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> Illustrations by Dearborn Melvill

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CHAPTER X.

The Voice of the People is Heard. Gormly's refusal to accept the indorsement and become the nominee of the outs created a great sensation. It was an evidence, which by and by even the stupid could apprehend, that Gormly literally meant what he said when he declared that he was to be an absolutely independent candidate, tied to no faction, bound by no party, entirely free and unfettered.

The men who rallied to his support, while as innocent as babes in the praccal politics affected by Liffey and Benson, were nevertheless men of abounding zeal, keen intelligence, and high quality. Nor were the workers that gathered round the new leader entirely from the social set and circle of the Haldanes. Gormly in one way or another employed a vast number of working men. His relations with them had always been not merely "square," as they phrased it, but kind and generous. They were organized and started at work immediately in every direction. Before the enemy realized it, ample time had been secured in every possible assembly room and there were nightly meetings all over the city.

In the Gormly store itself was a great auditorium in which free concerts, lectures, and entertainments had been given for the employes and patrons of the store. This auditorium had outside entrances and could be completely cut off from the other business. Every afternoon he assembled in the auditorium the workers and speakers, and every afternoon there was the freest possible discussion of the issues, of what was to be said in the speeches of the night, of the places to be covered. The man showed a genius for leadership and direction that was amazing. He developed a power of succinctly presenting the facts, which in large measure he was able to communicate to his followers.

Livingstone Haldane's example had been followed by not a few young men of fortune and position. It became in a certain sense amon the fashion to campaign for Gormly. Automobiles of all sorts were available for transporting speakers, and classes and social distinctions ware wiped out in the greater issues involved. By these methods what was picturesquely described in the city papers as a whirlwind campaign was inaugurated.

It must not be supposed that the opposition was idle; by no means, Never had its activities been so great,



You Get the Barrel Open for the Necessary Expenses."

its energies so manifestly put forth. It had welcomed with joy the news of the refusal of Gormly to become the candidate of the minority party. Liffey had at once decided in his own mind that that settled the issue. Even farther sighted men like Rutherford were of the same opinion. Haldane alone, the wisest, shrewdest, and ablest of the group, was not convinced, and under his vigorous though secret urgings the ring redoubled its efforts to beat the man.

At the proper time the proposition from the party in power to make a combination with the outs was sprung upon the public. It was hailed on one side as an evidence of the fairness of the party in power and the Sachem society, which many people imagined needed no alliance of that kind. It was considered as testimony to the fact that the party in power had nothing to conceal, since it admitted the outs to its councils, and that it was sincerely desirous of giving New York a business administration in which all factions and parties should be reprerented. There was truth in the contention, too. The only faction or party that would not be represented by this alliance would be the common people.

Wiser heads, however, realized that

attruistic methods were inconsistent entirely with the real spirit of either party and saw in the alliance a confession of weakness. And the editorial contingent of the Gormly naners seized upon this idea and made the most of it. In the beginning Squasly's advertisements 'echong his political marifestos, had been printed in every paper in the city. They were paid for as other advertisements are -and why not? But the Sachem society had put the screws on certain journals which owed much to its influence, and because of this pressure they had summarily refused any more of Gormly's unique proclamations. They professed themselves entirely ready to print his business advertisements at the usual rates. Gormly retaliated, of course, by withdrawing all advertising of any sort from them, and doubling the space he purchased in the other papers. Naturally, therefore, the press divided in two sections; those that were controlled by the party in power, and those that were favorable to the new candidate.

Incidentally, nothing that he could have said or done could have so increased the business of his store! His business rivals and associates indeed suggested, and the suggestion was quickly seized upon by the administration papers, that the whole thing was a clever advertising dodge, and that Gormly was simply using his candidacy to boom his business. There was no satisfactory answer to this argument, which was one of the best that could have been devised by the opposition, and it was harped upon immensely, although their leader was vigorously justified from this charge

by his army of fighters. The expenses of the campaign were enormous. Not one cent was paid out for bribery or for the purpose of influencing votes in any improper way; but the hiring of halls, the payment of the expenses of meetings, organiza ly said the chairman. tion, transportation, printing, salaries, and so on aggregated an extraordinary realized how great these expenses would be; but he paid them without He put at the disposal of his candidacy all the accumulations and earn- no." ings of twenty-five years. He saw that by the time the vote was taken, Of course, he would still have his for their small numbers. great business, which would be entirewould go.

