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CITY FRANCHISES.

Hon. John Mayo Palmer, who will oubtless be one of the Democratic ominees for Judge of the Superior Court of Cook County, if he will take he nomination, has written the followng able and interesting letter on a subject of vital importance at the present

Sceretary of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Ill.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of that I may conveniently meet your vishes, I make the following extract: "What different methods, if any. from those now in vogue, should be adopted in dealing with such city franchises as gas, electric light, street rallways, telephones, etc.?

"In what way can needed changes be effected?

"Any views you may have as to the proper terms to be made with the comthese franchises, or as to the needed changes in our city charters, to secure better protection to the community, in granting or regulating these franchises, and your criticisms of existing conditions in these matters, will be very welcome."

After some years of careful study. and a resort to most of the available sources of information upon the subject, I am convinced that the very decided weight of intelligent and unbiased opinion favors the view that the ownership of all fixed property devoted to the purpose of providing matters of such prime and universal necessity in urban life as water, heat, transit and communication, should be in the pub-

There is some division of opinion upon the question whether such property should be operated directly by the public through its own officers, or by private persons or corporations, under general public supervision. In my opinion the latter method of management is, for many reasons, prefera-

The public is not now, and probably never will, in a free country, be as well and economically served, in matters of detail, as private individuals or corporations; and it seems to me certain that, for reasons suggested by the soundest public policy, the number of appointive public officeholders should not be increased.

The power to enforce the rigid discipline and unquestioning obedience to superiors, so essential to the successful conduct of great business enterprises, cannot safely be entrusted to one citizen over another in their relations to the public, in respect to which superiors and subordinates are unknown.

The necessity and unavoidable tendency of such a system ofmanagement is either to extend the influence of rank into fields where it may sap the foundations of individual and political independence, or to the assertion of the equality of all citizens before the law. to the impairment of the obligation of implicit obedience of the employe.

In my opinion all such property should be owned by the public, but operated and managed by private persons, either as individuals or corporaions, under such contracts or arrangements as will measure private profit by economy in management, and cheap ness and perfection of the service to

In the present stage of the investigation of this subject, it is substantially agreed on all hands that the system auggested is, in theory at least, the true one. The only objections now serious ly urged to it are based upon the as ertion that it is impracticable.

This assertion cannot be well found ed unless it is supported upon one of two grounds; either that the law denies the power to adopt the system or that funds cannot be found to carry it into

As coming within the range of ordi nary professional study and knowledge, I am prepared to assert with the ntmost confidence that there is no legal or constitutional barrier to the exercise of the power of adopting the system; but, as the reasons which support unbroken current of decisions of courts of the highest authority, readily accessible in any lawyer's library, I will not trouble you with a statement of them

Some writers upon this subject, who soncede that if the field were not aiready occupied by private corporations, under contracts, whose obliga-tions may not be impaired by law, the public might enter upon such an enterprise, find in that circumstance an insurmountable obstacle to the adoption of the suggested system.

The power of the State to control the use of public highways in such manner as shall be most conducive to the interests of the public is one which cannot be allenated or bartered away.

And its rights to change the meth ods of improving or using such highways, or the agencies through which such improvement and use shall be made, so as to fully meet varying conditions in population and the needs of advancing civilization, is everywhere conceded.

The same unlimited discretion upon this subject, which fifty years ago justified the selection of private corporations as agencies for improving streets and conducting traffic thereon, must justify to-day the discharge of such agents and the substitution of others in their stead.

The circumstance that the agents now employed have, by contract or otherwise, acquired valuable rights arising out of their employment, amounts to no more than that such agents have not been fully paid for their services; of course they ought to be paid, before

However great and valuable, or small and insignificant, the rights created by such contracts may be, they are after all but property held by their owners take it for public use, upon the single ly compensated therefor.

The same public necessity, of the existence of which the representatives of the people are sole judges, that justifies the projection of a street through the property of the humblest citizen. authorizes the taking of all the street railways in the city.

There remains then for consideration

the question whether funds can be made available to defray the cost of the assumption of public control of such works.

