

top to bottom the administrative department was put upon a better business footing than that of any other city in the Union. All his appointees have won public confidence, both for ability and integrity. There is not a black sheep among them.

"In the legislative department Johnson was obliged for a year to work with a city council in which republicans were in the majority and each party was well represented with corruptionists. He brought the honest democrats and the honest republicans together, led them to unite in organizing the council by electing honest republicans instead of crooked republicans to the offices of that body, and by inspiring confidence in the honest councilmen of both parties was able to secure from the council the legislation he needed for faithful service to the city. It was with the aid of this council that he began his now famous and nearly successful fight against the street car monopolies. From the next council nearly all the crooked members were excluded in response to Johnson's appeal to the people; and with a democratic majority in that body his fight became easier, until the street car monopolists 'ripped' the city and tied his hands altogether.

"While fighting the street car monopolists Johnson did not overlook the inequalities of taxation by which the great landlords of the city had long profited at the expense of the masses of the people. Finding a moribund tax board in the legal equipment of the city government, he got rid of its useless members, reorganized it with new men, and began through them to reveal the inequalities and injustice of the tax system and its local operation. Among the discoveries of this rejuvenated board was the fact that small property owners were taxed on the basis of from 60 to over 100 per cent of the true value of their property, while large property owners escaped with valuations ranging from 60 per cent downward, and the public service corporations got off with valuations as low as 10 per cent and even lower.

"Johnson's attempt to remedy this revealed injustice was cut off by the same 'ripping' process that tied his hands in the street car fight. The old-time tax board, no longer moribund, was legislated out of office; and the public service corporations were relieved by republican officials of the increased taxes which that board had found they justly owed. But this was not a defeat for Johnson. His triumph at the Cleveland election last week amply proves that it was but a factor in that fierceness of the battle which makes the victory that comes at last all the more complete and secure.

"The man who can and will make that kind of fight for the people is the type of man the democratic party needs for its presidential candidate. Nor has Johnson's political career in Cleveland anything in it of the nature of fireworks. It is simply an expression of the character and mental and moral equipment of the man. None who know him are astonished by it. They expect it. In business he has forged ahead from a poor boy, the son of a confederate officer impoverished by the civil war. He has played in the same game of business that the great captains of industry are playing yet, and he has won at it. His ability as a business man not even the best of them will dispute. Johnson is no weakling 'theorist.' He knows all the twists and wriggles in the diplomacy of plutocratic business with which the plutocrats so bewilder President Roosevelt, and he knows how to turn them to account for the people. This he has demonstrated in his career as mayor of Cleveland.

"Not only has he succeeded as a business man, as the mayor of a great American city and as a political leader, but he has served in congress with distinction, and in a way to prove the soundness of his views on pressing national questions and his unfaltering loyalty to his convictions. Who that remembers his free trade

speech on the floor of the house can forget his retort when a protectionist rebuked him as a beneficiary of protection for speaking against it? 'As a business man in business affairs,' he exclaimed, 'I will take advantage of all the bad laws you pass; but as a member of this house, on this floor, I will try to make you repeal them.'

"It is moral perception and courage like that that the democratic party needs in its presidential candidate. It needs precisely the qualities which Tom L. Johnson has proved himself to possess. His business education, his economic insight, his profoundly democratic convictions (which know no distinctions of class, sex or race), his integrity of purpose, his candor with the people, his acute knowledge of men, his legislative experience, his administrative record, his tireless energy, his courtesy and good feeling, his familiarity with the theory and practice of monopoly and his thoroughly tested devotion to the purpose of crushing it—these qualities, which Johnson possesses in eminent degree, justify the masses of democracy in turning toward him and demanding his nomination. At a time when industrial monopoly is reaching out for control of the national government, the best possible recommendation for the presidential nomination of the democratic party is the splendid record Mayor Johnson has made in northern Ohio. He would be the kind of candidate to inspire hopes of victory, and the kind of president to make the victory worth having when it had been won."

Its Own Medicine.

In the Southern Pacific case it was complained that the men who controlled the Union, Southern and Central Pacific lines were spending large sums of money to improve the Central to the disadvantage of the Southern and it was intended to separate the two systems and to annex the Central to the Union Pacific, of which it is a direct continuation. The Southern Pacific stockholders have denounced this as a disgraceful scheme, but the Philadelphia North American reminds them that the trick was learned from the combination that at one time controlled the Southern Pacific and that while it is not at all likely that the stockholders of any of the companies will get their dues, in consequence of the falling out of the railroad jobbers, there is some satisfaction for them in seeing the Southern Pacific treated to a strong dose of its own medicine.

