

When a private individual defies the laws of the city, the police court enforces them. When the street railways are in contempt of the laws of the city, the only thing the city can do is to enforce its ordinances in the way we have done. It is the business of the executive department of the city to carry out the council's orders and enforce the laws even when they are violated by a corporation as big as the street railway company.

A more detailed statement by Mayor Johnson, made on the same day, was as follows as published on the 27th in the Toledo News-Bee:

I am glad that at last an issue has been made between the people of Cleveland and the Cleveland electric railways as to how far the courts can be abused and the laws insolently twisted to protect the arrogant policy of that company. In the case now in court, I believe that if there is contempt it is the railway and not the city officials which has committed it. The facts are so clear. It is all public record. Listen to the history of the case. The City Council granted the Cleveland Railway Company or its successors the right to operate a single track line in Fulton road. The general ordinances of the city—and they are the law—provide that a street railway must lay its tracks where the city may direct and that tracks must be moved from time to time as the city may order. The City Council then granted the Forest City Railway Company a franchise to lay a single track in this part of Fulton road. The Cleveland Electric Railway attacked that franchise, fought it out in the courts and the court declared that the Forest City Railway had the right to construct its tracks there. The City Council, in accordance with the court's finding, properly and in the usual and lawful way, then notified the Cleveland Electric Railway to move its tracks to one side and ordered the executive department of the city to move the track if the railroad failed to do so within 30 days. Formal notice was served upon the railroad company and was not even acknowledged. The 30 days elapsed and then fifteen more went by and the executive department of the city proceeded to carry out the command of the council, as its members are sworn to do. This was not done at night or by stealth, but in open day. The railroad company then committed a contempt of court and of the State by seeking to have the court repair the company's delay and laxity and disregard of law. The railroad company rushed into court with a lying petition, deceived the court, misstated the facts and conditions, and when the court suggested that the city be heard before an injunction be issued the railway further deceived and persuaded the court. But even the court refused to grant all the prayer of the railroad and only allowed a modified injunction. The railroad then had served upon the city officials a paper which showed nothing of what had been granted, and which, if it showed anything, misrepresented the court's decree. Then, in court the railroad's attorneys admitted the petition had not told the truth. Admitting that the court had been deceived and tricked, the railway declares that the honor of the court must be sustained. The attorney for the railroad then went on to deliberately misinform the court as to my attitude and Mr. Springborn's as to the court. He told the court that we "sneered at the court," which is false; he told the court that Mr. Springborn said: "I don't know whether I am enjoined from blowing my nose or from what," which was equally false. He repeated imaginary remarks and mythical attitudes, and then he talks about contempt of the court. In business such conduct is called buncoing; in law, pettifogging; and in plain every day English, lying. Contempt! Why, for years the courts of this county and State have been contemptuously used by this corporation. Contempt if I fail to comply with an unserved and fraudulently secured mandate! Or is it contempt to secure a court's order by fraud, deceit and chicanery?

**The Cleveland Traction Question.**

The counter proposals made to the Cleveland council by the old traction company and the 3-cent-fare company on the 23rd (p. 397), have been summarized by A. B. du Pont, general manager of the 3-cent-fare company. As published in the Cleveland Press of the 24th this summary is as follows:

Old Company.	Three-Cent Fare Company.
	<b>Cash Fares.</b>
Five cents.	Three cents.
	<b>Ticket Fares.</b>
Seven for 25 cents; 3 4-7 or 3.57 cents.	Three cents.
	<b>Transfers.</b>
Limited as at present and to lines to be built.	Universal, under constant council regulation.
	<b>Franchisees.</b>
Irrevocable grants. Bargain to be made now for 25 years.	Revocable grants. Franchise to be terminated at any time.
	<b>Service.</b>
Promises, with no reserved right to the council to enforce.	Full power left to council to regulate at any time under penalty of revoking franchisees.
	<b>Extensions.</b>
Promised, but at discretion of the company; profit on unlimited capitalization.	Promised and discretion left in the city; profit on actual cost only.
	<b>Subways and Elevated.</b>
Subways or elevateds some time, if a rate of fare can be agreed upon.	Subways and elevateds whenever council directs, and at a 3-cent fare.
	<b>Capitalization.</b>
\$150,000 per mille.	\$50,000 per mille.
	<b>Dividends and Profits.</b>
All that can be gotten on \$150,000 per mille.	Only 6 per cent. on actual money investment within \$50,000 per mille.
	<b>City Ownership.</b>
Prevented for at least 25 years.	Always possible if desired by the people and permitted by the legislature.
	<b>Title to the Streets.</b>
Passes absolutely for 25 years.	Remains absolutely in the city for all time.
	<b>Publicity.</b>
Books closed to the council, city and public.	Books kept open to all who may care to look.
	<b>Popular Vote.</b>
One vote to be binding for 25 years.	Submission to the people at any time.
	<b>Finality of Settlement.</b>
Makes a repetition of the present struggle continuous and inevitable.	Ends the struggle by eliminating private interests from this public service.
	<b>Growth in Net Earnings.</b>
All benefits reserved to the stockholders of the company.	All benefits reserved to the people of the city of Cleveland.
No action on these proposals has yet been taken by the Council.	