As a general proposition, legal au thority to engage in a particular pub-He work implies power to raise funds by appropriate methods to defray the cost. The only limitations upon the power of the city of Chicago to raise funds for public corporate purposes are found in the provisions of the State Constitution, which forbid the creation our letter of recent date, from which, of indebtedness in excess of 5 per cent upon the assessed valuation of property and in certain statutes which prescribe the amount of annual taxation shall not exceed a certain rate.

If, in order to inaugurate the system suggested, it were necessary to create an indebtedness against the city within the meaning of the constitution, then, indeed, the scheme would, at present, be wholly impracticable, for the utmost limit of lawful indebtedness has alpanies seeking or already enjoying ready been reached by the city. Or, if the people in all conditions of life, who property of the people, then the proposition ought not to be entertained, for, although the Legislature might authorize an increase in the rate of taxation. the burdens of the property owners are

> But it is settled beyond dispute that the creation of an obligation payable specifically out of a certain fund in process of lawful collection, and not otherwise, does not create an ladebtedness within the meaning of the constilating the rate of taxation can have no application to it.

If a city were to engage in enterprises of the character suggested, it would do so in its private or corporate, as distinguished from its governmental, capaclty-a distinction well recognized by the courts, and practically illustrated in the municipal operation of water works.

A city would own and manage a street railway precisely as a corporation does; that is, for its corporate profits, and it, like the private corporation. could pledge the property and its income, as far as might be necessary, to obtain the funds necessary to pay the cost of its acquisition or its manage-

If private corporations are able, upon pledge of their exceedingly limited property rights, to obtain funds for the construction of street rallways, surely the city of Chicago might, upon pledge of the same property, with its income which may continue, and with an absolute title which will endure for centuries, secure adequate funds at low rates of interest, to pay the amount of their property for public use.

Securities based upon such a pledge with a right of any member of the publie to inspect all the details of management of the property, and with the remedies which now exist, or which the court would promptly devise to secure the application of its income to the purposes for which it is appropriated. would certainly be as attractive to the prudent investor as the bonds of private corporations are under the wellknown existing conditions.

Many plans have been suggested. and some have been tried, to remedy the evils which confessedly exist in the present system of furnishing the facilities to which you refer: none of them have been, or, in my opinion, can

It is common knowledge that statute, which makes the right of the City Council to grant a street railway franchise dependent upon the consent of favored property owners, has but added to the reeking mass of corruption which attends such grants, and has only furnished an additional means of subordinating the rights of the publle to the demands of private greed.

The method recently adopted in some States of selling such privileges to the highest bidder for cash, or to the corporation which will agree to furnish the best and cheapest facilities to the public, has some theoretical merits, and this proposition may be found in an as a temporary expedient, in the absence of a better one, might be entitled to a trial.

But the scheme for the improvement s not initiated in the right quarter, and s not suggested by the right motive. It would tax our credulty too far to equire us to believe that a franchise for a line of street rallway devised by corporation having exclusive private knowledge of its details or value would, if offered at public sale, be productive of much competition, or that the city authorities, as now conscituted, would be in a condition to determine anything about its worth,

But the considerations which should nduce the construction of street rail ways are the same as those which should induce the opening of new treets; that is, considerations of public necessity or convenience and considerations of private gain or profit should have no more influence in the one case than in the other.

All schemes for utilizing the street for rapid and convenient transit, should originate with the public authorities. Like means of transit should, as near ly as practicable, be furnished to all citizens alike, and they should not be used for the building up of one locality to the prejudice of another.

Under a proper and complete system of intramural transit, under municipal control and ownership, a city could furnish the means of cheap transporta tion throughout its territorial limics for the system, as a whole, would be profitable, although particular lines

might not at first be so,

And the city which would build for all future time need not be greatly concerned, if at all, by considerations of present profit.

No system that makes the extension of transportation or any similar facilities to the people, dependent upon the precisely as all other property is held, views of private gain, can have any subject to the right of the public to real pretensions to completeness, or to soundness in principle; and any methcondition that its owners shall be just- od of dealing with the subject which recognizes this principle, must be merely a temporary makeshift, and cannot as this city can boast, and around them of 1897 ninety University Extension be relied upon to furnish any substantial relief from the evils of which com plaint is now so justly made.

