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Report of the Voters' League.

In theory at least our system of nominations for local offices is ideal. Practically, it is defective in one particular. It assumes the possession of competent knowledge by the voter as to the qualifications of the candidates, when as a matter of fact the voter may have no such information. It may be altogether practicable for him to get the information, but he may lack the inclination.

With respect to the most important offices to be elected in this city a new organization known as the Voters' league has undertaken to remedy the defect referred to and provide the voter with the information necessary to enable him to cast an intelligent ballot at the primary election. The first, and, in a measure, a preliminary report of the Voters' league is published in this paper today.

This organization, as most voters in this city probably know, was formed some six months ago for the purpose of contributing to a very desirable and necessary improvement in the administration of the affairs of this city and county. It is modeled somewhat after the Chicago Municipal Voters' league, to which is directly traceable very substantial improvement in the composition of the council of that city.

The conditions seem to be more favorable for the accomplishment of satisfactory results here than in Chicago. In Chicago nominations are made under the old convention plan, and the work of the league becomes effective only after the nominations are made. Here nominations are made by direct vote of the people, and an interval elapses between the declaration of intention to become a candidate and the primary election within which the league may acquaint the public with the qualifications of the candidates before they are voted upon at the primary election. There remains also the same opportunity that exists in Chicago to discuss the character and qualifications of candidates after the nominations are made. The advantage here is in the opportunity to scrutinize the qualifications of candidates prior to the nominating primary. If the work of the league is well done it ought to be invaluable to the conscientious voter, and we have confidence that the conscientious voter is in the majority.

This league is intended to be a permanent institution. The reader will discover from its address that it proposes "to impress upon the voters the conviction that honesty and capacity, and not partizan services or good fellowship, are the essential qualifications for municipal office." And while it may address itself particularly to the qualifications of candidates for the city council, certainly the same standard which it sets up and emphasizes in the public mind with regard to aldermanic candidates will have an influence upon the selection of all other candidates.

In helping the public to make an intelligent choice, the league promises "to do its work without personal or party bias." Candidates will be recommended for municipal service regardless of their attitude toward the tariff, or the Panama canal or the Philippines. And it will be worth something to get the municipal voters in the habit of electing their business agents not with respect to their national political affiliations, but with regard solely to their business capacity and personal integrity.

A notable remark in this report is the statement that "to the apathy and indifference of the citizens, to their lack of appreciation of the responsibilities of the position, and to their failure to insist upon character and capacity in candidates, and, after their election, failure to hold them to a rigorous standard of public duty, is due in chief measure the unsatisfactory tone of official service in the Minneapolis city council." That is something that every voter in Minneapolis ought to paste in his hat. It is emphatically true, and we shall have good government here and in every city only when this apathy and indifference are overcome, and when officials are held to a "rigorous standard of public duty."

If any one has been anticipating in this first report of the league something in the nature of a "hot roast" he will be disappointed. The document is a moderate and temperate statement, and is doubtless all the more effective for that reason. While it bears only the signatures of two well-known and responsible men, it represents the conclusions of a large body of the most responsible, reliable and public-spirited citizens of Minneapolis, and the work of this league will undoubtedly exert a powerful influence upon local politics in the approaching campaign.

This report deals not only with the individual effort of the members of the council whose terms expire the first of January, but it sets out briefly, but yet suggestively, important interests to be committed to the next council. This is a valuable feature of the report. It is a good thing to have public attention called to the importance of the business to be committed to men chosen to the city council. It so often happens that members of the city council are chosen without the slightest thought as to the nature of the work which they are to do, and the responsible interests committed to their care. Men are elected to disburse millions for the city by voters who would not hire them to manage a business with a capital of $5,000.

Mr. Dunn's managers are not in need of any nerve tonic, if they really intend to ask Governor Van Sant to stump the state for the man who ridiculed his stand against the railroad merger.

The Reign of Disorder.

