

In this case, as in that of the Cuban reciprocity bill, the Republican insurgents deliberately voted for the motion to prevent their doing the very thing which they insisted they wished to do. Such is the stifling power of a party organization under the rigid rules of the House when the party whip is cracked.

ROBERT BAKER.

CLEVELAND.

Cleveland, March 16, 1904.—After the tremendous pluralities the Republicans secured in this State and city last Fall, it was generally supposed that Tom L. Johnson had been eliminated from practical politics, being so completely discredited at home that thenceforth he could be ignored by the Republicans as a "has been," and allowed to serve the remainder of his term in peace, then to follow the example of defeated politicians generally by passing into retirement. But the Republican leaders are evidently fearful that Johnson is not destined to follow the example of discredited politicians. For four successive elections he has defeated them here, and notwithstanding their great victory over him last Fall they have already given evidence that they are afraid to meet him in the political arena this spring. They know at what cost they won their victory over him in this county last Fall, and they do not care to have a repetition of that experience, when in all probability they would have the cost and lose, too. In order to avoid a contest with him they have passed what is known as the Chapman bill, a bill to abolish Spring elections.

"Golden Rule" Jones of Toledo is also a factor in this legislation. He has been quite troublesome to the machine in his city and it is intended to retire him as well as Johnson.

An effect of the Chapman bill in Cleveland is to continue in office for eight months, the Mayor, City Solicitor, City Treasurer and City Auditor. They will go out of office January 1, 1906, instead of May 1, 1905.

It likewise continues in office one-half of the members of council, the school director and one-half of the members of the school council; two justices of the peace, and a police judge for a similar period.

This new law makes all municipal, county, State and national elections occur at the same time. The next ballot here will have nearly four hundred names upon it, as there will be about seventy people to be elected and five or six tickets on the ballot.

The so-called "Rickets law," passed at the same time, will submit to the voters of the State a constitutional amendment whereby all municipal elections will occur in the Fall of odd years and all State elections in the Fall of even years. Under the Longworth law adopted two years ago this constitutional amendment can be placed in the party column if endorsed by the State political conventions, thus

getting the benefit of the straight party vote either for or against it, as the State convention decides. Without the party vote of the Republican party the amendment cannot carry; so the separation of State from municipal elections is still left in the hands of the Republican State convention.

The citizens of Cleveland are very much excited over prospective school legislation. Two plans are before the legislature for a reorganization of the schools of the State, made necessary by a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the State making all the school laws pertaining to municipalities invalid. These plans are known as the Cincinnati and Cleveland plans.

The former requires a large school council, the members being elected by wards and the council having entire charge of the executive and legislative branches, as well as of the department of instruction.

The latter requires a small board elected at large with legislative duties only. The executive is elected independently. The department of instruction is under a superintendent, responsible only to the executive head and not responsible to any body for the appointment of teachers.

The difference between the systems is, in substance, that the tenure of teachers in Cincinnati is determined by politics, while in Cleveland it depends on efficiency and good behavior. The Cincinnati plan is championed by Geo. B. Cox, of that city, sometimes called "Boss" Cox. The Cleveland plan is unanimously favored by the people of Cleveland regardless of political affiliations, excepting the Republican machine, now known as the "Herrick-Dick-Cox Combination," which has taken up the mantle of the late Senator Hanna. The prominent educators of the State favor the Cleveland plan, and President Elliot, of Harvard College endorses it heartily.

The friends of Mayor Johnson are very jubilant over the situation, as they believe that the independent voters of this city will never be cajoled again into voting a party ticket for the sake of harmony.

D. S. LUTHER.

is as yet no conclusive news regarding the matter, but the probabilities are that there has been no evacuation.

Naval skirmishes in the region of Port Arthur have continued, the most important of the war having occurred on the 10th. Reports of this fight are conflicting. They depend upon their origin—whether Russian or Japanese. Taking them all together they indicate that both sides suffered considerable loss in men and ships, but that no decisive or immediate advantage was secured by either.

The strict neutrality of China during this war between foreign Powers on her own territory is demanded by Russia, to the extent even of holding her troops to the south of the great wall. Notice to this effect was reported from St. Petersburg and Peking on the 10th to have been given to China. In obedience to that notice the Chinese government must not send troops beyond the great wall, and must exercise its influence to restrain Chinamen to the north of the wall from interfering with railway and telegraph lines. Failure on the part of China to heed this warning is to be considered by Russia as a breach of neutrality.

Peremptory action to guarantee neutrality on the part of the United States was taken on the 10th by President Roosevelt. He issued a proclamation supplementary to his original proclamation of neutrality, directing "all officials of the government, civil, military and naval," not only to observe the formal neutrality proclamation, "but also to abstain from either action or speech which can legitimately cause irritation to either of the combatants."

The most notable event of the week in the United States is the decision in the so-called "railroad merger" case (p. 41), rendered by the Federal Supreme Court on the 14th. This case grew out of an attempt made about two years and a half ago (vol iv., p. 505), to centralize railway control west of the Mississippi. A "holding" corporation had been organized under the laws of New Jersey, called the Northern Securities company. Its capital was \$400,000,000, and its

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Week ending Thursday, March 17.

Persistent rumors in connection with the Russo-Japanese war (p. 775), rumors emanating, however, from Japanese sources, have for several days encouraged a belief that Port Arthur has been evacuated by the Russians. These rumors have been as persistently denied from Russian sources. There