

Dr. H.J. Woodhouse
Nov 2-01 Box 541

The Public

Third Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1901.

Number 152.

LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post-office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last column of last page.

The extraordinary street car enterprises in which Tom L. Johnson is reported to have engaged since declaring himself out of business and entering upon his long cherished plan of smashing monopoly, have a strikingly suspicious appearance of having been manufactured by the Associated Press. The motive is not far to seek. Men who manipulate the Associated Press for business and political purposes have learned from experience that they can fool some of the people all of the time.

Indiana furnishes another negro lynching bee. The murderous mob in this case, however, showed evidence of being a degree in advance of the regular negro lynching mobs, along the lines of civilization, for it did not burn its victim's body until it had killed him by hanging. That is some evidence of improvement. But it was characteristic of this mob as of all the others that it was composed of citizens who believe so profoundly in "law and order" that they will have it if they have to defy all the laws and break up all the order there is to get it.

Representative Crafts, of Chicago, introduced in the legislature of Illinois on the 26th a resolution for amending the constitution with reference to the Illinois system of taxation. This resolution is substantially the same as the Elsberg bill of New York, heretofore commended in these columns and which the New York chamber of commerce has indorsed. It would abolish the state board of equalization, substituting the auto-

matic method of the Elsberg bill for apportioning state taxes among the counties, and would also establish local option in taxation in the counties for purposes of local revenue. This is a good measure, and Representative Crafts should be made to understand that in promoting its passage he will have the support of all intelligent students of taxation.

Some Chicago real estate agents are trying to play upon too confiding people the trick they played a year ago. Aided by real estate reporters they are serving the local papers with baseless yarns about rising rents. The principal sufferers by this trick last year were small owners, especially of apartment houses. Believing the boom reports, these landlords notified their tenants of an increase in their rents. But the tenants were not so easily gulled, and in consequence many small landlords faced the 1st of May with empty flats upon their hands. Rents did not go up last year, the predictions of real estate agents and real estate reporters notwithstanding. Neither will they go up this year. The tenant who cannot renew his lease upon last year's terms has a fool for a landlord. If he agrees to a higher rent his landlord has a fool for a tenant.

Having been advised by the attorney general, and advised soundly, that it cannot investigate the Dowie bank, the Illinois legislature is urged by some of its members to pass a law putting all private banks under state control. The itch for regulating private affairs by law is always breaking out somewhere and somehow.

Already the people of Cleveland have been treated to a surprise in connection with Tom L. Johnson's mayoralty campaign. At the begin-

ning it was asserted and believed that he would not have the support of a single daily newspaper besides the Recorder. But that has all changed. The Recorder has been with him from the start. The Waechter-Anzeiger, the leading German paper of northern Ohio and one of the most progressive in the country, is giving him its hearty support. The Press, which eschews editorial matter, gives him a frequent lift in the news columns. And on the 26th the Plain Dealer, which had never been friendly to Johnson, came out for him in a long and strong editorial, in which it described him as "a man of unquestioned business ability and unimpeached honesty," whose "capacity for managing large undertakings has been frequently demonstrated," and who, as "those who have known him best and watched him most closely have good reason for believing," will, if elected, "be the actual mayor of Cleveland and not the puppet of any party, faction or clique." There is no newspaper opposition to Johnson in Cleveland now except the two hard and fast republican organs, the Leader and the World.

The American senate has decided to invest the president with greater power than is possessed by the most despotic civilized sovereign on earth. It is a power, moreover, that may be withdrawn only by a two-thirds vote of each house of congress, unless the president himself voluntarily relinquishes it. The colossal magnitude of the proposed power may be appreciated by considering that it would confer on the president the right to make, repeal and extend at pleasure, all laws for the government of over 10,000,000 civilized people; and would enable him to appoint and remove at will all officers for the execution of