

MAYOR'S INAUGURAL.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
TOLEDO, OHIO, April 20, 1885. }

To The Honorable Common Council of Toledo :

GENTLEMEN :—Through the partiality and favor of the electors of Toledo, you and I have been called to be the guardians of the city's interest for the two years next ensuing.

Custom requires that on the introduction of a new Mayor into office, he should put forth to you, and the citizens generally, an address, outlining his policy and views upon questions of public importance.

My policy, if my views are worthy of such a high sounding name, can be stated in a single brief sentence; that is, to recommend to you, and on my own part to do everything I can for the general good of the whole people of Toledo.

I approach the duties of the office of Mayor with some misgivings, fearing I may fail in the complete discharge of some of them, but I can safely assert, that if there be failures or errors, they will be mistakes of the head and not of the heart.

No man ever came into office in a freer or less hampered manner than myself. I have been called to the office without a single promise or pledge, implied or expressed, of any kind whatever. The good people of

Toledo have accepted me for better or for worse, and I pledge my best endeavors that their faith in my integrity shall not be disappointed.

Upon this early day of our official life and acquaintance, I ask of you, gentlemen, your assistance, your forbearance and perhaps charity in the discharge of the many duties which may come before us, and I here express the belief and hope that our official relations may always be pleasant, and that whatever differences may arise between us they will be considered in that spirit of friendliness and dignity which should characterize gentlemen, and that when we shall lay down the trusts we are now just entering upon we shall part friends, and hear from our masters, the people, the welcome words: "Well done, good and faithful servants."

Before entering upon any important undertaking, a wise forethought first counts the cost, and hence a brief word upon

FINANCE.

And first, as a city, how much do we owe; second, how much must we pay during the coming year; third, what are the estimated expenses of the city government for the same time; and lastly, what are the available means to meet these necessary and unavoidable demands?

These questions must be satisfactorily answered before we can intelligently and safely enter upon new measures and much needed improvements.

By reference to the annual report of A. G. Clark, City Auditor, for the year ending December 31, 1884, I find that the city's debt January 1, 1885, was:

| | General Bonds. | Special Bonds. | Certificates. | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Outstanding January 1, 1884..... | 2792000 00 | 365700 00 | 4000 00 | 3161700 00 |
| Issued during the year..... | 130000 00 | | | 130000 00 |
| Total..... | 2922000 00 | 365700 00 | 4000 00 | 3291700 00 |
| Redeemed during the year..... | 45000 00 | 115200 00 | 4000 00 | 164200 00 |
| Total..... | 2877000 00 | 250500 00 | | 3127500 00 |

Being a reduction of \$34,200 during the year 1884.

The amount of bonds maturing and interest due in 1885, taken from the same source, is here appended :

SCHEDULE OF BONDS MATURING IN 1885.

| MONTHS | GENERAL FUND. | | SPECIAL FUND. | | TOTAL. |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| | Bonds. | Interest. | Bonds. | Interest | |
| January..... | | 3300 00 | | | 3300 00 |
| February..... | | | 4700 00 | 1172 50 | 5872 50 |
| March..... | | 27920 00 | | | 27920 00 |
| April..... | 50000 00 | 20375 00 | 11800 00 | 2139 00 | 84314 00 |
| May..... | | 21055 50 | 42400 00 | 2847 00 | 66303 00 |
| June..... | | 27555 50 | | 192 00 | 27747 00 |
| July..... | | 3300 00 | | | 3300 00 |
| August..... | | | | 1055 00 | 1055 00 |
| September..... | | 27920 00 | | | 27920 00 |
| October..... | | 18375 00 | 21100 00 | 1785 00 | 41260 00 |
| November..... | | 21055 50 | 14100 00 | 1787 50 | 36947 00 |
| December..... | 50000 00 | 27555 00 | 6400 00 | 192 00 | 84149 00 |
| Total..... | 100000 00 | 198411 00 | 100500 00 | 11170 50 | 410081 50 |

Thus it will be seen that \$410,081.50 of principal and interest must be provided for during the current year, to offset which we have—

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Avails bonds sold April 8, | \$103,790 |
| Collections from taxes and water assessments, | 219,000 |
| Probable special assessment collections, | 12,219 |
| Deficiency to be supplied in October, | 75,000 |
| | <u>\$410,000</u> |

Revenues for current expenses of departments :

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Surplus from 1884 for 1885, | \$100,000 |
| From tax levies duplicate, 1884, | 125,000 |
| From sale police bonds advertised, | 35,000 |
| Other revenues, | 45,000—\$305,000 |
| Estimated department expenses, | 255,000 |
| Possible excess,..... | <u>\$50,000</u> |

This excess, if such there should be, according to the Auditor, cannot be applied towards the liquidation of maturing bonds, but must be used for the specific purpose for which it was provided. Hence our bond account for the year will stand as follows :

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Bonds of April 8, | \$100,000 |
| Police fund bonds, | 35,000 |
| Refunding bonds, | 75,000 |
| Memorial building bonds, | 40,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total, | \$250,000 |
| Against bonds redeemed | 200,500 |
| | <hr/> |

Being an excess of issue over redemption of.....\$49,500

If the estimated excess above enumerated of about \$50,000 could be used in the redemption of outstanding bonds, our accounts for the year would very nearly balance.

In view of these facts the question recurs: What of the future? Shall we add still further to the city's indebtedness by embarking in much talked-of improvements, and thereby set thousands of willing but now idle hands at work? Shall we by this means invite capital, energy and population to our borders?

These are questions we must consider carefully and conscientiously, and yet not timidly.

We live not for the present merely, and shall we not act so that future generations shall approve our wisdom and applaud our courage and public spirit.

No city in the State enjoys better credit. Our 5 per cent. bonds command a liberal premium. Capable financiers hold that a 4 per cent. bond would find ready market. No city in the State has so low a rate of taxation—one cent on the dollar of valuation is all that is levied for city purposes. Will not these facts bring capital to us if we but evince a disposition to aid in its employment?

For myself, I must say I am in hearty accord with every movement looking toward advancing the city in prosperity, healthfulness and beauty, where the same can be done without putting the city too deeply in debt, or pressing too severely on private citizens.

Every stranger who comes within our borders is deeply impressed with the wretched appearance and insanitary condition of the streets and alleys in the central portion of our city.

I would earnestly recommend that steps be taken as soon as possible to complete the grading of all streets and alleys lying between Huron and the higher streets west of the High School. Oak and Orange streets should also receive early attention.

I am well aware that Council is almost powerless to act without the co-operation of property owners along said streets. But this allusion to it, and the individual effort of each of you, gentlemen, will doubtless have great influence in advancing these improvements.

I am under the belief that the district here alluded to is already provided with sewers, gas and water pipes, and where not, if such sections there be, these latter should, of course, precede the permanent improvement of the street. Allusion above is made only to grading, but no street can be considered improved in our city which is not also paved. This latter improvement might go forward the coming summer in many streets, cheaper than it is likely to be done for some time to come. It would not only give employment to many persons now idle, but would inspire strangers who might come among us with the belief that we are a live people, and are on the high road of progress and prosperity. What I have said of sewerage, grading and paving of the central portion of our city applies in a proper degree to all other parts of the city.

Rambling, rather unmethodically through matters of importance, I will now speak of

OUR POLICE SYSTEM.

Of its moral status common rumor speaks most discouragingly. Without undertaking to say whether our present police force is inefficient, corrupt, or simply unfortunate, I am obliged to say that its frequent fail-

ures to secure gross offenders against the laws is enough to make honest citizens anxious for such speedy investigation and vigorous changes as will give assurances of greater security, both of life and property.

While it is not your special province to directly aid in this work, nevertheless your committee on police and yourselves generally, can do much towards sustaining the hands and encouraging the hearts of such members of the new Board of Police as may attempt to improve the efficiency of our police force.

As one member of that Board I desire to say to you, and the citizens generally, if there is anything which can be done by attention to duty to secure more efficient service of the police force, that shall be done promptly and vigorously, without regard to party affiliations, friendship, or any other motive except the general welfare of all our citizens. I unhesitatingly say that crime must be stamped odious, law and order must prevail, and life and property be secure, or our government is worse than a failure.

SANITATION.

Having been connected with the health authorities of our city more or less since the first establishment of a Board of Health in our midst in 1866, I can speak quite advisedly of its needs and operations. And while as of the Police Board your honorable bodies have no direct duties in the direction of purely sanitary movements, yet your co-operation will be most important and is most earnestly desired. And I hereby recommend and ask that all matters referred to you by the Health Board, such as *notice to drain and fill in sunken lots, and the correction of other matters prejudicial to the public health*, receive your prompt and earnest attention. The proper cleaning of all streets, alleys, courts and areas is under the supervision of the street commissioner, an officer entirely under the control of the Common Council. Heretofore, and now he is not under any control of the Board of Health, and whatever he has done of their requests was by courtesy only. This is very much to be regretted, for while the health authorities can enforce by law their orders for cleanliness in private grounds and premises, on all public places, most exposed to the pub-

lic gaze, they are powerless to effect any movement looking to sanitary improvement, and are forced to await the pleasure of this functionary the Street Commissioner. I would therefore recommend that your honorable bodies would pass a joint resolution directing the Street Commissioner to obey the orders or requests on him of the Health officer with promptness and dispatch. This is the more necessary at present in view of possible approach of cholera to our country the coming summer. By vigorous co-operation of the Board of Health, the Common Council and Street Commissioner in 1866 the cholera was kept out from our midst, and a similar vigorous and united effort on the part of these same authorities would doubtless keep it from our borders if it should appear in our country the coming summer.

ILLUMINATING OUR STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

Within the life of this Council the present contract with the Toledo Gaslight and Coke company for lighting our streets will expire. Heretofore Toledo has not had the advantages of competition in the matter of street lighting. Many of the cities around us are getting a good light for much less than what Toledo is now paying. With the many new illuminators (so to speak), such as the electric lights, the incandescent, and the various forms of gas manufactories, it would seem that a very considerable reduction in the cost of street and home lighting might be effected. I trust and would recommend that the Council, in making a new contract, will make haste slowly, and endeavor to secure to the city and citizens all the advantages offered by honest competition.

PARKS.

Concerning the establishment of a park or parks, I feel called upon to say, that I am in hearty accord with any movement looking to that end.

In 1866, in an official communication to the Common Council, I advised the purchase of the so-called Swayne tract, for park purposes. The Council thought otherwise. The city could have bought it for about

\$1,000 per acre on 20 year bonds, a total of about \$43,000. The same property to-day (19 years only having passed), even if unimproved, is worth nearly a half million of dollars. That council was penny-wise and pound foolish. As then, so now. No better time will come to us as a city to purchase lands for park purposes than now. The bill now pending before the Legislature, authorizing the issuing of \$250,000 worth of bonds, is a step in the right direction. If this act shall pass, and the people sanction it, which is required before anything can be done, I would recommend that the Park Commissioners be requested to solicit bids for lands for park purposes for six months, or more if thought necessary, and that they report to the Council all offers of property, with their recommendations. Council can then decide what and how much of said lands may be purchased at any one time, and their decision must meet the approval of the Mayor before it can be final.

It would seem that these checks are enough to convince the people of Toledo that it is not possible for the city to suffer by any so called job or fraud on its treasury.

I do not believe, nor is it advocated by our shrewdest citizens, that all of the \$250,000 of bonds should be immediately issued, but only such portions as may be necessary to make advantageous purchases. And if this right to issue limited sums is not in the bill, it should be before its passage.

Having legislative permission to issue this amount of bonds, at such times and in such amounts as may be judged best, places the city in the attitude of a favored purchaser, which must result in great advantage to the city.

A FIFTH WARD BRIDGE.

Those of our people living south of Swan Creek, in numbers exceeding perhaps 12,000, for many years have been desirous for a bridge across the river, terminating in that ward. That such a structure is one of the improvements that will come in the near future seems beyond a doubt. Our

intercourse with Wood county would doubtless receive fresh impetus and business with that section would greatly increase by such an improvement.

NEW CITY BUILDINGS.

Many of our citizens hold that the present is the time to inaugurate movements looking toward the erection of new city buildings. As the county must in the near future take steps toward the erection of a new court house upon its extensive grounds in the heart of the city, a prudent view of both these enterprises, would suggest a union of effort between the city and county in the erection of such a building as would be suitable for both.

STONE ROADS.

Of stone roads, the legislation for which having just been perfected at Columbus, being so exclusively a county matter that any allusion to it here might be considered out of place. Nevertheless, I cannot forego the expression of the interest I feel in these projects, and hope the citizens of Toledo will do all in their power to forward these enterprises. No one movement can add more to our business and prosperity.

RECONSTRUCTING WARDS.

The measure of reconstructing the wards of this city, which failed for want of time in the last Council, I regard as one of importance.

The Fifth ward, with its 2,300 votes, is represented in both boards of the Common Council by only an equal voice and vote with wards with less than one-half of this number of voters. This is unfair, and I would earnestly recommend that Council at its earliest convenience go forward in its late work of reconstructing the wards.

My late predecessor, Hon. George Scheets, in his message lately laid before Council, so fully informed you of departments and workings of the city government during the past year that any reference to those subjects on my part would be unnecessary and superfluous.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I am gratified in expressing the belief that from the signs of the times around us the coming year will be one of prosperity to the people of Toledo, to which end I trust and believe our joint energies will be honestly and earnestly directed.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

SAMUEL F. FORBES,

Mayor.

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The following statistics furnished by the Chief Engineer may be of interest :

The losses for the year were as follows:

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Total loss from all alarms..... | \$177,770 94 |
| Total insurance..... | 652,996 00 |
| Total insurance paid..... | 159,880 30 |
| Net loss..... | 17,890 64 |

There are in the employ of the Department sixty-two men. It employs twenty-seven horses, and has four steamers, seven hose carts, two chemical engines, and one hook and ladder truck. The expense to the city of the Department for 1888 was \$66,287.28.

POLICE.

By virtue of his office, the Mayor is a member and President of the Board of Police Commissioners, and I have regularly attended the meetings of that board and have taken perhaps special interest in the Police Department

The Police Board has acted in harmony with the object of securing an efficient administration of that department of the city's government.

I think we have a force of intelligent, industrious, brave and capable police officers.

The city is growing so rapidly and the population spreading over so large a territory that it is difficult, with the force at our command at present, to afford adequate security to all localities.

Under the law we are only authorized to appoint one patrolman for every thousand inhabitants.

The last enumeration of our population was made in 1886 by the assessors appointed to take the enumeration for school census, which showed at that time a population of 72,504. That enumeration was probably not accurate but it is the best estimate we have since the census of 1880.

The force is now composed of one Chief, one Lieutenant, six Sergeants and seventy Patrolmen. Of the Patrolmen, one is detailed as Market Master, one is Court Officer, one is officer to serve papers, one is Acting Sergeant of patrol barn, three are detailed for the patrol wagon, one is on the pension list and one is detailed as sanitary policeman, leaving in fact only sixty-one patrolmen for active police service.

It is to be hoped that a way will soon be found by which a number of additional patrolmen can be provided by the board.

There was no levy made last year for police purposes, the expectation being that the amount raised by the liquor tax, with the balance already on hand, would provide for all the needs of the department for the year 1889.

If that fund will prove inadequate, as it seems likely it will, to secure an increase of the force, I think the Council might well provide for the payment of some of the police officers not doing strictly police duty out of other funds, so that there may be permitted some increase of the force, which now seems to be urgently needed.

Your attention has been repeatedly called to the necessity of providing a new patrol barn. I recommend that the Council immediately purchase ground and provide for the erection of a building suitable for that purpose.

The experiment of having a Police Matron at the Central Station, which was inaugurated during the year, has been, in my judgment, a success. The present Matron has proven herself judicious, energetic and capable. I believe much good in many ways will be accomplished by the maintenance of that office.

THE HEALTH OF THE CITY.

The Board of Police Commissioners is also the Board of Health, and has charge of that exceedingly important department of municipal administration.

Naturally that branch of public service, however, is largely delegated to the Health Officer, and the Board in its management of the

Geo. W. Davis and J. D. Cook, to which the attention of the council and the public is called as a very thoughtful contribution on this subject, from two gentlemen, who have given this subject for years a great deal of study and investigation.

POLICE.

During the past year and at the present time the police department has labored under considerable disadvantage owing to the lack of funds at their command.

No levy was made for the year 1889, and the money in the police fund was made up of the balance of the preceding year, and the collections from liquor assessments.

The council was unable to comply with the request of the police board for the appointment of extra patrolmen, owing to the lack of funds.

We had on the 1st of January, 1890, only 70 patrolmen, of whom 6 were necessarily detailed for other than patrol service. With the large territory and constantly increasing demand for police service such a force is inadequate.

The officers of the department and the police board have done everything in their power to give to the people efficient police service. The men, as a rule, I believe, are industrious, sober and faithful officers, and the whole force is a credit to the city. An increase of the force, however, is urgently demanded, and if the council can see its way, before we get the benefit of a larger fund, which shall come from an increase of the tax duplicate, to authorize the police board to place in service a number of additional patrolmen, I hope they will do so.

We need very much a patrol barn and the establishment of a sub-station. I would also recommend that the board be authorized to purchase an ambulance wagon, and before long to establish a morgue.

The entire expenditure of the police department for the year 1889, was \$73,016.44, about \$700.00 less than the previous year.

Special care has been taken of the police pension fund. We have now invested \$7,500.00 in city bonds, and every year considerable additions are being made to that fund.

THE HEALTH OF THE CITY.

The Board of Police Commissioners is also the board of health. The number of deaths during the year 1889, was 1208.

The health officer, making his estimate of the death rate, bases it on an assumed population of 89,000, which gives the death rate for that year of 13.57, which is a very light rate, and below the average of cities of our size.

The board have found some difficulty in the disposal of garbage, as there has been during the past two or three years a large increase in garbage collections.

In 1889 garbage was taken from 8746 houses, while in 1888 it was taken from 3416 houses.

The health board have now under consideration the establishment of a garbage crematory for the purpose of burning, and thus completely destroying the garbage collected.

It is to be expected that in the future there will be a more thorough collection of the garbage and refuse matter, which if destroyed by cremation will be a great improvement on the cleanliness of the city, and it is thought by the board will materially benefit the health of our people. This will render necessary a considerable increase of expenditure, but in the matter of maintaining health and cleanliness we cannot afford to be niggardly in expense.

Care has been taken by the meat and milk inspector and the city chemist to see that our people are protected in these important articles of food supplies. I believe the health department has been economically and wisely administered.

There are now constructed and in operation 50 31-100 miles of street railroads, of which 38 65-100 miles is single track and 11 66-100 miles double track.

We are getting rapid transit; and in the main the service and management of the street railways by their owners is excellent and accommodating. It is doubtful if any other city of its size in the country has a better system of street railways than Toledo. It will, however, in the future, be regretted that the city does not receive something more in the way of revenue for these valuable franchises than it does.

POLICE.

The report of the Police Commissioners gives the following membership of the police force: One chief, one lieutenant, six sergeants, fifteen patrolmen for day duty and forty-five for night duty. There are twelve patrolmen detailed for special duty, viz., one court officer, one market master, four for patrol wagon, five acting as detectives and one detained as sanitary policeman. In addition there are three regular detectives.

Under the law the Board has authority to appoint one patrolman for every 1,000 inhabitants; which would give us over eighty-two patrolmen, instead of sixty-two. The force is inadequate to properly guard the lives and property of our city and should be increased at once; but the police board have not made the increase because the condition of the city treasury did not justify such action.

