

tent reasons assigned for such taxation have no application whatever to mercantile corporations. If the capital stock of a mercantile corporation has a value in excess of the value of its tangible assets, such excess value represents "good-will" which is produced solely by individual effort and ability.

If Tom L. Johnson is not the next governor of Ohio, whether he wants to be or not, it will be none of Senator Hanna's fault. On all hands it is conceded that Johnson is the logical Democratic candidate, and he will doubtless be obliged to accept the nomination. This would not be equivalent to an election, however, for Ohio is a Republican state. All the Democrats can now hope for, even with Johnson as their leading candidate, would be an increase of the Democratic vote, such as Johnson secured for them last fall in those parts of the State in which he was able to make a campaign. But Mr. Hanna, with his solicitude for his savings bank, as he calls his investments in the watered stocks of public service corporations, is rapidly making votes for Johnson. If Hanna continues to control the Republican machine and to use it in the interest of his private investments regardless of the public interest, as he is likely to do, it is a fair guess that Johnson will be the next governor and that he will have behind him a legislature of the democratic-Democrat variety.

Hanna's latest "break" is in connection with the back taxes of the public service corporations of Cleveland in which he is interested. For years these corporations had largely evaded their county taxes, being well taken care of in that respect by the Republican county officials. But at the elections of 1901 they lost their friend at court. Mr. Hanna's county auditor was defeated by a Tom Johnson Democrat—Robert C. Wright. Mr. Wright could not take office, however, for nearly a year after his election,—a provision of the law well calculated to protect official crookedness. In the interim, Mr. Hanna's lawyers and his defeated but hold-

over county auditor cooked up a settlement of the back taxes of the delinquent corporations. This was done to head off Auditor Wright. But the settlement was so absurdly low and so manifestly fraudulent, that when Auditor Wright did come into office he promptly proceeded to assess against the delinquent corporations the full amount of their evaded taxes, utterly disregarding the fraudulent settlement. Of course Senator Hanna flew to arms. His savings bank was again in danger. But the municipal campaign was on by that time, and he dared not resort to arbitrary methods. Very quietly, therefore, he secured a temporary injunction from a local judge. An injunction, implying a judicial inquiry, had none of the appearance of carrying things with a high hand, and was therefore best adapted to the delicacy of the situation. But now that the election is over, and the next one is far enough off to make it reasonably certain that "the people will forget," Mr. Hanna drops his injunction and orders his State treasurer to interfere. Under some pretense that the State treasurer has plenary authority over county treasurers, as if they were official clerks, this obedient official has peremptorily ordered Auditor Wright to refrain from all efforts to assess back taxes upon the Cleveland corporations in which Senator Hanna is interested.

In his order, the State treasurer gave no reasons for his extraordinary action, but in newspaper interviews subsequently he has explained that the corporations had already paid their evaded taxes. His reference was to the fraudulent settlement mentioned above. What Auditor Wright will do remains to be seen. He states that he is taking legal advice and that if it appears that the State treasurer has no authority over him he will proceed as he has begun. It is quite certain, at all events, that, as in previous contests with Mr. Johnson and his coadjutors, Mr. Hanna "stands to lose" no matter which way the dispute is decided. His

kind of politics loses even when it seems to win.

In a short time the Ohio auditors are to meet for the purpose of assessing railroad values. Heretofore the auditors have made their assessments on the value of the equipment as scrap iron, thus assessing railroads at about 10 per cent of their market value while assessing ordinary property at 60 or more. Mayor Johnson has fought this custom (vol. iv, pp. 548, 741), but the auditors of both parties have sided with the railroads. Mr. Hanna's auditor in Cleveland was especially loyal to the interests of the roads. Mayor Johnson consequently carried the question to the people. In the Cuyahoga county election of 1901 he supported Wright for auditor on that issue and Wright was elected; and in 1902 he stumped the northern counties on the same issue, advising the people to defeat railroad candidates for auditor no matter whether they were Democrats or Republicans. (vol. v, p. 472). It will soon be seen how strong the hold of the railroad is upon the Ohio auditors. Wright can be depended upon. A democratic Democrat, he is heartily in sympathy with Johnson's policy. Other auditors were publicly pledged by Johnson (vol. v, p. 409) when they were candidates last fall. The meetings of these boards, especially those at Cleveland, where the auditors from all the counties having railroads which run into Cleveland are required by law to meet, will be deeply interesting.

Further evidence testifying curiously to the white man's much boasted intellectual and moral superiority over the Negro is furnished this week by the Missouri mob at Joplin. Holding the whole Negro population of Joplin responsible for the unproved crime of a Negro tramp, and without discrimination either of sex or age, this white mob assails the law-abiding Negro section of the town, and, after hurling stones at the inhabitants, viciously burns their homes to the ground. Can even