The more the subject is investigated. the more it receives intelligent discussion, the more surely will the conclusion

To reach this result legislation may be necessary. Not for the assertion or

formulating the details of a plan for its as well to the present owners of property rights which may be affected, as to the public.

But the interests involved are so vast, and the well-being, comfort and prosperity of the whole people are so vitaly involved for all the coming years in he proper solution of the problem which now confronts us, it is the part of wisdom to weigh well the reasons for any changes which may be pro posed and to make haste slowly.

In my judgment the General Assem bly should, at its present session, authorize the appointment by the Gov ernor of a commission composed of men selected because of their capacity and integrity, who enjoy the confidence of to accomplish this end resort must be should be personally so compensated had to increased taxation upon the and provided with such funds as to enable them to thoroughly investigate the subject in all its aspects, and bring to their aid all that experience has taught, either in the old world or in the new; and who should, as long before already beyond what they ought to the next session as may be practicable, make public their conclusions in all their details.

I am convinced that such a commis sion could and would devise such a scheme for the public ownership and the building will be short of coal any control of works of the kind indicated! day or at any time of the day. It is in your letter as would commend itself offen the case that the attendance of tution; and, if such fund is created to financiers as well as to the public, without the aid of inxation, laws regu-lating the rate of taxation can have no could be carried into effect not only without increasing, but actually greatly diminishing the burden of taxation now borne by the people, and which would give the public a service constantly increasing in perfection and constantly lessening in cost to the individual. I am, very truly yours, etc., JOHN MAYO PALMER.

WHY IS THE NAVAL REPORT DE-LAYED?

Why is the report of the naval court of inquiry, begun a month ago, so long days after the principal had notified delayed? It has been stated without contradiction, and apparently officially, that it is ready, and that McKinley knew its findings long ago.

Then why is it not presented and made public? What is the object of all this concentment, deception, and de-lay? Is it withheld so as to give the government more time in getting the defenses of the country into an adequate condition for war? That is the only imaginable pretext for it. Was of Education ought not willingly to this country then in such a pitiably assume. weak condition that it was necessary any just compensation which would be to have all this delay? Did Mr. Cleveawarded to any corporation for taking land leave the country in such a defenseless condition as to necessitate all these hurried preparations before it could resent insults and punish black,

perfidious treachery?
President McKinley has been in office nearly thirteen months and he has not once intimated that Mr. Cleveland was guilty of this indifference and neglect. He has not once intimated that be unable to maintain its own honor and self-respect to assist attack from a contempt!ble, barbarian foreign power. Hence this country would like to know not only what this naval report actually is but why it is so delayed. If Mr. Cleveland were President the people would say in his customary stolid, insulting manner that he did not prop to do anything to please the people and that he did not want war with Spain on account of American honor or humanity, and was not going to have one on any account. They would know where Cleveland stood without any uncertainty. But how about President McKinley? Is he, too, going to do nothing, and is that the reason why street forbidden him, or has Hannaone of its members? Do all these war preparations mean nothing? Was the fifty millions mere feeling to humbug people? Are they all a mere empty show to deceive? Is this reported cause of delay for a sensible purpose or for a tricky purpose? The Democratic papers are all strongly instructing that it is simply for the purpose of killing time. If this be true, why does not the occupant of the White House contradict it and give the people the real reason for the unimagined cause of de-

In a word, why is not something done? What is going to be done? Why do we not have the report? Is the President going to fish or cut balt? Is he seeking for excuses for delay till the yellow fever season arrives in order that he can procrastinate the matter for another year?

WARD POLITICS MADE HONEST.