There is occasional complaint about our police force, but I wish to place on record this opinion: That they are a hard working and efficient body of men.

During the year past the city has been remarkably free from serious crime or disorder, and I believe that no department of the city government has been run more economically or with stricter regard to the interests of the city than the Police Department.

When there is money in the treasury sufficient to justify the employment of a full complement of policemen, then will be the time to

complain if there be some regions of our large area of municipal territory rarely visited by policemen, or violations of city ordinances are sometimes or often unnoticed and the offender not punished.

In my judgment the police force of Toledo is intelligent, vigilant, faithful and well officered and commanded. It merits the commendation, rather than criticism, of our people.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Fire Department is in serviceable and satisfactory condition. The property of the department consists of four steam fire engines, two hook and ladder trucks (one aerial), two chemical engines, seven hose carriages, one supply cart and 13,450 feet of hose, with thirty-one horses. There are sixty-five men in the department.

| | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| The losses during the year 1890 aggregate | \$240,738 53 | |
| Insurance paid | 202,536 23 | |
| Net loss | | \$38,202 30 |

The department seems to have been carefully and judiciously managed.

WORK HOUSE.

The work house affairs have been well looked after by the Board and Superintendent. Their report shows the total number of prisoners admitted to their custody in 1890 was 1320. The daily average of prisoners was 100.

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| The net outlay for maintenance was | \$6286 75 | |
| Deducting profits from brick making | 1225 47 | |
| Leaves net expenses for 1890 | | \$5061 28 |
| There were fines collected in amount of | | 1718 25 |
| Which makes the actual net expense | | \$3343 03 |
| A net cost per capita per day of thirteen cents. | | |

The directors report that there was charged to the expense account an old shortage of a former treasurer of \$1538.55. If that had not been included in the expenses the cost per capita per day for city and county would have been reduced to seven cents.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Our fire department continues to maintain its high state of efficiency. The property is the same it has been for years past.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| The total loss by fire during the year was | \$203,216 11 |
| The insurance paid, | 169,108 11 |
| Loss over the insurance paid, | \$34,108 00 |

Steps are being taken to increase the department. This is a move in the right direction. The city has grown so rapidly in the past five years that an increase of the fire department is an absolute necessity.

The fund seems to be in rather a depleted condition. The balance on hand January 1st, 1892, was only \$1,616.79.

WATER WORKS.

I have been unable to obtain a report of this department and cannot therefore report details.

The department seems to have maintained its usual high standing of efficiency, and the improvements being made at the pumping station will no doubt tend much to the betterment of the service.

POLICE.

The report of the Police Commissioners shows the force to consist of one chief, one lieutenant, six sergeants, three detectives and eighty-one patrolmen; of whom five are acting as detectives, one as court officer, one market master, four for duty on the patrol wagon and two as drivers on wagon.

The fund of this department seems to be in little better condition than some of the others. The balance on hand January 1st, 1892, being \$26,212.82.

While there has been, and probably always will be, some com-

plaint of the workings of this department, I am satisfied, all things considered, that our police force has done admirable service in the direction of protection to person and property.

The force is much too small to meet the demands made upon it and as has so often before been urged upon your attention, it should be increased to the limit allowed by law.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Public Library is now nicely settled in its new quarters and both building and library are a credit to the city, and should be the pride of every citizen.

TOLEDO.

The material development and prosperity of our city during the past year has been very gratifying. One thing which should be a matter of congratulation and pride is the large number of homes which are being erected in every part of the city and used as residences by the owners. The building associations of this city have done much to bring about this result, and to their careful and judicious management much of our prosperity may be traced. It is to be hoped they will continue in the same conservative course they have marked out, as a failure of any one of them would bring disaster to a large number of our citizens. Let us work together for the continued improvement and development of Toledo, doing all in our power to assist therein and endeavor honestly and faithfully to discharge the duties of the trust imposed upon us, though we may make mistakes and commit blunders, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing ourselves that our motives have always been right.

Very respectfully,

V. J. EMMICK,

Mayor.

The expenses of the department are as follows :

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Mayor's salary..... | \$2,000 00 |
| Secretary's salary..... | 900 00 |
| Assistant Secretary's..... | 480 00 |
| Stationery and supplies..... | 100 00 |
| Total..... | \$3,480 00 |

POLICE COURT DEPARTMENT.

This department has not to date been self-sustaining from the fact that legal court costs have not been assessed, in cases, according to statute.

The department has been a burden of from eight to ten thousand dollars per annum. With the assistance of the officials in charge, and the new "safe-guard system" of accounts and reforms now enacted, this department will not only be self-sustaining but a source of revenue to the city. In my next annual message I hope to give a comparative statement, which will verify the prediction above made.

POUND DEPARTMENT.

One year ago, when I assumed the duties of Mayor, I found this department employing eleven men, whose principal occupation was to once each month draw their salary. The services of all were immediately discontinued, and one employe now attends to this department, with entire satisfaction to all, resulting in an annual saving to the city of \$5,580.00.

STREET DEPARTMENT.

The work in this department has been very satisfactory during the past year, and it is the general opinion that more work has been accomplished for a smaller amount of money than during any previous twelve months.

The increase in the corporate limits and the mileage of

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|---|----------------|
| Total insurance..... | \$1,039,975 00 |
| Total loss by fire..... | 208,249 80 |
| Insurance paid..... | 167,495 65 |
| Loss over insurance paid..... | \$ 40,754 15 |
| Number of fires in frame buildings..... | 221 |
| Number of fires in brick buildings..... | 88 |
| Number of grass and rubbish fires..... | 67 |
| Number of false alarms..... | 11 |
| | 387 |
| Number of fires confined to building in which the same originated..... | 299 |
| Number of fires extending beyond building in which they originated..... | 10 |
| Number employed..... | 94 |
| Salaries..... | \$64,776 60 |
| Fire alarm telegraph..... | 2,910 05 |
| New buildings..... | 2,353 98 |
| Sundry expenses..... | 23,266 21 |
| | \$93,306 84 |

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

No material change has taken place in this department during the last twelve months, except an increase of 22 men (two sergeants and 20 patrolmen), and the addition of the La-grange street sub-station.

Chief of Police, Benjamin Raitz, is entitled to much credit for the management of 116 men, who patrol 29 square miles of territory. The peace and safety of the city is very creditable to all officers and patrolmen.

I return thanks to the Board of Commissioners for their hearty co-operation in endeavoring to maintain a high standard of efficiency in this very important branch of the city's govern-ment, and would respectfully renew the recommendation of a "Police Telephone and Call System," at an early date, which will increase the efficiency of this department fifty per cent.

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|--|--------------|
| Number of men employed..... | 116 |
| Salaries..... | \$83,566 69 |
| Sundry expenses of the department..... | 24,672 25 |
| Expense of patrol barn..... | 1,817 62 |
| Total..... | \$110,056 56 |

SUPERVISING ACCOUNTANT.

This department, although one that is as essential as any in the city, has not to date been favored or assisted in any way, by your Honorable Body. No help was provided when the original legislation was enacted, and it seems none can be procured unless the official in charge choses to pay for such help from his own private purse, as is done to-day.

In my opinion, the reason some obstruct the workings of this department, is because their private business is so closely related with the city's business, that a careful review of the bills and prices paid for supplies, does not meet with their approval; therefore this department suffers for want of clerical force only.

POLICE.

In my recommendation of last year the matter of a "Police Telephone Call System" was reviewed. This system is of more importance to our city than anything that has come under my observation as an official. The opposition seems to come from those who will not see its usefulness, or are too ignorant to grasp modern police appliances. A system instituted, that will cost in the neighborhood of twenty-five thousand dollars, (as per estimate on file) would not only double the efficiency of the Police Department, but the interest paid by the city on the investment would not exceed the amount now paid for the present incomplete call box, with no opportunity to communicate from police headquarters to an officer, as is necessary in cases of murder, riot, fire or jail delivery:

FIRE AND POLICE TAX LEVY.

The General Assembly should amend our laws the coming winter, making it similar to the Board of Education act, which enables that board to make its own tax levy. The rate should not exceed a figure sufficient to well maintain the departments.

in favor of a temporary contract ; but we have no such expectation ; we are serving a city that is to stand for *a thousand years*, and no temporary expedient should characterize our efforts. It would be as reasonable to contract the work of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the care and conduct of the schools, or the care of the poor. Plenty of private contractors can be found who will agree to "save money for the city"—and make money for themselves—if any of these departments are turned over to them. Legislation should be started this winter to put the city in position to erect and operate its own public lighting plant. The experience of every city in the country now owning such a plant favors this course,—some of them are even paying for their plants out of the regular monthly appropriations set aside to pay for electric lighting. The city of Galveston, Texas, is pursuing this policy ; Detroit has now been operating its own lighting plant for several years, with great satisfaction, both as to cost and the quality of service rendered. I believe we should be prepared to enter upon the work of lighting the city from our own public lighting plant, upon the expiration of the present contract. I am fully convinced that with the prospects for cheap gas already alluded to, and the improvement already made in gas appliances for street lighting, the Natural Gas Department will prove a valuable auxiliary to a municipal public lighting plant.

LICENSE LAWS.

I am pleased to know that your honorable body has under consideration the matter of revision of the license laws. It is a much-needed work, as there are many sections that are conflicting and ought to be repealed ; while there are others that provide for a license, which in many cases amounts to a tax on industry and therefore should be done away with.

TRAMPS.

I have especial pleasure in calling your attention to the

very satisfactory working of what was considered by some of our people a doubtful experiment; reference is had to the present method of caring for transient men who are found in Toledo in search of employment, and who are out of money. Heretofore all such men have been treated in a way that implied, at least, that to be in search of work and out of money was a crime. Lodging was provided for them at the East Side sub-station, on the bare floor; in the morning they were given some bread, bologna and coffee, after which they were marched to the city limits in charge of an officer who dismissed them with the command to "move on." Under the present arrangement all persons without money who apply for food or lodging are directed to the lodging house of the Toledo Humane Society, where they are provided with a bath, a good bed and wholesome food; for each meal they are required to work one hour on the city streets, under the direction of the Street Commissioner. It gives me especial pleasure to say that thus far the number of men who have sought to evade or avoid payment for their entertainment in the manner provided is so insignificant as to be unworthy of mention, and the alarmists who feared the town would be flooded with men eager to find an opportunity to work for food and lodging may find comfort in the December report, which shows a net decline of more than 400 in the number of persons entertained during the month when compared with December, 1896. This embraces also the late comers who were lodged at the Police Station. I am sure all good citizens will feel a just pride that our city has taken this progressive step in dealing with unfortunate men, and that the results are so gratifying, as results always are when men deal with men in a Christian manner. The moral effect on the unfortunate men themselves goes a long ways towards restoring their manhood—in many cases well nigh crushed by the hopelessness of the despair into which they have fallen. If any part of the business of the city is *making men* I am sure this department will return as large

dividends as any, when the small investment is considered. It is considerations such as these that have led to the erection of the municipal lodging houses now the especial pride of many foreign cities, as well as some of the more progressive cities of our own country. I trust the day is not far distant when one of our recognized men-making institutions will be Toledo's Municipal Lodging House. I guarantee that it will pay.

A PURCHASING AGENCY.

I believe the establishment of a purchasing agency and store-keeper, in connection with one of the existing City departments, would be a step in the direction of pronounced economy and reform. The present practice of having each department purchase its own supplies is wasteful, extravagant and unscientific. Such a system would not be tolerated in a well-conducted private business, and it is unworthy of being longer conducted in a city like ours.

STREETS AND PARKS.

I believe it is important that your honorable body take into serious consideration the subject of providing more revenue for the work of improvement in the city streets. To my mind there is no department where the money expended will produce larger returns than in these two. The City of Toledo has more than 350 miles of streets to be cared for, and the legislation to provide revenue for this great work should be in keeping with the magnitude of the work. After a careful consideration of this subject, in consultation with the Street Commissioner, I do not think it is any exaggeration to state that the revenue for the Street Improvement and Repair Fund should be double the amount now provided. The effect of a liberal policy in providing funds for an important work of this kind will not only be seen in the improved character of our streets, which in themselves can be made a delight to the eye, but it will be seen as well in the improved character of the workmen, who are paid for the labor necessary to the improvement.

Mayor's Message. #2

TOLEDO, O., October 24th, 1898.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Toledo :

GENTLEMEN :—I have the honor to submit my message to form a part of the annual report from this Department.

There are two matters of special importance to the people of Toledo, that I trust may have the prompt and careful attention of your Honorable Body. I refer to the subjects of light and heat. The first in importance is the City pipe line or natural gas plant. I believe that in the present situation we should deal with this property as any one of us would do if it were privately owned. If this City pipe line were mine, in order to learn practically what can be done, I should at once enter upon the construction of a small plant for manufacturing gas. I should employ a gas engineer of known ability and say to him, that I wanted to build a \$25,000 plant to manufacture gas according to some of the well-known processes now in use for manufacturing a carburetted water gas, or perhaps better, because cheaper, a coal gas of low candle power. The by-product coke oven being out of our reach on account of our inability to market great quantities of coke daily, I do not believe there remains any one process that is very materially better than the ordinary process now in use all over the country in various modified forms for the manufacture of what is known as water gas. We have ample evidence that these processes are cheap enough.

The Toledo Gas Light and Coke Company is making gas, and it is reasonable to suppose, making money. Hundreds of

our citizens who have burned their gas, both for fuel and light, can testify to its good quality, and this same object lesson may be repeated in every city all over this country. It is the business of a private company to make gas for the sake of making private profit for the owners ; it is the business of a publicly owned company to make gas without profit for the benefit of all the people. That is the proposition that is before us as regards the gas plant, reduced to its simplest terms. This property may be made an incalculable blessing to our people, if we take hold of it with a truly patriotic spirit.

To say that we are unable to deal with a proposition of this kind, is to confess the failure of the institution that we call government ; to urge that the City is unable to employ men of such ability as a private corporation can find, is belied by our experience in the management of such institutions as are now publicly owned. I refer to our public schools, our public library, our parks, our City water works, our police department, our City fire department, our City streets—all of these are publicly owned, and the popular argument that a certain property can be managed cheaper by a private corporation than by the city, is as applicable to any one of these as it is to the city natural gas department. Private contractors can be found without limit who will promise to educate our children, provide us with literature in the public library, operate the city water works, put out our fires, take care of the streets, as they now do the work of improving them under the system of private contract, and they will agree to do all this cheaper than we ourselves are now doing it ; and I think that it is as reasonable to urge that any one or all of these functions be turned over to some individual or private corporation to be operated for private profit, as I would think of turning over for such purpose the natural gas department.

I think that such an act would be almost an irremediable error. It would, in all probability, remove from the city the possibility of ministering to all of the people in the important necessities of heat and light, and leave them forever at the mercy of corporations who are in the business simply for the sake of private profit. To say that a private corporation can operate a function of this kind and serve the people better than they can serve themselves, is an unwarranted assumption of superiority on the part of those who make the claim. It is a flagrant manifestation of a lack of the spirit of patriotism, for no man who is truly patriotic will be willing to confess to a desire to use the people of his city simply for what he can make out of them. The city and the city government, like the city pipe line, is here for the benefit of all of the people, and the patriots who love the City will be quite as ready to manifest that love and show their patriotism by serving the City in those fields where they possess superiority, whether it be in making gas, operating a public lighting plant, looking after the interests of the library or the public schools, as were the patriots who went to Cuba and gave up their lives in front of Santiago, because they loved their country.

I believe that we can rely upon this patriotism of our people to lay hold upon the problem of what to do with the natural gas department in such a way that it will result in filling the line with manufactured gas, not made any cheaper than a private corporation can make it, but made with the element of profit eliminated, and delivered to the people of Toledo at actual cost. We are not limited to making fuel gas. When once the City pipe line has an abundance of gas, our people should all know that with the mantle burners now in general use, any kind of gas that will make heat will make light and I trust that the natural gas department will, as soon as they have a supply of manufactured gas, encourage the use

of it for light so that the people may have the benefit of this civilizing agency at the actual cost of producing it.

A word further in regard to this much maligned property. It is true that it is a costly plant, but I believe that it is worth to the people of Toledo today every dollar that it has cost, and I unhesitatingly say, for reasons already set forth, that I would not advise the sale of the property at any obtainable price.

Finally, I do not think it an extravagant statement to make, that the very existence of this City pipe line, as a regulator of the price of gas, has already saved to the people a sum equal to the entire cost of the plant. I am aware that the project of the City line brought an offer to furnish gas for ten years at twenty cents, but supposing that no such pipe line had ever been talked of, what then would the people have paid for their gas?

The Natural Gas Trustees are applying themselves to the task of getting a supply of manufactured gas into the City pipe line, and I earnestly hope that your Honorable Body will loyally sustain them in every reasonable effort to accomplish this much desired result. I am confident that in no way can you serve the people of Toledo better than by making an appropriation for the use of the natural gas department that will enable them to carry out this work, and thus make the City pipe line a blessing instead of a burden, a socializing agency that will make our people love our City better because of what it is doing for them, that will make the City pipe line worthy to be classed with our City schools, our water works, our fire and police departments, our library and our beautiful parks and streets. These it is, that make Toledo justly our pride and glory, for they are the property of all the people.

LIGHTING PLANT.

Toledo should own and operate a public lighting plant, and should at once take measures to enter upon the construction of the same. The present contract for the lighting of the City expires December 31st, 1899, and, as I have said in a previous message, that "without special legislation in the interest of the people, it will be impossible for the City to have even a semblance of competition in the matter of price for lighting the City."

The law is an iniquitous thing and we have not the slightest excuse for trifling with it, but your Honorable Body should take hold of this subject vigorously, and, in my opinion provide the funds and proceed to construct a municipal electric lighting plant, following out the suggestions made in a report recently submitted by Superintendent Cook, of the Water Works.

The City is now paying \$90.00 per year for each arc light; there are nearly eight hundred in use; we should have at least one thousand at present. Superintendent Cook estimates that the light can be produced by the City under public ownership at a cost of \$60.00 per light. This would mean a saving of \$30.00 on each one, or \$30,000 on the one thousand lights that we ought to have. The arithmetic of these figures is very simple. In six or seven years the saving in the cost of light alone would pay for the plant, interest and principal. Many cities in this and other countries are doing their work of public lighting; doing it satisfactorily, doing it successfully, doing it cheaper and doing it better than it has been done under the contract system, and I believe that Toledo ought not to longer lag behind in this matter.

I believe your Honorable Body will be doing the will of your constituents if you give immediate attention to this

important topic, so that we may be prepared to do our own street lighting on the expiration of the present contract.

STATE LEGISLATION.

Perhaps the really most important need of Ohio cities is the enactment of laws by the State Legislature that will give all cities such a measure of Home Rule as will enable a city to bring out the best that is in its own people. A commission was appointed by the last Legislature to recommend such changes in municipal law to the next session as they deemed wise and necessary, and I sincerely hope that your Honorable Body may take this matter into consideration and appoint a committee to thoroughly investigate this question and make such recommendations to this committee as, in the opinion of your Honorable Body, may seem just and proper. It would seem to me that we have progressed in the study of self-government to such an extent now, that the Legislature may safely trust the cities of Ohio with Home Rule, particularly in all matters of purely local concern. I believe that a general law providing a plan for the organization of cities and incorporated villages without any classification whatever, merely enacting a skeleton plan of government applicable to all, leaving each city to provide by ordinance for the exercise of such powers as it shall see fit to use, would be in the interest of good government.

CIVIL SERVICE.

