuley pointedly intimates, its success would enormously enrich a traction ring at the expense of the city?

GRAFT IN SOCIETY—A NEGLECTED BRANCH OF HISTORY.

Historians have often passed over the interesting stories that tell what far-reaching results often come from apparently insignificant circumstances. Clodius one evening takes a drop too much, goes forth on a lively venture and perhaps changes the course of history. This has got into the books, but is the exception. The Duchess of So and So becomes miffed at Lord Blank and can command

enough votes to turn the scale and oust the government. Only a belated diary will tell this inside history. The wife of Senator Simkins gives a function; and social cards are played so skillfully that a bill is killed at the punch-bowl, or amid the waving palms of the conservatory. Such things happen, but they are told neither in dignified history nor in the Associated Press.

What paper publishes the fact that Mayor Timkins lunches five days in the week with A. B. Tomkins, president of the Crown City Water Works? It may be that the water works transgress their charter, give muddy water and charge what rates they please; it may be that some officious citizens protest—but what does it amount to? Timkins lunches with Tomkins.

It is disagreeable to be suspicious and cast aspersions. And society's functions are jolly and delightful. The son of C. D. Goster, president of the Crown City Railways Company, dances the mid-winter German with the daughter of the city attorney, Captain Foster. And besides, Lieutenant Governor Gloster lunches with President Goster whenever he comes to the city. The Lieutenant Governor is a countryman, more or less green, and he is much flattered at lunching in the swellest clubs with the elegant Goster. How can the city attorney put heart into a suit against the company for not doing the agreed amount of paving, seeing that his daughter has given all her heart to the president's son? Or how can the Lieutenant Governor fail to throw his influence in the legislature on the side of his friend, the elegant Goster, who has been so nice to him? What in fact is the chief function of the elegant Goster? He himself once whispered it to an intimate friend. It is to be nice to lieutenant governors, mayors, councilmen, etc.

The following story is authentic. The Crown City Hardware Company is one of the mammoth establishments of the world. It does an enormous business in all parts of this great country and even abroad. The Crown City Hardware Company enjoyed most valuable switch-track privileges on various streets. One day an influential new member of the city

council was sitting in the office of a certain lawyer, who was as eager as the new member to do something startling and distinguished. The question arose of the "pull" the Crown City Hardware Company seemed to have, and the attorney happened to know how it came about, and on what slender thread of right the pull hung. So these two patriots and champions of the people's rights then and there determined to make a test of the matter. Of course the C. C. H. Company pretty soon got wind of this intention. And how did the president and manager circumvent the obnoxious inquiry? To cut short a long and touching story Mr. and Mrs. New Member and Mr. and Mrs. Attorney found themselves invited to dinners and receptions which had been previously longed for with far-off eyes. The gates of the social heaven were suddenly opened to them; for Mrs. President and Mrs. Manager were both high up in the ranks and the two together could make a go of anybody they would take up. Thus did the investigations of the switch-track privileges cease. There are more ways in the great world of graft to get things done or not done than by the mere vulgar fashion of paying actual cash.

Besides the happy parties to the deals, only those who are privileged to catch occasional faint whispers from the inside can ever know how many appointments, elections, passings of ordinances, and non-enforcements of laws, depend upon pattings on the back in the shallow fellowship of clubs and the social swim. For just as personal likes and dislikes, personal slights and favors have, as we may read in old diaries and memoirs, turned the fates of kings and governments, so to-day the personal associations of modern society play their part in our all absorbing games of graft and ambition.

J. H. DILLARD.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, September 1.

It appears from the reports of fighting at the seat of the Russian-Japanese war (p. 327), which, however, are not altogether trustworthy, that the Japanese have