

to ordinary politicians, are supremely simple. It is an object lesson to other candidates. He welcomes to his meetings all opponents, gladly sharing his time and forum with the ablest of them. In vain has been his attempt to get Mark Hanna to meet him in debate. No bird was ever more wary of the net spread in his sight by the fowler. It would be an instructive combat. And this ideal but discarded method of political education has demonstrated in Ohio that a free and open platform overmatches money and machinery.

I do not question that, in his implacable purpose to drive privilege to the wall, Johnson avails himself of a legitimate political weapon and condition, but that he uses unworthy means it will take stronger testimony to establish than that furnished by discomfited politicians or disappointed Democratic newspapers, whose voices now usurp public attention. Wait until the atmosphere clears and the accused rejoins. Especially let truth-seekers turn their lenses searchingly upon the impending campaign wherein great principles of self-government will find an exposition worthy of the best republican traditions.

THE MAN WITH THE FOOTBALL HEAD.

For The Public.

The man was certainly respectable. There were no indications in his well brushed suit of ready-to-wear apparel of criminal tendencies, and his hat—but on second thought I would not be certain about his hat. His nervous and erratic movements as he sat on the park bench in the shade distracted my attention, so that any positive statement as to the hat cannot be made. There is a strong probability that he had no hat, but that is not essential to the understanding of later occurrences and may be referred to the police department as being more in their line.

He might have been a full back, or a half back, or some other important part of the anatomy of a football club, and the condition of his hair would justify such an inference, if any were necessary.

He sat half on the park seat and half off, and made desperate assaults at intervals upon a newspaper, which he held in one hand; and as I approached him I saw he was deeply absorbed in doing a lot of mathematical things with some long rows of figures he had set down on a large block of paper that rested on his knees.

I have enormous respect for long rows of figures—there is so much that

can be done with them when you know how—and extreme veneration for the people who claim to know how to manipulate them; and at once a feeling of great respect for the man with the football head came into my mind, and a desire to scrape a speaking acquaintance overcame my fear of his nervous gesticulations and peculiar mutterings.

I scraped, and he made no objections. He was so much higher in the mental planes, or mountains, than I that he could add and subtract and multiply eleven thousand millions of dollars easier than I could one.

It may not be out of place here to mention that he had not a dollar in his pocket, and no idea where he would be able to raise enough elastic currency to buy his next meal, but that did not lessen his enjoyment in manipulating millions or prevent him from borrowing 50 cents from me just as I had concluded the process of scraping his acquaintance. But the psychological knowledge I gained was worth 50 cents.

A psychological panic that busts your savings bank and takes your last dollar won't hurt half as hard as a real old-fashioned panic without any psychological attachment.

"Look here," said my football headed friend, pointing to the newspaper, "our farms produce four thousand million dollars. Shaw says so and statistics back him up in it. There's prosperity, and you can't get rid of it. If we want to, we can make it eight thousand millions easily, but what I want to know is, where is my share of this prosperity; where is my particular haystack? Have you any part of it hidden around your clothes? We imported one thousand million dollars last year. Did you see anything of my share of this particular branch of prosperity?"

"Perhaps your share is purely psychological," I ventured to suggest.

"Six million operatives in these factories and workshops," continued he, "annually sign pay rolls aggregating \$3,000,000,000. What I want to find out is whereabouts in that \$3,000,000,000 is that seven-dollar-a-week job that got away from me last month. It is there, for the figures prove it. I need it."

"I don't know anything about it," I observed. "If it was a three dollar, or a four dollar job, or even a five dollar; but a seven dollar one—why didn't you lock it up?"

"Ha, Ha!" he ejaculated, "I never thought of that; and besides, there was no lock belonging to the job. Amid so

much prosperity I never dreamed the job could get away from me. But I think I see where in the dim and distant future I shall recover it. When the annual productive capacity of the American people reaches the \$11,000,000,000 point, and when the bankers are legally authorized to issue some emergency currency circulating notes to move the crops and keep the wind from coming out of the stock jobbers' shares, then about that time something will bust, and among the fragments I will find that seven-dollar job. It's clear. Nobody can help seeing it. But what puzzles me is how to tide over matters until the elastic currency circulating notes begin to circulate, and the psychological atmosphere warrants that my draft upon prosperity shall be honored. My dear sir, have you a fifty-cent piece about you—not necessarily elastic, but somewhat current—that you could invest in the sure thing I have outlined to you?"

I did not immediately yield to his assaults, but when he came at me with the balance of trade of unknown millions, and the necessity of our getting more markets where we could sell everything and buy nothing, and the psychological microbe, I fell.

It is unnecessary to say more.

JACKSON BIGGLES.

DENVER'S CHARTER MUDDLE.

Denver, like Chicago, is cursed with a set of particularly odious public utility corporations. In the Colorado capital the water plant, as well as the transportation and lighting plants, is still in private hands, with very unsatisfactory results. The existing state of affairs in Denver, as in Chicago, has tended to develop a strong radical sentiment. The result was that the progressive element controlled the body that framed the charter that met defeat at the polls last Tuesday, after a sensational campaign, in which fraud and intimidation no doubt played a large part, as charged by the friends of the proposed charter. The similarity in some respects between the situations in the two cities may make Denver's experience instructive for Chicago, where the subject of charter reform is pressing for solution.