I believe that the merit system of civil service should be required to control the employment and discharge of all persons in the public service. I believe there should be an amendment to the Constitution, providing that all cities of a population of over 20,000 should have the right to make their own charter, defining their powers.

NO GRANT OR EXTENSION OF FRANCHISES.

I believe there should be no grant of new, or extension of any existing franchise, to private corporations except the question be first submitted to, and passed upon, by the people at a regular election. These are a few suggestions that seem to me to be in the line of needed reform in the laws of Ohio now governing cities, and I urge your co-operation to the end that such law may be placed on the statute books at the next session of the Legislature.

I believe a city should have the same privilege with regard to doing work of public improvement that an individual has with respect to erecting a house, building a bridge, digging a sewer, or constructing a highway. The individual or corporation may do any work of that character either by the day labor plan or he may advertise and let the work by contract. The city has no such liberty, but is tied by law to the contract system.

THE CONTRACT SYSTEM.

There can be no doubt in the minds of thoughtful persons, who are at all familiar with the working of this system, that it is responsible for more iniquity than any other one thing connected with municipal government. Our recent experience is very instructive in the paving of Collingwood avenue, where the bid that secured the work was \$8,010.10 lower than the next highest bid; the building of sewer No. 690 on the East Side, where the price paid was \$6,350.10 lower than the next highest; and the building of sewer No. 702 in Adams street, where the difference between the two lowest bids was \$3,787. These three examples teach more plainly than any argument can, that the system is wrong in theory, corrupt in practice, and that the proper protection

of the interest of the people demands that it should be abandoned wholly, and the law should at once be so modified as to allow the City the same degree of liberty with regard to all work of improvement, that is now enjoyed by the private citizen or private corporation. It is a final and complete illustration of the fact that "competition does not compete," and that the system fails in nothing more completely than in the doing of just what it professes to do, that is, to secure the cheapest work.

CITY DIRECTORY.

Another direction in which the functions of the municipality may be enlarged with profit to all the people, is in the compiling and publishing of a City Directory.

Under the present arrangement, or rather lack of arrangement, this important work is left entirely to private enterprise, and is carried on simply and solely for private profit. I regard this work as too important and too vitally connected with the City's welfare to be thus left to private enterprise, and it seems to me that it is a work that may well be taken charge of by your Honorable Body and incorporated into the regular work of the City. As I have said, the work, while left in the hands of private individuals, must of necessity be imperfectly done, and the very character of it precludes the possibility almost of its being well done by any other agency than by the municipality.

With the work under the care of the City, a monthly bulletin of corrections for the directory might be issued through the Police Department without entailing any expense, or at least with little expense to the people, and this corrected bulletin could be sent around to the subscribers for the directory and would form an extremely useful and valuable addition to a work of this kind. Furthermore, it is probable

that if this work were under the care of the City, a satisfactory arrangement could be made with the Post Office authorities to enlist the co-operation of that department in keeping the work up in such a way that it would make a real directory of the inhabitants of Toledo always up to date. I believe this work, under the charge of the City, would effect a very important saving to the people. It is my purpose at an early day to prepare an ordinance and submit a plan for carrying out these suggestions and I respectfully ask for such consideration of it as its importance may merit.

THE DEPARTMENTS.

I believe it can be truly said that the work of the various departments in our City is keeping up fairly well with the progressive spirit of the age. After a careful study of all of them as I am able to make, I am led to the conclusion that a comparison with the work of similar departments in other cities will uniformly result favorably to Toledo.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Though the work of this important branch of our civic life is entirely under the charge of an independent Board, I believe it fully within the province of a report of this character, for the chief executive of the City to call such attention to the work of the Public Schools as, in his judgment seems right and proper, either by way of saying an encouraging word for what may appear to him to be worthy of commendation, or, on the other hand, in the making of such suggestions as in his opinion may seem to be helpful to those who have them in charge.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

"A thing of beauty and a joy forever." Such a thing is

our new High School Building. Its impressive proportions, graceful architecture and general adaptability to the purposes for which it was erected, all contribute to make it an educational institution (a High School indeed), for every one of our people who have the privilege of looking at it even from the outside.

THE NILES LAW.

The reorganization of the Board of Education under the Niles Law, which does away with the Ward as a political division, is a distinct mark of progress in the care of the schools, as was clearly evidenced by the interest manifested by the people in the selection and election of the present excellent Board. That this law will operate in a helpful way to bring the Board of Education to always consider the interest of the City as a whole, and therefore, to consider the interest of all the people instead of wasting energy as has been done heretofore, in trying to consider the interest of each Ward as a separate little city by itself, necessarily antagonistic to the other wards, is certainly a long step towards the unity that must and will mark all of our efforts at public service, before we come to a just realization of the great truth that we truly are one people.

It is to the public schools more than to any other agency of our collective life that we must look for the teaching of the important truth of our democracy, and I am heartily in sympathy with the idea already suggested, that in order to teach this lesson and develop a purer and nobler patriotism, a larger use be made of the school buildings, that the people to whom they belong be encouraged to use them freely as meeting places for assemblages in which the public generally are interested. I unhesitatingly say that no better use could be made of the school rooms than that they be freely given to the people, when not otherwise in use, for any meeting that in the opinion of the Board of Education is calculated to con-

tribute to the public welfare, by adding to the common stock of useful knowledge.

MANUAL TRAINING.

I regard with very great favor the free night school that has for some years been maintained in the Manual Training Department. A thing that must always remain fundamental in any just conception of education is the knowledge of the use of tools, how to work and how to work to the best advantage. Much of the imperfect education that has been done through the public schools in the past can be traced to the fact that this important fundamental was left entirely to the caprice of the individual, and the question whether the children were to grow up with correct notions of the nature and purpose of work left to the domain of chance.

I hope that our people will impress upon all the boys and girls of Toledo in the most earnest manner, the truth that the A B C of a genuine education consists in knowing how to do some useful thing and how to do it well; in short, in knowing how to work.

The people of our City are to be congratulated on having a Manual Training School that is, so far as my observation goes, equalled by few and excelled by none, and the evidence of the high class of work that has been done there is abundant and conclusive.

FREE KINDERGARTENS.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," is the injunction of Solomon the Wise.

All educators now agree that very much is lost to the work of true education unless it is begun with the child. It is said that the seeds of fundamental truth that form the character of the future citizen must be planted in the child before he reaches the age of seven years. There can be no question

but that the thing of greatest importance to a city is the character of its citizens; it then becomes the clear duty of a city to contribute in every possible way to character building, and, to act intelligently, it is important that the contribution should be made at the time when the "apprentice citizen" is most ready and likely to receive correct impressions. This the City can do in one way and no other, and that is by establishing free kindergartens; in other words, making the kindergarten a part of the public school system.

History as well as theory can be cited to prove the correctness of this proposition, and in those cities where the kindergartens have been established long enough to begin to show the fruit of proper training in early years, a canvass of the records of the courts shows most conclusive evidence of the wisdom of thus exercising care over the very young children. Children who have had kindergarten training do not grow up into men and women of criminal character of either high or low class. The way to a good citizenship, without criminal tendencies, is to plant the seed of it in all children through the kindergarten system before they arrive at the age when they are admitted to the public school.

Let us have the kindergartens. "Give the babies a chance." Let them have the right to choose whether they will do right or wrong. It is cheaper to establish kindergartens than to maintain courts and build jails, workhouses and prisons. Give all the children proper kindergarten training, and the supply of bad citizens for our prisons, jails and workhouses will be exhausted in twenty-five years, and these institutions will be consigned to the domain of relics of an unhappy past.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Public Library is one of the objects that commands the love and pride of our citizens. The artistically beautiful building in which the books are housed and the work of this

Department carried on, forms one of the most attractive features of our City; and I think that I can safely say that the work of the Library Board and those who minister to our people in the distribution of the books can be said to be of a high order and in every way deserving of the hearty commendation and support of all of our people.

CHILDREN'S ROOM.

The opening of the children's room upstairs is a move that I think will be appreciated by the children, who are often too apt to be neglected in many public institutions and simply because they are children, are made to stand back and wait until their elders are served. Now that they are to have a room of their own, we may accept it as conclusive evidence that the Library Board intends to "give the babies a chance."

THE STREETS.

Next to our public schools in point of importance to the life of the community are the public streets, and it is gratifying to me as to every loyal citizen, to point with pride to the generally excellent condition in which our streets are kept. That they are so is clearly due to the faithful and efficient manner in which the affairs of this department have been conducted.

In a previous message I have called attention to the inadequacy of the appropriation that is set aside for the Street Improvement and Repair Fund, and I again desire to impress upon your Honorable Body the importance of this matter. In no way can the health and comfort of the people be more generally ministered unto than by keeping the streets of a city in as nearly a perfect condition as possible. Filthy streets, besides adding greatly to our discomfort, are a constant menace to health; and in addition, the spectacle of unclean street is a source of constant irritation to both pedestrian and rider, and therefore, a positive hindrance to the

development of the spirit that we all desire to encourage and foster, the spirit of love for our city. Clean and well kept streets always command the admiration of a stranger entering the city, and the people are keen in their appreciation of anything that is done for their comfort in this as well as in every other department.

STREET SPRINKLING.

I believe that your Honorable Body can, with very great profit to the people, consider the question of the sprinkling of the streets at the public expense instead of leaving this important duty to the care of private enterprise, as is now done. This work is successfully done publicly in other cities, and I see no reason why it may not be attempted with great profit here. The havoc and destruction that is wrought to both life and property by the clouds of dust and filth that is blown through unsprinkled streets now cannot be estimated, to say nothing of the personal discomfort that arises from this cause. I am sure that the small tax that would be necessary to provide for the general sprinkling of the streets of the City would be cheerfully met by our citizens and would be generally declared to be the best kind of an investment, when once it has been tried and the advantage of a dustless city experienced.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

It gives me pleasure to make favorable mention of the work of this important department during the past year. The record of arrests indicates clearly that we are making progress in dealing with crime, with the idea uppermost of using the department for the prevention of wrong doing, rather than in the hope to overcome evil by coercion and punishment, after a crime is committed. I believe that the falling off in the arrests that are shown in the records of this department is a truly hopeful sign. It certainly cannot be traced to a lack of

proper regard for the interests of the people on the part of the police, but is due rather, as it seems to me, to a better understanding of the nature and duty of a patrolman as a public servant, that is taking possession of the police. I believe that the patrolmen of Toledo pretty generally look upon their office as that of a public servant instead of regarding the position as one of a public "boss," which, in other words, is a public nuisance.

THE MERIT SYSTEM OF CIVIL SERVICE AND THE EIGHT HOUR DAY.

The introduction of the merit system of civil service and the eight hour day here, I believe, had much to do with the improved work of our Police Department. The men, feeling secure in their positions as long as their meritorious work will entitle them to stay, are thus encouraged to do all in their power towards building up the City by serving all of the people instead of exhausting themselves in the mere effort to "hold their jobs" by devoting their time to the service of some narrowly selfish politician. The testimony of the Chief of this department is to the effect that both the discipline and morals of the entire force have been greatly improved, and, as he believes, it is due very largely to the introduction of the merit system of civil service and shorter work day.

CANES INSTEAD OF CLUBS.

I am sure our citizens will notice with pleasure that canes have been substituted for clubs in the hands of these officials, a change that I believe adds very materially to both the appearance of the officers and the morals of the community.

In this connection I cannot speak too highly of the faithful and efficient service that has been rendered to the people of Toledo by the present Police Board. The constant care and helpfulness of these unpaid officials have contributed greatly to

bringing about the improved order. A visit to the police headquarters and a glance at the marvelous improvement that has been wrought by the renovating and general cleaning up of the premises will greatly increase the respect of any of our citizens who may deem it worth while to devote a little of their time to an inspection of the work of this Board.

SO CALLED TRAMPS.

The plan of providing food and lodging for homeless men without money who come to the City in search of work, allowing them to pay for it by working on the streets, has produced such satisfactory results that the Police Board will continue this worthy reform during the coming winter.

It would be a pleasure to speak words of commendation for the work of nearly every individual composing the department; suffice it to say in general terms, it has all been good. After having made comparison with police departments in several other cities, I can say that the Toledo police are today in point of efficiency, which means genuine service to all of the people, the peer of any similar department that the country can produce.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

I have nothing but words of commendation for this branch of the public service. With comparatively meagre equipment, at their command, the record of our fire department is one of which we may all be justly proud. I trust that your Honorable Body may supplement the work by passing the legislation that this department stands in need of, providing for the appointment of a Building Inspector. We have the melancholy evidence in the loss of the life during the past year that there are more ways than one of doing murder for money, and without a Building Inspector to supervise buildings so that proper precautions are taken in a growing city like ours, there is increasing danger that such a calamity as befell the City in

the loss of the life of brave Captain Wills, in the Dow-Snell fire, and the frightful destruction of life at the Union Elevator, may be repeated through the erection of buildings that, to satisfy human greed, are lacking in ordinary precautions for the protection of life. Unless the City Council shall do all that lies within its power in the way of providing such legislation and further sacrifice of life is the result of such neglect, I cannot see but the City itself will stand equally guilty with the greed of the property owner, which is the prime cause of the trouble.

What has been said of the work of the Police Board with regard to efficiency and faithfulness will apply with equal force to the work of the Board of Fire Commissioners, which is also unsalaried.

THE WORKHOUSE.

I believe that this correctional institution of our City is keeping in line with the general march of improvement. Reports from the institution indicate the most careful and prudent management, and it is a pleasure to note that the Board of Workhouse Commissioners have, during the past year, taken into serious consideration, the work of character building or rather restoring, in connection with the unfortunate class of our citizens who come under their care. I trust that this feature of the work of the institution may be enlarged upon, for I am sure that if we can point to the fact that detention for a term at the workhouse is not only punishment, but in addition that it aids to restore a man to a life of good citizenship, it will be a source of gratification to all of our people.

PARKS.

The parks of a city in their importance to the public welfare bear a very close relation to the streets. They are the meeting and resting places of the people, and this is especially true of the great cities. That they are so freely used is the

best evidence that they are justly appreciated. It is a pleasure to call attention to the progressive work of our Park Board in the management of these properties in the City of Toledo.

According to my understanding of the temper and spirit of this Board, it has been their aim to aid the people in making the largest possible use of the parks. They are and have been greatly hampered by lack of funds to pay for the necessary work, and what has been said upon this point in regard to the department of streets will apply with equal force to the park department; and in this connection I know of no better way to express my views than to quote what I have already said in a former message: "I believe every dollar expended upon the public parks is an investment that will return to the City an hundred fold in the improved quality of our citizenship. There is nothing that serves to cement people into one common brotherhood and build up that family feeling so necessary to the real progress of a city as getting together in the public parks. The people soon partake of the feeling that the parks are their property, and this feeling I am sure your Honorable Body can well afford to foster and encourage in every possible manner."

MUSIC IN THE PARKS.

One of the greatest civilizing agencies of the day is music. The progressive cities of the world have long recognized this fact, and particularly in Europe, have provided for the largest possible indulgence in this civilizing agency by liberally subsidizing musical organizations. We cannot hope to compare with the older cities of the world in an effort of this kind, but we can reasonably expect to emulate their example, and I trust that your Honorable Body will seriously consider this question as one of vital importance to the people. There is no room to doubt the wisdom of an appropriation of a few thousand dollars annually for music in the parks. I am satisfied that if the proposition were submitted to a vote of the people, it

would carry by an overwhelming majority, and believing this to be true, I earnestly recommend that the necessary steps be taken to provide a fund for that purpose so that the experiment may be tried during the next year.

Concluding this reference to the parks, it is a special pleasure to call the attention of our people to the fact that that relic of bossism of a barbarous age, that modern atrocity, "Keep off the grass," has departed from the parks of Toledo, and I trust forever.

PLAY GROUNDS FOR THE CHILDREN.

I again wish to call the attention of your Honorable Body to the necessity of providing playgrounds for the children. This movement is making rapid progress in the cities of our country today, and if we are to keep our place in the van as one of the leading cities of America, we cannot long neglect the children. Play is the normal condition for the healthy child as work is for the healthy adult; it is necessary for its well-being and proper development, and really another part of their education; and to provide satisfactorily equipped playgrounds for the children is, in my opinion, to minister in a most substantial manner towards the building up of the future citizenship of our City. Give the children playgrounds and lots of them. It will be money well spent, and, without a doubt, in many instances will result in saving children from falling into vice and possibly crime, by providing them a place to go where they can be engaged in healthful recreation; whereas otherwise they might be wandering aimlessly about the streets and demonstrating in their lives the truth of the adage that the "idle brain is the devil's workshop." Keep the children at play and the men at work, is my plan.

PUBLIC BATHS.

The movement for public baths that originated sometime ago in your Honorable Body seems to have "died still born."

and I recommend that this matter again be taken up and carried to a successful conclusion. In taking this step we are not making an untried experiment; we are following in the wake of, rather than leading, other cities in this matter. Free public baths have been a feature of the cities of Great Britain and Europe for many years, and during the last few years many cities of America are making decisive advance in this direction.

"Cleanliness is akin to Godliness," and one of the first processes necessary to make a good citizen out of a bad citizen is that he shall "wash and be clean"; then certainly it is incumbent upon the City to provide means whereby he may wash. As matters now stand, if some of our citizens avail themselves of the only opportunity they have to wash, that is by taking a bath in the Maumee, instead of being commended for their action, they are subject to arrest and to be locked up in a felon's cell. Clearly this should not be in a civilized community, and on behalf of the people who desire to be clean and have no opportunity to do so, I earnestly urge your Honorable Body to make the necessary provision to enable the Park Board to carry out this eminently Christian and humane project. Let us have free baths.

WATER WORKS BOARD.

The report of this department tells a tale of faithful service and excellent management so plainly and so well as to need no elucidation on my part. It is but simple justice, however, that honorable mention should be made in a report of this kind of such efficient work as has been done by the Water Works Board.

I am sure that this municipally owned and well managed property of the City excites the love of, and is worthy the admiration of every loyal citizen. I especially urge upon our people the importance of making themselves acquainted with the material interests of the city. It cannot help but contribute

to our self-respect and improve the quality of our citizenship to pay frequent visits to the various departments in which we all have a community of ownership. The Water Works Department, especially the carefully kept pumping station, is an object lesson itself that will contribute to an important degree in developing further civic pride and leading to purer and better conceptions of citizenship. An inspection of the physical conditions of the property of this department and an examination of the report of the Water Works Board ought, I am sure, to silence all objection to municipal ownership, and, at the same time, put a quietus on the absurd claim that a city cannot serve itself better without profit than a private corporation can minister to it with profit as the only incentive.

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY.

The reduction of the hours of labor in this department from ten hours to eight hours and increasing the pay from \$1.25 to \$1.50 is a departure in the affairs of the department that I believe is strictly in the line of progress, and I predict that the experience of the department will prove that this important movement will result in better work and better men.

THE MARKETS.

Your attention is called to the need of improved market facilities. The most reliable estimates now give the City of Toledo a population something like 145,000 people, and we have practically the same market facilities that we possessed a decade ago when the population was only about 80,000. The City has outgrown the provision that has been made for it along this line, and I am sure that in taking steps to provide better market facilities your Honorable Body will be looking to a much needed improvement and do that which will meet with universal approval from a large and important class of our people.

NEW CITY BUILDING.

It is gratifying to note a disposition on the part of the Common Council to take steps looking to the providing of the City with a new public building. It is clearly out of keeping with the dignity of a people of a city of the wealth and importance of Toledo that its public offices should be housed in rented quarters, and the question of how best to provide a public building of such a kind and character as would meet the requirements of the City for many years to come, is one worthy of your most serious consideration.

