

he happened to need it, and you couldn't be ungrateful enough to disappoint him.

Go a step farther. What do you suppose the traction stock jobbers would expect of your alderman in return for their favor to him in giving you or your friend a job upon his "recommendation"? No more than aldermen, do stock jobbers do favors for anybody's health. They would expect your alderman's vote in the city council whenever they might need it. The alderman knows this, and his constituents ought to.

Political "spoils", indeed! "Graft", forsooth! What possible political "spoils" or "graft" under municipal ownership and operation of the street car system could be worse than the political "spoils" and "graft" under the corporation ownership and stock jobbing operation which now prevail?

None could be as bad. Under public ownership and operation, street car employes would come within the rules of the merit system of civil service. Their appointment and retention could not be used either to strengthen the political fences of corrupt aldermen nor to promote the schemes of yet more corrupt traction stock jobbers.

Nor is the use of appointments by street car corporations for the purpose of bribing aldermen and voters the worst "graft" of traction stock jobbers. Were the whole truth about political corruption in cities known, we should see that it is caused for the most part by the devious methods of public service companies and their stock jobbing managers. City officials cannot be corrupted unless some outsider has an interest in making their corruption profitable. Where there is no "graft" there are no "grafter". But the richest "graft" of the present time in cities, is that which flourishes in private ownership of public property and private operation of public functions—especially when nurtured by stock jobbers, as is the great street car "graft" under which Chicago has suffered for half a century.

The day in politics of the mere "tax eater" has passed; that of the franchise grabber and manipula-

tor is at high noon. Corruption in politics is no longer due in any great degree, to the corrupting influence of office "spoils" and party "spoils-men". It is now due chiefly to the corrupting methods of "business interests" in franchise privileges. As ex-Mayor Low, of New York, recently put it: "The day of open robbery is gone, but an era of intrigue has replaced it. Tweed's ring stood brazenly in the old days for open robbery; public service corporations and their stock jobbing managers stand for the secret corruption of the new era of franchise intrigues."

Abolish public-service franchises, and you abolish the most powerful and subtle of all the existing causes of political corruption. It is by getting rid of these franchises, not by perpetuating and fostering them, that good government is to be secured.

An opportunity to do this will be afforded the people of Chicago at the coming municipal election. If it is allowed to pass, no opportunity as good may occur in many years. If the questions then submitted are voted down, the city officials would be warranted in assuming that the public opinion of Chicago is favorable to the stock-jobbing schemes of the traction interests, and in therefore settling the whole matter in accordance with the demands of their representatives.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, March 3.

The strict censorship by both Russia and Japan makes it impossible to give any clear and full idea of the situation at the seat of war (p. 743), but reasonable confidence may be reposed in the reports that some kind of naval demonstrations were made at Port Arthur on the 24th, 25th and 29th. On the 24th the Japanese made an attack. According to the Russian official report this was done with numerous torpedo boats, and was repulsed, two Japanese vessels being wrecked and their crews saving themselves in small boats. The official Japanese report of the same event is to the effect that four old vessels, escorted by some

torpedo boats, were run into the entrance of Port Arthur by the Japanese for the purpose of blocking the mouth of the harbor, and that this object was accomplished. On the 25th there appears to have been a three hours' general engagement brought on by a Japanese naval attack; and on the 29th, according to Japanese reports, there was a similar engagement. The probabilities are that all this fighting is merely part of occasional skirmishes, demonstrative rather than destructive, between the Russian fleet in the harbor and the Japanese fleet which is watching it from without. The situation is not dissimilar to that at Santiago while the American fleet held Admiral Cervera in the harbor; and the event of the 24th is likened to Hobson's exploit in sinking the Merrimac.

A diplomatic reply was made by Japan on the 1st to the diplomatic complaint of Russia (p. 743) charging Japan with violation of the fundamental rules of international law in her manner of beginning the war. Japan's reply asserts that the answer to Russia's charges may be found in the action of Russia herself. It proceeds:

That her government never entertained any sincere desire for peace can be clearly seen from its own conduct. Throughout the whole course of the negotiations Russia persistently refused to meet the proposals made by Japan in a moderate and conciliatory spirit. By delays that could not be construed as otherwise than wanton and unnecessary, she put off the settlement of the questions at issue, while at the same time busily extending her naval and military preparations. Her warlike preparations in the far East since last April, when she failed to carry out her treaty engagement to evacuate Manchuria, are in full confirmation of these statements.

Then follows a lengthy statement in detail of the action of Russia in strengthening her military and naval forces at points menacing Japan, and thereupon the reply continues:

In view of these facts who can say that Russia had no warlike intentions or that she was unprepared for war? Seeing that the situation had become so critical that it admitted of no further delay the Japanese government was compelled to break off negotiations that had proved abortive and to take the necessary steps for self-protection.

But the responsibility for the challenge to war rests not with Japan but solely with Russia. On the 6th of February Japan announced to Russia her decision to terminate the pending negotiations and to take such independent action as she might deem best to defend her position menaced by Russia and to protect her established rights and legitimate interests. At the same time the government of Japan informed the Russian government that as its moderate and unselfish proposals in the interests of a firm and lasting peace in the far East had not received the consideration which was their due, Japan had resolved to sever her diplomatic relations with Russia, which for the reason named had ceased to possess value, and so withdrew her legation. The term "independent action" naturally included the opening of hostilities. The fact that Russia was unable to understand it in that light is, of course, no reason why Japan should be held responsible for the misinterpretation made by Russia. It is the almost unanimous opinion of international jurists that a declaration of war is not an indispensable prerequisite to the opening of hostilities. Indeed, it has been the common practice in recent wars to declare war after hostilities have been begun. Japan's action, therefore, is not open to the least criticism in this regard. From the standpoint of international law it must be understood that the charge made against her does not come with good grace from Russia, inasmuch as there are not only many historical instances of Russia herself resorting to hostilities without declaring war, but in one case, that of her invasion of Finland in 1898, when she began war before there had even been a rupture of diplomatic relations.

