

CHAPTER VIII.

A Quiet Meeting of the Dictatore. Early in the new year, at the instance of Haldane, a meeting of the inner circle of the governing body. popularly known as "The Ring," was called at his private residence on upper Fifth avenue, which he very unobtrusively recocupied for the occasion. The meeting was held late at night. The men summoned thereto came up town quietly and unostenta-tiously slipped into the house.

For many reasons Haldane's relation to the Sachem society was carefully concealed. He represented a distinct group of financiers and business interests whose relations with the party in power were most intimate. These relations in some instances were suspected, but their actuality had not been allowed to transpire. Haldane kept in constant touch with Liffey the boss; but no one, save the inner circle, suspected that the two were hand in glove together.

Haldane did not often meet with anyone but Liffey. In this instance, however, he at least appreciated the gravity of the situation, and had directed Liffey to bring with him those whose advice would naturally be sought on such subjects as he desired to discuss. He had also assembled two of the directors of the Gotham Freight Traction company, to wit, Van Slyke and McRonald, men associated with him upon whose judgment and ability he could rely. In addition to them came Liffey, grand chief of the Sachem society and the acknowledged and undisputed boss of the party; Connell, the chief of police; Rutherford, the district attorney; Habberley, the street commissioner; and last and also least, Hon. Peter D. Warren, mayor of the city.

Liffey, as leader of the Great Sachem society, controlled the organization absolutely. The chief of police wielded the vast powers for graft of that remarkable organization. The district attorney, through whose hands all criminal prosecutions must pass, was the safety valve of both

Liffey had started in as a poor Irisa immigrant. The chief of police had been a saloonkeeper and finally the colonel of a National Guard regiment. McRouald was a Scotsman whose shrewdness and ability had won him a high position among the financial magnates. Van Slyke belonged to an old Dutch family and had inherited a vast fortune, which his adroit mansgement had tremendously increased. They represented American life with its opportunities and its possibilities.

"Gentlemen," began Haldane quietly, "I have called you here, as you have doubtless surmised, because of the announcement of the candidacy of George Gormly for mayor."

"Do you think it's of sufficient importance, Mr. Haldane, for such an



The Disgusted Delegation Tramped Out

unusual conference as this is?" asked the boss. "I certainly do, Liffey," was the re-

ply.

"It isn't the first time," said Rutherford, a man of exceptional ability and great distinction of manner and bearing, "that some impracticable reformer has offered himself for popular suffrage on such a platform."

"But it is the first time in my recollection," returned Haldane, "that a man possessing the peculiar combination of business ability, unquestioned integrity, and unlimited money has put himself forward, and I beg to assure you that 1 consider him the most available man from the point of view of the opposition that has ever appeared on the political horizon." "I don't care a cuss how available he is," said Liffey. "We can beat him, and we will. Of course, it'll take

more money." He looked significantly at the trio of financiers.

"The amount of money that it takes now," said McRonald grimly, "is something terrific.'

"I should say so," added Van Slyke. "Well, you get what you bargain for, don't you?" returned the boss viciously. "You get a free hand to take it out of the people, don't you?" "Gentlemen, gentlemen," said Haldane authoritatively, "I hardly think the discussion is taking a profitable turn. Doubtless, as Liffey says, we can beat him; certainly we must do so. Probably it will cost more money; that is, if in some way his candidacy cannot be headed off."

might be a good man to the to "You can set your mind at rest as to that, Liffey. He wouldn't tie to a

man like you." "Oh, I don't know. Pretty good men have found it to their interests to tia up with me, and they haven't lost anything by it. Have you, Mr. Haldane?"

Haldane locked his teeth. It was this sort of covert insult which was the necessary concomitant of his alliance which, in his secret heart, he loathed. Again it was the district attorney who interposed.

"I take it that this is a conference," he said equably, "as to what we are to do, if anything, to head off this man. You don't think he can be bought off, Mr. Haldane?"

"I am sure he cannot be."

"Well, then, he'll have to be fought down," returned the other; "for it is evident that we cannot afford to have the workings of the Sachem society brought before the public. The thing to be done now is to get together, keep together, and beat Gormly." "You think he's got a chance, do you?"

"More than a chance." "But we control everything."

"Everything but Gormly, apparent-ly," answered Van Slyke.

