

ing the proposed traction extension ordinance and its sponsors (p. 305), is now at hand. Judge Murray F. Tuley's careful analysis of its provisions and exposure of its iniquities is in itself enough. His ability and sincerity, for which his reputation is established beyond question, are a guarantee both of the good faith and the soundness of his objections. But if Judge Tuley had never spoken, Mayor Harrison's treatment of the Referendum League's protest should be a sufficient warning to the public to accept this ordinance with the utmost caution. If the ordinance were not corrupt, the Mayor, as its chief official champion, would be under no great temptation to descend to the level of the buffoon and indulge in the pettifogging which characterizes his response to the Referendum League. Their protest is dignified and argumentative, and as the protest of the useful organization that has secured every public policy petition thus far voted on, it was entitled to respectful consideration at the hands of the Mayor of the city. Instead of that, the members are regaled with artful dodging and insulted with vulgar abuse. When the chief magistrate of a great city can find no better response to a respectful protest against a public policy which he proposes, what is to be thought of that policy—especially when it involves a violation of his pledges, and, as Judge Tuley pointedly intimates, its success would enormously enrich a traction ring at the expense of the city?

GRAFT IN SOCIETY—A NEGLECTED BRANCH OF HISTORY.

Historians have often passed over the interesting stories that tell what far-reaching results often come from apparently insignificant circumstances. Clodius one evening takes a drop too much, goes forth on a lively venture and perhaps changes the course of history. This has got into the books, but is the exception. The Duchess of So and So becomes miffed at Lord Blank and can command

enough votes to turn the scale and oust the government. Only a belated diary will tell this inside history. The wife of Senator Simkins gives a function; and social cards are played so skillfully that a bill is killed at the punch-bowl, or amid the waving palms of the conservatory. Such things happen, but they are told neither in dignified history nor in the Associated Press.

What paper publishes the fact that Mayor Timkins lunches five days in the week with A. B. Tomkins, president of the Crown City Water Works? It may be that the water works transgress their charter, give muddy water and charge what rates they please; it may be that some officious citizens protest—but what does it amount to? Timkins lunches with Tomkins.

It is disagreeable to be suspicious and cast aspersions. And society's functions are jolly and delightful. The son of C. D. Goster, president of the Crown City Railways Company, dances the mid-winter German with the daughter of the city attorney, Captain Foster. And besides, Lieutenant Governor Gloster lunches with President Goster whenever he comes to the city. The Lieutenant Governor is a countryman, more or less green, and he is much flattered at lunching in the swellest clubs with the elegant Goster. How can the city attorney put heart into a suit against the company for not doing the agreed amount of paving, seeing that his daughter has given all her heart to the president's son? Or how can the Lieutenant Governor fail to throw his influence in the legislature on the side of his friend, the elegant Goster, who has been so nice to him? What in fact is the chief function of the elegant Goster? He himself once whispered it to an intimate friend. It is to be nice to lieutenant governors, mayors, councilmen, etc.

The following story is authentic. The Crown City Hardware Company is one of the mammoth establishments of the world. It does an enormous business in all parts of this great country and even abroad. The Crown City Hardware Company enjoyed most valuable switch-track privileges on various streets. One day an influential new member of the city

council was sitting in the office of a certain lawyer, who was as eager as the new member to do something startling and distinguished. The question arose of the "pull" the Crown City Hardware Company seemed to have, and the attorney happened to know how it came about, and on what slender thread of right the pull hung. So these two patriots and champions of the people's rights then and there determined to make a test of the matter. Of course the C. C. H. Company pretty soon got wind of this intention. And how did the president and manager circumvent the obnoxious inquiry? To cut short a long and touching story Mr. and Mrs. New Member and Mr. and Mrs. Attorney found themselves invited to dinners and receptions which had been previously longed for with far-off eyes. The gates of the social heaven were suddenly opened to them; for Mrs. President and Mrs. Manager were both high up in the ranks and the two together could make a go of anybody they would take up. Thus did the investigations of the switch-track privileges cease. There are more ways in the great world of graft to get things done or not done than by the mere vulgar fashion of paying actual cash.

Besides the happy parties to the deals, only those who are privileged to catch occasional faint whispers from the inside can ever know how many appointments, elections, passings of ordinances, and non-enforcements of laws, depend upon pattings on the back in the shallow fellowship of clubs and the social swim. For just as personal likes and dislikes, personal slights and favors have, as we may read in old diaries and memoirs, turned the fates of kings and governments, so to-day the personal associations of modern society play their part in our all absorbing games of graft and ambition.