The militia company that undertook to defend the negro murderers at Hillsboro, Ga., with unloaded rifles is going to resign. These citizen soldiers should first be courtmartialed. If the privates were responsible for their rifles being unloaded, the company should be dispersed in disgrace. If they were not ordered by their officers to load their rifles and resist to the end, those officers are deserving of the severest penalty the law permits. It is bad enough for the law to be trampled upon and scorned by a crazy mob, but it is still worse when that mob is abetted or aided by the armed forces of law and order. At Statesboro the militia had a great opportunity to strike such a blow for law and order as would have thrilled the whole nation. Instead, they have been the means of promoting disorder and contempt for law. Wherever, henceforth, a bloodthirsty mob shall rise to take the law into its own hands, it will be recalled that at Statesboro the soldiers did not dare resist the mob with loaded rifles.

The contagious nature of this social disease of disorder is shown once more by the reign of terror now reported from the vicinage of Statesboro. All the "bad niggers" are to be run out of the district. Badness, it seems, consists largely of lack of due respect for white supremacy, and those who decide whether a "nigger" is bad or not are the same men who afterward attend to the running out.

Allowing that there are plenty of negroes in the neighborhood of Statesboro that are a menace to the community, this lawless method of purging the community is sure to degenerate into a means of satisfying individual grudges and hatreds. That was the history of the Ku Klux Klan. Organized at first to overthrow by force a negro domination that was ruining the south, it degenerated after its first successes into an evil secret society, which its organizers were compelled to disown.

The negro problem in the south is grave enough without turning it into a war between the races. But that is the natural tendency of the Statesboro affair. Under the most peaceful conditions, it will be difficult to shape a plan by which the antagonistic races can live together. The state government must maintain order. Local communities confronted by the passions aroused by race hatred are not equal to the work. Extraordinary conditions call for extraordinary measures. A state constabulary, well-mounted and well-armed, would at once be a preventive of crime and a means of repressing attempts to substitute mob vengeance for justice.

John Sharp Williams grew sarcastic yesterday in his speech of notification. The protective tariff, which the democratic platform denounces as a system of robbery, Mr. Williams undertook to ridicule and denounce, notwithstanding the fact that he was addressing one of the most favored "robbers" in the country. When Mr. Davis was in the senate, altho serving as a democrat, he took care to vote with the republicans on the tariff and to secure for his business interests all the protection that the law allows. We do not find in Mr. Davis' remarks any protest against Mr. Williams' assault on the tariff, but the vice presidential candidate probably agrees with Judge Parker, who assures us in his speech of acceptance that nobody need be alarmed, that even if there should be a democratic president and a democratic house they could not do anything on account of the republican senate. Just what excuse remains for the election of a democratic president or a democratic house, aside from the fact that the democrats would like to have the offices, seems to have been left out of Mr. Parker's calculations.

"Ward Aldermen."

In the report of the Voters' league, several retiring aldermen are described as having been good "ward aldermen," active in promoting the interests of their own wards, altho at the expense of the city as a whole. The members of the league are doubtless aware of the fact that they have pointed out what will be regarded by some voters as a meritorious quality. In certain wards candidates for reelection can doubtless make votes for themselves by the use of the league's report, showing that they have looked out for the ward's interests. The immediate effect may be to the advantage of the "ward aldermen," but this whole municipal business is a matter of education, and even the most selfish and narrow among the voters must learn ultimately that the man who sacrifices general municipal interest for the sake of promoting some local interest in his ward is sure to make it expensive in the end for the people of his own ward.

Another thing which frank acknowledgement of this situation is likely to do is to emphasize the importance of so constituting the council that a large element of it will be comparatively free from these local interests and considerations. In other words, it ought to help in the adoption of a new charter and the reorganization of the council with a certain number of its members elected at large. We will probably have to do that before the interests of the city as a whole will be properly administered.

The report of the Voters' league specifies as a qualification for aldermanic candidates "aggressive honesty." That is a good kind of honesty. If we understand what the league means, it implies that a man shall not simply be honest himself, passively refuse to accept a bribe, and passively decline to make a fuss about it if anybody else does, but who will not only be honest himself but so honest that he will not allow his associates and colleagues to be dishonest if he can help it. A little "aggressive honesty" of that kind in a body like the city council is a very useful thing.

