

It impossible for him to finance his project through the Equitable Life. If this was Mr. Harriman's purpose it failed, for Gould remains on the directorate and Harriman is out. The New York World finds in the report of the Frick committee full proof of that paper's charges of Equitable corruption. It says:

The committee has found—

That officers and directors have syndicated Equitable securities at the expense of the policy-holders.

That the revenue from Equitable investments has been diverted from the policy-holders to officials and directors.

That the Equitable's large cash balances have been used for private gain.

That directors' personal obligations have been paid by Equitable funds.

That executive officers have been wasteful, lavish and self-seeking.

The initial exposure of James Hazen Hyde's Sherry ball, the Cambon dinner and such matters sinks almost to insignificance in comparison with the flood of worse disclosures. Since these are the facts, what was to be gained by trying to conceal them? As well might a cancer be covered with court-plaster to prevent its ravages. The first remedy for corruption is exposure. The next is the knife and the cauterizing iron.

The Chicago Tribune holds that the committee laid bare much scandalous conduct on the part of the officers and dummy directors of the company:

The report discloses a disgusting state of affairs. There has been extravagant management, misuse of funds, and contempt for the fundamental principles relating to the handling of trust funds. Men not legally qualified acted as directors, not that they might watch over the welfare of the policy holders, but to act as sales agents for railroads with which they were intimately connected—to unload on the company the securities of those roads. In doing that they displayed a lack of moral fiber and a callous indifference to the simplest rules regulating the conduct of business men and gentlemen which is amazing. Exposure has not shamed them. Popular indignation has not cowed them. They stopped fighting among themselves and united to vote down the report which held them up to public contempt. It is their apparent intention to maintain a brazen front. Now that it seems clear there is to be no reform from within, it is necessary that there should be reform from without. It is time for the state of New York to look after the corporation it created, to oust the dummy directors and force a business management upon the company. If that be not done it will be because the dummy directors control the state government.

The Pittsburg Leader thinks the committee's report brings conviction to the public:

At the crucial moment the rivals, foreseeing collapse for themselves in case the virile and merciless correctional power represented by Mr. Frick and his associates were permitted to prevail, joined hands and secured a majority vote against the report. The status quo is thus restored. That is to say, the only power capable of bringing order out of chaos and of obtaining a just and orderly administration of affairs is thrust aside and the Hyde and Alexander factions assert, as a majority, their right to continue their feud and to keep their personal interests still paramount over the interests of the society itself and its policy holders. Such recommendations in the line of remedial action as the majority has seen fit to make as an offset to the bad effect of the rejection of the Frick report are of slight value under the circumstances. The fact remains that the opportunity of righting the ship definitely has been sacrificed and that the problem presented by the state of dissen-

sion existing within the Equitable is, to all appearances, as far from solution as ever.

APPOINTMENT OF BONAPARTE

The appointment of Charles J. Bonaparte, a descendant of the great Napoleon, as secretary of the navy, has attracted unusual interest. The New York Tribune gives this resume of Mr. Bonaparte's public career:

Mr. Bonaparte has played for years in Maryland politics—and to some extent in national politics—a role the value of which the public is only just beginning to appreciate. A man of education, refinement and wealth with no other stimulus to activity than a sense of public duty, he threw himself years ago into the struggle then beginning to elevate and purify political life. In his own state and city he saw a corrupt and tyrannical machine entrenched in power, boasting its ability to maintain itself through its fraudulent control of the election machinery. He spoke, worked and fought against that machine with all his might, and was recognized as one of the forces which finally accomplished its downfall in 1895. An ardent foe of the theory so long tolerated in this country that government exists for the benefit of the politicians who govern, he identified himself conspicuously with the civil service reform movement, and has long had an active part in the agitation which is gradually taking the classified officeholders, federal, state and municipal, out of partisan politics. Every movement directed toward the betterment of political conditions has enlisted Mr. Bonaparte's sympathy. He has minced no words and spared no sensibilities in his crusades against the spoilsman, the "grafter" and the corruptionist, and his outspokenness has brought him the enmity of leaders in both political organizations in his own state; but his efforts for better government, his uncompromising rectitude and civic courage have won him the respect and confidence of his own people, and at the presidential election last fall he received the highest vote cast in Maryland for any presidential elector and was the single successful candidate on the republican ticket.

