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EDITORIAL

The Capability of Mayor Dunne's Administration.

The Chicago Tribune of the 7th is hopeful that because the next mayoralty term is to be for four years instead of two, the people will not allow "their heads" to be turned "by some gaudy and ephemeral issue,"—municipal ownership, for instance,—but will "endeavor to select a capable administrator of municipal affairs," which "will rule out Mayor Dunne." This insinuation that Mayor

Dunne is incapable is doubtless agreeable to those business interests of Chicago which the Tribune represents and whose votaries consider no municipal administration a capable one unless it pours unearned wealth into their pockets. But the truth is that in no administrative respect has Chicago ever had any better administration of municipal affairs than it has at present. Mayor Dunne's administration is in no particular worse than those of his predecessors, and in very many particulars it is a great deal better. But it is better for the whole people and not merely for a coterie of plutocrats, and that is why the Tribune cries out. The capability which the interests the Tribune represents want for the city, may be inferred from the specimens they are giving us in the county, from which a considerable proportion of their most capable administrators are now embarking for the penitentiary.

* *

The Roger Sullivan Episode.

Bryan's challenge to Roger Sullivan of Illinois, demanding that he get off the national Democratic committee, has aroused the resentment of every "business" man of both parties of the Sullivan type. It was a center shot. All representatives of predatory interests, South and North, as well as Sullivan himself, rightly regard Bryan's declaration as an assault upon their own business opportunities in politics. Bryan could have selected no better mark for demonstrating his antipathy to the presence in conspicuous places in the Democratic party of men who are in politics for revenue only. Before the Sullivan episode it was not unusual for honest Democrats to deplore the friendliness toward Bryan of so many plutocratic birds of prey; but with the Sullivan episode all this concern has passed away. Nobody criticises Bryan for dealing as he has dealt with Sullivan, except men who "have no use" for Bryan anyhow.

* *

Bryan on Tom Johnson.

It is gratifying to note Mr. Bryan's cordial expressions of satisfaction at the selection of Mayor Johnson for chairman of the New York reception meeting on the 30th. Mr. Bryan describes the Cleveland mayor as "a unique figure," who "stopped money-making in the very prime of life, and at great pecuniary sacrifice gave himself unreservedly to public affairs," and who "in the face

of all the abuse that intrenched wrong-doers could heap upon him" "has been performing a great civic duty." To Mr. Bryan's hope that Johnson's "splendid example will inspire many wealthy men to put a limit to their accumulations and devote their lives to the welfare of their fellows," there ought to be a general and hearty "Amen!"

* *

An Ample Apology.

The Cleveland news agent for the Associated Press, apparently one of the advertisement writers for the street car monopoly of that city, went a step or so too far when he telegraphed to the newspapers of the country the false insinuation that Mayor Johnson "was credited with being largely interested in the municipal traction company"—the company that is trying (p. 416) to bridge the way for establishing municipal ownership in Cleveland. This is evident from the fact that the Associated Press newspapers of the country of the 2nd and 3rd were obliged to publish a disclaimer in which they said: "This statement was unwarranted, is believed to be entirely untrue, if in its reading it tended to create the impression that Mayor Johnson had any financial interest whatever in the Forest City company, and is contrary to every public statement made by that official, he having specifically anticipated by public announcement any such possibility. That he has been interested in the success of the company, as an ultimate municipal-ownership proposition, but primarily to secure a lower fare, he has openly proclaimed. The Associated Press therefore desires to disclaim any knowledge or motive other than this public interest, and to disavow any other suggestion in making the statement telegraphed."

* *

Two Genuine Democrats for Congress.

Two of the Democratic nominations for Congress, one in Pennsylvania and one in Chicago, should excite the interest of democratic Democrats the whole country over. One of the candidates, Frank C. Buchanan, was long the president of the international union of structural iron workers, in which capacity he came in conflict with the boodling interests represented by Sam Parks within the organization and by wealthy contractors without. Mr. Buchanan won a high reputation there as an able and honorable administrator of trade union affairs, and both his experience and his essential democracy will make him a most valuable member of Congress. The other candidate to whom we refer is Warren Worth Bailey, the editor of the Johnstown Democrat, one of the best if not

the very best daily newspapers in the United States next to the Springfield Republican. Besides being one of the leading Democratic editors of the country, Mr. Bailey is an acute and forceful politician in the higher sense of that much abused word. Reports from Pennsylvania are to the effect that with his paper he has so completely democratized his district that his election is almost assured, notwithstanding that he lives in what has been the very hot bed of Pennsylvania protectionism. Similar predictions are made with regard to Mr. Buchanan, who, although his district is Republican, is likely to command a large labor vote, regardless of party, and a radical democratic vote which does not always go to Democratic candidates.

* *

Prevention of Crime.

While the city council and the grand jury of Chicago, aided and abetted by very respectable influences, are trying to thrust us back into barbarism by extending the list of capital crimes, the people of Philadelphia are trying to prevent the class of crimes for which capital punishment is demanded. Leading experts having come to the conclusion that such crimes are due less to guilty minds than to physical imperfections from youth up, Philadelphia is setting about curing the physical defects while it is yet time. This has a civilizing flavor; the argument for hanging is as revolting as the crimes for revenging which it is urged.

* *

Labor Laws.

It is a remarkable fact that two courts as far apart geographically as New York and Oregon, should at about the same time make decisions as far apart legally and morally as that a State law regulating the time of work for working women is unconstitutional in one of these States and constitutional in the other. The Oregon court holds that such laws are constitutional. The New York court holds that they are unconstitutional on the ground that they interfere with the right of private contract. On this point the New York decisions are somewhat in the nature of legal curiosities, in view of the fact that until the question of labor time became part of the burning labor question, the courts uniformly held that legislatures have full power to regulate labor time. The old cases arose on the basis of the Sunday laws, which were attacked as being enacted for religious reasons. The courts admitted that if the laws had no other purpose than to legalize religious observances they would be invalid; but they sus-