The cute trick of the Dunn managers in proposing to put the governor "in a hole" as they express it, by asking him to take the stump for Dunn will at least serve one purpose—it will bring out clearly and distinctly before the public how Dunn, actuated by his merger sympathies, knocked the governor in the campaign of 1902.

It's a good thing for John Sharp Williams that his reputation does not depend entirely upon his speech opening the St. Louis convention or his attempt to be funny at White Sulphur Springs yesterday. On neither occasion did Mr. Williams add anything to his fame.

Schwab has restored $2,000,000 that he made on that shipbuilding deal to the victims of his particular brand of high finance, for which he is entitled to as much credit as should be given to the burglar who sends back part of the plunder out of sympathy for the family.

Mr. Dunn's managers want Governor Van Sant to help Mr. Dunn in the campaign. It wouldn't bother the governor much to give Dunn as much assistance as Dunn gave him in the last campaign.

It is plain enough that what gave the Japs their decisive victory in their last sea fight was the fact that the Japs could shoot straight, while the Russians couldn't. The man who scatters isn't of much account anywhere.

Duluth is talking of throwing its garbage into the lake. It is proposed to take it ten miles out and dump it from scows. The worst place to put your garbage is in your drinking water.

Colonel Prentiss Ingraham, who wrote a thousand novels, is dead. Have you a full de luxe set of the colonel's splendid monument in your library?

MINNESOTA POLITICS

Dunn Managers Say They Will Invite Governor Van Sant to Make Speeches—New Committee Claims a Balance in the Funds from the Last Campaign—Chairman and Treasurer of Old Committee Deny It Emphatically.

It is given out from the state committee headquarters by the secretary, W. E. Verity, that Governor Van Sant will be invited to make speeches this fall for the state ticket. They propose to put it up to the governor, and make him go on record as for or against the nominee.

This is the first intimation that the present state administration was to be recognized by the new organization. The governor is now in Boston, and his attitude is problematical. Candidate Dunn declined to make speeches for him two years ago, on account of the railroad merger question. It is quite likely that the governor will keep out this year on the same account, and that if he makes any speeches they will be for Roosevelt, and not on state issues.

There is bad blood between the members of the old state central committee and their successors, the managers of the Dunn campaign. Dar Reese claims that after the campaign two years ago, he was told by Judge Jamison that there was $6,000 left in the treasury, and the new committee wants this amount turned over for its use.

Judge Jamison makes emphatic denial of the statement, and says that the meager campaign fund of 1902 was all expended, the last of it going to pay some bills that came in after election. W. C. Masterman of Stillwater, treasurer of the committee, corroborates this. He says there was not a dollar left after the bills were paid two years ago, and he welcomes any investigation that may be made.

It is a well-known fact that the committee was hampered for funds two years ago, and that an extra effort was made just before election to raise enough to meet the necessary expenses.

Conde Hamlin, chairman of the republican state committee, says he still intends to name an executive committee according to the resolutions passed at the meeting of the general committee. He will call another meeting of the full committee for some day early next week, and the executive committee will be announced about that time. Mr. Hamlin says the campaign will not open actively till about Oct. 1, when the county committees have all organized.

—Charles B. Cheney.

NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

Some of the Fiction That Is Promised for This Fall—Well-known Names on the List of Authors—The Farmer and His Wife Show Up at the St. Louis Exposition—"Araby" by Baroness von Hutton Not Up to Author's Standard.

If anyone has any fear that the mills of the fiction writers will cease or have ceased to grind, so that he may have nothing to read in the long winter evenings that are now not far ahead, let him go bury his sorrow. The finished products of dozens of writers will be ready by the time the frost is on the pumpkin. We have the words of numerous publishers that they have books almost ready, and we are trying to fortify both brain and body for the impending deluge. We have made no effort to collect anything like a comprehensive list of the books to come, books that all voracious readers will wish to read, but here and there we have picked up a notice, and, putting these together, we can give readers who have exhausted the public library fiction department assurance that there is something coming.