"Yes," said Rutherford, disregarding the last remark; "but you know, Liffey, our control rests largely upon the indifference of the people. If they get waked up, it would go like that."

He snapped his finger as he spoke, LONCER; HOURS FOR it is that on the indifference of the many is founded the power of the

"We could still count the votes," said the chief of police uncertainly. "Undoubtedly; but if there are the votes will be counted as cast." "And we have the courts on our side." added Habberley.

Mr. Haldane's estimate of Gormly is correct, and for myself I am rather inclined to believe that it is, we are tion."

a man that's entirely respectable, and the organization."

certainly haven't failed in duty-"

"To the people?" asked Rutherford. "To the organization," answered the stred."

Liffey snorted with disdain.

you are very available. Whether or

question," interposed McRonald. "We ought to get some man of the tension of light hours. Most every has since developed a rather serious or seven miles southwest of Platts-

a baoy. It's dollars to pennics bu what we'll discover something that he'd like to keep hidden."

Your suggestion is an excellent one, and your observations do you credit. It's the first practical suggestion we've had here this evening." said Van Slyke.

"Right," said Liffey, bluntly, "Turn up some dirty story about him, and if necessary."

"You'll have to be careful," said Rutherford, "that such evidence as you supply shall be unimpeachable. and that such a story as you turn up shall be true, else I won't have anything to do with it."

doubt be read with considerable in-"Oh, I guess you'll take your orders from the society."

"Not from you, Liffey, not from any-body," said Rutherford quietly Plattsmouth. It will at least furnish much food for thought among those enough, though his face flushed at the who would like to see our city placed. insult. "As a matter of fact, being upon a level with the best and most district attorney, I hold the whip hand of you all." And again the uneasy movement from the financiers evidenced the truth of that assertion.

"My term still has two years to run, remember, and there are things I that!"

Liffey gritted his teeth; but said nothing in the face of so obvious a proposition.

ELECTRICTY SERVICE

Commencing on the first of December the Nebraska Lighting Co. will enough people interested in the affair. put on their morning run, supplying the people with electricity at five o'clock in the place of seven, as is the custom in the summer time. How

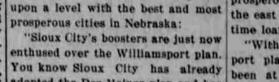
"Yes, to a certain extent; but there much better it would be if the first are limits beyond which even our own of December was the starting point judges could not go. Therefore, if for the newly proposed twenty-four hour service that has been talked of but never realized, for the past year. face to face with a terrific proposi. A twenty-four hour service means a great deal to the city of Plattsmouth.

"Well then," said Liffey, "I think many people want it and a few do the best thing to do, if you gents are not, and we believe the wishes of the all agreed that it's serious, is to pitch majority should rule in a case like upon a candidate. We want to have this. There are but few, if any, cities yet who knows which side his bread's the size of Plattsmouth that do not buttered on and who'll take care of have a twenty-four hour service, and now that the spirit of progressiveness

"I think," said Warren tentatively, is very evident in our city this is one "that I have earned another term. I of the most essential and indisapensimy ble of all the necessities that are

needed to place us in the class we belong, one of the best and most upmayor with dignity, "and my private to-date cities in the state. We undercharacter is all that could be de stand that the city council will take some action upon this very important

question at their regular meeting on "My dear Mr. Warren, undoubtedly Monday evening of next week, and few miles in the country, had the lic Auction to the hignest bidder at not you are the most available is the we trust that they may be able to misfortune to get her thumb slightly the Silas Long farm, three miles west see their way clear to give us the ex- scratched about a week ago which and a quarter mile south of Mynard,



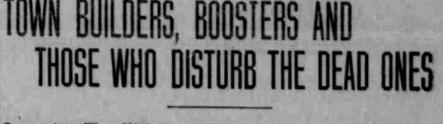
adopted the Des Moines plan and has could do even with you. Don't forget not only the commission form of government, but a paid secretary for its commercial club. The secretary and the president of the First National Bank of Sioux City have just returned from Williamsport, Pa., where they examined the Williamsport plan and banks the paper of Waterloo manu-

> man assumes a liability up to the air. amount of his subscription and with



case of blood poison. The accident

tally slipped, causing her to strike



you need evidence I'll supply all that's Suggestions That Will Prove Beneficial and at Least Furnish. Much Food for Thought to the Readers of the Journal.