The North American recalls a bit of history in this way:

"For years the Central Pacific's earnings were appropriated to build up the Southern Pacific, and a suit is now pending in the New York courts to recover for the Central's plundered stockholders \$120,000,000 alleged to have been diverted and embezzled by the combination. The directors of the Central Pacific composed the Contract and Finance company and the Pacific Improvement company, and through fraudulent contract they enriched themselves beyond the dreams of avarice at the expense of the stockholders of the railroad company. When they were in danger of prosecution for the gigantic theft they destroyed the books of the Contract and Finance company. The \$28,000,000 expended in improvements on the Central Pacific is but a small part of the plunder secured by the greatest combination of rallogues that ever looted the public, the government and one another. It is in the nature of partial restitution of stolen goods. Stockholders are trying to recover another instalment from the estate of C. P. Huntington, which is appraised by the executors at \$21,000,000 and by others at \$70,000,000."

The Voting Machine.

Some time ago the Chicago Record-Herald contained an article by a special correspondent

who gave a description of a voting machine which has been successfully tried at Rochester, N. Y. The article is given in full on another page, The Commoner being an advocate of this method of voting.

Election-day frauds are, generally speaking, due to the corruption of the judges or to repeating. Of these the corruption of the judges is the most difficult to detect and punish. The voting machine, when perfected, as the one described in the article seems to have been, is a sure preventive of corruption. The ballot is secret and the voter is free from intimidation, and then, too, and it is a very important advantage, the result of the vote is announced at once so that there can be no changing afterwards as is often the case where remote precincts are held back until it is known how many votes are needed to decide the contest. The people generally, in their calmer moments, are anxious for honest elections, and men who might in a moment of temptation yield to the desire to gain a party advantage will, when they can consider the question dispassionately, support any reform that guarantees a correct expression of the public will. Although the voting machine is somewhat of a reflection upon the honesty of judges it is likely to grow because of the justifiable desire of the people to avoid temptation for fear of not being able to withstand it.

Registration has been adopted in nearly all the cities as a precaution against repeating, but it has not proven entirely successful. It may become necessary to provide that voters shall assemble at a certain time in all the precincts and remain in the voting places until they have voted. By fixing two hours, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, it will be possible to accommodate every one, and yet make it impossible for a crowd of repeaters to be sent from precinct to precinct. This may occupy a little time, but surely self-government is valuable enough to justify a citizen in giving half a day to the service of his country and to the protection of his own rights.

The Record-Herald article is commended to the careful consideration of all who desire to purify politics, and the editor of The Commoner assumes that all of his readers belong to this class.

Truth Omnipotent.

The time-serving politicians and the "anything-to-win" democrats who call it wisdom to fall in with the crowd and to accept as final the insolent boastings of commercialism and plutocracy, will find food for thought in the last volume of the French Revolution. In Chapter VII. entitled "The Whiff of Grape-shot" Carlyle testifies to the omnipotence of truth. "Hast thou considered how Thought is stronger than Artillery-parks, and (were it fifty years after death and martyrdom, or were it two thousand years) writes and unwrites Acts of Parliament, removes mountains; models the world like soft clay? Also how the beginning of all Thought worth the name is Love; and the wise head never yet was, without first the generous heart? The Heavens cease not their bounty; they send us generous hearts into every generation. And now what generous heart can pretend to itself, or be hoodwinked into believing, that Loyalty to the Money-bag is a noble Loyalty? Mammon, cries the generous heart out of all ages and countries, is the basest of known gods, even of known devils. In him what glory is there, that he should worship him? No glory discernible; not even terror; at best, detestability, ill-matched with despicability!" If the democratic party is to build upon a permanent foundation it must recognize the fact that truth alone can give to the party hope of perpetuity, and that back of all thought must be love. Deep love for the common people and belief in human brotherhood will make the democratic party an invincible force. Unless the party is an exponent of thought and truth; unless it is built upon love—not self love, but brotherly love—it cannot hope for more than temporary and trifling success. Democracy when rightly understood is a religion, for it is founded upon the doctrine of equal and inalienable rights. Let no sacrilegious hand drag the party down to the sordid plain of Mammon worship.