To take the first notice that comes to hand from several on our desk, we find a promise of a book by Stanley Weyman, the author of "Under the Red Robe." This announcement insures for those who are fond of real thrills from fictitious adventures recounted graphically about three hundred thrills—one at least for each page of the book. We say three hundred because that seems to be about the standard of length for novels these days.

Here again is an announcement that Joseph Conrad intends to keep his name before the public with a story called "Nostromo," and that immediately upon its publication he will set off for the Mediterranean to bag enough local color for another book, which is to be a sea story.

Gilbert Parker, the author of "The Right of Way," will shine (we are sure he will shine) in "A Ladder of Swords."

"Tommy & Co." is the title of a book which is to come from the pen or the typewriter of Jerome K. Jerome. "It is the story of an elderly London journalist and his young protege, a quaint little waif, who in spite of her name is a girl." That is what we are told; we haven't seen the book.

Something not just in the line of fiction, but timely and from a master hand and a mind well stored with Japanese lore, will be Lafcadio Hearn's "Japan: An Interpretation." After ten years' residence in Japan, Mr. Hearn's interpretation ought to be worth a great deal.

Something—what shall we say?—something "psychic" is coming from Rider Haggard. Mr. Haggard has been dreaming dreams since his last book appeared and this new book is said to contain the story of a revelation by means of a dream.

Of course Marion Crawford would not let a book season go by without a contribution. His fall story deals with contemporaneous life in Rome and Sicily, and will be called, "Whosoever Shall Offend—".

Old Gorgon Graham, the self-made merchant who wrote letters full of wisdom to a son who was seeking to acquire wisdom at a seat of learning, will be kept before a not unwilling public by George H. Lorimer in more letters.

And there are others, oh, many others; probably carloads of them. Well, anyway, they'll give us something to divert our attention from war news and politics; that is, while the politics lasts, which is up to some time early in November. Probably before the winter is over we'll be glad we have the war news for a diversion from fiction. We surely will if the fiction is no better than some we have fallen upon, or which has fallen upon us, in very recent days.

The farmer (and his wife) who goes to an exposition and has all sorts of amusing and some trying experiences, has become one of the properties of modern fiction. **Uncle Bob and Aunt Becky's Strange Adventures at the World's Exposition** is a record of the trip of two such characters from Skowhegan, Me., to St. Louis and back. They set out in an excart and came back in an automobile, having seen the world and become "satisfied to live a contented future." The type is rather well known, and if you like that kind of reading you will find amusement in the adventures of Uncle Bob and Aunt Becky. —The Uneasy Chair.

BARONESS VON HUTTON,
The Author of "Araby."

A mild, pseudo cynicism, a few brilliant touches and a superficial suggestiveness of the moral laxity of a certain upper class do not serve to raise **Araby**, a short story by Baroness von Hutton, to the level of her other work, and, in fact, simply show the need of a waste basket in the author's workroom.

It is the story of a man of the world, polished and yet a cad, who is in love with a remarkable girl when he is in her presence, and is decidedly uncertain of his sentiments when alone. The denouement is as astonishing as it is impossible.

The scene is entirely on shipboard, and the comments on the passengers are striking and give an apt idea of the style:

> Araby sat silent. Her place was between Yelverton and a school mistress from Connecticut, who had been all over Europe with $500 and black silk underclothes.

—L. S. K.

An important book, that is authoritatively reported to have startled a number of readers abroad, is being published by Harper & Brothers. It is entitled **The Pan-Germanic Doctrine**, and was written by an Englishman in close touch with German politics, who prefers, however, to remain anonymous for the present. The book is something in the nature of a revelation of the aims and aspirations of Germany to be a colonizing world power, as represented by a certain intellectual and agitating class. "The Pan-Germanic Doctrine" reveals the extent to which this sentiment has grown in Germany, and exposes its serious meaning for the civilized world at large. While the German emperor has not openly avowed a Pan-Germanic ambition—that is, a union of all the Teutonic peoples—some of his acts seem, it is said, on reading this volume, to be preparatory steps in that direction.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ARABY. By Baroness von Hutton. Illustrated by C. J. Budd. The Smart Set Publishing company, New York and London.

