

present counsel. This year an immense expense has been incurred in the unnecessary grading of streets. As an example of the expenditure of money which cannot be justified or defended, may be cited the grading of Nineteenth street from A street to D street, directly west of and adjacent to the Fitzgerald property. There are but three houses along the street where the grading was done and the condition of the street was not such as to require the expenditure of a single dollar in grading, yet money was there expended which ought to be recovered from the members of the council who voted for the expenditure. This is but one example of hundreds that might be cited of reckless extravagance in the expenditure of public money by the council. The delinquent tax list ought to admonish the council to curtail expenses but it has no such effect. Men charged with the duty of administering municipal affairs continue to expend money and contract debts which must be paid by taxation in a manner that is inexcusable if not criminal. Recently a contract was let to pave Eleventh street from the north line of O street to the south line of M street, excluding the M street intersection and so much of the O street intersection as is required to be paved by the street railway company. The contract calls for the paving of approximately 2,400 yards of street and alley intersections at a cost of \$2 per yard, or a total of \$4,800 for intersections. When this contract was let there was in the intersection fund \$2,400 in round numbers, and no more which was applicable to the payment of the expense of paving intersections, or one half the amount which the city agreed to pay under the contract. It is reported that the city attorney gave it as his opinion that the road fund might be applied to paying the cost of paving intersections, but this is impracticable, because the council insists on dissipating the road fund by the unnecessary grading of streets. The paving company is performing its contract and when it has finished its work the entire intersection fund will have been expended in paving the intersections including in repaving district No. 1 and the balance will be collected by a general tax levied to collect the judgment which the paving company will get against the city in the federal court. The repaving of the streets is an absolute necessity and it could be accomplished without increasing the burdens of public taxation aside from special assessments if the council would practice economy. It is determined not to do so. Upon the republican party, which, by a large voting majority controls the city council, must rest and does rest the responsibility for the prevailing recklessness in the expenditure of public money. To that party, locally, a stinging rebuke ought to be administered and the time to administer it is now. Every candidate on the county republican ticket ought to be defeated at the election in November. Not because candidates on other tickets are better men but because the men whom the republican party have elected have proved recreant to their trust. They should be defeated as an emphatic protest on the part of the taxpayers against the criminal extravagance of republican officials. It is no answer to say that now no city officials are to be elected; the republican party has its candidates before the people and it is the party which deserves castigation because its representatives intentionally increase in an unlawful manner the burdens of taxation. If the voters will now avail themselves of the opportunity afforded and by defeating every republican candidate on the county ticket the result

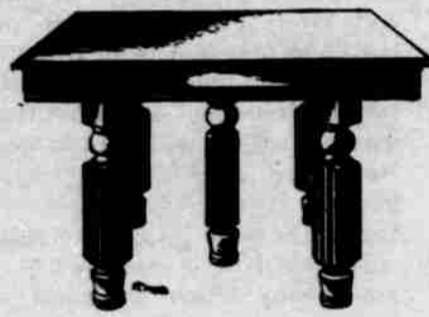
will be that the council will heed the warning and will enter upon a system of retrenchment that will bear fruit in the future and entrench the republican party in power so long as its representatives perform their duty.

The Chicago Record says: "It is one of the happiest outcomes of the peace celebration that it was the means of bringing President McKinley to the west." That's funny. Nebraska was under the impression that the president came west to see our show and the people on the cis Mississippi side. On his way back he stopped in Chicago to help the citizens celebrate, but without him the show was only two or three hundred miles of bunting and a few only comparatively great men like Dr. Thomas, Bishop Fallows, the Rev. Jenkins, Lloyd Jones, the Rev. Hirsch and Booker Washington. President McKinley made a great speech in Omaha, the best speech he ever made, and one of the few long speeches worth reading and preserving. If he had come west solely to see Chicago celebrate peace he would have made his best speech to the people on the lake. But he did not. Our own truly great men, Senators Thurston and Allen, Mr. Mander son and Mr. Wattles, invited him to Omaha and he accepted the invitation and stopped in Chicago on his way home.

