

# MUNICIPAL UNACY.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

Has anybody yet thought of the desirability of municipal ownership of the barber shops? If not it is respectfully suggested that the matter be looked into, for under private control it is undeniable that many abuses have grown up. No misplaced respect for alleged private rights should be permitted to take the matter out of the mouths of the public.

The Brooklyn Eagle says that "you simply can't marry business and politics." Ah, but you can. Misalliances are always possible. The real trouble will come when you try to divorce them, even for cause.

Only a fool would suggest managing gas companies, street car companies and so on regardless of cost—Hearst's New York Evening Journal.

Now, William, stop calling yourself names. Leave that to your enemies.

One thing is very certain. If capitalists refuse to take the municipal bonds that are being offered on the markets, it won't take more than fifteen minutes for an alert common council to pass an ordinance requiring them to take them. Better be warned in time, ye money sharks. When that ordinance is passed, who knows but that one of its provisions will set the price of a hundred dollar bond at \$125?

Too much credit has ruined many a man. Wherefore the city that cannot sell its mortgages for over 82% is just that much further from ruin as 83% is from par. Q. E. D.

There seems to be a general suspicion in New York city that the more flourishing of its pool rooms and other gambling institutions are controlled by a committee of municipal officials acting ex officio. This is one of the few varieties of municipal control which can be said to realize enormous profits.

Northfield, Vt., before starting in upon municipal ownership owed \$2,082. At the close of the experiment it owed \$47,319, a nice little profit of \$45,237.

Opera Note of the Future.—Now that New York city has assumed charge of the Metropolitan Opera House and opera has been thoroughly municipalized the music lovers of the city are looking forward with much curiosity to what promises to be an interesting season. The appointment of Mr. Fassett, the well known plumber, to its management by the common council will infuse new spirit into the institution, though there are still timid souls who doubt whether the artists he has engaged, notably Mr. O'Brien, the livery stable keeper, and Miss Maggie Dugan of Lacey's ribbon counter, to sing Romeo and Juliet are vocally equal to the roles assigned them. Those who have heard Miss Dugan sing a cash boy are perfectly familiar with the wonderful quality of her voice, especially in its higher altitudes, and her enunciation of the word "cash" is bell-like in the clarity of its tone. Mr. O'Brien, however, is more of an experiment; but, while we must confess we have only heard him address his horses in the past, there is no denying that there is a superb quality to the notes of his middle register. Signor Cospetto di Napoli, the popular dealer in confetti in Mulberry street, who will lead the orchestra on Italian nights, comes of a musical family, his parents having toured the country with a barrel organ for many prosperous seasons.

"The People Must Foot the Bill." A city of some 40,000 inhabitants not long ago decided to change its street lighting from gas to electric and proposed building a municipal plant. The local electric company offered to pay \$500 toward the expense of getting an estimate by a first class expert, with the proviso that it would supply lights at a substantial reduction from the expert's estimate of what it would cost the city to furnish its own lights. The offer was rejected, one member of the council voicing the general sentiment of that body in these words:

"It doesn't make any difference what the cost will be, the people want the plant, and the people will have to foot the bill."

Which of the parties to this offer was working for the best interests of the city? When you answer don't blink the fact that the self interest of the company that wanted the contract was fully balanced by the shortsighted self interest of the councilmen who desired re-election.

M. O. Employees Badly Paid in Vienna. The Chicago Daily News states that the wages of a first class workman on the municipal street railways of Vienna is 72 cents for a twelve hour day and that a large number of the employees of the municipal gas works earn barely 50 cents a day. These low wages are paid to enable the city to make a profit on its undertakings. A special cable says that a general revolt against the miserable wages of city employees is threatened.

Profit in Baiting Corporations. The celebrated Edward W. Hemis, whose efforts to extirpate gas monopolies have brought fame and fees, is suing the city of Peoria, Ill., for \$10,000 which he asserts was earned in the service of Peoria when the authorities of that alcoholic spot were endeavoring to put the Peoria Gas company out of business.—American Gas Light Journal.

Stained Wall Paper. For removing spots from wall paper and window shades fill small cheese-cloth bags with cornmeal and rub the soiled surface as you would with a plain cloth. Sometimes a large grease stain on the wall, for instance, above a couch where members of the family have rested their heads can be best removed by the use of blotting paper and a hot iron. The heat draws the grease through the blotting paper. Then rub the spot with fuller's earth and the stain will disappear.