UNCLE BOB AND AUNT BECKY'S STRANGE ADVENTURES AT THE WORLD'S GREAT EXPOSITION. By Herschel Williams. Numerous pen and ink sketches. Chicago: Laird & Lee.

THE NONPAREIL MAN

A Little Sketch of Conditions as They Were in the World and in Minneapolis Ten Years Ago Today, on Aug. 18, 1894—Do You Know More Than You Did Then or Are You the Same Old Skate—Heartsearchings.

What were you doing ten years ago today, on Aug. 18, 1894?

On that date the democratic county convention for Hennepin county was nominating Frank D. Larrabee for county attorney, Max Robb having thrown up the sponge. George Ledgerwood was named for county auditor. It was said in this convention that the Winston Brothers served a choice dish of crow to Colonel C. M. Foote.

Then again Doc Fish of Great West fame was doing some rain-making experiments and recommending the use of "iodide of tetrethyldiethene diammonium and some of its nitro-hydrogenous congeners." How different now! Too much rain.

The Joannin-Hanson mill, 1700 First avenue S, burned in 30 minutes; loss $45,000.

Lady Somerset's attack on the "Living Picture" fad at the theaters was giving that kind of a show a great boom.

September wheat opened at 53⅝ and closed at 52¾. How different now! Some "unknown bull" was buying on all declines. You may search us.

Harlow S. Gale, lately appointed to the position of instructor in psychology at the state university, arrived in the city and was ready to begin his work.

The delayed iron for the new courthouse came.

The Japanese and Chinese were at it, hammer and tongs.

The Penny Press attacked the city engineer.

President Cleveland went to Gray Gables to study the new democratic tariff bill.

Countess Wachtmeister said she thought the Mahatmas could not help out the industrial and financial situation because of the laws of Karma, nations having Karma as well as individuals.

Some of the Coxey army people from the northwest were getting home again. They were hungry.

Do any of these items bring you into rapport with the past? Can you sit down and figure out what you were doing and thinking ten years ago today? Are you the same old skate you were then or have you got a little sense knocked into your foolish noddle? Do you continue to spend your money for that which is naught or are you firmly and steadily slapping it into the bank? Are you bracing up and getting into the game or are you running down at the heel? Are you getting more and more out of life or are you getting deader and deader?

Now is the time to subscribe.

The Japanese have proved themselves to be the masters of the seas, but it was not thought by the advertising managers of our great papers that they would be equally astute in wooing the coin from the pockets of the purchaser. Yet the following is the advertisement of a Tokio store:

> "Our wrapping paper is as strong as the hide of an elephant. Goods forwarded with the speed of a cannonball. Our silks and satins are as soft as the cheeks of a pretty woman, as beautiful as a rainbow. Our parcels are packed with as much care as a young married woman takes of her husband."

The Brown County Journal says, "Spencer, the townsite man, stepped off the train here Monday." You could hardly expect him to dive off unless the train snubbed up beside a lake.

In Chicago some plumbers were found making lead money. Up here they make good money.

Nicholas Garrabrant, a farmer near Richfield, N. J., went into his hennery Saturday afternoon and took from her nest a setting hen, to ascertain whether her eggs were beginning to hatch. They were, but before Garrabrant could take the chicks away the hen's noisy protest attracted the attention of the big rooster in the barnyard. The rooster ran to the hennery and jumped on Garrabrant. There was a fight. Garrabrant got away with a bad stab in the hand from the defender's spur. Then the farmer got a mean revenge by eating the rooster for his Sunday dinner.

Someone stole the sermon of Rev. Dr. W. W. Halloway, pastor of the Presbyterian Memorial church of Dover, N. J., and the doctor was so mad that he just stood up and preached a good sermon.

P. S.—Why not try this on your pastor?

A gentleman was found in New York the other day cleaning the street with his shirt. There is always some suspicion of the sanity of anyone who attempts to clean the streets, so they sent this man to Bellevue.

Look out—Peter McNamee of Chicago, was pronounced by a committee of feminine experts the loveliest masculine being on a Lincoln Park excursion boat, and in recognition of so much pulchritude Peter was backed into a corner and kissed by 200 women for the moment distracted and dazzled by his charms. It is said that Bert Hall, Carl Wallace and Tim Byrnes have read the account with much alarm! What if the custom should spread?