The following, taken from the fund.

Council Bluffs Nonpariel, will no

terest by every enterprising citizen of

"Easton, Pa., tried it and landed a factory employing 2,000 men in caly a few months. Manufacturers everywhere are looking for long time loops with which to extend their business and any town in the west can move prosperous, growing factories from the east if they can only supply long time loans in large amounts.

"Without calling it the Williamsport plan, Waterloo, in Iowa, has been at this kind of business for some time. Waterloo has a trust company in which most of the bankers are interested. This trust company loans money to Waterloo factories. Several high class gentlemen visit the village banks of Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois, offering to these the bankers say that the plan works facturers in almost any sum, for any length of time desired and at attract-

"Town-builders, boosters and those ive rates. As much as \$200,000 of who would disturb the dead ones Waterloo paper has been known to generally should look into this Wil- have been sold to the banks of one liamsport plan. It brings enormous fat and sleek town. The banking factories to town, starts house build- capital of three states is thus back ing by the thousands and yet gives no of the factories in Waterloo and such one a bonus. In Williamsport the a thing as moving an automobile facsubstantial well-to-do and successful tory becomes easy. As compared to business men subscribe to a fund the plan of the Greater Des Moines which is used as the basis of credit committee it is payment in full with for manufacturing enterprises. Each real gold instead of a promise of hot

"The president of the First Nathe best men of a town thus back of tional bank of Sionx City declares. the trust company the company can that the Williamsport plan is practigo to New York, Philadelphia or Bos- cable for this town and proposes ton and borrow money just as easily trust company there, to be offered by as can the Pennsylvania railroad, or the local bankers, but backed by the it can sell its own securities locally. combined guarantees of all the busi-It loans money to new factories, ness men. Why is it not practicable \$100,000 at a time. The subscribers for Council Bluffs and every other merely put up for losses if there are lowa town which wants to attract any. They are back of a guarantee industries?"

Big Combination PUBLIC SALE

The undersigned will sell at Pub-

the Sachem society and that portion of the people to which it looked for support. The street commissioner, who had at his disposal more appointments than all the rest of the administration put together, used them primarily for the good of the party and after that for cleaning the streets.

The mayor, the ostensible head but really the servant of the quartet, was there because of his office, and he was in office because he could be controlled. From the point of view of the men present, he was the best mayor that New York had ever had. He was a man of some parts. He could make a brilliant speech, preside gracefully and with dignity at public meetings, and was altogether an admirable figure to head a great city in everything but morals.

Associated with these four intensely practical men and this pliant, willing figurehead were the interests represented by the Gotham Freight Traction company, of which Haldane was in absolute control, although the presidency was vested in another man. The interests of Haldane and his associates were not confined to the Gotham Freight Traction company. They had their hands on every public franchise. Their private affairs, of course, were vast and multiform; but with them we have nothing to do. Their alliance with the political party. for which they had paid and would continue to pay enormous sums, had brought them very material advantages in one form or another. All the trusts that make New Jersey their headquarters hardly equaled in wealth and control the organizations these men represented. Haldane, from his one interview

with Gormly, had an idea that in this instance the two forces to be dreaded by the ring were incarnated in Gormly and would rally about Gormly. Now, of course, everyone of those present had read Gormly's startling

announcements of his candidacy. Most of them had read them with amusement; only the most prescient with env feeling of alarm, and even that feeling was not sufficiently deep to have awakened any special degree of anxiety. Yet the fact that each one had been summoned to Haldane's house, the politicians through Liffey and the financiers through Haldane himself, rather startled them.

The eight men assembled in the spacious library of the Fifth Avenue house. The curtains were discreetly drawn. The men had arrived singly and at different times. They were admitted by Haldane's confidential secretary in person. Cigars and liquors were provided, and the eight, from all sorts of differing social ranks, mingled freely together on terms of absolute equality.

The district attorney, for instance, was a graduate of Yale. Haldane himself had come from Harvard. The menne was a product of Columbia.

"Can he be induced to withdraw, do you think?" asked Rutherford.

"No, I think not; but if we made him some concessions it is barely possible he might, though I gravely doubt it. He's all stirred up over this switch business. I have already taken upon myself to offer to use my influence to get the price demanded cut in half. He declined the offer immediately. I think he said he wouldn't pay anything except the cost of the switch and a reasonable sum-\$40,000 -for the privilege."