# TAX LAWS OF STATES OTHER THAN OHIO ARE IRRITATING.

Taxation, properly laid, is a healthful irritant. It is improperly laid when it does not irritate. This salutary reaction occurs only when it is so laid that the person paying has to go down into his pocket and bring forth the amount of the levy. Hence the term, "the pocket nerve." With some temperaments this nerve is so sensitive that the slightest touch produces nervous prostration. But these are abnormal and few. Usually they suffer from undigested investments in dirt. In the normal citizens the touch of the tax on the pocket nerve awakens his interest in the various public matters for financing which taxes are laid. The knowledge of this interest operates as a check on the bodies legislative, big and little, that create the taxes.

When there is general discontent with taxation it simply indicates that something is wrong in the system or in its administration. And there is general discontent. Even here in Sloux City the real estate association gives evidence of it by discussing it. The "ferret" method is denounced and defended, and the tax for the support of schools is said to be too great by some and too small by others. Elsewhere there is larger evidence of discontent. We do not now include the tariff. We have in mind only that taxation which is a healthful irritant; that which is directly laid upon property and is paid directly by its owners.

A legislative commission composed of members of the Massachusetts general court, as they call their legislature, has just submitted a voluminous report of the results of its investigations and conclusions. In substance it thinks the system needs only a little patching and mending. California's commission has just sent to the legislature its final report following a preliminary report published last year and sent out as a "feeler" to see if public sentiment would support the rather radical conclusions at which it hinted. Its substance is that the state should get its revenues by indirect taxation and leave each taxing community free to select such objects for taxation as it might select. It abandons in despair all plans to reach and tax all forms of personality, and its logic, if not its distinct declaration, is to quit trying to tax any of it.

Minnesota amended its constitution so as to leave the legislature free to select such kinds of property for taxation as it deemed best, and the legislature is puzzled to know just what to do with its new and responsible freedom. To aid it there has been formed a state tax league, which will organize local leagues over the state in which taxation will be studied and debated. Lawson Purdy of New York, who organized the tax league of that state, was at the meeting in which the league was organized and addressed it. The amendment of the constitution was the result of an agitation, begun some eight years ago and resulted in the creation of a tax commission, which reported to the legislature in 1902. The California commission's report is remarkably similar to that of the Minnesota commission in the conclusions reached and recommendations made.

# REGISTRY TAX LAW

Minnesota's New Enactment Brings Mortgages Out of Hiding.

The legislature of the State of Minnesota has enacted a law providing for the taxation of mortgages on real property.

The law imposes a tax of 50 cents upon each \$100.00, or major fraction thereof of the principal debt or obligation secured by any mortgage on real property situated within the state. Mortgages upon which this tax has been paid shall be exempt from all other taxes. The tax imposed by this act is payable at or before the time of filing the mortgage for record.

The new registry tax law is more than making good the promise of its backers. In the county in which Minneapolis is situated, for instance, on the first day the law went into effect between \$9,000 and \$10,000 was received as a registry tax against \$5,000 paid during the whole year previous. The valuation was close to two million dollars as compared with \$160,000 returned for taxation during the past year. Some of the mortgages were old and had been concealed for years.

State of Washington Has a Constitutional Amendment to Permit Classification of Property for Taxation Purposes.

A Homemade Salve. A valuable salve for cuts or wounds of any kind: Boil one-half cupful of thick, sweet cream ten or fifteen minutes, stirring constantly. When cold beat it thoroughly, when it will be a creamy paste. Bottle and cork tightly, or make fresh every time.

# JOYOUS BUCKEYE HOME COMING AND REUNION

To Be Held in Columbus During the Continuance of the Ohio State Fair, September 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

# HAPPY REUNION OF OHIO'S TRUANT CHILDREN

100,000 Native Ohioans Now Residing Without the Boundaries of the State to Return to Dear Old Ohio and Participate in the Joyful Festivities.

Elaborate Arrangements Planned to Entertain the Vast Throng and An Entire Week to Be Spent in Renewing the Sentiments of Those Happy Days of Long Ago.

(Special Correspondence.)

Columbus, O.—(Special.)—Ohioans have planned a Joyous Home Coming, to be held in Columbus during the continuance of the Ohio State Fair, Sept. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, next, and the event gives promise of being the grandest in the state's history. Hundreds of letters are being received daily from absent Ohioans, assuring the committee of their presence on this joyful occasion, although the formal invitation will not be mailed until July 1.

Love and pride of native heath will bring them back to again live over the happy days of long ago, and to visit those cherished spots where, as youths, they had loved to linger. What a pleasure 'twill be to again visit the old homestead; to wander once more over those familiar spots where those happy childhood days were spent, and to mingle with our friends of former days.