—A. J. R.

VOTERS' LEAGUE REPORT IS OUT

Continued From First Page.

theater ordinances designed to protect the public more effectually. It has the opportunity to distinguish itself by the adoption of a franchise ordinance putting the General Electric company in its proper relation to the municipality, but has thus far failed to meet the issue squarely. The public may expect to see the ordinance go thru with a rush between the final election and the close of the life of the present council.

> In that event it is a sure thing that the ordinance will not be one that will properly safeguard the city's interests. The council should either adopt an ordinance now or put the matter over to next year.

The council lost another opportunity to consider the city's advantage in the matter of the Lake street car line resolution. Irrespective of whether Lake street should have been turned over to the Street Railway company, or whether compensation should have been exacted for the valuable privileges granted, the bald fact shows up that the resolution was passed by the committee and council without the public having the remotest chance to learn the terms under which Lake street was given over to the company's use. The council committee settled the terms at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The council pased the resolution that night.

Some Contracts Criticized.

In its administrative functions the council also failed to strike true in some instances; notably, in the awarding of the contracts for creosote block paving and the North Side bridge. In the one case a contract aggregating nearly $100,000 was forced thru according to the contractor's program, with the council in total darkness regarding the relative merits of the propositions submitted. With the city engineer frankly admitting that he knew nothing of creosoting methods, and the aldermen knowing less, here was a place for disinterested expert judgment. Especially is this so in view of the fact that there was much defective creosote block paving laid last year. There was certainly a lack of zeal here on the part of the council to protect the city's interests. The city pays the high price and has the Republic company's say-so that the public will get its money's worth in improved quality.

It is of vital moment in connection with this creosote paving matter that the contract was awarded by motion, instead of by resolution, thus precluding the Mayor's veto privilege. This practice of awarding contracts by motion has grown upon the council in recent years. There is no sufficient excuse for it. Mayor Haynes has well called attention to its pernicious features.

The North Side bridge deal was indefensible from any standpoint of proper business methods. In this case the council had the expert advice of the city engineer right at hand, and coolly ignored it. It is impossible to square this action of the council by proper regard for the city's interests. Personal and political pressure marked every stage of the proceedings leading up to the award of the contract.

In calling attention to the present council's shortcomings, one should not omit a plain statement of fact that has shown up strongly all thru—that it has shown too much regard for the welfare of special and corporate interests and too little for the city's. The public service corporations are the great, pernicious, debauching influence of all large cities, and this is just as true in Minneapolis as in any other city.

Present Needs Summarized.

In summing up the crying needs of the Minneapolis city council, they can be stated as these:

Less subserviency to ward interests, a most positive evil from the standpoint of the general city's interest in our local scheme of government; a higher standard of official duty on the part of the aldermen; more aggressive honesty; more practical efficiency; less log-rolling and a keener purpose to decide matters of public import on their merits; less devotion to the patronage feature of aldermanic life; strict enforcement of the charter provision that aldermen shall not do business with the city. Seven of the twenty-six aldermen in the council either sell supplies or do service for the municipality. In several instances aldermen have built up quite an extensive business with the city.

Several important issues await the attention of the council of 1905-1906. The General Electric ordinance may be one of them. The down-town loop ordinance possibly another. The council should see to it that this loop ordinance is not made a means of the street railway company gobbling up all the business district with the object of forestalling a possible future competitor. The company is entitled only to such streets as are needed to relieve the present congestion and afford it adequate facilities for serving the public in the future.

There will probably be some important street railway extensions during the life of the next council. Possibly a competing company will want to get into the city. Then there is the proper disposition of now useless down-town pumping stations; also the extension of the new accounting system to all of the city departments. And, most important of all, there will devolve upon the next council the task of working out the details of a modern water-filtration system.

The point should be made, in conclusion, that under the Minneapolis system of government the city council must bear almost the entire responsibility for the conduct of the city's business, as well as handle the legislative features. This situation emphasizes the necessity for men of integrity and capacity in the council, and should awaken the community to the importance of taking an active interest in the selection of the men to represent them in that body.