I am in favor of a proposition to consider the erection of such a building on the space in the rear of Memorial Hall and between that and Madison street. With little difficulty enough could be added to the public property now owned by the City in that locality to make room for a building that would comfortably shelter all of the City Departments, and the location is one most excellently adapted to the purpose on account of its central character. In view of the fact that Toledo has been designated by the Legislature as the location for the holding of the Ohio Centennial Exposition in 1903, it is certain that the matter of a public building should be engaging the attention of your Honorable Body, so as to allow ample time to consider the needs and requirements of the City, and give our people every opportunity for discussing the project and aiding you in this important matter by their counsel and advice.

OHIO CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

Toledo is particularly favored at this present time in the fact that the Legislature of the State has decided upon this city as the location of the Centennial Exposition in 1903. That there is a determination and purpose already awakened in the hearts of our people to make this a truly great exposition is plainly evident to every thoughtful person, and there are many circumstances that favor us in this matter that should be used to the best possible advantage. In the first place the time is

ample for preparation. We have an object lesson before us of a noble and successful exposition now nearing its close in Omaha which was recently visited by the Ohio Centennial Commission and many of the people of our City. There is yet ahead of us in 1900, the great Paris exposition from which I have no doubt, we will gather many lessons of wisdom that will aid us still further in devising and carrying out large plans with respect to our own exposition.

I believe that there are great possibilities in store for Toledo with reference to this important event. I believe that the City of Toledo may be more conspicuously useful in promoting and perfecting our civilization between now and 1903 than any other city of Ohio. I believe that our people have in them the spirit of progress that, if rightly used and conserved, will make our beautiful city the model municipality of America; that will make our city conspicuous by reason of the fact that it is a truly great city; great in ministering to all of its people, great in its love and loyalty for Toledo, and that love and that loyalty manifested in the doing of those things for the people that make the people in turn love the City and loyal to it, because of what it does and has done for them.

A great poet has told us where the great city stands:

“Where the greatest men and women are found,
There the great city stands.”

I believe there is a purpose on the part of the State to make the Ohio Centennial Exposition a truly great exposition. I believe this spirit inspires the Ohio Centennial Commissioners, and I know of but one thought now necessary to impress upon our people with regard to this opportunity, that is the thought of unity, the thought that but one purpose should inspire us; that purpose should be to do everything in our power from now on to that time to make the coming exposition the greatest, not in size, perhaps; but the truly greatest and grandest educational object lesson that the country has yet seen, the indescribably beautiful World's Fair of 1893 not even

excepted. To do it but one thing is necessary: we must all "pull together." You say this is a dream? It is a possibility: nay, more, it is a probability. Let us arise and possess it.

FINANCES.

A study of the reports of the City Auditor will show that the finances of the city are in a healthy, and to my mind, fairly satisfactory condition. If we consider our assets at anything like their marketable value, and reflect that the affairs of the city are not, or ought not to be, carried on primarily for the purpose of making profit but rather for the purpose of providing for the comfort of the people in the most economical manner, I am sure that there will be no cause for apprehension as to our future financially.

The Sinking Fund Trustees are taking all the bonds that are issued and there is a gradual decrease in the public debt which, large as it is, is not abnormally so either by comparison with the public debt of other cities or, as I have said, with the assets we possess.

TAXATION.

There has been a gratifying increase in the revenues derived from taxation, due to the fidelity of the officials upon whom devolves the duty of looking after this important interest. The amount would be largely augmented were the law observed as it is set forth in the Constitution of the State of Ohio, which provides that "all property in the State of Ohio must be returned for taxation at its true value in money." It is unfortunate that public morals are so perverted in regard to questions of property that there is usually an irreconcilable difference between "the true value in money" of property when returned for taxation and when sold in the open market; and in addition we are confronted with the fact that a vast amount of property annually escapes all taxation.

As ex-President Harrison so well said in his address before

the Union League Club in Chicago last February : " It is not only wrong, but it is unsafe to make a show in our homes and on the streets that is not made in the tax returns." While the present system, or more correctly speaking *lack of system* of taxing property remains, and until a system of taxation having its basis in a scientific conception of justice shall be adopted, I do not see as there is anything left for us to do but to appeal to those upon whom rest the obligations of wealth to be honest, to pay their full share of the cost of government.

LICENSES.

The interests of the people of the City imperatively demand a careful revision *of* the license laws. At present some of them impose an unjust burden on a class of people who are least able to bear any burden. Others are a direct tax upon industry and fail to carry out the purpose for which they are designed.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

You should at once repeal the ordinance licensing Employment Agencies, and make the carrying on of the business of an employment bureau within the City limits unlawful.

FREE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

The State of Ohio is unique in having a law providing for Free Employment Agencies in certain Cities, of which Toledo is one, and the City bears the expense of conducting the office. The absurdity of licensing a private enterprise to carry on the same class of work in competition with the City is apparent. But the infamy of this sort of business can only be understood when we reflect that our people do not go to an Employment Agency to seek for work save as a last extremity, and that the City should then license an

individual to make profit out of this distressed class of people is a flagrant wrong that should be stopped as soon as it is possible to enact the necessary legislation. The State has made a most commendable beginning in the right direction by establishing Free Employment Agencies. Let us supplement this work by enlarging the field of their operations in every possible way so that all of the people may contribute their mite towards finding employment for those who are in need of it.

TOLEDO IS A CITY OF MANY DEPARTMENTS.

I have spoken at considerable length of the work of a few. To commend the work of all as they deserve and as I would like to do, would extend this message beyond reasonable limits. I must therefore be content with speaking comprehensively and saying that, so far as my observation goes, the work of all departments has been faithfully and well done.

Very faithfully yours,

SAMUEL M. JONES,

Mayor of the City of Toledo.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

TOLEDO, Oct. 26, 1898.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Toledo.

GENTLEMEN:—In the message for the Annual Report, which I sent to your Honorable Body last Monday evening, I inadvertently omitted making special reference to the work of your department during the past year. I believe that such mention is justly due your Honorable Body, and embrace the first opportunity to make the correction.

Few of our people have any conception of the demands upon the time and patience of an Alderman or Councilman in a City like ours, and that the work of these officials is often made the subject of unjust criticism and censure usually arises from lack of knowledge of the service that is rendered. The large amount of the work of public improvement that has been carried on under your direction has made your duties especially onerous during the past year, and it is a pleasure to call attention to the patriotic and disinterested character of the service that your department has rendered in looking after these various enterprises.

I am confident, after pretty careful observation and study of the question since I have been in the Mayor's office, that if there are any failures in the work of municipal government chargeable to the Common Council, it is due to the limitations imposed upon your action by the law, aided and abetted by the octopus of custom, rather than to the shortcoming of the Council itself.

In general terms I desire in the most emphatic manner to testify as strongly as I can to the nobility of purpose and worthiness of motive that has actuated your Body. Familiarity with the work has mimified to a very great extent

the "boodle councilmen," that is the subject of much thoughtless talk among those unacquainted with the men usually elected to office. If we amend our system so as to make inoperative the work of the rich "boodler," who goes about seeking for the needy councilman whom he may devour with the poison of his money, all suspicion of corrupt legislation will soon vanish from our midst. There are but few measures that have passed your Honorable Body that I have felt called upon to vote against, and in all but one case, the veto was ineffectual as there were sufficient votes in the Council to carry the legislation despite the Mayor's opposition. I never was much of a believer in the autocratic power of the veto, and my experience has confirmed my doubts as to its value. I trust the time is not far distant when the veto power for the mayor will be abolished and the referendum to the people substituted in its place.

It affords me satisfaction in concluding this short reference to the great amount of work that has gone through your hands to make a record of the pleasant relations that have existed between us, and to assure you of my earnest desire to co-operate in every way that I can in the work of serving the people. Thanking you for the uniform courtesy you have shown the office which I hold,

I am, very faithfully yours,

SAMUEL M. JONES,

Mayor.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Toledo.

Gentlemen:—In transmitting to you my fourth annual message, I desire to make due acknowledgement of the uniform courtesy and candor that have characterized our association together during the past year. The fact that we have not always seen "eye to eye" with respect to matters of legislation, or have not fully agreed as to the details of municipal government does not, in the least, detract from the feeling of cordial good-will that I entertain for every one of you, and the confidence that I have in the general integrity of your purposes. The average man or woman has but a slight conception of the sacrifice, from the ordinary point of view, that is imposed upon a member of the Toledo Common Council. Indeed, the "man about town" is quite apt to speak of a Councilman's position as one that, in some mysterious way, yields a large profit, rather than to consider it a place that really calls for and receives a larger degree of personal sacrifice annually for the good of the community than the ordinary layman has any adequate conception of. I am sure that in my experience I have seen no more genuine manifestations of real devotion to the cause of fellow man than I have found in the experience of the members of the Toledo Common Council. The fact that the results in our city government are not more satisfactory is due more to the hindrances and restraints that are imposed upon municipal officers by

A CUMBERSOME AND ANTIQUATED SYSTEM OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Than to any inefficiency that can be charged to individual mem-

bers. It is no new discovery that our system of government is not adapted to the needs of a city of the size of Toledo, and that it does not provide that the public servants shall have an opportunity for the exercise of the best service. In a former message I have called attention to the disability imposed upon us by law, as have several of my predecessors.

Mayor Major notably made an earnest effort to provide the city with a new charter that would allow the city officials to carry on the public business with something like the liberty that is accorded to the officials who are charged with the management of large private corporations, where it is uniformly conceded, better economic results are obtained, as a rule, than can be shown in municipal government. From the start his effort was distrusted, decried and denounced by many who style themselves the best people. An organized movement was set on foot to defeat the so-called "ripper bill." The people were told that its object was to perpetuate Major as a dictator. The appeal was made to that ever-present enemy of human liberty, suspicion, doubt and distrust of our fellow men, and fed upon this ill-gotten brood, a factional partyism finally overcame the sober judgment of the people. The bill was defeated and Toledo, dear, patient, uncomplaining Toledo, instead of getting the slight relief that the "ripper bill" afforded, was again doomed to limp along with her primitive and inadequate system of city government, better adapted to the days of the stage coach and the canal boat than to the time of the fast-flying express trains, the ocean greyhounds, electric street cars, electric lights, telephones, telegraphs and the thousand other agencies that minister to human need, of which our fore-fathers were ignorant.

The "ripper bill" may not, and I think, did not, provide the best attainable form of charter for the government of the City of Toledo, but it did provide for a vast improvement over the present system, and it afforded an opportunity for the relief from present disabilities, of which the people would have

availed themselves had it been in reference to any other relation than the thing we call politics. It would have been wiser and more to the credit of the people who found their chief joy and delight in defeating the bill, had they joined hands with the legislators to amend, alter and change it to suit the needs of our city. Such a course would have been good sense; it would not have been good "politics."

HINDRANCES OF THE LAW.

All in all, I think that any candid man, after looking into the situation and taking into account the prohibitions and inhibitions and various restraints of law that hamper the officials who are charged with the care of the business of the City of Toledo, will admit that the wonder is, not that we do not get better results, but that we get as good; for I feel certain that if you were to place the business of a large private corporation in the charge of the best set of men that could be secured by a vote of the stockholders and subjected them to the restraints in the management of the business that correspond to the restraints of the municipal government of the City of Toledo, the result would be bankruptcy for the best business in the country.

THE REASONS FOR THE CONDITIONS.

The reasons for the condition that confronts us are many and deepseated. The primary one is the prevailing distrust of our fellow men, and the improvement will not be material or marked to any very great extent, except as we overcome this fundamental cause. Until we shall know a patriotism that will teach us to trust one another and to be worthy to be trusted, we shall not see much in the way of improvement in municipal government. There is no substitute that will supply the place of confidence. "Like begets like." Distrust breeds distrust.

Suspicion begets suspicion. The crying need of the hour in this municipality, in the state, in the nation, in the world, is a

SOCIAL FAITH,

Ability to believe in the good in our fellow men and in ourselves. The way to make men honest is to believe they are honest until they have proven otherwise. The way to breed a nation of thieves is to continually harbor distrust of one another and put our confidence in "systems," "bonds," "oaths," "checks," "balances," "indemnities," "securities" and the artificial paraphernalia that seeks to pass as a substitute for plain honesty. There is none.

PARTYISM THE ENEMY OF PROGRESS.

Among the causes that hinder the development of a pure patriotism, none has been more prolific of evil than our system of partisan politics, and the most promising sign of a better future for American municipalities is found in the fact that each year the party machines find the struggle for existence growing harder. We can never be a free people until each soul is free; each soul can never be free until party bosses and party politics have disappeared. I have talked with many municipal officers of American cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, and, almost without exception, they uniformly agree that the curse of American municipal politics is the party machine. These "organizations," the only purpose of whose existence is to group a small band of men together in each city in order that they may capture the offices and then administer the city's business, not for the benefit of the people but for the benefit of the party, for the spoils of office, are one prolific source and mainspring of the absolute personal distrust of which I have spoken and upon which we are endeavoring to build a patriotic system. It cannot be done. The signs of disintegration of the party machine in American municipalities is the most prom-

ising thing in our politics today, for when the machines once lose their hold in the cities, the day of deliverance for the people will be near at hand; and while the rule of the machine continues, there can be little hope of improvement for the reason that it is always the purpose of the machine in power to make the largest profit possible out of the possession of the offices and to resist any innovation calculated to simplify and cheapen the cost of government to the people. Under the prevailing party system of government, I think it is true that in all of the holders of public office in the nation, the cities and the municipalities, not one in ten is chosen by any spontaneous selection of the outsiders, of the people; they are nominated and put there by little or large caucuses of the politicians; they are gotten in by electioneering and often by corrupt rings rather than by any capacity or desert.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AN OBJECT LESSON.

We are fortunate in that we have a practical object lesson of the New Politics in Toledo in our method of electing the members of the Board of Education, who are all nominated by free petition of the people, and where the names of all the candidates are placed on one ticket without any political designation whatever. That this is a large step in advance is apparent, I think, to all unprejudiced minds, and I believe that the day is not far distant when it will be the method by which all nominations for city offices will be made.

Since this system was inaugurated in the Board of Education, there has been harmonious, orderly, systematic, scientific work, in the main for the good of the people. As, in a certain sense, none can be free until all are free, so also it is true that our Board of Education cannot be truly non-partisan until all of the boards are non-partisan, and the members cannot be free from partisan appeals and influence until the city is well rid of them through the adoption of the new system for the selection

of all city candidates. When the non-partisan system has once been adopted in the state and municipalities, and the machine is deprived of the spoils of office there, the nation will be freed from this curse and the lovers of liberty everywhere will have sound reason to take courage and go forward.

NEED A NEW CHARTER.

My opinion as to the privileges that should be conferred on the people by the new charter has already been stated in former messages and is so well known that I need not repeat it at length. I am a thorough believer in the principle of Home Rule; that is, that the people of a city should have the privilege of governing themselves, of making their own laws, providing such limitations to the powers of government as they themselves believe will best serve them.

HOME RULE--THE AMERICAN IDEA.

I believe this is the truly American idea, and that the principle of having our cities governed very largely from the state capital and by state politics is false in theory, pernicious in practice and demoralizing in effect. As I understand the American idea, it is that the people are the government; that they should be made to feel that there is no other place where responsibility can rest, and with such a system, if, for any reason, a municipal government is a failure the people will do as the individual does when he suffers loss or injury through his own mistake and carelessness; he will look within for the trouble. As matters stand today, if there is municipal mismanagement or failure, we can easily shift responsibility from ourselves and lay the blame to the state laws that hamper us with their many limitations.

I favor a system of municipal government that will grant to the officials much the same sort of freedom, and impose upon them the same kind of responsibility that rests upon officials in

charge of our large private corporations. The analogy between the two is not perfect, I am aware, as one business is carried on for purely economic reasons, for profit getting, while profit getting, as such, is eliminated from the business of a city official; nevertheless, the analogy is close enough that the illustration will serve the purpose.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN NAME ONLY.

In looking over the reports of my predecessors in this office for the past twenty-five years, I notice that several of them have called attention to the fact that the "Mayor in Toledo is chief executive in name only." This is absolutely true, and must remain so until a new charter is obtained. It is true that the mayor is, in effect, the head of the police department during the vacations of the Board. There is little wherein it can be said that he has the initiative, by which he may introduce or direct improvements in our system of doing business. He may recommend to the Council from time to time such measures as he believes for the well-being of the city. He has a seat in the Council, and by courtesy is heard on any matter of public interest. He has not, as is generally supposed, the privilege of appointing the members of the various boards; he merely nominates and then, owing to the distrust of which I have already spoken, he must submit his nominations to the Council and they may approve or reject. As if to atone, in some measure, for the humiliation of this sort of supervision of the acts of the Mayor by the Council, the Mayor is then given the reactionary power of exercising the veto over any of the legislation of the Council where it is proposed to expend money or grant franchises. The veto is autocratic, un-American and repulsive to any just conception of democracy; it should be abolished, and if any supervision of the acts of the legislature is needed, it should be lodged in the people through a resort to the referendum.

RELIEF MUST COME FROM THE PEOPLE.

The people are the power. The people can have any kind of government in Toledo that they want—good government, bad government, indifferent government or excellent government; and it is probable that our government is all of the time just about as good as WE collectively, all of us, desire that it shall be. The failures, the miscarriage, the imperfections and the evils of our city government are but the outward expressions of our inward moral imperfections. As well may we expect water to run up hill naturally as to expect a city government to be better than the average of the people, for the reason that water cannot rise higher than its source and the people are the source of the government.

The law of cause and effect is everywhere present. In municipal government as in everything else, we reap exactly as we sow.

OUR NEW CHARTER

Should provide, in the first place, an opportunity for the expression of a larger degree of confidence in the public officials than is possible under the present system. In my opinion, the Mayor should have much the same privilege with respect to the economic affairs of the city as is enjoyed by the general manager of an ordinary business corporation. The city's interests can be better looked after by a small board of—say five or seven Councilmen, elected at large and paid reasonably for their services, who should hold their meetings in the daytime, which meetings should be always open to the public whose business they are caring for and looking after. The heads of departments should be appointed by the Mayor exactly as a general manager appoints his heads of departments, and not subject to the approval of the Council. The relation between the Council and the Mayor should be much the same as that

which now exists between a general manager and his board of directors.

Practically, this plan of municipal government is in operation in many cities at present, and while it may truly be said that few of them get along much better than we do in Toledo even with all the restraints of our bungling system, this fact proves the truth of what I have already said,—that the main cause of all of our failures is found in the prevailing distrust, doubt and suspicion of one another, and until we are rid of that we cannot look for much improvement from a mere change of system. A change, however, is desirable in Toledo, and I earnestly recommend to your honorably body the appointment of a commission to be called

A NEW CHARTER COMMISSION.

Composed—say of from fifteen to fifty persons whose patriotism is beyond question and whose duty it shall be to prepare a new charter to be presented to the Ohio Legislature at its next session. I believe you cannot better serve the city's interest than by acting upon this recommendation and proceeding in your own way, either through the co-operation of the Mayor or otherwise, to select such a commission and provide for their use such means as is necessary to carry out this suggestion.

A NEW CITY BUILDING.

There is a visible growth in public sentiment in favor of a new city building for Toledo. This is a much needed improvement both from an aesthetic and an economic point of view. In the first place, it is not in keeping with the dignity of a city of the size of Toledo to house its public officials and have its public business carried on within rented quarters. It is said that the bulwark of American institutions is the American home, and "to own our own home" is a common and characteristic ambition of Americans. It certainly should be, and I believe it is, the ambition of Toledo citizens that Toledo shall

own a city building that shall adequately provide for the needs of the city offices, and, at the same time, stand as a monument to our patriotism, good sense and regard for the maxim that "all things should be done decently and in order."

