

The people of this city do not yet fully realize how thoroughly they are in absolute political control of our city affairs, or that hereafter our local government will be just what they want. Our charter, like Aladdin's lamp, will bring to the public any wish a majority of the people may make. Let us wish for large things—the wisest, most just, and best city government in the world.

JAMES W. BUCKLIN.

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CANADIAN PROGRESS.

Calgary, Alberta, November 2.

Calgary is said to have about 30,000 inhabitants. The municipality owns a lighting plant, but there is also a private electric company. The private company furnishes light so cheaply that many patronize it to the exclusion of the municipal plant, but recognize that it is the publicly owned system that causes the private concern to be agreeable in the matter of rates and other matters necessary to good service.

The telephone system is a government affair and rates are \$35.00 per year for unlimited business service, while family service is at the rate of \$20.00 per year. In the Arlington hotel guests use the house 'phone without charge, and it seems to be customary for neighbors to step in for like free accommodation.

The city has just got into good running order with its publicly owned and operated street car service, and, although they had a bit of trouble because of unskilled employes, the concern paid well from the beginning. Fare is five cents, with six for a quarter tickets known as business men's tickets, and eight for a quarter tickets known as working men's tickets, good morning and evening.

The mayor and the aldermen came in a body to listen to my Direct Legislation lecture, and the Mayor requested that the following evening be devoted to a discussion of the single tax, for which a larger hall was engaged.

Practically all of the more thoughtful men of the city are more or less outspoken in favor of changes in the public establishment intended to promote the cause of democratic government. They were eager to learn of results where the commission form of city government has been tried, and are intent on something of the sort for themselves. The suggestion that they secure copies of the charters of Des Moines, Berkeley and Grand Junction was acted upon at once.

Taxes are more or less chaotic here as elsewhere, but there is a tendency to recognize the principle of the single tax. Improvements on farms are not taxed. People generally do not appear to know just what this means, but they realize that it works well. In the cities, however, business is licensed to a great extent. In some places personalty taxes are levied, and in other places merchants are taxed according to either area or value of floor space occupied. All these taxes are of course essentially the same thing—burdens upon industry. Many persons are sufficiently observant to note that farmers are free from legal interference, while the business man is annoyed at every turn. At the time of the business depression in Canada, which they seem in-

clined to charge to the United States (in that it followed depression there) as a sort of sympathetic reaction, many business men had considerable stocks and have been compelled, so they tell me, to pay taxes more than once on the same goods. The people here are slowly reaching the conclusion that taxing improvements in the cities is as injurious as was the now abolished tax on farm improvements.

Direct taxation and direct legislation are more popular in Western Canada than are any other suggested changes—unless possibly some more or less indefinitely formed notion relative to regulation of the liquor traffic.

JOHN Z. WHITE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, November 9, 1909.

Mayor Johnson's Defeat.

Full particulars of the municipal election in Cleveland on the 2nd (p. 1063), at which Mayor Johnson was defeated as candidate for a fifth consecutive term as Mayor, show that a heavy vote was cast and that Herman Baehr, the Republican candidate and Mayor Johnson's chief adversary, was elected by a plurality of 3,733 in a total of 80,409. Baehr (Republican) received 41,442; Willert (Socialist) 1,258; Johnson (Democrat) 37,709. The next City Council will stand 7 Democrats to 25 Republicans. It is understood that Harris R. Cooley, the appointive head of the department which includes charities and corrections, in which he has made a high national reputation for "heart and gumption," will be displaced. All the elective candidates with Mayor Johnson were defeated except Newton D. Baker, who was re-elected by a plurality of 1,425. On the board of appraisers for the quadrennial appraisal of real estate for taxation four Democrats and one Republican were elected. The Republican is Theodore M. Bates; the Democrats are Joseph F. McKenna, John A. Zangerle, Arthur F. May and Fred C. Howe. The last three are accused of being single tax men and all four were Johnson candidates.

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Since the election Mayor Johnson is reported to have said:

"It looks as though I were beaten. I will be a candidate for Mayor at the election two years from to-day."—Cleveland dispatch of Nov. 2 in Chicago Record-Herald of Nov. 3d.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Johnson," one employe said, as

he grasped Mr. Johnson's hand. "Don't say that," the Mayor retorted, crisply. "Talk about what we are going to do to-morrow, not what we did yesterday," and the Mayor held to his own admonition, for he steadfastly refused to analyze the result of the election. "Of course, I won't," he said. "It's the rising sun that the people are interested in, not the setting one. During the next two years I will do my work here, whatever it is."—Cleveland dispatch of Nov. 3d in Chicago Record-Herald of Nov. 4.