RECORDS OF RETIRING ALDERMEN

First Ward—John Ryan.

Ending four years of bad service in the city council. He displaced the obnoxious Perry Long regime in first-ward affairs. Gave a promise of being some improvement on his predecessor, but has failed to "make good." Has usually been found on the wrong side of questions involving important city interests. Seems to have a very tender regard for special interests, but little for the city or its taxpayers. The people of the first ward have endured many aldermanic afflictions in their time. Two years ago they made a beginning of better things. They should continue the good work this year. Perry Long is again a candidate. As between Long and Ryan, Ryan is perhaps the better man, but neither is a proper candidate for the place.

Second Ward—James S. Lane.

Finishing eight years of service in the council. Originally elected as a protest against Burke O'Brien and Burke O'Brien methods in council affairs. His affiliations were good and he gave very satisfactory service during his first term. Has been on the wrong side of many important issues involving the larger interests of the city. His attitude as an alderman and member of the fire department committee has been distinctly opposed to good discipline and the best efficiency of that department. His record in the water committee was in some measure of the same character. Too much inclined to inject his personal animosities and prejudices into the conduct of city business. Does business with the city thru his company, the Lane Hardware company. Personally a man of integrity.

Third Ward—Claus Mumm.

Finishing his first term. An aggravated instance of the all too prevalent type of aldermen known as "ward aldermen." Places the interests of his ward above the common interests. Plays every possible game to increase his hold on his constituents. Magnifies the importance of patronage and politics. Has initiated one or two measures in the interest of the public. Very friendly to Mayor Ames during the latter's regime and threw his official influence to his side. His council affiliations not good. With two colleagues on the public grounds and building committee, he was indicted by the grand jury, Oct. 16, 1903, for seeking a bribe in connection with the vacation of a down-town alley. The state's main witness, who was also involved in the transaction, decamped to the Isle of Pines between suns, and the county attorney dropped the case. Mumm has never made a move to clear his name, either by a trial in court or a council investigation. Is in the wagon-making business, and does some repair work for the city.

Fourth Ward—S. E. Adams.

Finishing his twelfth year of continuous service in the council. He has an amiable disposition and is much respected by his fellow aldermen. Universally regarded as honest. Not of a high degree of aggressiveness, however. The waterworks department reached a high mark of extravagance and inefficiency during his four years' administration as chairman. He showed firmness and independence in opposing the increase of the salaries of the aldermen. Alone of all the members of the city council, he voted continuously against the adoption of the irregular payrolls, and was one of the three or four who did not draw the additional salary. Despite his seventy-six years, he gave close attention to his council duties. In ward affairs he largely delegates his responsibilities to others. The fourth ward is the largest and richest ward in the city and in the state. It pays a very large bulk of the taxes. Properly, it should be represented by a younger and more active man.

Fifth Ward—Charles B. Holmes.

Finishing his first term in the council. Has excellent abilities, is one of the most alert and active members of the city council and pays close attention to city business. Has given efficient service as a member of the water committee and been a close student of all matters connected with paving. Subject to criticism as being too zealous in behalf of the interest of the Republic Creosote Paving company while chairman of the paving committee. Has qualities of leadership which ought to make him an effective agent for improvement of conditions in the council.

Sixth Ward—N. J. Nelson.

Ending four years' of service. Badly handicapped by lack of ideals of public service and by his personal and official closeness to his colleague, Alderman Lars M. Rand. Altho opposed to him politically, in large measure he shapes his official actions according to the latter's counsel. He was given a chance to show his mettle by an appointment to the water committee in 1901. Proved a dead weight there. Comprehended only the patronage part of his duties. Refused to bid for Mayor Ames' favor. Nelson is an improvement over his predecessor, but the sixth ward can do still better.

Seventh Ward—Harry G. McLaskey.