The Springfield Republican views with amusement the charge that Mr. Bonaparte has not been entirely orthodox as a republican:

The Bonaparte cabinet appointment arouses conflicting emotions in sundry bosoms of strong men within the republican circle, and the criticisms that are heard betray the feeling that the grand nephew of the Emperor Napoleon I. is not "true blue" in party affiliations. All of these criticisms may be dismissed as puerile. Mr. Bonaparte has always been a republican in national politics, while he has been wholesomely independent in the politics of his city and state. The dreadful charge that he was an anti-imperialist is the most amusing thing that has been said. If he was, or is, the fact is news to us. The Republican has never heard before that Mr. Bonaparte even went so far as to sympathize with Senator Hoar. As our readers know, the Baltimore lawyer last year, in a series of letters to this paper, ardently defended the president's treatment of Colombia in the Panama coup, and there was nothing in his writing at that time which indicated that Mr. Bonaparte was anything but a big-sticker after Mr. Roosevelt's own heart.

QUAKER CITY'S VICTORY

The kaleidoscopic changes in Philadelphia, which finally resulted in the "back-down" of the United Gas Improvement company, are viewed with satisfaction by editorial writers in all parts of the country. The Outlook extols Mayor Weaver:

The "gang" is maintaining a defiant front and is preparing to fight—just the thing the people of Philadelphia need to keep them "keyed up"—but gas works have wrecked two machines, and it looks as if they would wreck

this. In the meantime the people are rejoicing that they have in the mayor's chair a man who has not failed them at the crucial moment, and John Weaver has taken a high place in the hearts of the people and bids fair to make a notable reputation for himself as a faithful conservator of the people's interests and as a means for restoring to Philadelphia its almost lost liberties. Before the week ended the supreme court granted an appeal from the preliminary injunction, which will act as a supersedeas and enable Mayor Weaver's appointees, Messrs. Acker and Potter, to discharge the duties of their offices until the legal questions involved are settled.

A special correspondent of the St. Louis Post Dispatch writes that the Quaker City ring continues to lose ground:

As relentlessly as the passage of time Mayor John Weaver is terminating the official existence of the last survivors of the corrupt Philadelphia machine. Secretary Rolla M. Dance of the civil service board resigned today. The secretary retired at Mayor Weaver's order. When the executive issued his first command for the resignation of machine officials, the latter declined to obey. An attempt was made to fight the mayor in the courts. The hopelessness of the struggle was soon made clear to them and they yielded. Secretary Dance resigned without the shadow of resistance. The spirit of the organization is broken. In little more than a fortnight Mr. Weaver has demolished the most perfect municipal political machine in the world.

SENATE WILL SURRENDER

W. G. Joerns in the June Arena shows how the special pleaders for the railways juggle with facts and figures about transportation. In order to deceive the public the annual reports of the railways are so doctored as not to disclose the real volume of net earnings, such words as "betterments," "other deductions" and "improvements" being used as blinds. Mr. Joerns commends the Esch-Townsend bill, which, he contends, gives to the Interstate Commerce Commission only such powers as it was supposed to possess until the supreme court rendered its adverse decision in 1897. Mr. Joerns thinks that the senate will not dare to defy the wishes of the people much longer:

There is, however, room for substantial doubt that this wise and sedate body is going to dig any such pit-falls for itself. If some somewhat sensational current reports are true, there are those among the senators whose control of rotten boroughs is so absolute as to render them indifferent to public opinion, but not so with the most of them. This fact must, by this time, have percolated down or penetrated up, as you will, to even the dignified members of the so-called higher legislative body. And after all, these great men of the senate are human. In the final analysis they will not in a great emergency either imperil their own political existence or the ultimate welfare of their constituents. They may or may not act with fair dispatch. They may not consider it as comporting with the pedestal of dignity on which they find themselves, to act otherwise than with impressive deliberation. There happens, however, to be a strenuous executive who will see that they don't get away from the question; and we may rest fairly well assured that when final senatorial action does come it will correspond, except in point of dispatch, with that of the lower co-ordinate body. The present is not an opportune time for the apologists for transportation exploitation. There is something "in the air" that bodes ill for that system of oppression, legalized or penalized, that a few years back was rather forbearingly greeted as "benevolent feudalism." We are a great democracy and the people are just beginning to realize that not in a backward step to the middle ages, but in progress along the lines of equality and justice, must lie our individual and national salvation.