CITY HALL COMMISSION.

I believe that your honorable body is carrying out the will of the community in this matter by providing for the creation of a permanent commission to be known as the City Hall Commission, composed of the Mayor, the Presidents of both Boards, the City Solicitor, the City Clerk, the City Auditor, one member from the Board of Aldermen and two members from the Board of Councilmen. This committee has already begun work and practically decided upon the lot of ground lying between Adams, Madison, Michigan and Ontario streets as being the most desirable location for such a building.

The City Solicitor has been instructed to prepare the necessary legislation for condemnation proceedings for the city to acquire the same. This will make an ideal location, desirable in every way, first, on account of its being so nearly central, and its close proximity to the Court House, the Library and High School. It has been thought possible that the ingenuity of some of our architects might suggest a combination with Memorial Hall (now occupying a portion of this ground) that will be at the same time profitable and architecturally and economically satisfactory.

A conspicuous advantage that the city will derive from the public ownership of this property will be that it will afford room for a large

CENTRAL PLAZA,

Such as is common in many European, South American and Mexican cities. These large central plazas are, to my mind, necessary for the social well-being of a city. They form a sort

of common meeting-ground where all great out-door gatherings naturally center and where, on summer evenings, band concerts and all sorts of out-door entertainments that are calculated to carry forward the great work of education, may be given.

THE PARKS.

The Park Board is the only one of the many Toledo boards that the Mayor really has the privilege of appointing; all others are subject to the approval of the Council and are, therefore, as I have already said, not strictly the Mayor's appointees. I think our citizens may refer with a measure of just pride to the work of the Park Board. Toledo parks and the park work have taken a great step forward within the last few years in our city. A few years ago when the grounds were purchased that are now being improved and beautified for the use of the people, there was much complaint of the large price paid for the lands and many predicted that the Park Board had gone too far in anticipating the wants of the city in this direction. More mature thought, I am sure, will convince these objectors that they were in error. It is possible that the city may have paid some high prices for park land; if this was true in some instances, it is a fact that in others land was obtained at a very low price, and the investment for park property if considered as a whole today, even from a financial standpoint, will bear the scrutiny of strictest investigation. This, of course, does not apply to Bay View Park, where a large expenditure has been incurred on account of the expected

OHIO CENTENNIAL,

Which has failed to materialize, owing to the neglect of the Legislature to make an appropriation to carry forward the work; and one result of this neglect is that Toledo has an addition to her bonded debt of a quarter of a million of dollars, every dollar of which has been authorized by the Common

Council simply and solely because the Ohio Legislature had designated Bay View Park as a place for holding the Ohio Centennial. It is true that we have Bay View Park, which in time, no doubt, will be one of the beauty spots of this part of Ohio, and from this contemplation we must extract what comfort we can. I trust it is a case where we shall learn wisdom from experience, and it is quite certain there will be no more bond issues to prepare grounds for the holding of a centennial exposition until the proposed exposition is an assured fact rather than an uncertain probability. The Park Board cannot be too highly commended for the zeal and vigilance with which they have looked after the interest of these resting places and playgrounds of the people, and the great throngs that frequented the parks during last summer are the best proofs in the world that the work of this department is thoroughly appreciated.

MUSIC IN THE PARKS.

For two seasons now the Park Board has provided a series of concerts for the entertainment and instruction of the public. These concerts have been of a high order, and the thousands that have flocked to them furnish gratifying evidence that the people have a thorough appreciation of the divine art of music. I believe that your honorable body cannot better carry out the wishes of the people than by making generous provision for any expenditure that will cultivate and develop the artistic sense. If we are to know a better civilization than that we now have, if we are to have a more orderly and scientific government, if we are to secure better results both spiritually and economically, it will be because of the growth and development of the idea of harmony; and where can we go to study the laws of harmony so well as to the science of music?

The great Italian patriot and lover of liberty, Joseph Mazzini, has told us that "music is the harmonious voice of creation, an echo of the invisible world, one note of the divine concord which the entire universe is one day destined to sound."

Upon the Park Board very largely rests the responsibility of developing the aesthetic and artistic tastes of our people. It is true that we have a few private societies that are doing something to awaken a love of beauty in their members; we have the Library Board that is doing an excellent work in cultivating a love for literature; we have the Board of Education whose efforts are turned more directly to the methods of acquiring what is technically called education from books; and I believe that both of these boards just mentioned are doing a work that is not second to any similar work in any of our American cities. But be it remembered that the work of the Board of Education is confined almost exclusively to the children of school age, and the work of the Library Board is of a more general character; it cannot of necessity take on the breadth that belongs to the work of the Park Board. I think it is true that no agency in our city can contribute in a more permanent and lasting way to the cause of good morals and good government than this board. No matter what sacrifices may have been made by individuals for the cause of music or for the cause of art, we should never forget that the music in the public parks was the first really public concert in which all of the people shared and all, in a certain sense, participated. Much has been done in our parks to develop the love of the beautiful, the genuine, the good and the true. In

RIVERSIDE PARK,

Which is a very popular resort, we have elaborate flower displays, and the board have taken a determined stand to protect the property against railroad encroachment; they have also adopted plans for the complete reclamation of the water front, thus increasing the park area by about seventy acres while greatly beautifying it at the same time. At

WALBRIDGE PARK

The nucleus of a zoological garden is already begun. A num-

ber of animals are there, and we have one of the finest bear pits in the country. During the season a building for shelter and public comfort, provided with lavatories and all the necessary conveniences for such a place, has been erected and has proven a great convenience to the thousands of picnickers that resort there. During the winter season, several beautiful flower shows have been given in our greenhouse, an entertainment that was also greatly appreciated as manifested by the large attendance. At

OTTAWA PARK

An extensive public playground has been established. This includes also one of the finest golf links in the world, besides base ball grounds, foot ball grounds, tennis courts and abundant provision for other field sports. In this matter of public golf grounds, Toledo has taken a forward step. This game has heretofore been very largely limited to the rich, but by the provision that the Park Board have made at Ottawa Park the game is open to any who can raise a ball and "shinny stick." At this park also a convenient and artistic building for public comfort has been constructed and is greatly appreciated and enjoyed. At

THE CITY PARK

A very important improvement has been made in the addition of a complete equipment of playground apparatus for children, including swings, May poles, see-saws, merry-go-rounds, etc. During the past summer, one of the prominent literary men of America visited our city and I had the pleasure of showing him about; and as we looked at the children at play in City Park he said to me: "Here, Mayor, you have a genuine work of improvement; here is where you are really making men and women, making the future city, Toledo. See that girl yonder," said he, as he pointed to a fourteen year old girl swinging gracefully at arm's length on one of the May pole ropes, "she

is developing a body, getting ready to be the mother of future Toledo citizens."

I trust that the words of this thoughtful man may be taken at their true worth, for we must remember that tall buildings, abundant commerce, smoking factories, many railroads, many ships do not make the great city; the great city stands,

"Where the city of the healthiest fathers stands,
Where the city of the best bodied mothers stands,
There the great city stands."

THE DAY LABOR PLAN ON THE BOULEVARD AND THE EIGHT HOUR DAY.

During the past season, the Park Board have commenced the construction of the boulevard to connect our system of parks, the people having authorized a bond issue appropriating the sum of \$150,000 for this purpose. A great deal of work has been done and portions of the boulevard are nearly completed. The particular point of importance with respect to this work is the fact that the Park Board have made a radical departure from the prevailing system of doing public work in Toledo in that they have begun, and propose to carry out, the work by the day labor plan, eliminating the contractor and the contractor's profit. Thus far the work has been done under the direction of our efficient superintendent of parks, Mr. M. L. Moore, who has had entire charge of employing all labor, the compensation for which has been \$1.50 per day of eight hours for common labor, \$3.50 being paid for the work of a team and man. The engineer of the work, who is a man of large experience, says that he believes that under this more just condition the city has obtained as good economic results from the eight hour day as can be obtained under the contract system from ten hours, the difference being made up in the contractor's profit. This subject is of sufficient importance, I believe,

to merit thoughtful consideration at the hands of your honorable body.

Sooner or later, we shall cease selling privileges to contractors and franchise getters, for we shall all come to know that it is a moral wrong, a sin, in short, to grant one man the privilege to make profit at the expense of his fellow men; and I repeat here what I believe to be true, that it is the duty of every city to do its own work by the day labor plan, letting the money of the people go from the people to the people without paying profit of any sort to any one.

THE POLICE BOARD.

As an example of good service from unsalaried boards, to which reference is made in another place, I take pleasure in referring to the unselfish and patriotic work of the Board of Police Commissioners. The entire business of the police department is entrusted to the care of this board, and the duties are of such a nature, involving the dealing with a large number of men, that of necessity there is a heavy draft upon the time of the commissioners, for which there is no compensation either as salary or perquisites. It is but fair to say that it is largely due to the painstaking and conscientious work of this board, supplemented by the wise direction of the chief, that such satisfactory results have been obtained in the

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

I take great pride in pointing to the Toledo Police Department as one of the best and most efficient in the United States, and in *nothing in connection with it do I take more pride than the decreased number of arrests which our city shows as compared with other cities.* I believe this means a decrease in crime, with all due respect for the opinion of others who hold contrary beliefs; and I believe if next year we have less arrests, it will mean that there is less crime, and so on. As we grow larger I trust we shall grow better, and this growth of goodness will

invariably be indicated by a decrease of the number of arrests by the Police Department.

In nothing is the saying, "comparisons are odorous" more true than with respect to a matter of this kind; but in view of the fact that certain of our citizens seem to take delight in besmirching the fair name of Toledo, I feel justified in making a comparison. For example:—St. Louis has 4 1-2 times the population of Toledo; it has 11 times as many policemen and only 3 times as many saloons; 16 times as many disturbing of the peace; 9 times as many vagrancies; 120 times as many house-breakings; 30 times as many larcenies; 65 murders, one in Toledo; 8 times as many total arrests.

I make no deductions as to what this proves. I submit the statement for what it is worth, and, in addition, I desire to say that I have examined police statistics gathered from one hundred large cities of the United States, and by any method of comparison that may be applied the results are overwhelmingly in favor of Toledo as a quiet, peaceable and orderly city, where life, property and good morals are as carefully protected as in any city of our land. Indeed, any student of social economics must know that in the nature of things we cannot be much better or much worse than our sister cities. The body politic, society, is an organism, and the moral condition of any one of our cities in all probability indicates pretty fairly the general moral condition of all of them.

In Toledo, according to the last census, we have one policeman to each 1,177 of our population. The average in one hundred cities is one policeman to each 980 of the population; the average cost per capita for police service in these one hundred cities is \$1.14; the cost in Toledo is among the lowest in the lot, namely, 81 cents per capita.

THE CITY PRISONS.

It is gratifying to note that the Police Board has received authority from the Council to improve the Police Station, and

the plans now under consideration promise to make of that building a much more satisfactory and humane institution than it is possible for it to be under existing conditions. The city prison itself, built twenty-five years ago, is by comparison with the new jail just completed a shame and a disgrace, and I have no doubt that the city itself has been, and is constantly, guilty of the crime of indirect murder brought on by diseases contracted by men and women incarcerated in our inhuman city prison and workhouse cells. I am well aware that I am laying myself open to the charge of "mawkish sentiment" and "sympathy with criminals," but I cannot do less than give expression to the belief that I entertain, and what I have said, I believe; moreover, I do not believe that even if a man or woman is a criminal and violates the law that we have any right to commit a greater crime by incarcerating them in a prison so imperfectly ventilated that the seeds of disease and death are almost sure to be planted in their bodies, and the only way that I can escape my share of responsibility for this sort of crime is by crying out against it, which I do with the utmost vehemence.

POLICE COURT.

In no department of our municipal life is there more crying need for reform than in our method of dealing with unfortunates who fall into the hands of the police and are charged with petty crimes. There is much reason for belief that with the prevailing methods today, our police courts actually perpetrate more crime than they prevent, and this I say in no manner reflecting upon any individual court or any individual man. I am condemning a system that is outgrown, antiquated and entirely out of keeping with the spirit of the age. I believe our whole system of pretended punishment of crime by imposing a fine with the prison alternative is a fraud so ghastly as to be a travesty on justice; yet it is a system that is carried on in most of the cities of our country today, and few questions are asked as to whether it might be improved or not. If a man is

arrested, I infer that the reason for his arrest is found in the fact that his liberty is considered a menace to the public good; in short, that he is arrested for the same reason that we would arrest a man whom we saw in the street with a well developed case of small pox. Such a man we would send to the contagious diseases hospital so that his liberty might not be a menace to the public health; but our so-called criminals are hauled into our Police Courts, "charged with disturbance, disorderly conduct," or that most convenient of all devices for taking away a man's liberty, the charge of "suspicion." He is taken into a court where, of course, every criminal must have a "first appearance;" he knows nothing of the tricks of the law or the practices of the bar; the reputation of the officer who arrested him is at stake; he must make a case; and the state has a hired prosecutor to help the officer secure a conviction; the victim is without money, without friends and ignorant of the law, and the result is not hard to forecast; it is "\$25 and costs," or "\$5 and costs." Here is a most direct discrimination in favor of the rich and against the poor, and under the operation of this farcical system, the great city of Toledo has had washer women working over time in order to get money to pay into the city treasury for the husbands' fines. Children have gone barefooted in order that their savings might be paid into the insatiable maw of the Police Court treasury to release a father who had been unfortunate enough to be drunk on the street instead of getting drunk at the club and being taken home in a carriage. Poor wretched girls are hauled up for the crime of prostitution; fines are imposed upon them, failing to pay which, the workhouse is their doom. They simply send for their friends, and after mortgaging their bodies to these friends, secure the money with which to satisfy justice (Police Court justice); they go out and prostitute themselves to earn money for Toledo's treasury.

MONEY ATONES FOR CRIME.

As a citizen, as one who loves his city, as your Mayor, as a lover of humanity, I protest against this ghastly farce, and I plead with you, men of the Toledo Council and citizens of Toledo, to protest against this crying injustice and wrong inflicted upon people simply because they are poor. Today there are 114 persons in the workhouse; of this number 62 could walk out if they had money to pay their fines; practically they are there because they are poor. The balance could also, no doubt, walk out if they had money, for, notwithstanding the fact that they have a time sentence to serve, it is more than probable that a capable lawyer could be hired for sufficient cash, who would discover a trick of law, a writ of some kind, or something nobody knows what and nobody knows how, but it would be sufficient to release them, if they only had money.

AN UNJUST SYSTEM.

It ought to need no argument to convince one that our system of dispensing "justice" is as yet very elementary and very imperfect. The deadly obstacle in the way of improvement, spiritual, social or industrial is a settled belief that our plan or our machine is perfect, and our only hope of improvement lies in the awakening of the public conscience to the imperfections and evils of the present system. This is by no means a matter of mere sentiment. It is as true of municipalities, states and nations as it is of individuals that whatsoever is sown must be reaped, and if we sow the seeds of injustice, while deluding ourselves with the belief that we are administering justice itself, it is an aggravation of the offense or sin of one who openly and knowingly violates the laws. It introduces inharmony into the body politic and in this way becomes the cause of the very conditions we seek to remedy.

CASTE IN CRIME.

Many well-meaning people are settled in the belief that all of the crime in our cities is lodged in the "lower classes," and the outcry on the part of the Pharisees of politics and religion is against these; and occasionally we are overtaken with a spasm for "cleaning up the town." This is followed by a little extra vigilance on the part of the police, the petty offenders are driven to ply their unholy traffic in nooks and corners, but all of the time the cause of the evil, the social injustice which is the tree that bears this poisoned fruit, is left undisturbed. Periodically the demand for reform goes a little further. There is a great outcry against "corrupt aldermen and councilmen," and the clamor is raised for a "business man's administration."

The most superficial thinker only needs to stop one moment to realize that there cannot be "corrupt councilmen or aldermen" without a corrupt business man at the other end of the deal; and it is generally necessary to the completion of all these corrupt transactions that there shall be a lawyer of "eminent respectability" to do the engineering and act as a go-between for the public and private thieves. I know of no cure for the evils, political and social, that afflict us that will give us a better city government except the panacea for all of these evils, and that is, good men and women. These alone can give us a good city and a good city government. If you want to help the city, there is no way in which you can do it so much as to be a good man or a good woman.

I am well aware that this philosophy is derided in business circles, deemed unworthy the consideration of "practical men," and that one who advocates such a policy is a "dreamer" and a "crank". Many such charges have been laid at my door since I have been in the Mayor's office, and in concluding this portion of my message, I make use of a quotation from one of the speeches of Edmund Burke that expresses my sentiments better than any words of mine can:

"The charges against me are all of one kind; that I have pushed the principles of general justice and benevolence too far further than a cautious policy would warrant, and farther than the opinion of many would go along with me. In every accident which may happen through life, in pain, in sorrow, in depression and distress, I will call to mind this accusation and be comforted."

THE WORKHOUSE BOARD.

Toledo is a city of many boards, and while it is common to find the cause of much of the imperfections of the city government in the fact that the Council is unsalaried, simple justice requires that it should be said that much of the best service that is rendered the city is the work of the unsalaried boards. The workhouse board is one of these and their duties are among the most thankless and the service required is largely of the most undesirable sort; yet this board has rendered such service under these trying circumstances that the thanks of the Common Council and the citizens may well be bestowed upon them. For many years this work has been carried on under the charge of an unsalaried board and no scandal of any importance has been in any way connected with it.

Under the management of the present board the work has kept pace with the spirit of progress that characterizes the age. The board has given serious thought to the question of redeeming the lives of the men and women under their care. Many improvements have been introduced, and there is promise of more that will render the institution still more efficient in restoring to usefulness and good citizenship the unfortunate men and women who are kept there.

A step in the right direction has been the providing of a dormitory, well lighted and well aired, where a number of prisoners may sleep without being subjected to the dangers that menace their health while occupying narrow cells.

The present efficient superintendent, Mr. Fred. Ritter, and

his capable wife, the matron, both speak of this improvement as giving the most satisfactory results; and it is to be hoped that the board may see their way clear to extend the system still further so that the city may be freed from the guilt of endangering a man's physical well-being while it is thought necessary for the public weal that he shall be kept a prisoner.

THE LIBRARY BOARD.

I am sure that this board cannot be too highly commended for the spirit of progress and the improvement that has characterized their work. During the past year, the open shelf system has been introduced, and while the librarian reports that there has been something of a loss to the library in consequence, it is the general opinion of the board that the step is in the right direction; that it is, in reality, an appeal to the honesty and integrity of every patron of the library. It is also an appeal to democracy, the open shelves, as it were, throwing the public property open to inspection and examination of the public, of the people to whom it belongs. It is sincerely to be hoped that this disposition to deal generously and liberally with the people may meet with a corresponding response on the part of the public that will testify in unmistakable terms that the effort is appreciated. I believe that the future will prove that the confidence of the Library Board in the public integrity has not been misplaced.

It is gratifying to note that the number of books withdrawn from the library indicates that the desire for knowledge that comes through reading is keeping pace with the growth of the city, and I believe that your honorable body cannot better serve the public interest than to co-operate with this department in every way possible to extend its beneficial influence among our people.

THE CITY FINANCES.