He still kept to his plan of printing every week sworn statements of his expenses, challenging the other party to do the same. The reason the soclety did not publish its expense account was not because it was ashamed of the amount, for it was vastly greater than what Gormly expended. They had nearly as many expenses as he, except for the newspaper advertising, which they got free, and in addition they disbursed an immense bribery and corruption fund through Liffey, Connell, Habberley and Benson.

Again and again were Haldane and his associates called upon for remit tances, which were invariably forthcoming. There was no possibility of refusal. Failure to win a victory would mean financial ruin to many of them. Fortunately for him, it did not mean so much to Haldane, although his great fortune would be seriously impaired by defeat. Most of the others, however, had turned over everything that they possessed, and pledged their credit as well, to the vast syndicate of which he was the head. Indeed, he and Van Slyke would be the only ones not totally ruined by the election of Gormly. Consequently they paid and paid and paid, protesting in their hearts but shutting their teeth grimly and handing out the cash, which was disbursed to the tude. best advantage by Liffey and Benson.

Gormly himself spoke every night somewhere, and the crowds that greeted him were enormous. Meanwhile city, and all others who could be suborned, were concentrating their his office without being shadowed. It The place beside him was vacant, was not difficult for spies to mingle with the crowd of buyers in his store and scrutinize every person who enso far discovered nothing. Gormly thus lifted sufficiently high above the had lived an absolutely clean, upright, crowd. honest, hardworking life since he landed in New York. They did not find out where he came from or even where he was born. The only possible clue they had was the statement that he had once been in the west, with which Haldane had supplied them. Men had scoured the principal cities of the west; but nothing had been learned. Connell was in despair. He and Liffey and Benson had again and again been on the eve of determining upon the manufacture of some degrading or incriminating story which would at least serve their purpose. It their predatory practiseswould not be difficult to get witnesses to such an endeavor; but it would be from the crowd., highly dangerous to resort to such an expedient, and they were still hesitating and undecided.

About this time the disputed franchise expired. A resolution was immediately introduced in the board of aldermen at the city hall granting a renewal of it to the Gotham Freight Traction company. Every move is the game was watched, and the resolution had scarcely been read and referred to a committee when it was day the Gormly papers rang with the ing public franchise to the Gotham Freight Traction company.

At the next meeting, despite the furious protests of the Gormly party, the resolution was put upon its pas-Gormly here played his great-

When the resolution renewing the franchise was about to be voted upon, as a citizen of New York deeply interested in the matter he demanded to be heard. Before permission was either granted or refused by the astonished presiding offeer, Gormly drew from his packet a nices of paper. Amid the deepest silence

he held it up and said: "I offer \$10,000,000 for this fran chise. If it be granted me, I shall guarantee to operate the road in the interests of the people, and turn over all the profits above six per cent, on my investment, to the people themselves. Lest there should be any doubt of my ability to make good," continued the merchant, "I beg to say that I have in my hand a forfeiture check for one-fourth of the amount in question, which is certified to by the City of Gotham National bank."

'The gentleman is out of order," remarked the presiding officer as soon as he could recover his equipoise. "We are not auctioning off public franchises to the highest bidder. We are granting this one in the interests of the public to the company which has already served the people so well and has assumed the burden of the great system of which this is the necessary connecting link."

'Sir!" cried Gormly, amid a chorus of groans, hisses and cheers, "I protest against-"

"Any other interruptions from the speaker," came quickly from the chair, "and any further expressions of approval or disapproval from the spectators, will result in the clearing of the room by the sergeant at arms." "I call," said one of the aldermen,

"for a vote on the resolution." "Those in favor of the granting of the franchise will say aye," immediate-

There was a furious chorus of "Shame! shame!" from a great numsum. Even Gormly himself had not ber of spectators in which the feeble "ayes" were scarcely heard.

"Those opposed," went on the voice blenching. His resources were vast, of the chairman, trembling with excitement, "will signify it by saying

A thundering shout of "Noes" rang through the hall, the few in opposihis ready money would be expended, tion making up by their vociferation

"The ayes have it," said the chairly unencumbered; but everything else man, hammering on the desk with his gavelt

"Division! Division!" clamored the

opposition. Those in favor," continued the chairman, disgusted at being com-

pelled to put the administration thus on record, but powerless to prevent it "will stand up." Amid shouts and cries and disorder

never before equaled, the members of the administration got to their feet. The whip that had been cracked over their heads had been used to effect. Some of them were mere ignorant tools; others were able to understand what they were doing. They all voted alike. A score of alert reporters from carefully prepared lists were checking off the votes.