"I want you to mark, Mr. Haldane," put in Liffey, "that if we're mixed up in a fight, it's the extortionate demands of the Gotham Freight Traction company which has brought it about.'

"My dear sir," answered Haldane con temptuously, "how are we to satisfy the demands made upon us by you and your fellow members of the Sachem society and make a profit for ourselves out of the matter, if we don't make men like Gormly pay heavily?"

"That's your lookout."

"Well, you will find that it's also yours if we stop payments."

"Oh, I don't know. I guess there's others that'd be glad to enjoy the franchises."

"Now, Liffey," said the district attorney, who perhaps from his official position as public prosecutor had more influence over the boss than anybody present. "Don't talk like a fool! You know perfectly well that we are all necessary to one another; that we are all in the same boat; we all have to fight the same battle. Have you anything to propose, Mr. Haldane?"

"I don't know that I have any definite proposition just at present," was the answer. "I have met this Gormly. I have-er-as you would say, sized him up carefully; I put him down for a man of indomitable courage. Whatever his motive may be, he is thoroughly determined upon his course. However small his experience in politics, he is a business man

through and through." "Does he dabble in Wall street?"

asked Warren. "If so, it would be easy for you to form a combination to break him."

"His business methods are confined to his mercantile establishment, and they are purely legitimate." What resources has he got?"

"Well, I should say he can command

perhaps a score of millions." "Whew!" exclaimed Liffey. "He

highest consideration, who belongs to private consumer desires the twenty who's amenable to the right pressure. How'd you do yourself, Mr. Haldane?" asked the boss innocently, if bosses can ever ask anything in that vein.

"Haven't you got a son?" asked Connell, the chief of police. "He'd have all the advantages of name and I have no doubt he'd do pretty much say what was best for us all "

"I think that would be an excellent idea," chimed in Rutherford. "How old is your youngster, Haldane?'

"He's twenty-eight." "Never done anything in his life,

has he?" "Do you mean in business, or any in the city today, Mr. Berger coming any other way?" 'Anything he's got to cover up I after his winter supply of potatoes. mean. "Nothing, I believe," answered the

father. "He's been a lively lad; but nothing dishonorable that I am aware of." "He's the very man we want-

young, enthusiastic, inexperienced, Orphans' Home five years ago. One. rich, controllable. Where is he now?" asked Rutherford.

"He's down on Long Island at my country place." "Can you get in communication with

him by telephone?" "I think so."

"Suppose you call him up and ask make her home. It seems as though him whether or not, if he got the the young lady had got beyond the nomination, he would run."

control of Mrs. Carroll, and they ap-"I will. Excuse me, gentlemen," pealed to the home for assistance said Haldane, going out into the hall with the above result. Both Mr. and where one of the duplicate telephones Mrs. Carroll regret very much the was installed.

He did not care to do his telephon- loss of the young lady from their ing in the library before the group of home. conspirators.

"I think," protested Warren as Hal-

Leaguers Hold Interesting Meeting. dane closed the door behind him, "that The Epworth League held its anthis is a shame. You promised me nual Thanksgiving meeting last eventhat if I made a satisfactory mayor. I should have the refusal of the office ing at the beautiful home of Mr. J. again, and I'd like to know what I've M. Leyda, with his daughter, Miss done that you should throw me Ethel, as hostess. The program was down?"

in keeping with the season, and con-"Promises," said Liffey, "don't go sisted of games, readings and music. in politics longer than it's agreeable. Miss Ellen Windham read as you very well know. We min't throwing you down, either. You'll be Thanksgiving poem and selections

and maybe this young Haldane ain't tendance was all that could be de-We're not committed to him yet." able session was had. "I'll tell you one thing that we can

do without waiting for a candidate,' here interposed the chief of police.