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**The Pan-American Conference.**

As reported last week (p. 395) the Conference of American Republics opened at Rio Janeiro on the 23rd. Elihu Root, Secretary of State of the United States, arrived on the 26th, and received an enthusiastic welcome. The dinner given in his honor on the 29th by the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Baron de Rio-Branco, is described as being of a magnificence unparalleled in Brazil. At the close of his speech at this dinner Mr. Root drank to the memory of James Monroe. At a special session of the Conference on the 31st, Mr. Root delivered a carefully prepared address on the value of popular self-government, and the relation of the United States to the other American republics, which seems to have made a most profound and satisfactory impression, and which is reported as having evoked tremendous enthusiasm. On the second point Mr. Root declared for the United States that—

We wish no victories but those of peace, no territory except our own, and no sovereignty except sovereignty over ourselves, which we deem independence. The smallest and weakest member of the family of nations is entitled to the respect of the greatest empire, and we deem the observance of that respect the chief guarantee of the weak against the oppression of the strong. We neither claim nor desire rights, privileges, nor powers we do not freely concede to every American republic. We wish to increase our prosperity, expand our trade, and grow in wealth and wisdom; but our conception of the true way to accomplish this is not to pull down others and profit by their ruin, but to help all our friends to common prosperity and to growth, that we may all become greater and stronger together.

Continuing, he closed with an exhortation to a common maintenance of the Monroe doctrine, as follows:

Within a few months for the first time the recognized possessors of every foot of soil on the American continent can be, and I hope will be, represented with acknowledged rights as equal sovereign states at the world's congress at The Hague. This will be the formal and final acceptance of the declaration that no part of the American continent is to be deemed subject to colonization. Let us pledge ourselves to aid each other in the full performance of the duty to humanity that this accepted declaration implies, so in time the weakest and most unfortunate of our republics may come to march with equal step with the stronger and more fortunate. Let us help each other to show that for all races of men the liberty for which we fought and labored is the twin sister of justice and peace. Let us unite in creating, maintaining, and making effective all American public opinion, whose power and influence may prevent international wrong and forever preserve our country from the burden of such armaments as are massed behind the frontiers of Europe.

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### The Interparliamentary Union.

The conference of the Interparliamentary Union in London closed its session on the 25th after adopting at the conclusion of long debate the following resolution:

The Interparliamentary Union, now assembled in London, expresses the view that the second Hague conference should:

1. By treaty define contraband of war as being restricted to arms, munitions of war and explosives.
2. Reassert and confirm the principle that neither a ship carrying contraband of war nor other goods aboard such ship not being contraband of war may be destroyed.
3. Affirm that even between belligerents private property should be as immune at sea as it is on land.

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### In the Parliament of Great Britain.

The much debated Education Bill (p. 30) which

has been so far the most important measure of the present Parliament, passed to its third reading in the House of Commons on the 30th, by a majority vote of 192. The Chicago Record-Herald thus sums up the main features of the bill:

From Jan. 1, 1908, all schools maintained by the local education authority must be "provided" schools. The local authority is given power to purchase or take on hire the existing schools. Teachers shall be appointed by the local authorities without any tests. All schools receiving rates (taxes) will give the same religious education. Religious instruction may be taught two mornings a week by arrangement with the local authority. Attendance will not be compulsory during religious instruction, and religious education will not be given by the ordinary staff. There will be a further grant of \$5,000,000 from the exchequer for the educational purpose of the bill.

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Another important subject under consideration in Parliament is the re-establishment of self-government in the Transvaal. In the peace agreement between the South African Republic (the Transvaal) and Great Britain, signed May 31, 1902, it was provided that civil government should be established in the colonies by the British as early as possible, and representative institutions leading to self-government should be introduced as soon as circumstances would permit (vol. v, 137). To finally fulfil these provisions the present Liberal ministry has proposed to grant a Constitution to the Transvaal, giving full manhood suffrage to English and Boers alike, with secret ballot; either the British or Dutch language to be used in the transaction of public business. The proposal has been received with great indignation by the Opposition, led by the late prime minister, Mr. Balfour, who declared in a speech on the 31st that the present time is too near the war for it to be expected that the Dutch could forget what they suffered. Lord Milner, the first British Governor of the Transvaal after the war (vol. v, 184), declared that he saw a tragedy behind the precipitancy of the government. And Mr. Rudyard Kipling has written a violent poem deploring the martyrdom of the British in the Transvaal.

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### Russia Restive under Autocracy.

At the despotic dissolution of her parliament (p. 393) Russia seemed stunned. On the one hand, Count Heyden, Prince Lvoff and H. Stakovich, the three members of parliament who refused to sign the address to the country issued by the fugitive parliament at Viborg just before its final dispersal, sent out a separate address, appealing to the people to submit to the dissolution, and to prepare for the election of members to the new parliament called for next March. On the other hand, the perpetual executive committee elected by the Douma before it separated, "to carry on the work of liberation" (p. 393), is reported as holding secret sessions. The members of the Douma who signed the Viborg manifesto have been proceeded against by the public prosecutor for "attempts to overthrow the existing government." These prosecutions are believed to be intended to prevent the re-election of these members to the new Douma, rather than to procure actual convictions for high treason. Reports come from Yaroslav and even from St. Petersburg, of the setting