

morning. Admiralty wouldn't sell fleet. War office refused to scrap guns. Colonial secretary declined to let me have Jamaica as a tip for our ashes. At this rate no use staying out. Picked up Thames steamboat fleet for an old song on way back. Will do to run on the canals inside our fitting slop.

Thursday, 5:0 p. m.—Things been humming to-day. Steamboat deal evidently leaked out. Bought the P. and O., Cunard, White Star, Orient, Union Castle, and North German Lloyd. Bought the Liverpool docks. Bought the London and Northwestern. Cabled to my company that they might begin making.

Friday, 10:0 a. m.—Cable from company asking me to buy less and sell more. Nonsense. Plenty of time for selling. Much better policy to buy up all our customers first; sell to ourselves then, and make sure of orders.

4:0 p. m.—Bought Holyhead harbor. Made an offer for St. George's channel.

Saturday, 9:0 a. m. — Cable from home, "Rival trust formed. Under-selling. Return at once."

10:0 a. m.—Returning.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

"Mr. Mayor," exclaimed Maj. W. J. Gleason, entering the board of control meeting yesterday morning, "I want to make a complaint."

"Go ahead."

"The Big Consolidated is preparing to relay its tracks on Cedar avenue and put down the old cobblestones between tracks."

"What's the kick?"

"They're an eyesore and—"

"Come forward, Mr. McCormack," called the mayor to the manager of the Big Consolidated.

"We're only relaying one track," said McCormack, "next year we'll relay the other and put down Medina block stone between both tracks."

"Is that satisfactory, Mr. Gleason?" asked the mayor.

"Yes, if they do it."

"Will you write a letter to the board agreeing to do that?" inquired the mayor of Mr. McCormack.

"I will."

"Another thing," said Maj. Gleason, "they're putting these cobblestones on our lawns."

"Will you repair all lawns?" said the mayor, turning to McCormack.

"We are willing to do anything we can."

"Will you repair the lawns?"

"We'll put down boards and protect them."

"Will you repair the lawns?"

"Um—er—yes."

"Will you include that in your letter?"

"Yes."

"Are you satisfied, Major?"

"I am."

"What's the next business?" inquired the mayor.

Before the board adjourned Manager McCormack returned with the letter in question.

"Hold on," exclaimed the mayor, "this don't say you are going to relay the second track next summer. If you don't agree to relay it then we'll make you pave between the tracks you are now tearing up, with block stone, if we can."

"I think we will relay the second track next summer, but if you insist on that I want to consider the matter further."

"All right. How long do you want?"

"Until to-morrow."

"Have you begun laying any of those cobblestones?"

"Yes."

"Stop it, will you, until we agree as to that second track?"

"I don't know as I should."

"Then you won't?"

"I don't see why I should."

"Tom Galvin," cried the mayor. The deputy director of public works came forward. "Go right out to Cedar avenue and stop the men who are relaying cobblestones there. Don't allow them to begin again until you hear from this board."

Galvin hustled out. McCormack's face flushed, but he didn't have a word to say.—Cleveland (O.) Plaindealer of June 4.

The park police were the subject of an extended conference yesterday between the mayor and Director of Public Works Salen, in whose department the parks are. Complaint had been made to the mayor that at Lake View park Tuesday, while the boat race was on, the people were peremptorily ordered off the grass, either by the park police or other custodians.

"I want to know about that, Charley," said he when the director entered the room. "Is it true that people were not allowed to stand on the grass?"

"I had not heard about it."

"Well, I have. Look into this matter right away. Call in the men who ordered the people off and find out what they have to say. The grass in the parks is not for the people to look at, as I have said before. It is there to be used. Those policemen

or no one else had any right to order people off the grass at Lake View or any other park.

"By the way, have all the 'Keep off the grass' signs been taken out of the parks?"

"I am told that they have been, except in spots where grass seed has been planted."—Cleveland Plaindealer, of June 6.

"Reduce the water rents," exclaimed Mayor Johnson Wednesday, when asked if he favored the movement started by the Wade Park Improvement association. "Well, I should say I am in favor of that proposition. It is wrong to tax the water users for more than the absolute cost of supplying them. Observe that I say that it is wrong to tax them more than the cost. If it is possible to give it to them less than cost it ought to be done.

"The water rents should not be one cent in excess of what is absolutely necessary to maintain the department. They are now thousands of dollars in excess of that amount and the surplus is being used to pay for improvements of the system. There ought not to be one cent of surplus.

"All improvements of the system should be paid out of the general funds of the city.

"I understand that a measure is to be introduced into the city council providing for a reduction of water rents to an amount equal to what is necessary to pay the running expenses of the department. It will have my hearty support."—Cleveland Plaindealer, of June 6.

#### TOM L. JOHNSON'S PLANS.

Extracts from a private letter from Tom L. Johnson, mayor of Cleveland, O., on subjects of general interest.

We are attempting, with some show of success, to equalize the assessment of land values, paying almost no attention, of course, to inequalities in the valuation of improvements. With this letter I inclose you a pamphlet by W. A. Somers, the tax expert of St. Paul, Minn., which explains our method. Mr. Somers has been with us some time, giving instructions to the engineers and valuers, and as an improvement of his plan has adopted my suggestion to have a large blackboard at one end of a room in which a hundred people could be seated so as conveniently to see upon this blackboard a map drawn with white chalk showing about one-hundredth part of the