Further reports of fighting the Moros in the Philippines (p. 536) were received at Washington on the 29th. These reports are from Gen. Wade and tell of an engagement at Jolo, on February 14, in which 600 Moros were either killed or captured by an American force under Major Hugh L. Scott. Gen. Wade says firing was stopped twice to give the Moros a chance to surrender, but they declined. The American force lost one officer and six privates wounded. One has since died. The original force of these Moros is reported from Manila as 3,000, now reduced to 15. The island is said to be now under control of the American authorities.

Apparently there are revolutionary disturbances in Luzon, for the reports from Manila make oc-

casional references to outlawry of a kind and magnitude which suggest Filipino patriotism rather than crime. One of these reports, appearing in the Chicago Tribune of the 3d, was as follows:

Manila, March 2.—Del Pilar, the leading spirit of the Carib insurrections against Spain and the United States, who was exiled to Guam, but who returned and accepted the oath of allegiance, has joined the outlaws, who are defying the authority of the government.

NEWS NOTES.

—John R. Commons has been appointed to a chair in political economy at the University of Wisconsin.

—The local elections in Vermont on the 1st indicated a reaction from the policy of licensing of liquor selling which was strongly approved last year.

—The price of May wheat (p. 744) rose as high on the 25th at Milwaukee as \$1.09. It had fallen on the Chicago Board of Trade on the 2d to 99¼ cents.

—By 17 to 15 the common council of Detroit, voted on the 1st to reject Andrew Carnegie's offer of \$750,000 for central and branch public library buildings in that city.

—South African papers report a largely attended Boer Congress at Pietersburg, in the Transvaal Colony, on January 29, which adopted resolutions in favor of immediate self-government.

—Petitions are out in Oregon for the submission at the State election in June, under the new initiative and referendum clause of the Constitution, of a local option liquor law and of a direct primaries nomination law.

—The State capitol building at Madison, Wis., was practically destroyed by fire on the 27th, the loss being estimated at \$800,000. The stuffed body of "Old Abe," the famous eagle of the Civil War, was lost in the fire.

—Charles S. Dick, nominated by the Republican legislative caucus of Ohio to succeed Marcus A. Hanna in the United States Senate (p. 744) was elected on the 1st. The Democrats in the legislature voted for John H. Clarke.

—A British by-election for the Northants division of Yorkshire on the 1st resulted in a Liberal victory by a largely increased majority. At the last previous election the Liberal majority was 1,419; it is now 3,946.

—Ratifications of the Panama treaty (p. 744) were exchanged on the 26th at Washington between Secretary Hay and the Panama minister, Bunau-Varilla, and on the same day President Roosevelt formally proclaimed the fact.

—Congressional elections in Cuba on the 28th are reported to show that, while the Liberal representation in the lower

House appears to have been increased by several seats, the small Republican majority in the Senate will prevent any radical legislation.

—In the case of John Turner, held for deportation as an immigrant who "disbelieves in all organized government" (p. 722), the Supreme Court of the United States on the 29th set a hearing in habeas corpus proceedings for the 4th of April and released Turner on bail meanwhile.

—Noah Raby, said to be 132 years of age, died on the 1st in an almshouse near New Brunswick, N. J. As he had been an inmate of this institution for 40 years, and appeared to be a very old man when he entered it, the evidence of extreme old age is in his case exceptionally conclusive.

—A 50-year street car franchise for Hammond, Ind., was granted by the city council on the 2d, after a bitter fight for a year or more. It is denounced as a "steal" by a local labor party, but the aldermen defend themselves by declaring that the ordinance was approved by a "citizens' committee."

—On the 1st it was decided at a meeting of President Roosevelt's cabinet not to send the Third Infantry to Panama (p. 744), the explanation of this change of plans being the disinclination of the cabinet to have two jurisdictions, army and navy, on the Isthmus at present. As naval vessels must remain there for some time it was thought better to allow the marines to continue doing land duty.

—The truce between the Chicago traction companies and the city (p. 598) was extended by the city council on the 25th until the 29th, and on the 29th until the 15th. R. R. Govin resigned on the 25th as one of the United States court receivers of the Union Traction company, and on the 1st the arguments in the case of this company's receivers on the basis of the 99-year franchise began before Judge Grosscup, United States Circuit Judge at Chicago.

—The first congressional district to choose delegates to the Democratic national convention is the Nineteenth of Ohio, of which the convention was held at Warren on the 27th. A bitter contest was waged between the McLean and the anti-McLean factions. The McLean faction was badly beaten and organized another convention. The regular delegates were instructed to support William R. Hearst for President.

—President Roosevelt sent to the Senate on the 29th his nominations for the Panama Canal commission as follows: Chairman of the commission, Rear Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N., retired, District of Columbia; members of the commission, Major General George W. Davis, U. S. A., retired, District of Columbia; William H. Burr, New York; Benjamin M. Harrod, Louisiana; Carl Ewald Grunsky, California; Frank J.