

employe of ours. Now you can settle it with him.'

"This may seem harsh, but it is the principle of many corporations. Many of them will discharge any employe if they know he has obtained a loan on his salary. They have made the rule after bitter experience.

"The result was that the man was thrown out to hunt a job without reference. In consequence, he has never had a steady job since until this summer. For four years he had only odd jobs.

"The family left their village home and moved into a poor tenement. From that they were dispossessed and would have been on the sidewalk, had not a family, almost as poor as themselves, taken them in.

"The oldest boy had to be taken from school and put in as a cash boy, and at times his wages has been all the family had to live on. They have been helped by the Charity Organization society.

"During this period of despondency the loan company did not trouble the man. But this spring, for the first time in four years, he got a steady job with the Wagner Car company as cleaner.

"The long lane seemed to have found its turning, when at the end of the first month he went up to get his wages. He had \$45 coming to him, and, to his astonishment, they handed him out ten dollars. They told him that the loan company had made a claim for \$35 out of his wages. The money is being held to await the court's decision.

"Curiously enough, the ex-conductor has sunk into deeper despondency since this last development than in all the time before. The feeling that the loan company had watched him and come down on him the first time he had anything worth coming after, his resentment at the increase of the original debt to \$35, and at the withholding of the \$35 from him, have all had a bad effect on him. He could not have been a drinking man to have held one place 15 years, but the smell of liquor is on his breath pretty often now."—The Metropolitan.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY. CLEVELAND'S GOOD GOVERNMENT.

Expressing loud praise of the work of Cleveland's board of public service and the greatest admiration for the manner in which the local board conducts its work, Messrs. John R. Bender, William S. Marx and Anthony Herschede, who will form a majority

of Cincinnati's board of public service, departed for home last night after a two days' visit with the local board.

The Cincinnatians came here for the purpose of gaining pointers and information for their guidance in the management of affairs in the Queen City during the next two years.

The Cleveland board tried to show them as much of the work being done here as was possible in two days. They also explained all matters of detail to the visitors. From early morning till late last night the visitors were in the hands of Messrs. Springborn, Cooley and Leslie.

Beginning early yesterday morning the Cleveland board started its second day's work with the guests. The first visit of the day was to the Erie street pier, where the biggest dump in history was displayed. Springborn explained the purposes of the work there and what the city proposes ultimately to do. Then there was a visit to the street department barn on Lake street, where the flushing machines, dump carts and paraphernalia generally were exhibited.

A fast automobile trip took the party to the Detroit street grade crossings. The abolition of the Nickel Plate crossing is under way, while the Lake Shore crossing has already been abolished. The visitors were deeply interested in this subject. A full explanation was given of how the problem is handled here. Cincinnati is undertaking the work of abolishing its crossings, and a member of the council is now attempting to take this work out of the hands of the new service board there. The member is a Cox worker.

A trip to the Edgewater park shelter house followed. Cincinnati, the visitors explained, had the antiquated "keep off the grass" signs still in service in its parks. They were very much pleased with the Cleveland system. The skating ponds about the city also formed a matter of astonishment for them.

In the afternoon there was a trip through the city hospital, the infirmary and the tuberculosis sanitarium. Cincinnati is about to spend nearly \$2,000,000 for hospitals and naturally the Cleveland institutions were particularly interesting.

The day's doings wound up with a visit to the city's garbage plant at Willow. The visitors explained that where they come from it costs the city \$2,000 a year to have its garbage collected, with less work done. It doesn't cost Cleveland, with its greater

amount of work, more than \$60,000 a year and the municipality hasn't been operating the reduction works a year yet.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of Dec. 10.

#### REVISED PLUTOCRATIC VIEW OF THE PHILIPPINE QUESTION.

From Willett & Gray's Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal, for Nov. 2, 1905.

President Roosevelt, having proved so grand an intermediary and director of the treaty of peace between Russia and Japan, cannot do better now than to give the same earnest attention to the Philippine islands' problem.

The feeling throughout the country appears to be rapidly taking form in the direction of parting with these possessions, and ridding the country and particularly the Republican party of this bone of contention, as it is likely soon to become, if measures are not taken to relieve the situation.

There are two outlets for the islands; an exchange of them with England for Canada or the British West Indies, and a sale or gift, even, of them to Japan. It is admitted already that the Filipinos like the Japs and hate the Americans, that Japanese money and enterprise are going into the Philippines, while the United States are withholding both.

Americans have openings enough at home for all their money, and enterprise without going to the other end of the world, and investments there with such an inferior race of people will never become popular to the American mind. If a vote of the entire people of the United States could be taken to-day on this Philippine question, apart from all other questions favorably considered by the party in power, we believe the vote would be overwhelmingly in favor of having President Roosevelt relieve us of the Philippines in either one of the two ways named.

Can such a vote be had officially or otherwise?

Not officially, but otherwise, with a little attention given to the matter. For instance, sugar is used in every family in the land, and is procured from every retailer of groceries in every city and town. The retailer buys the sugar from the wholesaler. This Sugar Trade Journal goes to nearly all the wholesale grocers in the land, and to the several trade exchanges of the country.