"The ayes have it; the ordinance is passed," cried the chairman triumphantly, after the noes had been called to their feet and counted.

"I move," said Alderman Hellman,

"that we do now adjourn." The motion was carried with a rush, and instantly the spectators began a wild scramble from the hall. Among the first to leave was Gormly. The corridor and stairs were packed with people who had been unable to gain admittance to the chamber, but had learned what was toward.

When Gormly's well-known figure was seen in the doorway, a great shout of acclaim rose from the multi-

Gormly had not intended to speak; but the opportunity was too good to be lost. As he descended the steps, the cheering changed into a demand for a every detective in the employ of the speech from him. No hustings had been prepared, but by the curbstone stood a big, high-powered automobile. efforts on Gormly's past and present. It was filled with people. Livingstone He could not take a step outside of Haldane sat in the chauffeur's seat.

"Up here, Mr. Gormly!" he cried, pointing. Without observing who was in the tonneau, Gormly clambered up tered his private room. They had to the seat and stood on it. He was

"Fellow citizens," he began as the cheering subsided and the multitude gave him opportunity to speak, "you know that in order to complete the ring of oppression which holds the city in its iron grasp under the name of the Gotham Freight Traction company, it was necessary that the old franchise of the New York Street Car company expiring today should become the property of that company. Through the franchises they already enjoy, they have created an institution that will enable them to continue

"Talk English!" shouted a voice

"Thank you, my friend," answered Gormly. "Which will enable them to steal from you your money, your earnings, your investments, your profits, your capital, whatever you have for the next one hundred years. They have sold bonds to pay for the building of the road; not one cent of their own money has gone into it. They have issued stock to themselves to

double or quadruple the value of the investment, and they are determined communicated to Gormly. The next to make you pay interest, large interest, on that stock as well as on the charge that the city fathers intended bonds. But, in order that they can to give away its most valuable remain- carry out this nefarious and thieving proposition, they must secure this franchise which expired today, otherwise their traction lines will be incomplete, will end in the air, there will be no connection between its ends; for the territory covered by this frante so situated that if the lines

est political card. Attended by a are to be connected it must be body of friends, he presented himself through this territory. Consequently at the council chamber and forced ad this franchise is the most valuable of the few remaining properties of the people. You own it; it belongs to you. It's your last chance to get your rights. If you hold it, they are at your mercy.

"This franchise, the possession of which means so much to you, is about to be given away. The council has overwhelmingly passed an ordinance granting it, without restrictions, to the Gotham Freight Traction company for the space of one hundred years | ently undaunted. He waved his hands Will you sanction that?"

excitement. Gormly's clear, powerful stepped to the extreme edge of the voice carried to the extremes of the crowd. His plain, practical presentation was simple enough for all to understand. He paused at this juncture and surveyed the crowd. A voice suddenly cried a shrill negative, and instantly the word was caught up and a great thundering chorus of "No, no! Never;" rolled through the park with ever increasing volume and vehe mence.

If Gormly had looked back, he could have seen the windows of the city hall crowd with aldermen, white faced and anxious, listening to that tremendous and even furious negative.

"Let's get the aldermen out here!" cried a voice in a pause in the commotion, "and show 'em what we think!

There was an instant response to the suggestion. The people made a wild surge toward the entrance of the city hall. The multitude could easily have degenerated into a mob. But Gormly checked it. His control was admirable.

"No, gentlemen," he cried, "no, men and citizens of New York. We must



"Mr. Chairman, I Offer Ten Million Dollars for This Franchise."

do things lawfully. The grant has not been signed by the mayor. Believe me, they will not be insensible to this protest. Let it be repeated in local organization; let every member of the board of aldermen be warned by his constituents not to press this bill, to reconsider his action at once.

"Gentlemen-" he held up a piece of paper. One of the tall lights in the square illuminated his face and figure, His every action was distinctly visible to the multitude-"I have here in my hand a check, certified by the City of Gotham National bank, for two and one-half millions of dollars. Before this ordinance was passed this evening, not ten minutes ago, I offered this sum of money as a forfeiture, binding me to pay ten millions for the franchise in question. I offered to subscribe to an agreement which would limit my own returns to six per cent. upon my investment; and promised that the people should have every cent of profit over and above that legitimate amount. The offer was refused; that check was declined, but it still holds good. I make the offer not merely to the cringing, subservient, whipped-into-line aldermen, but to you, the people."

