

And now Vancouver abolishes the taxation of improvements altogether. On the 2d of March, to use the language of the Vancouver World of the 3d, "the Council decided to adopt the single tax system in its entirety."

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This outcome is largely due to the efforts, both within the Council and without, of ex-Alderman Macmillan; but it was supported by Mayor Taylor, who, in the debate on the 2d, just before the adoption of the ordinance, declared that as a believer in the single tax, he stood for "eliminating the taxation of improvements altogether." It is significant that he had been elected upon that issue.

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### The Cleveland Traction Question.

And now the Cleveland traction question (p. 207) is at an end, so far as the fight is concerned which ex-Mayor Johnson made so long and faithfully for the public interests of Cleveland, under loss of fortune and failing health, and in which his best hopes were defeated at the end by privileged interests and weary voters. He did, indeed, triumph so far as to secure the universal adoption of three-cent fares; but this was only a step. And even this step may be retraced, now that his official influence has been thrust out of the way of the traction interests, which center at New York and watch their chance. Before the final referendum vote was taken, Mr. Johnson warned the voters, telling them to vote for the ordinance if they were tired of the fight, but to vote against it if they still wished to protect the public interests. They were tired, and they voted for it. Whether his fears of a return to high fares are to be realized, a few months more will disclose; but, however this may come out, his duty has been done. He did not consider it completely done until he had secured protection for all the investors in the movement he had made his own in Ohio for public ownership of public utilities. Even those who sold their stock at a loss, have been protected by his efforts. All back dividends have been paid and all loss from sales of stock below purchase price have been made good. His work in connection with that particular movement is therefore done. It is honorably closed, and no one can justly complain of him, whatever may next occur. But let it not be supposed that his work in connection with the general movement of which that particular one was a part is over. Finishing one piece of work has always been with him but the prelude to beginning another, and so it is still. With health restored and strength renewed, he may be looked for soon

at the head of another and more advanced fight for public rights.

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### Ballingerism.

In the testimony of Arthur P. Davis, chief engineer of the reclamation service, the disagreeable true inwardness of Ballingerism—President Taft and all—comes outward in calm and convincing fashion.

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### Business Men and Labor Weapons.

The fact that a powerful American speculator in other men's sweat has been driven by business men from the Manchester cotton exchange with a volley of bricks, goes to show that business men are not too good to use the rude weapons of labor strikers, when the subtle weapons of business men are inadequate. Nearly all folks are nearly always "just folks," as "Golden Rule" Jones used to say.

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### Police Censorship of Plays.

It may not be generally known, but it seems to be a fact, that the police of Chicago have—unlawfully and therefore quite characteristically—established a censorship of plays. They assume the right to order plays reconstructed, and arbitrarily off the stage if their censorship is not respected. This they already do, but now they ask even greater power. Why they ask it is a mystery, since their usual course is to take, as a thief takes his plunder, whatever power they want. But here is the authority they ask for. We quote the assistant chief, a devotee of the Germanic theory of government, and by name, Schuettler:

It would be a good thing if every show company should be forced to send to us two weeks in advance a copy of the manuscript of the play, and pictures of all the scenes, so we could see ahead of time instead of waiting until after an evil show has been presented to the public. I would favor some sort of a bureau, say where the newspapers might have a representative, to go over the manuscript of all the plays and determine in advance whether a show should be given here. I haven't any earthly use for an evil show, and I won't stand for them.

With Mr. Schuettler evil is as evil seems to him. The American idea of trials for crime, upon indictments and before juries, has never got a lodgment in his bureaucratic brain. His present superior, the chief of police, has put a stop (vol. xii, p. 1256) to police censorship of public speaking, to the manifest advantage of public order; he might find it well to give Mr. Schuettler another primer lesson in the principles of American liberty and law.