To those who are interested in a study of the city finances

I commend the auditor's report which, of course, forms a part of the annual report, and which will be found to be a complete setting forth in detail of the financial standing of all the city departments. The following summarized statement presents the condition of the city finances as shown by the auditor's books on September 1, 1900:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| The total bonded debt of the city is. | \$6,184,918.85 |
| Less sinking fund | 726,107.12 |
| Net debt | \$5,458,811.12 |
| Annual interest | \$ 266,797.50 |

It will be seen that the annual interest on this bonded debt amounts to more than one-eighth of the total receipts from all sources; in short, the interest on the bonded debt is the largest single item in the list of expenditures, and I heartily commend the general disinclination to increase the bonded indebtedness that has been shown by your honorable body. I hope the day is not far distant when we shall be wise enough to legislate for carrying forward the work of public improvement for the city without burdening future generations with an interest account. In the case of the bonds of the Woodville Railway, amounting to \$432,000, which were refunded during the last year, the original debt has been paid more than twice over in interest and will be paid again in interest before the principal is finally wiped out.

An idea of the volume of the city business may be gained from the brief statement that

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Balance Jan. 1, 1899, was..... | \$ 421,416.52 |
| Total receipts | 2,019,625.18 |
| Total | \$2,441,041.70 |
| Expenditures, 1899 | 2,049,724.20 |
| Balance Dec. 31, 1899 | \$ 391,317.50 |
| Total | \$2,441,041.70 |
| Estimating the increased valuation for 1900 at \$61,000,000, | |

the revenues from taxation will be increased about \$50,000; but the history of the past seems to show that there is always increased expenditure to meet the increased revenue, there will be little difference in the net general result. The duplicate for 1901, under the decennial appraisement, should place the valuation at about \$85,000,000, and at our present rate of taxation this will yield the sum of \$1,360,000.

INTEREST RATE DECLINES.

It is encouraging to note that in all of the new bond issues and the refunding of bonds during the past year, the rate of interest has been gradually declining; the very fact that the rate has declined from 73-8 per cent., the rate at which the original Woodville bonds were issued in 1870, to 31-4, the rate at which bonds have been sold during the past year might lead an optimist to hope that progress is to continue until some day we shall be rid of the incubus of interest that has proven such a burden in the work of improvement and development of our cities.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Toledo's Fire Department speaks for itself, and much of the satisfaction that is to be derived from a study of its workings can be traced to the wise policy pursued by the Board of Fire Commissioners. For many years it has been the practice of this board to religiously exclude from the department that bane of American municipal life, "politics," and the board has been successful in doing this to a degree that could not possibly be attained except through a steady adherence and devotion to principle. Because of this devotion the board has been able to consider all economic questions that come before it from the standpoint of merit rather than from the standpoint of personal favoritism or political pull. This is applied to the selection of men for the department as well as to the management of its economic affairs, and I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that the country does not afford an example of a more thorough, orderly, efficient and, in the best

sense of the word, high-toned fire department than the fire department of the City of Toledo.

In this connection it is pleasant to make due recognition of the fact that the efficiency of the department has been *greatly aided by the faithful and devoted service of Christian F. Wall*, who for ten years was the chief of the department, and severed his connection with the city last August to go into private employment that pays a larger salary. The splendid spirit of fellowship, good will and hearty co-operation that is a distinguishing mark of the members of this department is largely due to the influence of the devoted and brotherly work of Christian F. Wall among them for ten years. The department has made due recognition of its appreciation of his service, and it is a pleasure for me to say that my faith in the patriotism and goodness of the people leads me to believe that Toledo will yet see the day when every department of our municipal work will be as capably and patriotically managed for the good of all as the Fire Department has been during these years.

WATER WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Board of Water Works Commissioners is another of our unsalaried boards that is charged with the care of a large and important business, and as a patriot, as a lover of his kind, as a believer in the theory that the people are the source of all of the power that a government possesses, and that the people are capable of managing their own affairs for their own good, I take pride in pointing to the splendid service rendered by this department as a shining example of the success of the idea of collectivism or municipal ownership of public utilities. A study of the report of this department proves beyond any question and beyond all cavil the wisdom of the idea of a city owning and operating for its own benefit all such public utilities as water, gas, heat, electric lighting, street railways, etc., etc. That such excellent results as this department has produced could be obtained, while the department is subjected to the hindrances and limitations imposed upon it by law, and

particularly by the fact that in its very make-up it is of necessity open and liable at any time to the assaults of partyism, is a matter of wonder and surprise.

This board is composed of three members, elected by the people, and in the very nature of things while party politics rule us, the board must of necessity be a partisan one. It is fortunate for the people of Toledo that the patriotism of the men who have composed this board in the past years have subjugated their partyism, and it is due to this fact that "politics" has been kept out of the department. As I have already said, however, under the present system this poison is liable to break out at any time and in a few short months demoralize a department that it has taken the best efforts of patriotic men years to build up. The only real safety against the assaults of partyism is a non-partisan government and the adoption of an intelligently understood and honestly administered civil service system for all salaried appointments.

NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT.

This department has been the subject of many communications and recommendations from this office to your honorable body. The plight that the Natural Gas Department is now in is pointed at as an instance of the failure of municipal ownership. Let me say, however, that in my opinion it is nothing of the kind. If the enemies of municipal ownership desire to make a point by referring to the Toledo Natural Gas Department they might establish the claim that its history proves the failure of municipal government more easily than it can be proved that it demonstrates the failure of municipal ownership. There is no general manager or superintendent or president of a private corporation who, if he were in charge of property such as the natural gas property; and he were subjected to the hindrances and limitations imposed by law on the Natural Gas Trustees in the management of his property, who could produce much better results than the Natural Gas Trustees have shown. Under such a condition, failure must be certain and inevitable for the management of any private corporation.

From the very first of my entrance into the Mayor's office, I have done my best to serve the city and have recommended from time to time such a policy with respect to the property as a life-time of practical business experience has led me to believe would place the department on a self-sustaining and paying basis; not only did I recommend such a course, but so strong was my faith in the plans that I proposed that I offered to become personally responsible for the success. Your honorable body did not agree with the policy that I advocated, and no recommendation of mine with respect to the property was carried out. During the last summer, by action of the Common Council, the property outside the city limits, the feeder and source of supply, was sold, and the money instead of being used to place the property on a paying basis, as I recommended in a former communication, and as a well-managed private corporation or individual would do, was applied to other purposes, and the Natural Gas Department was left absolutely "in the air" without any gas supply for their customers or any means of obtaining one; such a situation as the Water Works Board would be in if the river were to run dry or the supply of water were cut off by some artificial means.

A Committee of the Council has been appointed to investigate the Natural Gas Department, and it is more than probable that the report of the committee will be a statement that the property is losing money, followed with a recommendation that it be sold "to stop the loss." This is the superficial, the short-sighted, the easy way to dispose of it, and, in my mind, such a course will be contrary to the dictates of a wise, prudent, patriotic and business-like policy.

This property is worth more to the corporation of the city of Toledo than to any other corporation or individual.

If it is sold, it will be a further proof of the failure of municipal government, not of municipal ownership.

It is the duty of those who are charged with the care of the city property to manage it for the interest of all of the people.

To sell this property is to prove recreant to that duty.

Any private individual or corporation that will buy it, does not want it for the good of the people of Toledo, but rather for the profit of the few who buy it.

No individual or private corporation that will buy this property will do so with any thought of saving the city from loss; on the contrary, it will be for the very definite purpose of imposing upon the people of the city the burden of paying out as private profit the earnings of a property that is their own and that ought to be managed for their benefit.

If a private corporation or individual can hire managers to operate this property at a profit, the Common Council of the City of Toledo can hire managers who will do the same thing for the city.

If the Common Council does not do this, it will be because of a lack of desire rather than from any lack of ability or power.

Finally, my services are at your command, I am ready and willing to co-operate to make every one of these propositions good.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

I am thoroughly satisfied that the civil service or merit system of selection should be applied to all applicants for appointment to salaried positions in a city government. Such a system is a large step in advance as compared to the old plan of selection by personal favoritism or political pull. For more than three years past, the merit system has been applied to the selection of candidates for the police force, and the testimony of the chief of the department is that the introduction of the system has resulted in transforming the department from a practical hell on earth, where strife, hatred, contention and bitterness were the rule, to a measurably peaceable, orderly and harmonious organization.

I do not assume that the merit system of civil service is perfect. It has its limitations and its faults, but the advantages of its use are so conspicuously in favor of the people,

it is a measure that is so democratic, so eminently fair and just, that a very brief consideration of the question will commend it to any thoughtful person. As time goes on, we shall learn to improve even on this system. Personally, I do not believe in life tenure in office, and I would place a limit upon the term in order to provide for rotation; for it is clear to me that while the present system continues, making it absolutely necessary that there shall always be a surplus of unemployed men and women, that some shall stand out and starve while the rest feast, all of us who are patriotic ought to be willing to take our turn at the starving as well as at the feasting. A conspicuously meritorious feature in the operation of the civil service is that it relieves the appointing officers of the dreadful pressure that is brought to bear upon them to secure the selection of personal or political friends of this, that or the other one. The examination, impartially conducted, does this work of selection and, as a rule, provides better men for any service than can be provided by the old methods. In the most unequivocal way, then, I desire to recommend and stand for the application of this system to all departments as soon as possible.

STREET RAILWAY FRANCHISES.

There is no subject with which the city government of Toledo has to do that is of more importance from an economic standpoint than this one. About four years ago, the Toledo Traction Company, who are the owners of all the street railway franchises in the city of Toledo, caused to be introduced into the Common Council legislation proposing to extend all franchises for an even term of twenty-five years from that date. There was sufficient opposition to the measure to defeat it at the time, and since then no legislation has been introduced to secure an extension. In my first campaign for the office of Mayor, I set forth as a declared principle that I was against any granting of new or extension of existing franchises, and I congratulate your honorable body that during these four years you have so wisely guarded this subject in the interest of the people that there has been no granting of new, or exten-

sion of existing, street railway franchises. I most earnestly recommend to your honorable body that the same policy with respect to this subject be religiously adhered to for, at least, the next nine years to come. In about nine and a half years from January 1, 1908, the street railway franchises for Summit St., from Elm St. to Ottawa St., Ottawa St. from Summit St. to Broadway, Broadway from Ottawa St. to Colburn St., Adams St. from Summit St. to Ashland Ave., Monroe St. from Summit St. to Auburn Ave., Dorr St. from Washington St. to westerly city line, Eleventh St. from Washington St. to Monroe St., Knapp St. from Broadway to Union Depot, Ashland Ave. from Adams St. to Collingwood Ave., to Delaware Ave., to Detroit Ave., to Monroe St. (Delaware belt); Cherry St. from Bancroft St. to Summit St., Lagrange St. from westerly city line to Bancroft St. to Cherry St.; also Cherry St. Summit St. to Starr Ave. (Across the bridge and key to the East Side street railway system) will expire. This practically takes the heart of the street railway system of Toledo.

If the Council will wisely pursue the conservative policy with respect to these valuable heritages for the next nine years that has been followed during the past four—that is, if the Council will let the franchise question alone, do absolutely nothing with it, it will result in a greater economic gain for Toledo than can possibly be secured by any sort of tinkering with this question.

The growth of the population of Toledo has been phenomenal during the past decade, our increase being greater than that of any city in the United States for a population of over 100,000. It is more than probable that at the close of another decade, Toledo will have a population of more than 200,000 souls, and the most conservative estimates that I can get from men who are in a position to know place the cash value of these franchises at that time at ten to twelve million dollars. Without going into detail at all, it will thus be seen that if the Toledo Common Council will patriotically do noth-

ing with the subject of street railway franchises for the next nine years, they will, by such a policy, be making for the city one million dollars a year. This, then, is my plea; that your honorable body may not be led by any proposition of "concession" or reward to the city, in this way or that on the part of the owners of these franchises, into the vital error of in any way legislating with respect to them in the future. Such a course, I believe, is not only contrary to a wise economic policy, I believe it is worse. I believe, as I believe in my own soul, that the Council may be guilty of the worst kind of treason to their children's children to presume to bargain away privileges of this kind years in advance of the time when there is any reason for dealing with them. I cannot recommend a course to be pursued when the time comes for dealing with franchises; such a course on my part would be presumptuous; it is not called for. I am recommending a course to be pursued now, and commend in the highest possible terms the course that your honorable body has pursued with respect to these franchises during the past four years; and if you and your successors will continue it, you will deserve and receive the benedictions of generations yet unborn.

Very faithfully yours.

SAMUEL M. JONES,

Mayor.

5th ?

Mayor's Message.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF TOLEDO, OHIO.
SAMUEL M. JONES, MAYOR.

To the Honorable the Common Council, Toledo, O.

GENTLEMEN: It is now nearly five years since I have been mayor of Toledo. Following the usual custom, I have transmitted to the Common Council an annual message once in each of the preceding years. In these messages, I have called your attention to, and recommended the adoption of, such legislation and such measures and practice as seemed to me to be for the best interest of the whole of the people of our city, endeavoring to have in mind always that the city, though large and important, is only a unit in the larger bodies of the state, the nation and the world. In all of these recommendations, my thought has been to advocate such a policy as would tend to develop a more orderly, equitable and perfect system of association among us that would result in the improvement of our political and social conditions in the only way in which improvement can be brought about, namely, *through the building up of a more loyal and loving citizenship.*

PROGRESS IS THE ORDER OF NATURE.

Progress is the order of nature and a law of God, and to those who so believe, it is a comfort to realize that evidences of progress towards higher ideals in the municipal government are not wanting in a review of the history of the past few years in our city. Evidence of material growth is visible on every hand, and the most confirmed sceptic or doubter must lay aside his unbelief in the face of the marvelous record of increase in this field of 62 per cent. in population during the last decade. The hundreds of miles of suburban railroad that have made Toledo a centre within the last five years have contributed very largely to the

material prosperity of the city. The large number of manufactories of various kinds that have located here during that time have added to the industry and commerce, and furnished employment to many men and women in the manufacture mainly of useful things, and I think it is well that we remember the truth of the saying of John Ruskin, spoken more than thirty years ago, that "*The wealth of a nation can only be measured by the number of men and women that it keeps happily employed in making useful things.*" What is true of a nation is true of a city in this particular, and I am sure that the first care of every patriot should be to see that there is opportunity for all of the citizens to be thus employed.

The really most important growth cannot be registered in statistics or in figures with the dollar sign as an accompaniment. Important as the dollar is, it cannot buy patriotism; it cannot buy loyalty; it cannot buy happiness; it cannot buy love; and these are the really important elements in the development of citizenship and the making of a city and a nation. Had we a citizenship made up of men and women well grounded in these fundamental principles, we should be truly invincible.

FORMER RECOMMENDATIONS AGAIN URGED.

Among the measures of improvement in our municipal affairs that I have recommended to your body in former messages have been: A new charter providing for home rule free from state interference; a new city building with central plaza on the plot of ground bounded by Ontario, Michigan, Adams and Madison streets; a commission on a new charter; municipal ownership of all public utilities. Riper experience has served to emphasize and confirm the convictions expressed in all of these recommendations.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

In my first and every succeeding message, I have been a persistent advocate of municipal ownership of all public utilities. I stand to-day more ardently for that policy than ever before, and I see no hope of improvement in our political relation except as we shall develop a love and patriotism that will lead us to trust

each other and to find pleasure in doing the business of the city that is now carried on by private companies ourselves, for the good of all of the people, with *private profit* eliminated.

Distrust of Municipal Ownership is distrust of Government. To distrust the ability of the city to manage water works, electric and gas lighting, telephones, schools, street paving, cleaning and repair, sewer building, heating plants, parks, public baths, playgrounds, etc., and to say that the city can run some of these and furnish the service to the people at cost, but that it cannot so manage others, and that they must be run by private persons for the sake of *private profit* is distrusting ourselves, distrusting humanity itself, and, indeed we can never successfully manage any public service or any branch of it until we first learn to believe that we are able to do so; learn, indeed, to believe in each other.

UNBELIEF THE ONLY OBSTACLE.

Infidelity then is the only obstacle in the way of successful city government. The man who stands with his face to the wall and decries all effort to awaken the social instinct, constantly distrusting his fellowmen and the government that they have builded, he is the infidel that more than all others hinders the progress of the race toward Equality, Liberty and Fraternity.

PATRIOTISM AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

With singular inconsistency, we hear many of the opponents of collective ownership declaiming loudly of their love and patriotism for the national government, but ever decrying what they call "our corrupt municipal governments." This is equivalent to saying that the people are competent to select their national officials, few of whom they ever see or know, but they are not competent to select their neighbors to administer the affairs of the local government. Or it is equal to saying that a million gallons of water taken from a lake is purer than a pint taken from the million gallons. It is clear that if there are corruption and poison germs in the pint, the million gallons are affected with the same poison in the same proportion. The best way to get pure water,

then, is to go to a pure source of supply, and pure government can only be had by the same slow and painful processes.

POISON IN OUR GOVERNMENT.

The poison in our government, municipal, state and national, is partyism, or the spirit that seeks to run every department of government for the benefit of the party or the few, instead of seeking to carry it on for the good of all. The poison of partyism is rapidly disappearing from our municipal politics and will disappear last from national politics, for this reason—the best and purest example of government that we have to-day is in our municipalities; for, imperfect as they are, there is less of the poison of separateness than in the state and national government.

GOVERNMENT NOT OF FORCE, BUT OF SERVICE.

The only justification that can be offered for the right of a government to exist and to levy taxes upon the people to pay its expenses is that it makes conditions of life easier and better for the people than they could possibly be without it. Its mission then is to *serve* rather than to rule by force, and it is valuable only in proportion as it is the servant of the people to help them to better living.

THEY ARE GOVERNED BEST WHO ARE GOVERNED LEAST.

Many students of the subject of social reiation have repeated this dictum, but it is true only where there is the old conception of government, that it is an instrument of coercion, that its business is to *force* the people to do something that they do not want to do. This delusion has, all along the ages, barred the progress of the race toward liberty, and the mission of the Twentieth Century will be to transform the machinery of government from an elaborate institution now largely employed to exercise force upon the weak, the poor and the defenseless, into an institution whose sole purpose will be to *serve* and to serve all. When we reach that stage of social and political development, the institution of government will be known as "The institution of the dear love of comrades." All of the hope—the only hope of the race must lie

in the cultivation of that spirit of brotherhood that will bring us to see that we are not fighters but friends; that, as President McKinley said in his last and greatest speech, "Our interest lies in concord not in conflict."

A NEW CITY HALL.

I believe that the subject of a new city hall is one worthy to engage the thoughtful attention of the Common Council and our citizens in general as well. There is a real dignity underlying the idea of democratic equality to which our system of government is committed. We are all equals only at the ballot box as yet, but we must actualize the idea of equality, and there is no way that we can better do this than by enlarging the scope of common ownership, and a suitable building in which to carry on the city's business will, I am sure, make a large contribution to the civic pride and to the development of the spirit of patriotism wherein, as I have already said, lies our hope. Toledo should not occupy rented quarters beyond the term of the present lease. I believe the responsibility is upon your honorable body now to meet this question and dispose of it. I would recommend the enactment of a law allowing the addition of a sum to the tax levy that would yield sufficient revenue to create a sinking fund so that this building might be erected without saddling upon the people that *curse of modern civilization*, a bond issue, which is, in fact, only a device of the devil to secure the payment of the same debt over and over and over again.

THE BOND EVIL.

A striking example of the bond evil is found in the case of the Cherry street bridge bonds. The first issue was Sept. 6, 1893, 30 years, interest at 5 per cent., \$225,000.