"Yes, they are asking what I'm going to do after January 1, but I'm going to let the future tell its own story," said Mayor Tom, Friday. "I'm going to keep on the same fight that I started when first elected Mayor. That's the fight against special privilege. I expect to work as hard as ever. I'm going to stay right here on the job. I can't tell my exact plans, because they will necessarily be shaped by developments. The other fellows will have to make the first moves. Then I shall be ready to act. I'm not going to take a rest. I feel as strong as ever. The campaigning didn't hurt me a bit, and I've got as many fights in me as ever."—Interview in Cleveland Press of Nov. 5.

Of the traction question specifically Mayor Johnson was reported as saying:

"We are going to hasten the traction settlement all we can. Judge Tayler is the only man who can tell you whether it will be settled before January 1, when I go out of office. He has the power to end it any day."

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The Re-election of Brand Whitlock.

The re-election of Brand Whitlock as Mayor of Toledo (p. 1064) by about 4,000 plurality was supplemented by the election of the entire Independent ticket (of which he was the head), notwithstanding that straight ticket voting was allowed for the opposition tickets but not for Whitlock's. This campaign against Whitlock is reported to have been the best organized and best financed of any in the history of Toledo. The Toledo traction and lighting franchises begin to expire next year and the company fought fiercely for Davies, the Republican candidate, who had the backing of all the Big Interests. The Republican machine took charge of the Davies campaign and he had with the entire Republican organization the support of every Toledo newspaper except the News-Bee, of the Scripps-McRae league. This support gave him a heavy vote in the wealthy residence districts. But Whitlock carried all the labor districts. His re-election at this time appears to mean that he has won his fight for 3-cent car fares. The news dispatches report that this reform is now practically assured.

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Judge Gaynor's Victory in New York.

Definite returns from the municipal election of the 2nd in New York (p. 1064) give Judge Gaynor a plurality for Mayor of 73,016 in a total of

about 590,000. The vote was 250,678 for Gaynor (Democrat), 177,662 for Bannard (Republican), 153,843 for Hearst (Civic Alliance) and (not given in the dispatches) about 10,000 for the Socialist. Upon being apprised of his election and asked if he had anything to say, Judge Gaynor replied: "I have nothing to say except that I present my compliments to newspaper proprietors and editors." Subsequently as reported in news dispatches of the 3rd, he declared his intention of working in harmony with the Republican-Fusion candidates who were elected, over his associate Democratic nominees for Comptroller and President of the Board of Aldermen by pluralities of 74,559 and 71,031 respectively. He expressed his intention also of co-operating fully with the Public Service Commission. When asked if he would not permit the publication of some of the congratulations he had received from prominent persons he said, as reported in the New York dispatches of the 3rd in the Chicago Record-Herald of the 4th:

"Why, my dear sir, they are from plain citizens. Of course, I have not received a telegram of congratulation from Cutting, who turned over real estate assessed at \$1,078,000 for \$4,565,367, an excess of nearly \$3,500,000. You know the law is that real estate has to be valued on the tax books at its full value, and I am assured that this real estate was. If it was not, then the head of the tax department should have been put out. R. Fulton Cutting helped the thing through for his brother, who made the deal."

"Do you think you will get along harmoniously with the Board of Estimate?" Mr. Gaynor was asked.

"I have not during my life quarreled with anyone with whom I have ever been associated that I can now recall, and I do not now expect to have any quarrel in the future except with some scoundrel. I intend to treat every one on the press with the same consideration that I had for them when I was working with them myself many years ago, except the contemptible libelers. I want to see one or two of the latter serve a term in prison. They, or at all events one of them, have run riot here for several years, but unless all signs fall his occupation in that line is gone. There is no one left to believe him."

The same dispatch reports that—

Mayor-elect Gaynor mailed today to William R. Hearst, Otto T. Bannard and W. M. Ivins huge envelopes containing accusations against them and campaign material to be used against them which was sent him during the campaign. A great mass of such matter was sent to him and he refused to use it.

It was reported in the Chicago Tribune's New York dispatch of the 3rd that the Mayor-elect is expected to reappoint Lawson Purdy as head of the Tax Department.

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New Labor Government for San Francisco

The plurality of P. H. McCarthy, the success-