It is noticeable that ward politics is on a distinctly higher plane in Chicago this spring than ever it has been before. This is due in large measure to the stimulus afforded by the presence in public life of men of known integrity and unquestioned devotion to the public welfare. The decent members of the Council constitute a nucleus around which honest men may gather. Not only those who are candidates for reelection, but the clean aldermen elected last spring, whose terms do not expire for another year, are giving substantial assistance to the cause of hon est government. They are helping to bring out candidates who will be true servants of the people. The nomination of self-made business men like Charles F. Brown of the Twentieth ward is encouraging to all lovers of good govern-

This state of affairs should be excan be accomplished, or that it is use less to put forth effort in one ward for the reason that a majority of the other wards will return "boodlers" anyway Much has been accomplished already despite obstacles in the way. There are in the Council to-day as good men should rally all who desire better municipal government, in order that the number may be increased. The moveelecting an honest candidate hopeless. be reached that the only real remedy is In fact, it is in the wards where the

to be found in municipal ownership and men with most notorious records are aspirants for office that the battle against the agents of franchise-seeking corporations is raging hottest. There vindication of the principle, but for never was a time in the history of Chicago when there was so much encour accomplishment, which shall be just, agement for those who desire honest government to put forth efforts to secure it. A little solld work now in the interest of the right candidates will count for more than two years of fault finding over bad conditions when the opportunity for remedying them is past,

TELEPHONES IN THE PUBLIC 8CHOOL8.

Why the public school buildings of the city are not connected with the office of the Board of Education by telephones is a difficult question to answer. If it is said that the expense would be too great it may be replied that there are economies that do not economize and that this is one of them.

It has happened that because of the unexpected illness of a teacher a room has had to be closed for the entire day for the reason that a substitute was not at hand, when with the use of a telephone one might have been summoned in fifteen minutes. Every principal in the city knows how he or she has been perplexed for fear that the non-arrival of coal would make compulsory the closing of the building. The way the fuel is delivered makes it possible that a physician is immediately demanded, but there is no way of hastily summoning one. In case of fire only the ordinary appliances are at hand to call the fire department, and, while these are good, a school house with 1,200 children ought not to be made to depend solely on the common methods of protection in case of an emergency.

There are often times when for the public good the principal wishes for a oment's consultation with the super Intendent. This circumstance happen ed recently. A dead horse was left lying in front of a school in which there were more than 1,000 children for two the authorities by mail. With a telepened. The truth is that one of the the business houses in the city have. These appliances are comparatively cheap and have become private neces sities, and to deprive the schools of them is virtually to cripple their efficlency and to run risks that the Board

THE ANSWER TO GIVE SPAIN.

A dispatch in an evening paper state that "the Spanish Government has asked the United States what construction is to be placed on the purchase of warships abroad."

If that question has been asked it is to be hoped that it will be answered forthwith as John Adams or Andrew Jackson would have answered it under this great country was so weak as to similar circumstances-"to assist in de- pation. Persons outside of the Universtroying your fleet and driving you out of Cuba.'

There would be a refreshing direct ness and simplicity about a reply like urday, March 19th, at 2 p. m. These this which would commend it to the American people, who are heart sick of all the fooling with Spain which has would know the reason, because he been carried on by the present administration, and who will be glad if Spain boratories on the University grounds, nue, New York.) isk a question which will compe the President to come out of the dark- vantage of apparatus provided for reg-

ness and make known his intentions. But as it would be impolitic on the part of Spain to force an issue, it is not likely that it has asked the President what he meant by buying the two Brazilian cruisers. The policy of Spain is to be exceedingly diplomatic and polite. to be always bringing forward some the report is not presented, or has Wall fresh "autonomy" scheme for Cuba. intervene in Cuba until that latest travelers' point of view, will be considscheme, as fraudulent as its predecessors, has been given a trial.

This method of doing business has worked well for Spain thus far. It has tided it through two years of Cleveland and one year of McKinley. The latter lustrated. has been so busy listening to the autonomy promises of Spain that he has quite forgotten the pledges of the St. Louis platform.

But if Spain does not demand an explanation of the purchase of the Brazilian cruisers, cannot the President give an explanation without being asked? Cannot he say to Congress: "We have all the ships and guns we need. Illustrated by photographs, will be writ-Now let us go ahead and use them to drive our enemies across the Atlantic?"

VOTE FOR JACKSON IN THE TWELFTH.

The Twelfth Ward claims a citizenhip as intelligent and patriotic as any in the city. This ward has been repre sented in the Council of late years, however, by men who were dangerous to the public welfare. Fortunately for the good name of the ward, Ald. Campbell falled of re-election a year ago Fortunately, too, his re-election at this time is an impossibility. That means much for the cause of good government. Conrad Kahler, the outgoing Alderman, seems to think it not worth while to try for re-election in the face of the condemnation which his record calls forth.