Closing his first term in the council. He offers another striking instance of extreme devotion to ward interests. Perhaps the most aggressive man in the council on the score of patronage, and the most successful. Is efficient in his administration of ward affairs. In the larger field of the city it is another story. His record on the water committee has not been to his credit. Emphasizes the importance of politics and patronage too strongly in the administration of its affairs. Is ambitious politically. Has been vice president of the council for the past two years, and aspires to the presidency next year. Has broken away from the influence of special interests in some instances.

Eighth Ward—Fred M. Powers.

Serving his sixth year in the council. Has been of value in the council as a free lance, attacking indiscriminately, and often in an erratic way the interests of public-service corporations, the city's methods of awarding contracts and the licensing of "dive" theaters. His judgment frequently questioned and his motives often mistrusted. Is not popular or influential with his colleagues. Faithful in his attention to his aldermanic duties. Has fair abilities.

Ninth Ward—O. E. Larson.

Ending his first term as alderman. Has been unfortunate in being dominated thruout his council service by his colleague, "Pete" McCoy. His best service has been as a member of the license committee. He has sound convictions in the matter of control of the saloon and the tough theater, and has stood by them resolutely. Otherwise has performed little service of any value to the city at large. Generally regarded as being honest. The ninth ward has had its fair share of capable aldermen in its day, who have been important factors in council administration. The ward has deteriorated badly of late years in this regard.

Tenth Ward—James Dwyer.

Closing eight years of aggressive council service. His official career has been a continuous, persistent battle for party, ward and special interests. The interests of his ward always uppermost with him. The welfare of the city at large, on the other hand, has suffered thru his presence in the council. Regarded as being very friendly to the public lighting companies. Has been a member of the gas committee for eight years, and was chairman of the same for four. One of the eight aldermen who opposed the wineroom ordinance. Is a close personal, political and official ally of Alderman Lars M. Rand. Draws on him liberally for inspiration and advice in council matters. Does business with the city. Furnishes the ice for many of the departments. Enjoys a reputation for personal integrity.

Eleventh Ward—Peter Nelson.

Closing his second term in the council. Says he is not a candidate for renomination. For a fair estimate of his official record during the past four years, see report on John Ryan. Their council careers show remarkable coincidence on all vital public questions. Nelson was indicted for perjury Feb. 28, 1898, in connection with the trial of ex-Alderman George Durnam, convicted of accepting a bribe from a contractor. Nelson was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in state's prison. He was refused a new trial, but on appeal, the supreme court held the indictment defective, and ordered the case to be resubmitted to the grand jury. On June 13, 1899, the grand jury reported "no bill." The next year Nelson appealed to his constituents for a vindication and got it in the shape of a big majority. On Oct. 16, 1903, again indicted by the grand jury, in company with two of his colleagues, charged with accepting a bribe in return for favorable action in connection with the vacation of a down-town alley. The case against Nelson was dropped on the same ground as in the case of Mumm. Like the others concerned, Nelson never made a move to clear his name.

Twelfth Ward—A. S. Adams.

Closing his second term in the council. His first service covered two years, 1888-1890. Been a member of the park board for twelve years and president of that body for the past two years. Is highly respected by all his colleagues, and is of unquestioned integrity. His worst fault is lack of aggressiveness. Otherwise a very superior type of public official. Has given excellent service on the fire department committee. Been a member of the tax committe for four years, and kept the interests of the city closely in mind there. During his first term voted to admit a competing street car company to the city. Of good intelligence and capacity. His official affiliations the highest. Has the time to give close personal attention to city business and does it.

Thirteenth Ward—F. L. Schoonmaker.

Finishing his first term. An instance of a citizen of good standing and capacity being pushed into public life, instead of seeking it. His election was a distinct step toward the improvement of the thirteenth ward council representation. Has abundant leisure to look after city business, and has shown keen devotion to his official duties. Been a member of the water committee for four years and is its present chairman. Has given the city the benefit of very efficient service in that department, also on the license committee. His affiliations are high class and his integrity of the best. Is naturally impulsive and has strong prejudices, both of which qualities have led him into official error at times. Comes as near to cutting out politics in his conduct of city business as any alderman in the council.

THE VOTERS' LEAGUE,
By Order of the Executive Committee,
John Crosby, Chairman.
Wm. Y. Chute, Secretary.