

pugnance. Had Harlan been nominated by the republicans such an opportunity would have been offered. If there were, a third party candidate (no matter what he stood for, so it were legitimate and he were a reputable man), whose party was of importance as a political factor, an effective protest might be made through that agency. As it is, nothing remains for democrats who see the importance of ridding the party of responsibility for Harrison but to vote for Hanecy or "take to the woods."

Between these two courses there is no difference, except in degree. To "take to the woods" in any of the variety of ways in which that may be done, is to produce the effect of giving Hanecy a fraction of a vote. To vote for him is to give him a whole vote. In other words, the latter is the more effective of the two ways of doing the same thing. And if the thing ought to be done at all, it ought to be done in the most effective way. That it ought to be done there is, in our judgment, no doubt. The Burke-Harrison ring has gained control of the democratic machinery of Chicago, and through patronage and intimidation can retain control as long as it remains in official power at the city hall. The Lorimer ring, operating in the field of county offices, nominates weak or bad candidates for city office, so as to perpetuate the power in the democratic party of the Burke-Harrison ring; which in return helps Lorimer's party in county elections, and in those state and national elections in which it is not personally interested.

The trick about nominating weak or bad republican candidates is to take advantage of that quality of human nature which makes men recoil from punishing bad officials of their own party by supporting equally bad candidates of the other. It is a shrewd trick, and there is but one way of meeting it. It is this: Since a bad man is to be in office whether or no, vote in the most effective way against the reelection of the one already in. That

is to say, vote for the bad candidate for election as against the bad candidate for reelection. That is the kind of voting that disturbs the calculations of bosses and smashes rings.

Tom L. Johnson's campaign for the Cleveland mayoralty makes interesting reading as accounts of it appear in the local papers. Whether he shall be elected or not, the campaign will have been well worth making; and as he asserts his intention of working for the city's interests, regardless of the result of the election, the greatest loss from his defeat would be the consequent loss of official opportunity for such work. But, notwithstanding that Cleveland is a republican city, the indications are that Johnson will be elected. These indications grow out of the peculiar weakness of the campaign against him hardly less than out of the very strong campaign that is being made for him. His own absolute candor is a refreshing novelty in politics, which cannot but make favorable impressions. He was asked, for instance, at one of his large meetings, if he as mayor would send policemen in citizen's clothes to watch saloons. This is a ticklish question for Cleveland candidates. To answer one way is to arouse the hostility of the temperance element; to answer the other way is to invite the virulent opposition of the dive interests. Here is Johnson's answer:

I don't want anybody to vote for me under a misapprehension. My attitude on this question may not suit some people, but that is my position, and I will tell you why I take this view. I think, in the first place that the police force is too small to dress men in citizens' clothes to find out whether some one is violating the law. Goodness knows there is enough vice in plain sight. With 250 policemen I do not believe I will try to keep 1,900 back doors closed. I will not make this city a temperance town, for I am too liberal for that. Men are not so much miserable because they drink as they drink because they are miserable. Misery is produced by poverty and poverty is the product of injustice. Justice will abolish involuntary poverty and when men are relieved of want and the fear of want more will have been accomplished for temperance and the

suppression of vice than all suppressive measures. I do not believe in lawmade morality. I want it understood that I will not allow a lot of dives to continue in existence which are running down-town to-day. The dives, I promise you, I will make an earnest effort to suppress. Further, I don't want that element to vote for me. I would rather be defeated than be elected by the support of that element.

One of the decisions of the federal supreme court, handed down on the 25th, apparently establishes a very important and far-reaching principle in the interests of sound public policy. The issue involved was the question of whether a municipal franchise for a term of years, which allows a public-service corporation to charge at specified rates for its service, constitutes a contract that cannot constitutionally be revoked, or is only a license which, in respect of the rate of charges authorized, may be altered if they are excessive. The decision was made in what is known as the Rogers Park water case. The village of Rogers Park, Ill., had granted a franchise to a water company for 30 years, empowering it to supply water at certain rates of charge. That was in 1888. Rogers Park was afterwards annexed to Chicago, and in 1897 the Chicago city council reduced those rates. Its action was sustained by the state supreme court, which held that the franchise did not constitute a contract as to rates of service, but that the company, by accepting the franchise, stood "charged with a legal duty to supply water to the inhabitants of the village for reasonable compensation." This decision is affirmed by one of the decisions just made by the supreme court of the United States. Exactly what may be the force of the affirmance as establishing a general principle of constitutional law, cannot be determined without an examination of the opinion, and that has not yet been published; but apparently it must be sufficient to enable municipalities to regulate the rates of all public service corporations—street car fares as well as water