Denver, as Chicago is attempting to do, began the work of charter reform by amending the constitution of the state. The constitutional amendment adopted last fall consolidated at once the city of Denver and the county of Arapahoe, and made the existing Denver city officials the officers of the combined city and county. The

amendment also authorizes the people of Denver to frame their own charter without reference to the state legislature. Under this authority 21 tax-paying electors were chosen to frame a charter. This is the instrument that failed of indorsement at the polls last Tuesday. Within 30 days another election must be held for the selection of another charter convention of 21 to frame a new city constitution for submission to the voters. This process must be kept up until a document is finally evolved that will meet with popular approval, and until then the existing set of officials, who do not appear to be a very good lot, will continue to hold office. Obviously it is to the interest of the present office-holding regime to postpone the adoption of the charter as long as possible, and this element was an important factor in securing the defeat of the charter submitted last Tuesday.

The convention of 21 that framed the defeated charter appear to have been good and honorable citizens (two of them were women). They had many good general ideas, and their draft of a charter contained many excellent features. But the members of the body taken collectively were obviously amateurs in the science of government. Judging from their product they lacked practical political sense, for they piled up needless obstacles to their own success. For example: The proposed charter contained a provision raising the saloon license fee from \$600 to \$1,000 a year. Just think of the tremendous opposition to the charter project which that one provision (which had no proper place in the charter at all, but was a subject for legislation under the charter) must have called into play. Then, too, the hostility displayed toward the public utility corporations was carried to excess. These interests, therefore, fought the charter, and did so openly. In view of all the circumstances it is not surprising to be told by a friend of the charter that its defeat was brought about by "the special interests antagonized, which are principally three—the public utility corporations, the liberal element (saloon and gambling interests), and the office-holding class, which is perpetuated in office until a new charter is adopted." The first mistake was the provision in the constitutional amendment perpetuating in office until the adoption of a charter the Denver officials, thus ranging on the side of delay all the powerful office-holding element. The next error was that of the charter conven-

tion in unnecessarily inviting the united opposition of the entire saloon element. A progressive charter, especially one designed to give a city more power over its public service corporations, must arouse enough opposition anyway, without inviting such as is unnecessary.

The charter, as framed by the convention, provided for a plan of government in which the mayor should be all powerful. This was one of the criticisms made against it. The council was to consist of ten members elected at large, and the presiding officer, also to be chosen by the electors at large, like the president of the board of Cook county commissioners. There was no provision for ward representation, which was another point of criticism. A saving provision of the greatest excellence, and one that would have tended in practical operation to offset shortcomings of the charter, was that relating to the nomination of candidates. The party ticket on the Australian ballot was forbidden. Instead, it was stipulated that all names of candidates for city offices should go on the ballot in alphabetical order, under the designation of the office to be filled. The proposed charter authorized the city to acquire, own and operate any or all the so-called public utilities, but it stipulated that debts created for the purpose of such acquisition should be a charge on the service only, and not a claim against the credit of the city. The use of both the initiative and referendum was provided for in detail. A feature novel to Americans was that of the recall. By this plan, on petition of 30 per cent. of the electors any public official complained of must come before the people again for approval or rejection. Other candidates could be placed in nomination against him at such election, and unless the incumbent should receive a plurality of the votes cast, he would have to surrender his office. The civil service provisions were adequate.

The subject of franchises was dealt with at length. This division contained many excellent features, but they were jumbled together in an ill digested mass. Evidently the procedure followed was to take everything that could be found in the nature of restrictions and throw them in together, without much regard to whether or not they made up a harmonious whole. In this connection the referendum idea was clearly overdone. No franchise could be granted without a referendum, the cost of which (to be determined by the treasurer) must be paid in advance by the applicant for the franchise. This expense and inconvenience would serve as an absolute bar

to the granting of franchises of lesser consequence. The proper plan would be one that would give to the people an opportunity to demand the submission of such franchise ordinances as might arouse their interest. With all the radicalism of the proposed Denver charter, it was in one respect strikingly reactionary, though for this provision the constitutional amendment as well as the charter convention was at fault. The referendum on franchise question was to be confined to "tax paying" electors.

If bonds were to be issued against the credit of the city for municipal ownership purposes, I can see a possible justification for limiting the vote on the proposition to those who might be directly called upon to make good the loss in case of failure. But on a mere franchise question or a proposition to acquire without borrowing on the city's credit, I fail to see any justification for such a limitation. The workingman who pays car fare daily (though he may not be a direct taxpayer) is entitled to a voice in the settlement of franchise matters, as well as the property owner, who may not be a user of the service furnished, but whose holdings are likely to be benefited or injured by this or that franchise policy. No doubt this restriction on the suffrage had much to do with making the proposed charter unpopular with the nontaxpaying voters.—George C. Sikes, in Chicago Record-Herald, of Sept. 28.

In an English town a conservative member of the board of poor law guardians objected violently to the election of a lady to the board, on the ground that women could not understand accounts. The newly-elected woman soon after called attention to a bill which was presented to the guardians for payment, charging about \$25 for a soup tureen for the paupers. Investigation proved that for years the board had been systematically overcharged for all the household supplies. The old gentleman who had objected to a woman exclaimed, testily, "How can you expect me to understand these little domestic matters?" The lady answered, quietly, "I do not expect you to understand them; but, since you do not, is it not well that there should be somebody on the board who does?"—Woman's Journal.

An innovation has been introduced in the discipline of the state prison in Charlestown, Mass. The Boston, Mass., correspondent for the New York World tells the story in this way: "As a relaxation from cell life and as a reward of good conduct, baseball games are being tried with satisfactory results by