

the angels sing. Look, Sam, our man is coming to.

C.: Our redemption!

ANTON S. ROSING.

MUNICIPAL ADVANCES.

Portions of the annual review of the Secretary of the National Municipal League, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, presented at the annual meeting of the League, held in New York, Apr. 25, 1905.

In Cleveland Mayor Johnson has consistently sustained the merit system in the water, police and fire departments, although in the first named there is no legal provision on the subject. He has publicly expressed himself in favor of the extension of the merit system to all city departments as rapidly as he can rally public sentiment to the support of that policy. He does not seem to be willing to risk a defeat of his various other measures of improvement through the immediate and wholesale inauguration of the merit system in the face of the present very weak public sentiment on the subject. He has displayed great courage, however, in his handling of various public questions, and especially in the matter of inaugurating the investigation of a general charge of bribery and corruption which he himself preferred against about one-half of the members of the Council. The situation so far as Council is concerned is somewhat anomalous. It is judge and jury in the case against its members, and has filed a petition in court to enjoin the city solicitor from demanding the production of the books of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, whose relations with the councilmen are being investigated.

The election of a Democratic auditor in Cleveland at the same time the city went overwhelmingly Republican, to which reference has already been made in another connection, is simply another manifestation of the growing independent sentiment of Cleveland which two years ago manifested itself in the reelection of Mayor Johnson and of a sufficient number of councilmen to insure the approval of his appointees, notwithstanding the effort of the State Legislature to tie his hands. The significance and courage of Mayor Johnson's investigation of the alleged bribery of councilmen is all the more praiseworthy, because many of the members involved are of the same political faith as himself.

The death of Samuel M. Jones, of Toledo, removes a most remarkable personality. He was a striking force for independent thought and activity along

municipal lines. His continuous reelection as mayor of Toledo on a non-partisan independent ticket constituted at once one of the most convincing evidences of his strength with the people and of the independence of the voters of Toledo, an independence which has been manifested in a striking manner since his death, which occurred late last summer.

Chicago has become a municipal laboratory, wherein are being worked some of the most important and far-reaching municipal problems. For ten successive years the Municipal Voters' League has continued its efforts to secure councilmanic reform. Frequent references to its victories have been made in these reviews. As a result of them there is now a substantial majority of honest and efficient aldermen, and the board has just been reorganized on non-partisan lines, just as it has been every year for the last four years. Thoughtful and unbiased observers of the situation have been expecting a reaction against the Municipal Voters' League. Experience in such work tends to show that the voters of a community grow tired of receiving advice year after year from the same body of men. No matter how well founded or how disinterested that advice may be, the public grows restive if offered too frequently or too continuously. . . .

The great significance of the mayoralty election of April 6 last lies in the fact that it hinged solely on municipal issues, and Judge Dunne was elected, not because he was a Democrat, but because he represented in his personality and campaign the wishes of a large majority of the voters of Chicago. For it is an important and significant fact to be borne in mind in considering this particular election, that the percentage of actual votes cast was larger than ever before. I have already commented on the significance of the independence shown by the voters. More important and far-reaching than that is the fact that his election represented a triumph for the principles for which the National Municipal League has always stood, that municipal elections should turn upon municipal issues and should be determined from the standpoint of municipal needs and conditions.

There are numerous side issues which are involved which would well repay study and consideration were the time at our disposal. For instance, Mr. Harlan, the defeated Republican candidate, was greatly handicapped

through his whole campaign and especially on the day of election because his past independent course had alienated so many of his party leaders, whereas Judge Dunne on the other hand had been the model of party regularity. The outcome would seem to indicate that while it is imperative that the individual elector should be as free as possible from party affiliations and claims when it comes to the exercise of his municipal suffrage, yet the leaders must have at their back the disciplined army of the regular party voters if they are to be successful in their fight. In other words, the leaders must manifest their independence in other ways than by bolting party nominees. Judge Dunne had on more than one occasion shown his independence, in fact he owed his nomination to the fact that he represented a radical view of party policy in local affairs, but at the same time he had always maintained his party regularity.

CONSCRIPTION.

All the ways are loud with weeping:
Upward to the sky,
Goes the wail of wives and mothers,
For the doomed to die.
All the ways are loud with marching:
Through the land of slaves,
Goes the tramp of sons and husbands,
Downward to their graves.

Mother, mother, who is moaning,
Moaning through the night?
'Tis the children who are calling,
Trembling with affright.
Mother, mother, where is father?
Now we heard him groan;
And, in dreams, we saw him lying,
Wounded, and alone.

Children, children, cease your calling:
Let me weep and pray,
Till the long and weary darkness
Brings the cruel day.
Children, you have lost your father:
He was forced afar,
Doomed to die in bloody battle,
By the coward Czar.
—Bertrand Shadwell, in Chicago Evening Post.

No one can injure a man who refuses to be hurt. You may kill him, but you cannot touch the man in him.—The Whim.

BOOKS

MR. HUNTER'S BOOK ON POVERTY.

In the New York Independent of March 30 there was a contribution by Professor John Bascom under the title, Social Forecast. It was a brief article covering only three pages, but it is fuller of food for thought than many books. Professor Bascom is an old man, nearly eighty. For many years he has been watching the trend of things, and here he makes a forecast. The whole article