It now remains for the people of the ward to elect to the Council as Kahler's successor a man of aggressive honesty. Such an opportunity is afforded in the candidacy of Will's G. Jackson, who is seeking the Republican nomination. He should be supported both at the primaries and at the polls on election day. It is the Tanner and Yerkes forces eedlingly encouraging to those who in the ward that are trying to secure have despaired heretofore. There is his defeat. The great Twelfth ward no longer excuse for saying nothing should be redeemed from the stigma which rests upon it.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION WORK.

The report of the Class-study Sccretary, of the University of Chicago, shows that during the autuma quarter classes, with a total enrollment of almost 1,000, were conducted. These classes are attended chiefly by teachment covers the entire city. In no ward ers, as is shown by the fact that of the save the Eighteenth is the prospect of number enrolled 625 belong to that profession. The remainder were students, stenographers, housekeepers, bcokkeep-



MR. HENRY LEEB.

The Popular Manager of the Val Blatz Brewing Company, Who Has Just Celebrated the Twentieth Anniversary of His Business Connection.

Henry Leeb, the popular Chicago offered the first toast, stating the orimanager of the Valentine Blatz Brew- gin of the festivity and praising the ing Company of Milwaukee, was banqueted on Tuesday afternoon at the twenty years, through his diligence, phone such a thing could not have hap- Wellington Hotel. The occasion was energy and devotedness, made himself the twentieth anniversary of Mr. Leeb's famous in business, especially in brewnecessity for a telephone than half of business of the concern. The invitations to the banquet were issued from Milwaukee by the Val Blatz Brewing Company. Among those present were the following: Messrs. F. S. Winston. Harry Rubens, G. W. Keliner, Rudolf Brand, G. M. Gunderson, Col E. Fecker Jr., Henry Muyer, Joseph Brucker, Brucker, Fricke, Fecker, Doyle, Mayer Richard Michaelis, John Kremer, Karl and Val Blatz Jr., who all united in Fricke, Val Blatz Jr. (Milwaukee), R. praising and honoring the business and M. Schaw, G. Miles, Austin J. Doyle,

J. P. Hand and E. Landsberg. The dining-room was luxuriously decorated with plants and flowers. After the exquisite meal, Mr. Rudolf Brand

principal party, Mr. Henry Leeb, as a man of excellent qualifications, who for ery circles.

Mr. Brand, through his eloquent speech, made the festivity one of the most interesting and enjoyable dinner parties that ever took place in this city. Mr. Rudolf Brand was well supported by similar toasts offered by Messrs. Rubens, Winston, Michaelis, Kremer, Brucker, Fricke, Fecker, Doyle, Mayer personal abilities of Mr. Henry Leeb.

The enthusiasm reached its climax when a silver goblet with inscription was presented to the guest of the after-

a course in psychology. One hundred and ninety-one persons gave no occusity wishing to take a course in natural science will have an excellent opportunity in the classes to be formed on Satclasses will be in the following subwhere the students will have ular students.

LITERARY NOTES.

The spring (April) number of the Pall Mall Gazette will contain many fea-

tures of special interest. 1. Comfort in Railway Traveling. The comparative merits of American and begging the United States not to and English passenger traffic, from the ered in a series of articles, of which the first, "Evolution of Comfort in Railway Traveling in England," by G. A. Sekon, will appear in the April number. The articles will be copiously il-

2. The Indian Frontier War.-The second article of "The Record of the Gurkhas," by Fred P. Gibbon, illustrated by Charles M. Sheldon, the wellknown artist war correspondent, will bring to a conclusion the stirring history of a brave regiment.

3. Rufford Abbey.—A picturesque ac

count of this historic house copiously ten by the present owner, Lord Saville, 4. Pan.-Among the more important ssays in fiction in the April number will be a sympathetic and charmingly written idyl, "Pan—a Memory," by Her

Grace the Duchess of Leeds. 5. Afghanistan.-At this time it is appropriate to recall the episodes of previous Indian wars. Sir Hugh Gough, V. C., will resume his "Old Memories of the last Afghan war, which included

the famous march of Lord Roberts. 6. Rupert of Hentzau.—A further installment of Mr. Anthony Hope's en- that year started the movement in fathralling conclusion to the "Prisoner of Zenda" will also be included, illustrated as before by Mr. Sydney Cowell.