J. H. DILLARD.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, September 1.

It appears from the reports of fighting at the seat of the Russian-Japanese war (p. 327), which, however, are not altogether trustworthy, that the Japanese have

shifted their active operations from Port Arthur to the region of Liaoyang in the north. It was reported on the 27th that the direct attack upon Liaoyang had then begun; and on the 28th that Gen. Kouropatkin had been driven back into Liaoyang, where he was making desperate resistance to the advances of the Japanese under Kuroki from the east, Oku from the south and Nodzu from the west. The fighting is described as furious, with some 300,000 Japanese against 200,000 Russians. At latest reports the engagement had become general and the battle was still being fought.

Port Arthur was undergoing attack (p. 327) on the 26th, according to official reports, notwithstanding the circumstances which had shifted the center of interest from Port Arthur to the larger operations in the north. The condition of the Russians at Port Arthur was reported on the 28th as desperate. Since that date no news of these operations, at all trustworthy, has been received.

Besides the international incident at Chefoo (pp. 309, 324), somewhat similar complications have arisen at Shanghai. The Russian cruiser Askold, and their torpedo boat destroyer, the Grozovoi, took refuge in Shanghai for the purpose of undergoing repairs. But they did not disarm, as the Japanese discovered upon sending a warship into the harbor to investigate. The Japanese, therefore, threatened, if they persisted in refusing to disarm, to capture them in the port. Thereupon the European powers interfered, and in their behalf an American man-of-war anchored between the Russian and the Japanese ships. After much international agitation on the subject the Czar, on the 25th, ordered his vessels to disarm, and they accordingly did so.

The civil war in the South American republic of Paraguay (p. 327), has not subsided, although the bombardment of Asuncion has been abandoned. In explanation a Paraguayan representative of the revolutionary party states that the government had taken cannon from the city's fortifications and lodged them in front of the private houses of revolution-

ary sympathizers, so as to force the insurgents to fire in that direction. The same representative asserts that the object of the insurrection is to overthrow a minority government which is corrupt. The insurrection is under the leadership of Gen. Ferreira, who declares that he will accept a provisional presidency only, and that on the complete extinction of the present government the insurrectionists will elect a non-partisan government. The conflicting parties are known as "coloradoes" or "reds," and "liberals." The "coloradoes" have been in power since 1873, and are charged with extreme partisanship.

In Uruguay a revolutionary war between conflicting parties, "coloradoes" or "reds," and "blancos" or "whites" has been in progress for six or seven months. The causes are much the same as those that have produced the insurrection in Paraguay, the "colorado" party in Uruguay having been in power since 1865. News of an important and probably decisive battle between the government forces of Uruguay and the Uruguayan insurrectionists was expected at Buenos Ayres on the 25th, but no such news is yet at hand. On the 28th, however, in Argentina waters, the government forces attacked an insurrectionary force on a steamer, capturing the vessel and killing and scattering the troops. Because this was in Argentina waters, the Argentine government has protested and its diplomatic relations with Uruguay are strained.

The political situation in the United States has been disturbed during the week only by the withdrawal from politics of ex-Senator David B. Hill, of New York. On the eve of his 61st birthday, the 28th, Mr. Hill published from Albany an announcement that on Jan. 1, 1905, he would retire from politics; that he never would run for an elective office again; that if the Democracy is successful in the State of New York and the nation he will accept no appointment at the hands of the President or Governor, and that he will relinquish the leadership of his party in his State.

G. Milburn, of Buffalo, Judge Parker explains that part of his acceptance speech (pp. 289, 295) in which he discussed the Philippine question. Mr. Milburn had called attention to criticisms of Judge Parker's use of the word "self government" instead of "independence," and in his reply Judge Parker says:

You are entirely right in assuming that as I employed the phrase "self government" it was intended to be identical with independence, political and territorial. After noting the criticism referred to by you, I am still unable to understand how it can be said that a people enjoy self-government while another nation may in any degree whatever control their actions. But to take away all possible opportunity for conjecture, it shall be made clear in the letter of acceptance that I am in hearty accord with that plank in the Democratic platform which advocates treating the Filipinos precisely as we did the Cubans, and I also favor making the promise to them now to take such action as soon as it can prudently be done.

Wm. J. Bryan made his first political speech of the campaign at Nevada, Mo., on the 30th, at a gathering of 6,000 persons. In the discussion of national issues he stated that his plan is to appeal to the Democrats who believe as he does on public questions to support the national ticket this year, in order to remove the issues that stand in the way of the consideration of economic questions, these issues being imperialism, militarism and the race question. He argued that those issues, brought into the political arena since 1896, have interfered with the calm consideration of domestic problems. Referring to the personality of the candidates he exclaimed: "Give me a President who stands for peace in preference to a President who stands for war."

An attempt by workmen to organize a new Democratic party at a national convention called to meet in Chicago on the 29th (p. 279) was not successful in point of numbers. The informal convention was presided over by T. C. Wilson, of the laundry workers' union; and the platform proposed by T. C. Quinn and adopted by the convention, was as follows:

The wealth producers of the United States of America regard the Declara-

In a letter of the 24th to John