

best for administration, provided the one man is fully responsible directly to the people of the municipality whose affairs he administers.

With a constitution drawn upon the lines indicated above, including authority, of course, to establish the initiative and referendum as a check upon corruption in the councils, the cities of the state adopting it would soon become mædels for municipal government everywhere. And why shouldn't the state of Ohio make this experiment—this experiment in harmony with sound political principles, and the only one that has not yet failed? Now that the way is clear for almost ideal municipal legislation in Ohio, why cling to the systemless experimentation which has everywhere and in all its variations only made the baffling problem of municipal government still more baffling? Why not turn to first principles and give the rest of the country an example of an elastic municipal system, of a true home rule system, of a system of municipal government by the people governed?

Under such a system every Ohio city would be free to express the degree of civilization to which its inhabitants aspire, and through it the spirit of emulation and local pride would tend to lift them all to a realization of better and better things in municipal affairs.

### THE DEPENDENT MASSES.

Man thinks by necessity.

The coal strike and the beef trust, to their credit be it said, are making people think who were till then, to all appearance, incapable of that operation.

Every kick makes the donkey travel. And even a donkey can see that a cordon of monopoly is being drawn tightly around the American people as elaborately and effectively as those which Lord Kitchener's forces used in entrapping the Boers—a cordon which surely and inevitably reduces them to the condition of a garrison on the point of capitulation.

The people are beginning to open their eyes at last.

They are usually asleep at election times. Their periodical visits to the

polling booth resemble a somnambulist procession.

Now they have a bone to pick with the capitalist monopolists and "we shall see what we shall see."

"Well, but surely people can do what they like with their own," your smooth-tongued, full-bellied, empty-headed, trust-bamboozled simpleton will say.

Of course they can.

Where is the security for property if a man can't "wallop his own nigger?" or lock up at his own sweet will the mine that God specially created for the exclusive benefit of himself and his heirs in perpetuity? There is none.

If the public are in any way inconvenienced by the prospect of anthracite coal reaching the respectable figure of \$14 a ton, the public will please remember that their welfare formed no part of the intention embodied in the special creation above referred to; and that it is thankful they ought to be that these coal barons, out of the goodness of their hearts and not as a matter of legal compulsion, do sometimes keep their mines open, and allow the people to purchase these "black diamonds" if they have the money.

Really, democracy, thy name is ingratitude!

For think for a moment of the obligations you are under to these owners of the earth. Instead of keeping to themselves every square inch of the country, as they might have done, they actually allow you, the public—yes, you, the common scum of humanity; the accident of accidents whom a breath might make as a breath has made—to use the city streets and the country roads, aye and the railroads, too, for a consideration, as though your names were written in the original charter conferred upon these superior beings.

Is there need of more evidence?

Well, then, let us take the tariff wall. These same classes said to you: "Let us build this wall to keep the foreigner out; for if the blamed foreigner gets a chance he will fling coal, beef and other deadly missiles not provided for in the Geneva convention, at your unprotected heads, until the necessaries of life become so

dirt cheap that you can't afford to buy them because you will have no work to do."

This was quite right. Men from whom, as above shown, you derive your permission to live, deserve all the help that little microbes like you can give them.

But now here comes the rub.

A few degenerate parasites, grossly unworthy of the patronage and protection thus extended to them, are not ashamed to assert now, that the tariff wall was built, not to keep the foreigner out, but to shut the American citizen in! Can ingratitude and audacity go further than that?

Is there any sufficient reason why these worse-than-anarchists should not be hanged? None at all—unless it be that ropes are too expensive owing to the trust having, in obedience to fashion, sent up their price.

They are always crying out for justice, these agitators.

But they have had more than justice, they have had mercy!

And for that they must thank the trusts.

T. SCANLON.

## NEWS

The civil war in Hayti (p. 296) appears now to have extended all over the republic, and conditions are reported as growing worse daily. Government troops under Gen. Nord Alexis were defeated again on the 14th in a battle at San Miguel, which they burned upon retreating. But notwithstanding the military situation, the new chamber of deputies was organized at Port au Prince on the 19th, with Deetjen Senequist as president of the chamber; and proceedings for the election by the chamber of one-third of the senators, pursuant to the constitution of 1889, were begun.

The attack upon Cumana, on the north coast of Venezuela, in the State of Cumana, and not of "Bermudez," as accidentally misstated last week (p. 296), culminated on the 19th in the defeat of the government forces and the occupation of the city by the revolutionists, who now hold several customs ports, including Cumana, La Guairas, Angustora, Vela, and Barcelona. At Angustora three