"And what is that, pray?" asked the mayor. "We can put the Central Office de Journal a call while in Plattsmouth

tective force on Gormly's trail. We en route for Omaha, and paid for the can look up his record. We can find daily for six months, which she will out all about him ever since he was receive on route 1.

a most respectable family, and yet four hour service, and the light company is ready to put it into operation, about her household duties. At the but the returns from the private con- time Mrs. Rummel had a couple of sumer will not justify them in so "Under no consideration," he said, doing. It now hinges upon the action decisively, "could I accept the honor, of the council whether the proposi-My interests, our interests, are too tion goes through or not. As will be

station and so on that you would, and fail in securing a twenty-four hour contract from the city. Let us hope what you said, and I'm sure you'd for what is the best for all concerned. which we believe to be the twenty-

> In From Murray. From Saturday's Daily.

from them. Mr. Carroll tells us that

his home seems mighty lonesome

four hour service.

home of Mrs. Peter Munn, where she J. W. Berger and Chas. Carroll, has been since last Sunday. Her two good citizens from Murray, were condition has been quite serious for several days, but this morning the up for a barrel of oll and Charley physician thought her condition improved somewhat. The Journal acknowledges a brief call

Have Begun to Lay Brick.

these days, since the departure of the Yesterday morning brick laying on young lady they took from the the new gas engine factory was commenced, Mr. Emil Walters having the of the head officials of the Home was contract from Mr. Boyd for this porin Murray a few days ago, coming to tion of the building, and while only take the young girl, Miss Walker, one or two masons worked yesterwho is now in her sixteenth year, to day, next week it is intended to work the home of Mr. Engelkeimer, six the force now on the postoffice buildmiles west of Murray, where she will ing, as the contractor there is out of pretty rapidly.

Mr. Scott is delivering the brick and sand to the site, and already has several thousand brick and many Q. K. Parmele, Auct. yards of sand on the ground. There C. G. Fricke, Clerk.

is about 150,000 brick to lay, and each mason will lay from three to four thousand per day, so that if the weather is good, next week will see



HATT PRODUCE CO.

mouth, Nebraska, on

occurred while Mrs. Rummel was TUESDAY, NOV. 29 Commencing at 1:00 o'clock p. m. syrup pails in her hand and acciden-

Live Stock.

the hand in which the pails were held One sorrel mare, 11 years old, against the wall, inflicting a very weight 1,350; one buckskin, 10 years vast for me to localize them by be seen in another column of this paper. slight cut, which did not bleed any years old. weight 1,350; one bay the company announces that the two- at the time, and Mrs. Rummel mare, 9 years old, weight 1,100; one hour extension will take place on the thought nothing of the matter. On bay horse, 12 years old, weight 1,200; first of December, even though they Sunday morning, when her thumb one gray horse, 7 years old, weight pained her and had begun to show in- 1,400; one bay horse, 6 years old, fection, her son, Will, brought her to weight 1,350; one mare colt, 6 town to have Dr. Livingston examine months old.

the injured hand, and on advice of One Jersey cow, 5 years old, will the physician, Mrs. Rummel remained soon be fresh; one Jersey cow, will in the city, where treatment could be be fresh January 1st. frequently administered, going to the

Implements, Etc.

Two walking stirring plows, one 3section harrow, one disc harrow, two combined walking listers, three walking cultivators, one St. Joe two-row machine, one Deering binder, two farm wagons, two top buggles, four sets of work harness, one set of light harness, one set of single harness, one wood heating stove, one five-gallon barrel churn.

Some household goods and numerous other articles.

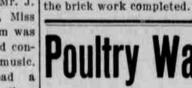
Terms of Sale,

All sums of \$10 and under, cash; over \$10, a credit of twelve months will be given, purchaser giving good brick. With the force now at work bankable paper bearing interest from and the masons to be placed on the date. All property must be settled job next week, the walls will go up for before being removed from the premises.

> Geo. Gradoville. W. A. Griffin.

Family Reunion.

Tom Svoboda, the accommodating and gentlemanly janitor of the court house and his estimable wife on Thanksgiving day gave a dinner, to which they invited the relatives of both. Turkey, duck and chicken. roasted to a beautiful brown, with oyster dressing adn vegetables in pro-cakes and fruits followed and the table groaned with a load of delicately prepared dishes to tempt the palate. Those present to enjoy the feast were Thomas Janda and children, and sister, Miss Mary, from North Platte: John Svoboda, jr., wife and children; John Svoboda, sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hiber, Mrs. Louis Janda, of Havelock, and J. W. Bookmeyer and wife.





Higest prices paid for all kinds of

Mrs. M. A. Gell Jones was a pas-

senger for Omaha this afternoon to visit friends. Mrs. Jones gave the

produce.