7. The History of London.—Sir Walter Besant's remarkable studies in the history of South London will be continued, and will again include some curious pictures.

8. Prince Rupert the Buccaneer.—The first of a series of stories of adventure. dealing with the early colonies of Spain and her white slaves, is written by Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne, one of the most popular of the younger story tellers, and will be exquisitely illustrated by Mr. Grenville Manton.

Other interesting articles and stories include "Five Weeks in Jerusalem," by the late Lady Mildred Beresford-Hope; "An Artist in Antwerp," written and erly represented in the City Council by cleverly illustrated by H. Fletcher; 'King William," a humorous Irish story of to-day; and "A Careful Man." a bright little monologue—illustrated by many photographs from life—by Miss Phoebe Hart.

of M. Edmond Picard's Salon picture, "Gossip." One of the most striking features of

The number will include a beautiful

frontispiece, a reproduction in photo-

gravure, by Messrs, Lemercier of Paris,

ers, physicians, lawyers, etc. One mem- W. Mable on Wordsworth and the ber of the police department is taking Lake Country, entitled, "The Backs ground of Wordsworth's Poetry." Mr. Mable spent some time last summer in the Lake Country, and writes with the fresh impression of that beautiful region upon him, and with a strong sense of the intimacy between the poet and the physical surroundings in which he was placed. The article is admirably jects: Biology, Histology, Botany, As- illustrated by ten reproductions of untronomy and Chemistry. They will be usually fine photographs. (\$3 a year. conducted in the Hull Biological La- The Outlook Company, 287 Fourth ave-

> The best citizens of the Twelfth Ward, irrespective of party, who are in favor of law, order and good government, want Willis G. Jackson for Alderman. The committee of five hundred have sent the following circular broadcast throughout the Twelfth Ward to rally the voters at the primary in Mr. Jackson's behalf, and it is believed by many that he will be the Republican nominee of Saturday's convention:

"Under the new primary election law the people and not the politicians can nominate the candidates if the people will only attend the primaries and case their ballots for the men of their choice.

"The people cannot, in the future, complain of the class or character of the men nominated for public office, because if the people will attend and vote at the primaries the men who are the choice of the majority will be nominuted. It therefore behooves all good Republicans to turn out on March 18th, between the hours of 1 p. m. and 7 p. m., and express their wishes as to who shall be the Republican nominee for Alderman of the Twelfth Ward.

"Willis G. Jackson, the people's choice for the Republican nomination for Alderman of the Twelfth Ward, was born in North Adams, Mass., in 1844. and educated in Drury Academy. He served in the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment and came to Chicago in 1006, where he has been in the real estate business for twenty-eight years, and a taxpayer in the Twelfth Ward for thirty years. Mr. Jackson was President of the Real Estate Board in 1800, and vor of the Torrens bill, and was appointed by Governor Fifer on the commission to report on its feasibility in this State, and he was the only layman on the commission. He has spent months of time in the last twelve years in Springfield in the interest of such reform measures as the Torrens bill, revenue bill, special assessment bill, and against the lake front bill wanted by the Illinois Central R. R., and other measures. Mr. Jackson is a member of the Geo. H. Thomas Post of the G. A. R., the Illinois Club, and Sons of Amertean Revolution, and resides at No. 939 West Adams street. He has built largely in the ward.

"The support of every Republican of the Twelfth Ward wishing to be propan honorable and upright man, is solicited in behalf of Mr. Jackson."

Hope Reed Cody was on last Monday evening unanimously elected president of the Hamilton Club at the annual meeting, in their new and elegant club rooms, 112 Madison street.

Price has been reduced on the original, old-fashloned Dobbins' Electric Sonp, so that it can now be bought at 8 cents a bar, two bars for 15 cents. the March Mugazine Number of 'The Remember, Dobbins' Soap is sold only Outlook is an article by Mr. Hamilton in bars. NEVER in chips.