

264, is more than ten times a normal death rate. It is higher than the rate in the midst of a plague. What may be the death rate we have imposed upon our Philippine subjects may never be known. For we have gone beyond the British in this species of inhumanity. Not only do we drive the noncombatant population into towns, as the British do, but we have blockaded the island of Leyte, preventing the importation even of food, and the inhabitants are upon the verge of starvation. We are actually starving women and children because their husbands and fathers refuse to surrender their guns to our invading troops.

At first the British spoke of their "reconcentrado" device as philanthropic. They said it was for the purpose of protecting the Boer women, children and noncombatants from the ravages of war. But now Lord Milner, in a letter through his private secretary, published in the London Leader of October 7, admits that this inhuman device was—

adopted purely on military grounds, as a means for hastening the end of the war, which is, after all, the first interest of the refugees themselves.

The military purpose served by the "reconcentrado" is to make the Boers realize that unless they stop fighting their families will be put into plague camps to die off at an enormous rate! It is the same motive that we have in starving the women and children of Leyte. If war is hell, what English word remains to describe this kind of war?

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## NEWS

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Although this year is in most of the states what the politicians call an "off year" in politics, only a few general elections being held and they as a rule being unimportant, yet one of these general elections, that of Ohio, and one of the municipal elections, the Shepard-Low contest in New York, were of widespread interest and not without general importance.

The New York election has attracted most attention outside. As is well known, the Tammany Hall organization, which controls the Democratic

party in New York city, has long been regarded as disgracefully corrupt. To drive it out of power, a Citizens' Union was recently organized, upon a non-partisan basis, and this Union entered into a fusion with the Republican party of the city. The fusion was perfected through the nomination of a local ticket by the Citizens' Union, and its indorsement by the Republican convention. Before that action, however, conferences between the Citizens' Union and Republican leaders had resulted in an agreement as to the ticket to be so nominated and indorsed. In the course of these negotiations the Republican leaders proposed as candidates for mayor Democrats whom the Citizens' Union could not nominate, at the same time advising the Citizens' Union that the Republican convention would refuse to indorse any Democrat who had supported Bryan for president. Out of this situation came the nomination of Seth Low, then president of Columbia university. Mr. Low is a Republican. He was once mayor of Brooklyn, and had been defeated for mayor of New York in 1897, when an independent candidate with the Tammany candidate, a Republican candidate and Henry George in the field against him. Other candidates on the fusion ticket were from both parties, the majority being Democrats. One of the Democrats was William Travers Jerome, the fusion candidate for district attorney of New York county. After the fusion nominations, Tammany Hall, as the regular Democratic organization, put forth a ticket with Edward M. Shepard as the candidate for mayor. Mr. Shepard had made a reputation as a vigorous opponent of Tammany methods in politics, and had supported Low in 1897. In accepting the Tammany nomination he formally declared that he retracted nothing. He had opposed Bryan in 1896 but supported him prominently and actively in 1900, and is on the whole as radical a democrat as would be available for high office in a city which is so largely affected in its politics by conservative interests as is New York. The remainder of the Tammany ticket was with few exceptions made up of typical Tammany candidates. After a short but exciting campaign, in which the ordinary political alignments broke bewilderingly, the election came off on the 5th. Low received 296,206 votes and Shepard 265,403, a plurality of 30,803 for Low. The remainder of Low's ticket

in New York county was elected, Jerome getting a plurality of 17,132.

Ohio comes next to New York city in point of general interest in the elections. In that state the principal office to be filled was the governorship. Gov. George K. Nash was the Republican candidate for reelection. His Democratic opponent was James Kilbourne. Both are residents of Columbus, Franklin county. The Republican campaign had been made under the leadership of Senator Hanna, upon the issue of confirming the policies of the late President McKinley and "letting well enough alone;" and in the election of legislative candidates a United States senatorship was involved, the term of Senator Foraker being about to expire. At the election on the 5th Gov. Nash was re-elected by a plurality of 68,145 with one county yet to hear from. This unexpectedly high plurality is about 19,000 higher than his plurality two years ago, and about the same as McKinley's of last year, which is attributed to defections of Bryan men from Kilbourne in resentment for what was widely advertised as a slur cast upon Bryan by the Democratic state convention. In Franklin county, where both candidates live, Mr. Kilbourne's plurality is 2,500, an increase of 800 over the Democratic plurality in 1899. But in Hamilton, the Cincinnati county, where John R. McLean resides, the Democratic plurality of 1,000 two years ago for McLean, has disappeared and Nash carries the county by about 4,000. The legislative delegation from that county is also all Republican, whereas two years ago but two Republicans were elected. Not only is Gov. Nash re-elected by an increased plurality, but the Republicans have carried the legislature by a large majority. About the only encouragement for Democrats which the Ohio election has to offer, besides the gratifying vote for Kilbourne in his own county, comes from Cleveland.

Cuyahoga is the Cleveland county. The situation there has been unique since Tom L. Johnson's election as mayor, on the Democratic ticket, by 6,000 plurality, where the usual majority is well up in the thousands the other way. Mayor Johnson confined the campaign to questions of equitable taxation; and the Democratic candidates for the legislature were pledged to devote themselves to this reform. The