"What're you going to get out of

it?" asked a voice. "I am going to be elected mayor of New York by you men," answered Gormly. "I am going to get the consciousness that I have an opportunity to give New York a clean, decent, law abiding administration, without graft. I am going to put the people in the enjoyment of their rights. I made my money here. Every dollar of it you gave to me. I am giving it back to you. We worked together to make it; I by selling you good goods and telling the truth about it, and you by paying a fair price for it and coming back if you were not satisfied. We will work together in the same way now. If you give me the opportunity to administer the affairs of the city, I pledge my business honor, at which no man can point a finger, that I will do it honestly and honorably to the satisfaction of honest and honorable men, or you can throw me over.

"Now, remember," the speaker continued as wild cheers greeted this announcement, "that clamor and glamor don't win elections; that shouting and cheering are all very well in their way, but it is votes that count. You must see that your votes are deposited, and then you must see that they ere fairly counted. I beg that you will disperse now, go home, and make it your business to see your aldermen about this franchise. Do it

quickly and do it hard." "We'll see them now!" yelled one voice after another in quick succession.

"Let 'em come out here!" "We'd like to talk to 'em!" "Give us a chance at them!"

"Where's the mayor?" The square was in a tumult again, which even Gormly for the momen'

was helpless to control

Now Hon. Peter D. Warren was in the city hall. He had heard all that had been said, and witnessed all that had been done. Although he was a briber and a corruptionist, be was to without courage. It seemed to "- that the esvebological moment as his second had arrived. There be the my do ble may the or th th id at the and boldly arrested on it

was received at bare the mayor stood quictly, a little gale, but apparfor silence. Gormly assisted him in The square was now seething with quelling the tumult. The mayor portico; but before he could begin his speech, the same burly voiced man who had been such a useful adjunct to Gormly interrupted him.

"We don't want to hear any speech from you tonight. Mr. Gormly," he roared, his great voice compelling attention, and as he spoke he sprang up on the steps of the automobile and faced the crowd, "we want you to ask the mayor of this city if he's going to sign the bill granting the franchise. But before you do that we want you to tell him what we citizens of New York think of the proposition."

Through the crowd at this moment came charging a platoon of police, at the head of which was the chief himself. The men handling their sticks shouldered their way roughly through the people groaning, raging, swearing, about them. Connell laid his hand on the speaker and sought to drag him from the automobile. The man struck back violently; clubs flashed in the air. The multitude in another instant thing. That damned Gormly had you would have been a mob. Gormly it was who came again to the rescue.

"These," he promptly interposed, raising his voice, "are peaceable citizens discussing a great public question. I appeal to you as mayor of this city to call off the police. Take your hand off that man's collar, Connell," he shouted, "or by the living God I'll turn this mob upon you and there won't be a rag left of you and your bluecoats!"

He stepped down to the body of the car as he spoke; and before the chief realized what he was about he seized him by the collar and threw him backward. It was a magnificent exhibition of strength and nerve and courage.

"Call them off," he shouted to the mayor, "or I won't be answerable for the consequences!"

As soon as he stopped, the roar of the mob began. Some were there who thought they had never heard a sound so terrible and so menacing. The mayor, not without good sense, came to the rescue.

"So long." he said in his powerful, finely modulated voice, "as these people do nothing, they shall not be interfered with. March your officers up here to the steps of the city hall, chief!" he cried.

There was nothing for Connell but obedience. Shaking his baton flercely at Gormly, he gave an order to his men, and, followed by the curses and groans of the multitude, they marched in on No. 4 this morning to look up the steps of the city hall and grouped themselves about the mayor.

"I want to tell you," cried Gormly, mounting to the seat again and now for a few hours. The Messrs, Meithoroughly aroused, his voice ringing like a trumpet, "that you have no need of police protection in the presence of the people of New York." "Let me speak!" said the mayor.

"No!" thundered the crowd. don't want to hear you speak!"

"Mr. Mayor," said Gormly, "these people want to express an opinion to you. Fellow citizens, those who are pany will say aye."

Every henchman, every follower, the fields in the winter. every ally, every official present, cried,

It made a brave showing until the negative was put, when such a roar of disapproval arose that it was like the breath of the gods and fairly shook the ancient stones of the hall.

"Now, sir," said Gormly, "you see what our masters the people think. They wish me to put to you a question. If such a measure comes be- tation. Thereupon Mr. Kelby infore you, will you veto it or will you

The mayor was in a dilemma, a fearful one. He was quick enough to see that his whole political future, the future of his party, practically deand his party were doomed. If he took some other course, they would still have a fighting chance. The mayor rose to the occasion.