Now, if the persons receiving the Sugar Trade Journal will ask their retail grocery trade to take a vote of yes or no from each customer on the

question of parting with the Philippines, every family in the land can soon be heard from, and the answer would go far to decide the question in accord with the known sentiment of the country. We will be pleased to receive and publish the returns; and inasmuch as our paper is the recognized sugar authority of the United States and is freely consulted by the senators and representatives at Washington, the result of such a vote as proposed would go far to solve the knotty question which will immediately come up on the assembling of Congress, regarding the Philippines.

We would like to hear from our wholesale grocer friends if such a proposal as the above is practicable with them.

#### DIRECT LEGISLATION.

Substance of an address delivered by John Z. White, of Chicago, at a business men's banquet at Wilmington, Del., in August, 1904, as revised by Mr. White, November 16, 1906.

The referendum seems to be generally misunderstood. People apparently believe it to be something strange—a new device, whose merits and demerits are vague and uncertain. In truth it is a plan universally followed in all parliamentary bodies. Without it parliamentary law is impossible. Its absence from legislative assemblies is possible only through the substitution of that meanest and most irritating of all tyrannies, the rule of the gavel.

The referendum, together with the initiative and recall, are the means by which self-government is secured by any group of men, under any conditions whatsoever. Interference with these is just so much subtracted from the fact of self-government.

In deliberative bodies a chairman is selected to preside. His duty is to enforce the rules that may be adopted. If any decision rendered by him is thought to be in violation of these rules any member so believing may appeal from such decision to the whole body. This is the referendum. In the absence of this right of appeal, the presiding officer practically can do what he pleases.

If a member wishes action on any matter, he makes a motion to that effect, and this, on receiving the support of a second member, is placed before the body for consideration and adoption or rejection. This is the initiative. In the absence of this right to "move," members are without power to act.

If an officer refuses to perform the duties of his office, or commits acts in violation of those duties, the body may remove him from office. This is the recall. In the absence of this power, the officers may wholly defeat the will of the body, or may even carry out an opposing policy.

If the people of a city, State or the nation, are to be in truth self-governing it seems inevitably to follow that they must have at hand the means of making the government do their bidding. The people of the city of Chicago, for instance, have voted in favor of public ownership of their street car system, but their board of aldermen appear to be able to thwart the popular desire. The people of Philadelphia, and many other places, have repeatedly found themselves unable to achieve their wish. To many, self-government has come to be looked upon as an iridescent dream.

This pessimistic view arises from the fact that we are possessed of but part of the necessary machinery of self-government. We are like an engineer who has all essentials save the governor. His engine will "go," but its action is beyond orderly control.

The initiative, referendum and recall, taken together, are called direct legislation. That is, just as in any deliberative body, if the usual machinery does not produce desired results, the body may act directly. So, if our city, or other government does not act rightly, the body of the people, when possessed of the machinery of direct legislation, may act, or legislate, directly. Without this power they are not really self-governing.

It is proposed, therefore, to give to a certain percentage of the qualified voters in any political body the power to prepare and present a petition under which there shall be submitted to the whole body of voters the proposal that may be indicated by the petition. This is the exact equivalent of a motion in any club or society, save that a considerable number of "seconds" are required. That is, each signer of the petition really "seconds" the motion to adopt the matter proposed in the petition. Such action, as I have stated, is the initiative.

It is sometimes said that the people need only to elect officials favorable to such action, and that thereby all need for the device known as the initiative will vanish. The fallacy in this position comes from the fact that our officials have many duties. An officer may be highly esteemed and very

satisfactory in nearly all relations, but at the same time be quite at variance with the people on some question held by them to be important. At an election one candidate may be personally desirable, yet not in accord with the popular will on a given matter. Why shall we maintain a system by which we are either deprived of the efficient officer, or of a measure that we believe to be expedient?

In one of the elections in Chicago a man was elected by a majority of two to one, although he declared himself opposed to a policy which at the same election the same constituency favored by a vote of three to one. The opposing candidate, meanwhile, had declared in favor of this policy. The explanation is simple. Other issues were, in the opinion of the voters, sufficiently important to force this matter into the background. If possessed of the power to initiate legislation, the voters could have enjoyed the services of the officer they desired, and also secured the adoption of the policy they preferred. They were, in fact, but partly self-governing.

It is also proposed that the people shall have power, expressed by petition, as explained in the above reference to the initiative, to promptly propose the defeat of acts of legislation deemed by them to be unwise. If a measure has been enacted by the legislature, or other legislative body, a petition may be prepared within a stated time (perhaps 60 or 90 days) and signed by the given percentage of qualified voters in the territory affected by the legislation, whereupon it shall be submitted to the people for adoption or rejection. This is exactly equivalent to "an appeal from the chair." The matter may be placed before the people at a special election or at the next regular election.

It is sometimes urged that under such a plan the people would be voting all the time and on all manner of questions. In fact, the referendum, where adopted, is seldom resorted to. Legislators are careful when they know the people can easily reverse their doings; and, very much more important, lobbyists are not inclined to use their peculiar powers of persuasion on members of legislative bodies when they know there are watchful citizens intent upon the defeat of their nefarious schemes, and with full power to defeat them if the people so will. The referendum will not only cure legislative rascality, but in even greater degree operates as a preven-