These bonds were refunded April 1, 1899.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Interest on \$225,000, 17 years, 7 months at 5 | |
| per cent | \$175,312 50 |
| \$25,000 were added to the original issue at the | |
| time of refund, making the amount \$250,000, | |
| 30 years, at 4 per cent. | |
| Interest on the refund for full time 30 years. | 300,000 00 |
| Bonds | 250,000 00 |
| Total interest and bonds, 45 years, 7 months. | \$725,312 50 |

This finely illustrates the folly—the stupidity, in fact—of the argument that future generations ought to bear the burdens of what is called “permanent improvements,” such as this bridge. The theory is entirely fallacious. Future generations will have “permanent improvements” of their own to look after, and when we are wise we shall learn to pay our debts once, giving up the bond luxury that now provides a way for us to pay them several times over.

The total bonded debt of the City of Toledo, according to the Auditor's report, is now \$6,106,918.55, and the total annual interest charged amounts to \$266,987.60, or 21 per cent. of the total revenue. The total expense of the city for the year 1901, including interest, was about \$1,260,000.

The total number of employes in all departments of the city, including the average employed on the streets, is 1,299. Per capita cost on estimated population, \$8.40.

Assessed valuation, 1901, real.....\$49,410,580 00

Assessed valuation, 1901, personal..... 14,658,830 00

Total\$64,060 410 00

THE NEW CHARTER.

Our liberties can only be enlarged in this particular by repealing the laws. I have repeatedly called attention to that confused jumble of conflicting, incongruous and contradictory lot of regulations, known as “The Revised Statutes of Ohio,” enacted by well-intentioned men for the purpose of aiding in the government of Ohio cities, but, in effect, the most of them are a hindrance to rational service for the people. This condition must continue so long as the motive of much of the legislation is merely to secure party advantage, and that will be its motive so long as party rules us.

PARTYISM THE ENEMY OF PROGRESS.

Within a few days, we had the amazing spectacle in the Ohio Legislature of the minority party, in order to carry a point, agreeing to block all of the legislation providing appropriations for the state institutions, such legislation requiring a two-thirds vote. That an intelligent body of men, elected to *serve* their fellows in

the Legislature, should take such a stand almost passes comprehension; but it is not so remarkable as was the attitude of the majority party who, acting upon the principle that two wrongs make one right, then declared through its mouthpiece, the speaker, that the majority party would obstruct the passage of any measure, no matter what it might be, that was introduced by a member of the minority party; and, of course, the majority having the bigger club, the weaker party succumbed.

I feel it my duty to call attention to this striking example illustrative of the utter hopelessness of any good coming out of the party system of doing the public business. *Partyism and patriotism cannot abide together.* The bright star of promise that gives us encouragement to hope for better administration of the people's affairs in city government is the rapid decay of the party system, is the awakening of the consciences of men to the fact that *each individual soul is, and of a right ought to be, free at all times*, untrammelled and unhindered by any sort of bossism or party dictatorship, and a new charter that will confer upon Ohio cities the right to govern themselves without interference from Columbus, that will abolish all laws providing for "party primaries," "party conventions," and all laws that in any way recognize the party idea at all, will be the greatest kind of a blessing to our cities and the greatest contribution to the cause of patriotism that the Legislature can possibly confer.

THE DEPARTMENTS.

I should not be true to myself nor to the education that has come to me during my five years' occupancy of this office, if I were to bestow special praise upon any particular department, and I should be untrue to myself, on the other hand, if I did not *speak in praise-worthy terms of them all.* I do not mean to say that their work cannot be improved, but far and above any defective, faulty or dishonest work on the part of any city official, come before me the examples of faithful, unremitting devotion and loyalty to duty and determination to serve the people to the very best of their ability; so that the defective work of individuals is, by comparison, relegated to obscurity. In former messages, I have said that the "man about town," or the "elementary schoolmen

of politics," were free to criticise what they choose to call "corrupt councilmen and officials," but they know little or nothing of the subjects of their criticisms. No one, who has not himself had the experience, knows anything of the sacrifice of time and the trial of one's nerves and temper that come into the experiences of a councilman or alderman, and my belief is that the men who fill these places are, almost without exception, first inspired to seek them because they believed they could do some good to their fellowmen; and this is true of the men who fill all the unsalaried positions in the city government, and as far as I know, it is also true of those who fill the salaried ones, with the single exception of the office of mayor, concerning which I may not be considered competent to speak.

CITY GOVERNMENT AS GOOD AS THE CITY.

If we who are disposed to criticise and find fault will bear in mind that the city government must be as good as the city, and if there is any fault or defect all of the people are to blame, that we certainly have the measure of liberty that will allow us to have any kind of government that we (all of us) want—good government, indifferent government, bad government or no government—it may help us to understand the uselessness and folly of mere fault-finding. All of the hope for better conditions must rest upon the thought that every man and woman will be true to the highest and best impulse and, in matters of principle, stand like a rock. In this way, we shall realize the ideals of equality to which our government is committed and for which humanity is ever longing.

POLICE COURT.

When I say that I desire to speak well of the officials of all departments, that includes the officials of the police court. So far as I understand the purposes of the officials of this department, all of the good that I have said of others is true of them. I believe that from judge to bailiff, they are conscientious men, honestly trying to serve their fellows.

What I say with regard to this department is not inspired because of my disbelief in the theory that punishment prevents

crime nor because of any personal opinions regarding the officials of our police court, but solely from the standpoint of business economy. I recommend that the legislature be requested to pass an act abolishing the police court in Toledo. I do this for the same reason that your honorable body has taken steps to abolish the office of city infirmary director. The business transacted in this court amounts to but very little at most, rarely ever taking more than a very small fraction of the time of the officials, and it becomes practically a sinecure, a place with salary without an opportunity for service to earn it. What little service there is called for can easily be done by the city courts, as much of their time is unoccupied. The officials of these courts will be better for having something to do, and those now engaged in the police court will be released so that they may occupy themselves with some useful service. Incidentally, this will effect a saving of over \$7,000.00 per year; but more important than this is the fact that it will be a step tending to give men an opportunity to seek useful employment, and a society or government that provides places where there is a salary without service is just as certainly cursed by the policy as is the individual who draws it.

STREET RAILWAY FRANCHISES.

The Common Council is deserving of commendation for the wisdom shown during the past five years in letting the question of street railway franchises entirely alone, there having been no extension of time of any existing franchises or grant of any new ones, extending the time during that period. If your successors are equally wise for the next five years, I am sure that policy will be altogether the best for the city, as we shall then be within about three years of the time of the

EXPIRATION OF IMPORTANT STREET RAILWAY FRANCHISES.

There will then be ample time to dispose of the question, and if the city is not ready to undertake the municipal ownership and operation of the street railways (which policy I always urge as a first proposition) they can then be sold to the highest bidder, or rather to the bidder who will carry passengers at the lowest rate of fare,

and judging from the eagerness with which capital is seeking this sort of investment, the franchises can readily be disposed of on a basis that will give the people at least a

STRAIGHT THREE CENT FARE AND UNIVERSAL TRANSFERS,

with a possible premium on the side. Permit me to add that universal transfers should mean transfer from one to any car running in the same general direction in the streets of the city, whether a city car or a suburban. The people know the cars are using their streets and they should be free to use the cars by paying one fare without asking who owns the car.

The effort on the part of the Council at this time to lighten the burdens of the people in this particular is commendable and will have the approval of all thoughtful people.

THE LICENSE SYSTEM.

The system of raising revenue by license or direct tax upon industry, that is now in vogue in our city, is an outrageous injustice, in the first place, and much of it is very probably without even the backing of a law to sustain it, but owing to the fact that the people who are mainly oppressed by it are poor, it has stood for some years without question. Nevertheless, we ought to be ready to put a stop to injustice whenever we have the ability to do so, and I sincerely hope that the Common Council will repeal all of these laws which levy a direct tax upon the poor, without forcing them to fight expensive law suits through the courts. The constitution of the state provides that "All property in Ohio shall be returned for taxation at its true value in money." This indicates clearly the source from which the various branches of government should derive revenue, and our license system is in direct violation of this principle as well as of the plainest principle of common justice.

THE WHEEL TAX.

I regard the wheel tax as little short of infamy. The idea that thousands of men and women, boys and girls, who work for small wages and strive to economize by using bicycles to go to and from their work, many of them making great sacrifices to get pos-

session of even a cheap wheel, and that these must yet be subjected to a tax for the privilege of riding their wheels is a wrong and a shame. Let us make amends, as far as we can, by repealing the law. Of course, bicycles and wagons and vehicles of all kinds are "property," and when they have once been returned for taxation, according to the provision of the constitution, that should end the matter. If they have not been returned, that is the fault of the assessor presumably, or is due to the delinquency of the tax inquisitor.

THE HUCKSTER LICENSE

Is a direct tax on the poor. Only the poorer classes of people patronize hucksters; the rich and well-to-do mainly go to the telephone and "order" their supplies from the grocer. The tax of fifty dollars that is levied upon each huckster must be added to the price of his vegetables and fruits, and this becomes another method of shifting the expense of government on to the backs of those least able to bear it.

THE SECOND-HAND STORE LICENSE.

Can any one give any righteous reason why a man should pay a special tax for the privilege of selling old clothes, old furniture, old books, old trunks and old stoves? I know of no reason, and I believe the main one that makes this tax collectable at all is the fact that the people who pay it are poor and cannot resist it.

THE FORTUNE-TELLING LICENSE.

Does the City of Toledo want to go into the fortune-telling business? If the business is wrong and there is anything in the theory of regulation by law, it should be prohibited. The effect of the tax of one hundred dollars is to make a monopoly of it and to allow the city to share the profits.

THE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS.

To tax a man one hundred dollars for finding jobs for his fellow men seems to me to be pretty close to the category of crime, with the City of Toledo as the chief criminal. I am sure that I know of nothing more worthy that a man can do for others than

to help a man or woman who wants work to find work, and yet we tax this sort of business and squeeze the hard-earned dollars out of the very poorest of the poor—the men and women who want work and cannot find work are driven to the extremity of seeking an employment agency for assistance. And *ten dollars* for the privilege of “emptying and cleaning privy vaults!” God have mercy on our conception of a just way to raise revenue!

To make a long story short, I do not believe that there is a single item in the whole license ordinance that has the support of any proper conception of just dealing, with the possible exception of the tax on circusses and theatres, and I would gladly vote to abolish every single one of them with these exceptions.

STREET SIGNS.

Our city is shamefully neglected in the matter of street signs, and if I had the same liberty as mayor that I have as manager of a private business, I would buy the material, have the street signs made and put up, doing all the work by the day labor plan. The Council can authorize the street committee or the city civil engineer or the mayor or any other official to do this. It is the way any of us would do it, if we were working for ourselves. Why not do it that way?

THE GARBAGE.

The garbage ought to be collected and burned, the city doing the work on the day labor plan. This is the position I took when I vetoed the present contract. Our experience with the contract is all the argument needed against further trifling with the city's comfort and health by inviting a repetition of the experience through another contract. Let us take care of our own garbage by the day labor plan, then we can be just to ourselves, and, in some measure, just to the men who do the work.

THE PARK DEPARTMENT.

No department of our city has contributed more largely to that civic pride and patriotism or love of the whole, out of which only good citizenship can grow, than has the park department during the past five years. The sense of common ownership that one feels through visiting the parks is the highest inspiration to

the right kind of development, and our city is keeping fully abreast of the times in this particular. Lack of funds is the only hindrance to making the parks more beautiful and more useful. It is sincerely to be hoped that the funds will be provided so that the work of improvement on the boulevard system may go forward. This work has been done thus far on a high moral plane with the *good of all* as the main question to be considered. It has been carried forward on the day labor plan, with eight hours for a day's work, and the minimum of \$1.50 for pay. This is little enough, we are all aware, and it is a comfort to reflect that there is no margin of profit between the city and the laborer.

MUNICIPAL SLEIGHRIDES.

So far as I know, our city is the only one that has undertaken the cultivation of patriotism among the children through giving them municipal sleighrides. Thousands of children in every city, who never knew the joy and delight of a sleighride at all, and thousands more who only get one at the risk of life and limb by "catching on" will, I am sure, appreciate what the city has done for them through the park department in this particular, and there will be found in them the seeds of a better citizenship because of this service. More than eight thousand school children enjoyed a sleighride at public expense, the park department teams being used for this service.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

According to the testimony of the chief, who has been at the head of this department for ten years, and many of the older patrolmen, the police department of Toledo is in better condition to-day than ever before. I have spoken of this matter in former messages, and merely repeat that the improvement is due to the elimination from the department of that bane of our civilization party politics. There is less jealousy, envy, rancor and strife, and I think it can truly be said that the general purpose of the organization, as a whole, is to do its best to serve the people of the city.

If statistics or comparison with other cities or any other standard that I know of is a safe guide, there is as little crime, as little disorder, as little trespassing on the rights of others in To-

ledo as in any other city of its size on the continent. Partisan politics in this department is ancient history, as it is very largely, indeed, in all the departments. The commissioners, as far as I have been able to judge, have tried to serve the city from the standpoint of men rather than from that of partisans.

THE BUILDING INSPECTOR.

For several years, efforts have been carried on to create a new department under the above head, and more than a year ago I sought to concur with the Council to fill the offices created by the ordinance. In this I was unsuccessful, my appointments, which were chosen in the best way that I knew—by the merit system—being rejected. I am now strongly of the opinion that no building inspector is needed. The old law provides that the mayor, city civil engineer and the chief of the fire department should constitute a board of inspection with all needed power to properly safeguard the interests of the people, and I am sure that our liberties will not be enlarged by the making of more offices: on the contrary, our effort should be to make less offices and make more work for the many we now have, as I have already suggested. I believe the board as formerly constituted can do the work better than it could be done under the building ordinance, without adding another burden of expense to the city.

WATER WORKS.

The Toledo water works is a municipally owned property in which the citizens pretty generally feel a just measure of pride. As a rule, I believe it is conceded that this property has been economically and well managed from the start. The supply of water has been abundant and the price low, and the financial statement that the department sets forth is the best sort of argument that can be presented in favor of municipal ownership. The one drawback connected with it is the fact that the water is not clean at all seasons of the year. The water works department have had under consideration, from time to time, the question of a better and purer water supply, and this question is one that before very long must be met and disposed of. While the general health of the city indicates that our supply is reasonably free from poison-

ous germs, we know that with each year there is an addition to the amount of filth that is thrown into the stream, besides the fact that during a large part of the year the water is actually unfit for bathing purposes on account of the mud that flows into the stream during the rainy season.

The question of going to the lake for water supply has been canvassed for many years, the main objection in the way being the enormous cost. A plan that has been recommended at other times is for the city to maintain and keep clean the canal from Toledo to the dam above Grand Rapids and provide suitable settling beds and system of filtration, and in this way getting the water from a point that is above a good deal of the contamination. It is believed that in this way a pure supply of water could be had, and, in addition, it could be used to furnish the power necessary to do the pumping; at any rate, it is clear that to send the water down on to the pumps from an elevation of sixty or seventy feet would be a great help over lifting the water from the river bed, as is now practiced.

It seems to me that these suggestions that have been made by observing and thoughtful men, some of them engineers of experience, should be well considered, and that our citizens should endeavor to reach a conclusion as to some method of permanent improvement for the water works within a very few years. I would recommend that the board of water works commissioners employ a hydraulic engineer of experience to consider this proposition and make a recommendation concerning it. The plan seems to me to be eminently worthy most thoughtful consideration.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Toledo has had several disastrous fires during the past year, and there has been some disposition to criticise the department. It is a pleasure to say in regard to this, as I have said of other departments that it is fully equal to the best, and that disastrous as our fires have been, the fires that have occurred in other cities all around us have been far more appalling. On the whole, I think that we can feel that our interests are in safe hands. The men of the Toledo fire department, the commissioners who have

charge of the affairs, are looking carefully after the city's welfare, and no reasonable protection that can safeguard it further is being neglected.

THE NON-PARTISAN BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I congratulate the people of Toledo that the non-partisan board of education has been saved to them. It is fitting and proper that this board should lead in all that tends towards the development of a rational governmental life, and a most encouraging sign of the times is the unanimity of public sentiment in favor of supporting the Niles Bill, which made the non-partisan board of education possible and which was recently attacked in the courts. When all partisan politics is a thing of the past and all boards and departments are non-partisan, then will begin the dawn of the real democracy, the reign of the people, the high and holy mission for which America is destined; then the good of all the people will sing us to our work, and partyism and hatred and strife and war will be unknown. We shall be a nation of friends, and who shall measure our productivity and good cheer?

Very sincerely yours,

S. M. JONES, Mayor.

Toledo, Ohio, February 24th. 1902.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

SAMUEL M. JONES, MAYOR.

FOREWORD.

Listen to me in love, as I shall speak to you in love. My words are words of conviction, matured by long years of study, of experience, and of sorrow. The duties which I point out to you, I have striven, and shall strive while I live, to fulfill as far as I have the power. I may err, but my error is not of the heart. I may deceive myself, but I will not deceive you. Listen to me, then, fraternally; judge freely among yourselves whether I speak truth or error. If it seem to you that I speak error, leave me, but follow me and act according to my teachings, if you believe me an apostle of the truth. To err is a misfortune and deserving of commiseration; but to know the truth and fail to regulate our actions according to its teachings is a crime condemned alike by heaven and earth. * * * My voice may sound too harsh, and I may too severely insist on proclaiming the necessity of virtue and sacrifice; but I know, and you, too—untainted by false doctrine and unspoiled by wealth—will soon know also, that the sole origin of every right is in a duty fulfilled.—Joseph Mazzini, on the Duties of Man.

MARCH 2, 1903

To the Common Council, Toledo, Ohio.

GENTLEMEN:—In preparing my sixth annual message, I am impressed with the importance of one thing, that is, that it shall embody the lessons of my experience as mayor during the last six years; through this I have learned that better government is easily within our reach, and the first step towards it is to leave the

party system of selecting candidates, I, therefore, address myself to the study of that topic, referring those who are interested in the state of the finances, the vital statistics, etc., to the annual reports of the auditor, the board of health and the heads of the various departments.

So many have asked me if I am to be a candidate for this office at the next election that I answer here in the most public way and set forth my thoughts on the subject of nomination—a subject of first importance. *I certainly do not want to be a candidate for any office and only a call from the people loud enough to prove that it is my plain duty to stand again for election, will lead me to do so.* In the event of such a call, I should have no right to refuse to yield to the petitions of the people virtually asking me to stand for a principle that I have steadfastly advocated as a distinct step forward in government—the right and duty of nomination by petition. I would be true to duty and become a candidate regardless of results or any personal consideration; for I have learned that “highest duty and chief joy” are one and the same thing, and I would as cheerfully face “ignominious defeat” as I would go to certain victory. The question of who were in the field as candidates representing the party method would have absolutely no influence on my decision.

A GREAT PRINCIPLE.

I am standing for a great principle—that it is the right and duty of every citizen to aid in the selection of candidates, and the duty of the candidate to be free from the dominance of party machines. I have never been a candidate until I was made one by a force that neither I nor any other man nor “organization” controlled, and I believe the custom of “announcing” one’s self as a candidate, without a call from the people, is “office seeking” (and the office should seek the man, not the man the office), and con-

trary to the highest conception of manhood, and with the custom of delegating the selection of candidates to party machines is a serious defect of our political practice. Both are a heritage of the elementary party system, and the hope that I can do more hereafter to free myself and others from the slavery of partyism AS A MAN than I can as a mayor, is the main reason why I wish to go out of office. To this work the best efforts of my life are committed, and as I count it the highest privilege of our citizenship to work for the American ideal of democracy and the equal brotherhood of all men, this desire must not be taken to mean that I desire to retire from Life, as I shall always be IN politics and OUT of parties, as a patriot and lover of the whole, a hater of none. Love is the only force that can make for the betterment of individuals, cities or nations. "A new commandment I give you that you love one another."