"How dear to our hearts are the scenes of our childhood," and how fondly that dear old mother will embrace her noble son; how proudly that venerable father will grasp his hand in royal welcome, and with what delight will that loving sister and brother welcome home the returning son.

Among the throngs of returning Ohioans will be many who marched away with the boys in blue to Lincoln's call for volunteers, and who, after that historic strife was ended, settled in the southern or western states. They now return, feeble with the weight of years, their honored lives fast ebbing away, to visit once more their native state ere they answer the call for enrollment in that great army above.

How joyful will be the event; how happy the greetings of old friends long parted, and how dear to again tread upon the soil of the greatest and grandest state in all the Union. Foremost in agriculture; foremost in industry; foremost in war or peace; peerless, beautiful Ohio welcomes back her children.

For many months the Home Coming Committee has been industriously seeking out the names and addresses of former Ohioans, with the result that the following invitation will be extended to one hundred and fifty thousand Buckeye citizens who have strayed from their native heath.

"Home, Sweet Home, in Old Ohio." Ohioans will promote a "Joyous Buckeye Home-Coming," to be held in Columbus during the first week of September, 1907.

Centrally located, it is appropriate that the State Fair grounds, at the Capital City, should be chosen as the chief trying place for old friends to meet and greet and talk of other times and other days.

Half a million native born Ohioans live outside the state. The ebbing tide of the ocean always turn again home. We command all absent "Buckeyes" wherever you may be, to be guided by this precept of the sea.

You may take the fond heart from its home by the hearth, but wherever it goes it will yearn for the place of its birth. In the memory of every one are pictures of childhood, painted in colors that will never fade away.

will come again some one will meet you who said "Good-bye" the day you went away.

"WELCOME," in capital letters, will be written over our doors and across our hearts. Loyal men and royal women will wrap your hand and give you greeting as roses greet the dew.

In all the world there is no place like Ohio. Endowed by nature with riches, beauty, grandeur, she stands without a peer the fittest home for man. Her forefathers loved liberty and hated tyranny. Her pioneers had courage to worship God and fight a king. Her mothers braved the hardships of the wilderness and risked the danger of the tomahawk to be beside the men they loved while a communal wealth was being built. Thus conceived, Ohio was well born.

To the north is Lake Erie, and across the bosom of this inland sea sail the laden ships of trade. To the east, the chimneys of industry, the marts of commerce and the graves of our ancestors. To the south is "Old Dixie," the cotton, the cane and "Kentucky Land." To the west, the "Fields of Grain and Gold," the home of Prosperity and Legal Tender.

In days primeval the Red Man loved Ohio second only to the "Happy Hunting Grounds." When the "Palefaces" came the bravest Indians of the continent roamed her forests and had adored. Weaker tribes had to be content with less favored spots.

BEST STATE OF ALL. Ohio is an empire. Seventy-two cities and countless towns; fertile fields and busy shops; iron roads and richest mines; beautiful rivers and picturesque hills; schools and school masters, colleges, churches and magnificent temples; splendid men, splendid women and a free-born citizenship make Ohio grand and great.

"This a heritage to have been born in Ohio. Her sons are potent everywhere. She stands upon the threshold of opportunity. As the leaves of the Buckeye tree are the first to ripple and tremble in the gentle zephyrs of springtime, so are her men and her women first in the realms of human endeavor, in peace or in war. To pilot, platform, bench and bar she has given leaders beyond compare. In science, literature, art, drama, story song and battle, she has gained renown. Her star on "Old Glory" adds strength to the Union. Her sons have proven illustrious pilots of the nation. Her Edison and her genius have driven back the darkness and beckoned the God of Progress on.

The Fair grounds at Columbus are ideal for this great reunion; they have no equal anywhere. A million dollars has been expended to beautify and adorn with imposing buildings, pleasant driveways, shady walks, magnificent pavilions and commodious rest rooms.

From far and near will come Ohio's famous "Buckeyes." An interesting program will be rendered every day. No expense will be spared to entertain you. We will make you glad you came. We ask your presence and your aid. The Home-Coming of Ohioans must be the greater than any other.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who to himself will say, 'I love my native Buckeye State, am going back to my Old Ohio.'"

We appeal to all who ever called Ohio "Home" to come and join the happy throng.

Even though this vast army of noble men and women will be invited, we would suggest that each of our readers mail the names and addresses of absent Ohioans to T. L. Calvert, Secretary, Columbus, that all may be apprised of the Joyous Buckeye Home Coming.

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