"Gentlemen," he said, "my action shall be dictated by yourselves." "Answer! Answer! No speech!" roared the crowd.

"Every man is entitled to his chance," said Gormly, "and I beg you

tinued the mayor, "that so far as I chicken pox. Mr. Clark and family have power the issuance of this fran- are now residents of this city, having chise shall be determined by the elec- their home at the corner of Seventh ceive a majority, I shall take it as a and Vine streets. tion. If I am so fortunate as to resign that you indorse the policy which, with an eye single to the public interest, believes that it demands the granting of this franchise to the Gotham Freight Traction company, which has already served you so well. If on the contrary, my distinguished be left for his determination."

"You won't sign the bill if it comes to you then?" asked some one in the

"I will not, and I will use what influence I have to see that it is not presented to me," was the answer.

"Nothing," said Gormly, "could be produce. fairer than that. The issue is clearly perpetuate the power of the Gotham Freight Traction company, you have and sharply drawn. If you want to

unity to re-elect the present mayor. 12 you want to resume your own control of affairs, you have only to elect me. I don't ask you now which it shall be. I don't want any more cheering. I want you to go to your homes and go to work. Good night."

He sank down in the automobile, covered with perspiration and trem-

bling with nervous excitement. Amid tumultucas cheering and ap plauding, the crowd opened a line through which the big automobile slowly moved over toward Broadway and then sped upward through the night.

Connell turned to the mayor. "Shall I drive these dogs out of the square? Curse 'em!" he cried. Nothing would have suited the

mayor better; but policy would not

permit. "No," he said, "just picket the approaches to the city hall. Let the people alone. They will disperse now." Indeed they were already beginning

to break away. "Well, you've gone and done it now. for sure," said Connell, giving the nec-essary orders. "Unless you get elected, the Gotham Freight Traction com-

pany's busted." "We're all 'busted,' as you say," sald Warren gloomily, "unless I am

elected.' The mayor turned away and walked into the city hall. Rutherford met him at the door.

"I want to congratulate you," he said, "on your course."

"Do you approve of it?" "Approve! It was the nerviest sorts of a thing for you to do, but the only dead to rights; but you took the wind

out of his sails." "I don't know," answered the mayor, nervously. "What will Liffey and Ben-

son and the rest say?" "I don't know," returned Rutherford: "but whatever they say, it was the only thing on God's earth to do, and they ought to be glad that you had the nerve to do it. Now, we've

got to win the election." "Yes," said the mayor; "but how?" Outside the city hall a slender, quiet, but shrewd looking man edged his way carefully through the rapidly dispersing crowd until he caught sight of Connell standing on the steps scowling at the multitude, black rage in his heart.

"Well," said the chief, as the man came close to him, "any news?"

"I have a clue," was the answer. "Come in here!" said the chief, laying his hand on the other man's shoulder, and in his excitement and eagerness almost jerking him into the city

To be Continued.

Corn About All Gathered.

Mr. Adam Meisinger and son, Rudolph, and Mr. George Meisinger and son, Lawrence, of Cedar Creek, came after business matters in the county seat, and to interview their friends singer informed the Journal that the farmers are about all through gatheering corn, in that vicinity, and that the yield has been very good.

In some fields the work has been rather poorly done as many ears bave been left on the stalks, but that much of this is being cared for by travelers in favor of indorsing the action of who, on Sundays, during the absence the council in granting the franchise of the farmers at church, gather in to the Gotham Freight Traction com- the loose ears which would otherwise be wasted by the stock pastured in

Entitled to Pass.

A special from Lincoln says: "In providing for Byron Clark, the Lincoln attorney of the Burlington, the railroad furnishes him with office rent and stenographer hire. The stenographer wanted some free transporquired of the commission if she was entitled to it without fracturing some Nebraska rate law. The commission. has replied that she is entitled to the transportation as the right test to pended upon his action. If he did not apply to such a case is whether or declare his purpose to veto the bill, he not one spends the major part of his time in the service of the company. As, under the statement of facts presented, the stenographer works for the Burlington only, the pass is allowed.

Little Girl Has Chicken Pox.

The seven-year-old daughter of Foreman Clark, of the M. P. bridge "I will pledge you my word," con- gang, is suffering with an attack of

Old Roosters Ducks, fat 8 Higest prices paid for all kinds of