Pennsylvania is at last on the point of ridding herself of a rascal who has stolen state money and corrupted both democrats and republicans for many years. Quay is a type of man unfortunately represented in every state and more dangerous to free government than scores of anarchists. Without any party affiliations, without ideals, without respect for humanity, they deal in politics as better men do in merchandise. When such a man gets a hold in politics he is hard to dislodge. All honest men have known, since the New York World several years ago published his life, that Quay had embezzled public moneys. Yet Harper's Weekly says that this year both the republican and democratic candidates are of his selection. Of course such a condition of affairs is the fault of the people who are too cowardly to destroy a complicated regime established by a criminal. In the beginning Quay, like other small traders, got control of the situation in his own town, later the state felt his power, and now at the national capital, says Harper's Weekly, "he wields a great influence, so that the whole nation is interested in his downfall." For the politicians of all parties in Nebraska the bondage of Pennsylvania from which the citizens have been trying for so long to free themselves is worth contemplating. Mr. Quay is without personal friends or admirers but his control was established and has been prolonged by means which, when employed ambitiously and cunningly, are of serious menace to personal liberty. The steps by which Quay mounted was upon the necks of ward politicians. "Despise, ignore and cheat the multitude, but put under continued obligation every hundredth man who controls his ward or precinct. Make every one of these men believe that his good living depends upon me," has been Quay's rule of procedure and so far it has brought him rich returns. No vice so universal as cowardice, not personal, but that which springs from the fear of losing or decreasing the means of livelihood. If there is a man in Lincoln who picks out this or that candidate for his favor, without regard to party, who cultivates and rewards and threatens ward heelers, who has an inordinate love of money, who has no friends in

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the real and poetical sense of the word but only in the political and commercial, who expresses contempt for the ballot and the staple votes that are put into it, who boasts that he never voted himself, who announces that it is all one to him whether populists or republicans are elected, and that the former's price is a little lower, then by these signs, that man is not a good American, he is an enemy to American institutions and a traitor to the high ideals of the founders of this government. In the stimulated patriotism caused by our recent victories and the progress of the president, such a man is seen in his true light.

Until Quay got into office it was not supposed that he had any such ambition for himself, but when he got control of the men that could swing fifty or a hundred or two hundred votes, he announced his designs upon the United States senate and his creatures in the legislature sent him there.

The community's verdict of any man can be trusted. If in a whisper the timid elements say to each other that such and such a citizen is entirely lacking in honor and morality, such and such a citizen has received a juster estimate than will be writ upon his tombstone.

The editorial alluded to, which amounts to a memorial of Quay, concludes with these words of striking verisimilitude: "His silence under the charges is significant. He entertains a cynical contempt for the people of the state. He believes that they have not virtue enough to punish him. He feels safely entrenched in his castle of vice."

Mr. H. W. Hardy's letter to the

council is full of practicable suggestions as to how the city expenses may be reduced so that they do not exceed by one hundred dollars per day, as they do now, the income. It is unfortunate that some members of the council pay so small a proportion of taxes. Their constant endeavor is to spend money rather than to save it. The trouble is that the street commissioner and his aids, firemen, policemen, water department employes and the city treasurer and his employes stand at the ear of the councilmen ever ready to raise a hubbub of remonstrance when a salary reduction is urged upon the council. While the fifty thousand people who pour an unjust and oppressive tax into the city treasury to be expended for foolish and unnecessary purposes are silent. No paper except the COURIER dares to urge that the city's income and outlay shall be made to balance. Why? Because the men who absorb the one hundred dollars a day excess expenditure are political workers who control a certain number of voters. But the people pay for this patronage that the council distributes so generously and when election day comes, their bankruptcy be upon their own heads if the voters do not remember to rebuke the party which has refused to save the city from ruin which is as inevitable as though it were a private citizen who was spending a hundred dollars a day more than he earned. The street commissioner is paid to see that the condition of the streets conforms with the city ordinances. Does he do it? Those who are familiar with Mr. Lindsay's habits report that he spends an undue proportion of his time lounging about saloons and hotels and leaving to two other employes the duties of his position. The health