

his attention to the study of municipal affairs. From the work that Witt is preparing, developments that are useful as well as startling may be confidently looked for.

Another of Johnson's appointments is at least unique. He has chosen the Rev. Harris R. Cooley, pastor of the Cedar Avenue Disciples' church of which President Garfield's mother was a member, and a prominent single tax advocate of Ohio, to a place in his cabinet as director of charities. When the mayor consulted with reference to Mr. Cooley, one friend heartily approved the appointment, but made the reservation that he supposed Mr. Cooley's business experience was limited. Johnson replied: "There is plenty of business experience lying around loose; what I want for this position is a man of judgment and heart." About those qualifications there was no doubt, and Mr. Cooley is now performing the functions of director of charities in the mayor's cabinet as well as those of pastor of the church to which he has ministered for nearly a quarter of a century.

Most impressive, however, of all Mr. Johnson's acts thus far was his organization of the new council, for he it was who organized it. The council consists of 22 members, half of them being elected every year. In the last council there was a gray wolf combine. Thirteen members were united for any sort of profitable deviltry. This combination was broken up by the failure of some of its members to secure reelection. Of the hold-over members four are democrats and seven are republicans. Of the new members, six are democrats and five are republicans. The council, therefore, is republican by two majorities. Out of this material Mayor Johnson gathered six republicans and six democrats, who were believed to be straight men, and secured from them a pledge to organize the council against the gray wolves and the corporations. He proposed, to begin with, that as the council was republican, the republican members of this entirely novel kind of combine should select the candidates for council officials, and that the democrats should support them if they were the right kind of men with reference to the purpose of the combine. This was agreed to, and as a result the president, the vice president and the clerk agreed to by the 12 whom Johnson had got together were elected with virtual unanimity. Every councilman voted for them rather than expose the

fact that he was not in the honest combine. The only exception was on the vote for clerk. The old clerk had been in office twelve years. Johnson had said to him before election: "It is more important to defeat you than to elect me; but I am going for both." He was a marked man as a go-between. The candidate of Johnson's combine had made a record in the council for his hostility to monopoly legislation in favor of the street car corporations. In this instance only three besides the combine voted for the new clerk, the others scattering their votes. It was indeed a new kind of combine—perhaps the first in the history of municipal politics in which good government instead of bad, the people instead of corporations, was the object. And it worked with thrilling precision. For the first time in many years the corporate monopolies had no part in the organization of the city council.

Of course there is much talk about Johnson as a new comet in the political firmament. A whole political career has been mapped out for him. He is to run for governor next fall—or for senator—and with his election to either office as a stepping stone, he is to contest the next presidential nomination with all comers, Bryan included. This talk is entirely in the air. Johnson has no purpose of contesting the presidential nomination. He has no disposition to allow himself to be put into an attitude of hostility to Bryan. Since 1896, though disagreeing with Bryan on the silver question, he has regarded that gentleman as leading the democratic party up out of the jungles of plutocracy and monopoly, and has looked upon himself politically as being in the fight with Bryan and not against him. There are no indications of any change in this respect. Quite the contrary. Neither will Johnson be a candidate in the fall for senator or for governor. This he definitely declares in a way which to all who know him puts doubt out of the case. The whole matter may be summed up in the single statement that Johnson is mayor of Cleveland and intends to devote himself absolutely to the business of that office until the end of his term. He will allow nothing to interfere with this purpose. Neither state politics nor national politics will be permitted to divert his attention from the important civic obligations he has accepted in behalf of the city of Cleveland.

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NEWS

After the action of the Cuban constitutional convention, reported last week (p. 10), that body on the 12th adopted a more conciliatory motion regarding the so-called Platt amendment than the one it had previously passed rejecting the amendment peremptorily. It simply expressed the opinion, by a vote of 18 to 10 that the convention is opposed to the terms in some respects and to the substance in others, of the Platt amendment. The especially objectionable clauses of the amendment are the third, sixth and seventh. Those clauses are as follows:

III. That the government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations with respect to Cuba imposed by the treaty of Paris on the United States, now to be assumed and undertaken by the government of Cuba.

VI. That the Isle of Pines shall be omitted from the proposed constitutional boundaries of Cuba, the title thereto being left to future adjustment by treaty.

VII. That to enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba, and to protect the people thereof, as well as for its own defense, the government of Cuba will sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations at certain specified points, to be agreed upon with the president of the United States.

The motion was carried in connection with one providing for the appointment of a commission to wait upon President McKinley. Still more conciliatory action was taken on the 13th. The motion of the 12th was reconsidered and the whole matter left in abeyance until the return of the commission, which is required to endeavor to make a satisfactory agreement with President McKinley. The resolution appointing it provides, however, that nothing it shall agree to or offer shall be binding unless accepted by the Cuban convention as a whole. Senors Diego, Tamayo, Capote, Berriel, Portuendo and I. Lorente constitute the commission. It is to leave for Washington on the 20th under the escort of Gov. Gen. Wood.

From the Philippines there is no