DO THE RIGHT THING.

Three thousand years ago Solomon wrote that "Righteousness (which is simply doing right), exalteth a nation, but sin (wrong doing) is a reproach to any people." It is as true today as then.

In a government of equals, a democracy, the people will do the right thing; they will choose their own candidates. They will not and cannot expect the individual to become an office seeker, and "announce" himself, or passively delegate this most important duty to any "organization" or political machine, or to any select few; such an act strikes at the very root of self-government, robbing democracy of its character as a government of majorities and converting it into an aristocracy, a government of the few. Under the party system, not one candidate in a hundred is the spontaneous choice of the people and cannot be, but is rather the choice of one or the other political machines. It is our fault; don't blame the boss or the machine.

So long as the individual citizen fails to express his best self and do his whole duty, both in the selection of candidates and in the discharge of every other responsibility of citizenship in the interest of the society of which he is a part, just so long shall we be governed by the political machines, the few, the aristocracy of our day, and we shall not be a self-governing people until, at least, a majority awaken to the privileges that are ours for the taking, and take them. Our neglect to do this is the cause of every form of failure that afflicts our government, municipal, state and national; it is the failure of the individual citizen to stand alone as a free, self-owning man, and, without such a citizenship, no mere machinery of laws nor "New Municipal Code" can give us political peace or secure social justice.

THE POISON OF PARTYISM.

I believe that partyism is destructive of the nobler impulses of the soul, that it enslaves millions of men who are born to be free, that they can never be politically free while they "belong" to something outside of themselves, that it makes hypocrites, pretenders and haters of men in whom the divine impulse is planted, that, if given free course, will bring them to realize that they are comrades, lovers and brothers; and with all the earnestness of my soul *I plead with this Common Council, and with all coming Councils, and with the people of Toledo, the state and the nation*, that we shall emancipate ourselves from further slavery to this monumental fraud and outrage upon every rational conception of social relation, the party system in our politics. Too long, far too long, have we been its dupes and slaves. We are men; we are brothers and lovers, not haters; we are patriots, not partisans. Let us so live and so act, always remembering that *patriotism and partyism cannot abide together*, for "No man can serve two masters."

NO HOPE IN WAR.

I am utterly unable to see how ten millions of years of organizing men into hostile bands for the purpose of making warfare on each other with the end to be sought, the capture of the offices of government, in order that they may be run for the benefit of the "party in power," is to give us anything but a continuance of the failure to secure those conditions of political peace and social justice for which all patriots are earnestly striving and all partisans, as such, are seeking to make impossible.

"Men think there are circumstances when one can deal with human beings without love, and there are no such circumstances."
—Tolstoi.

BRIGHT FUTURE IS OURS.

My heart is big with expectancy of the glorious future that I see ahead for city, state and nation, each day becoming more united, and only separated politically by a flimsy system of partyism that even now is gasping for breath.

For a century and a quarter, our nation has been committed to the declaration that "All men are created equal," and on that foundation we are building our political structure. It is plain that to secure peace and good order in our society, our laws, customs and usages must be absolutely true to this declaration for the city, the state or the nation to violate this principle is to permit injustice in the body politic, and injustice in the government is like poison in its effect in the physical body,—it causes pain, distress, disease and, unless counteracted with an antidote, in the end, death.

Justice is the only antidote for injustice, and
Right is the only cure for wrong.

So long, then, as there is the slightest injustice in our law or customs, we shall have political failure and social unrest, and w

deserve to have, for we are violating a law of nature and a law of God. It is the law of unity, the law of equality, the law of harmony.

For 125 years, and for the first time in history, the people of America have been striving to establish a democracy, a just social order where there is neither king nor serf, master nor man, but a brotherhood of equals, a nation of free, self-owning men calling no man master, for "One is your master even God"; each one knowing the right and doing the right, not from fear or hope of reward, or for profit or advantage, but because he has seen the beauty of right-doing and the peace and joy that follow. What a mission is ours! America is destined to develop a veritable kingdom of heaven on earth.

Our party system of politics is an outrage on the divine idea of unity and equality; it is a system that seeks to divide rather than to unite; to separate rather than to bind together; it is autocratic not democratic; it acknowledges "bosses," and a "boss" is only another name for a political king. There is no place for any sort of a tyrant in a democracy, and no tyranny is more degrading than servitude to king party.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The political situation in Toledo today is a striking commentary on the fraud and impotency of the party system of politics. For more than a century our government, municipal, state and national, has been the victim of partyism, and so completely are the people enslaved by its superstitions, traditions and precedents that great masses of them still believe that "parties" are a necessary part of our system, but the proportion of those who believe this is steadily growing less, and, as the spirit of liberty and democracy permeates the mass, the day is hastening when the people will throw aside the chains that bind

them to a system of hatred, and they will learn to look upon each other, not as partisans, but as men and brothers, and reorganize their government on a basis of enduring friendship and love.

The spirit of partyism is the curse that more than any other one thing hinders the progress of the city, the state and the nation toward a rational and business-like administration of its public affairs. That the whole theory of it is an unblushing fraud, the experience of Toledo during the last four years, and especially the political situation that exists today, proves beyond the cavil of a doubt, and there is no duty more clearly imposed upon me than that I present this situation to the people as faithfully as I can in the hope of making some small contribution to our emancipation from the hopeless strife and hatred of partyism, and of aiding the growth of the holier spirit of patriotism.

For example: The claim is made by many men that if nominated, my election is a foregone conclusion. I do not make this claim, but others do; if it is true—and it does not seem to be generally questioned—then it is a fact that is full of meaning for every thoughtful man and woman. During the last four years I have three times “carried the vote” of this city, once as an independent and twice as a man without a party, in two campaigns as a candidate for the office of mayor, and in one as a candidate for that of governor. In view of the general admission that if I am a candidate for mayor at the next election I shall be elected, I ask these well-meaning citizens who call me a “demagogue” and the doctrines for which I stand “dangerous,” are the majority whose votes are necessary to secure my election also “demagogues” and the supporters of dangerous doctrines? If you answer affirmatively, then I say your belief is not in a democratic, but rather in an aristocratic form of government; it is not in majority, but in minority rule; not in the many but in the few; it is in the minority that dominates and always will where partyism and the “caucus rule” prevail.

GOVERNMENT OF THE GOLDEN RULE.

Still further, I ask that you give the reasons why, in your opinion, the people are ready to vote for me? No one charges that it is because of the existence of a "Jones machine." Nor will my warmest admirers explain it on the score of my ability as an executive. I am painfully conscious of my lack of ability, and often mourn my want of that essential genius for detail, that marks the competent executive. The only reasonable explanation, then, must be found in the fact that people believe in an ideal, and that ideal is a political and social order in which men shall associate themselves on a basis of the justice of the Golden Rule, and however imperfectly I may have done so, they believe that I have stood for such an ideal. They know that that ideal can never be realized by fighting and warfare. These I have steadfastly been against in season and out of season. All of the varying forms of hatred are repugnant to my soul, as they are to the soul of humanity, for "Hatred ceaseth not by hatred; hatred ceaseth only by love." It is, then, because I have striven to stand for the doctrine of love and reason or against the doctrine of hatred and superstition in our politics that the people stand ready to endorse love as the high and holy ideal for which we should strive, and love has always had, and always will have, their hearts and their affections.

A COMPARISON OF METHODS.

It has been well said that the people of Toledo are the stockholders in a great corporation, and the officers they elect are charged with the care and management of a vast property. This suggests the query: Suppose that the stockholders of the Lake Shore railroad or the Standard Oil Company or any large business corporation were to organize themselves into hostile bands in order that at each recurring election they might make war on each other, with the end to be sought, the capture of the offices and property of the company in order to run it for the benefit of the "party in power," where is the man so simple as not to know that the result would be the devastation of the property and the bankruptcy and ruin of the company? Yet this is the system that we pursue in our politics, municipal, state and national, fool-

ishly indulging the hope that "the next election," a "new party" or a "new law" or a "new set of officers," pledged and mortgaged to work for the "party in power," is to afford relief. We forget that the first business of partisan officials is to so manage the affairs of government as to perpetuate themselves and the "party in power," and only incidentally does it become possible for the partisan official to serve the people; however much the patriotic impulse may be struggling within him, his first duty is always to the machine that nominated him and thus made his election possible, *for only the machine can aid him to secure the further honor of a higher office*—such are the ethics of partyism.

AMERICA'S COMING MAN.

We have passed the childhood period of our national life, and as we progress toward maturity we shall have a clearer understanding of the divine mission to which America is committed, and we will adopt a political system under which growth and improvement are possible: and it is possible only as the party system is superseded by a patriotic system. The people of every political division of this city now have the power, if they have the will, to select and nominate their own candidates by petition without the intervention of any sort of a political machine.

A person nominated as a candidate by the publicly circulated petition becomes the candidate of **THE PEOPLE**, owing allegiance to them only.

A person nominated by the "caucus," "primary," "delegate," "convention machine plan," becomes the candidate of **THE PARTY**, and is expected to be loyal first to the "organization" that has "honored him."

Hence we see the impossibility of the task that confronts the partisan in office; at best, it is a case of allegiance divided between the people and the party, and in the name of loyalty to party, the interests of the people are left to suffer.

Under the working of the party system, with its aristocratic machinery of delegated power, and that crowning infamy, the "caucus rule," through which men barter their souls for a "mess of pottage," the masses are the helpless puppets of "designing poli-

ticians;" but sad as is this truth, it is yet more sad, a little later on, to contemplate these same soul-sellers, after the society that they have betrayed has spewed them out as "weighed in the balance and found wanting," and they in turn have become the bruised and beaten victims of their own ignorance and stupidity.

THE NEW MUNICIPAL CODE.

In some particulars, the new municipal code enlarges our privileges and provides for a measure of improvement in municipal government; there are others in which it is sadly defective. The autocratic idea of ruling the city from Columbus mars the law, and only as future legislatures shall eliminate that feature will the municipality be free to go forward to higher ideals.

HOME RULE.

Home rule for Ohio cities is to be realized in the future. The new code provides for very little more of that spirit than was possible under the old jumbled laws which it supersedes.

The provision that under various contingencies the governor of Ohio shall administer the affairs of the cities shows plainly that the aristocratic notion of government still holds the public mind and democracy must wait patiently until, under the influence of the spirit of liberty, future generations shall be free from the hindrance of partisan politics and awaken to the real meaning of self-government. The governor of Michigan or Wisconsin or the governor-general of Canada, for the matter of that, is probably as well qualified to appoint officials for a city of Ohio as the governor of Ohio; indeed, the provision that, under certain circumstances, "the governor shall appoint" officials for Ohio cities is such a plain outrage on home rule that it would be laughable if it were not pitiful, for every one of intelligence knows that the governor's only means of knowing whom to appoint would be to consult the local machine, and in naming the men, his part would be merely the perfunctory one of approving the selection of that machine.

The most unblushing violation of the right of self-government is the provision of the code that if one-third of the council withhold their approval of the mayor's appointments, Ohio cities are denied the right of governing themselves, and are to be gov-

erned from Columbus through appointments nominally made by the governor, but really by the local machine.

THE INFAMY OF PARTYISM.

This is one of the infamies of the party system of politics, and to change the party name would not improve it in the least, and we may expect this sort of failure in the public service until patriotism shall have risen superior to partyism and the people are free from a self-inflicted slavery.

In providing for a single councilmanic board, the code has taken a step in the right direction. Anything that simplifies the machinery is, of course, on the right line, as it is making progress toward that time when it will be so simplified that government of force will be at an end, and our highest ambition will be the desire to serve best.

CITY PRINTING.

The hand of "business" is plainly visible in that provision of the code that the city printing, which is now let to the newspaper of the city making the lowest bid, must hereafter be done "in two newspapers of opposite politics," and in cities having a German population, such as Toledo, it must be printed in a German paper. It is also provided that where "there is no bid," it must be paid for at the "legal rate;" as the legal rate is \$1.00 per square and the city is now paying 23 cents, it will be seen that this legislation is to certainly increase the cost of the city printing threefold, as it actually makes it compulsory that the work that is now done in one paper must be done in three. Competition is also shut out, as there is but one "Democratic" daily and but one German daily. This law will increase the cost of the city printing anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year, with absolutely no corresponding benefit to the taxpayers; and this is another of the sad results of "partyism."

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

The creation of the department of public safety, placing the police and fire departments under one management, is a step toward simplicity, and once in good working order the result will be an improved public service. With these two depart-

ments under one management, it will be possible to secure a degree of co-operation that could not be had under former conditions; and without attempting to go into detail, leaving that wholly to those who shall hereafter be in charge of this work, I suggest that sometime in the future it will be found that the work of these departments can be so combined as to greatly increase the efficiency, and at the same time provide for improved conditions of living for the members of the department, for instance, when we are inspired by faith in each other; when we learn to believe in men, and to work together for the good of all, it requires no stretch of the imagination to see established in every fire station a sort of industrial center, where the men of the department can have employment during eight hours in the making of useful and beautiful things; at the same time they will be prepared to respond immediately to any emergency call, whether a fire alarm or whatever it might be, and with the departments so combined there would be many conspicuous advantages. The men would be free from the curse of cankering idleness, on the one hand, and the slavery of being on duty 21 hours out of 24 hours, on the other, and instead they would have the regular eight-hour day with the privilege of being usefully employed. Then the work could be subdivided so as to allow for the change of employment that is so necessary to add zest and interest to life. Another conspicuous advantage would be that, in cases of great emergency where additional help was needed, the men could be massed; in short, both departments could be, and should be, and sometime will be, made one; but it will be after partyism has ceased to make us blind to our real interests, and patriotism and love for each other have made us one.

MORE LIBERTY AND LESS LAW.

It is my belief that if these two departments were under the management of any competent man who was free from the slavery of the law and had the liberty which is allowed to general managers of large corporations, the reform that I suggest would be practically wrought out and applied inside of a twelve-month to the great economic advantage of the city and to the exceeding great joy of the members of the fire department and their

families, who are robbed of the companionship of husbands, fathers and brothers by the exacting demands of the barbarous system under which that work is now carried on. The fact of the more human system would be seen in better lives of the men, and every man who improves his own life helps build the character of his city as well as his own. I suggest, too, that in these departments there is a splendid opening for a municipal musical organization, or indeed, for several. The department of public safety could not do a wiser thing than to maintain a brass band among the members, and encourage the cultivation of the musical instinct through furnishing teachers, books and music for singing clubs. Let our police and firemen sing and play us toward the New Time.

It is but just to say that the work of these two departments cannot be excelled and their records will bear the most scrutinizing comparison with those of similar departments in other cities, and our people manifest a just and proper pride both in the personnel and the work of these organizations.

GRADE CROSSINGS.

It is the plain duty of the city of Toledo to give its serious attention to the subject of abolishing grade crossings. I need only refer to the experience of Chicago and other large cities who allowed this evil to be inflicted upon them, to know that it is much wiser to prevent than to get rid of railroads crossing streets at grade after they are once established. The crossings on Upper Broadway and Lower Summit should be abolished at the earliest possible moment. I believe that the reasonable co-operation of the railway companies can be secured to this end, as there is no question but that it would be a paying thing for them to do from an economic point of view, to say nothing of the additional safety that would be afforded to human life, and we are beginning to understand that that is the real source of our wealth; indeed, "There is no wealth but human life," and the only business of government is to foster and improve opportunities for its development and perfection.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

Important improvement has characterized the arrangement of the department of parks and playgrounds during the last year,

and there is perhaps no part of our city life that can be depended upon to make its contribution to democracy and the principal of equal brotherhood any more fully than can the department of parks. President Jermain has well called them "The People's Playgrounds," and the freedom with which they are used by the people is the most eloquent testimonial to their value and utility. The love of beauty, the artistic instinct, is one of the strongest humanizing agencies, for out of it grows the love of harmony, and we cannot place too high a value on the work of the park department in developing this phase of our citizenship.

Public playgrounds should be established for every school in the city; indeed, a most important part of the child's education comes from the playground or from out-door play. Nothing can take precedence over a healthy, vigorous body, and this cannot be had without exercise, and the more it is in the open air the better. *The more nearly that the child can come into direct contact with nature, the more nearly can he spend a portion of his life out of doors, and out of clothes for the matter of that, the more likely he will be to have a healthy body for the soul to live in.* The parks and playgrounds, then, must furnish, to a great extent, the means whereby the child and the man can acquire a healthy, vigorous body; in addition to that, they afford an opportunity for the people to get together on a common plane and meet each other on common—yes, *on their own ground*, and in that way they will learn to love their city and the institutions that contribute to their well-being. It is the only kind of patriotism that is worth the name, the patriotism that loves and has a reason for loving.

WATERWORKS.

It is a matter for congratulation that Toledo is to have an improved system of waterworks. The matter has been gone over at length through the columns of the public press, and the people are familiar with the fact that, acting upon the recommendations of competent engineers, the waterworks commissioners are about to construct a filtration plant that will give to the city of Toledo clean water instead of the mixture of mud and water that we are now compelled to use during a large part of the year. Although the waterworks department is a separate department of the city

government, in the management of which the mayor has no voice, I have given the subject of better water for the city some attention, and recently visited in New Jersey such a filtration plant as is proposed to be established, and, after reading the report of the engineers examining the proposed improvement, it seems to me that the steps the waterworks board are about to take are right and proper; though it is not by any means the only thing that can be done, at the same time, it is probably the best solution of the water problem that can be had at present.

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISES.

Ever since I have been in public life I have been steadfastly for public ownership and operation of all natural monopolies. In the various messages and communications to the council I have advocated municipal ownership of street railways, electric lighting, gas plant, garbage plant, city directory, playgrounds and, in this message, the municipal ownership of a municipal organization, a band. I have also advocated the abolition of the contract system of doing the improvement work of the city, and the adoption, in its stead, of the day-labor plan in all departments.

Experience has confirmed every conviction and strengthened every argument I have made for this principle. I am more firmly convinced than ever that we cannot have a truly patriotic government, municipal, state or national, until it is organized and carried out with the good of all the people as the first, last and only object to be desired, and this can never be so long as we continue the practice of granting franchises to private corporations and of farming out various privileges to contractors for the purposes of private profit-getting, and both of these evils draw their life blood from party politics; for the contractor or corporation that will not contribute directly or indirectly to the campaign expenses of "the party in power" gets no business—is simply sidetracked in favor of those who will.

OUR NEED OF COMMON FAITH.

Government under the party system is really a system of organized plundering of the weak by the strong, for which there is no one to blame but ourselves. We, THE PEOPLE, all of us,

are the government, and the chief obstacle in the way of the adoption of the principle of common ownership of public utilities for the common good is, on one hand, the lack of faith that we have in each other, the unbelief in the good intentions of our fellow-men, and the business of party politics is to encourage and cultivate this sort of infidelity; and, on the other hand, the overpowering delusion that the end to be sought in government and everything else is our own individual material good; or, to put it more plainly, an individual "graft." "A man must live," is the slogan of our time. In the past there have been men who were ready to die rather than to sacrifice a principle, and there are millions of the same sort today who have never bowed the knee to the tyrants of materialism or worshipped at the altar of the political kings and they are leading on to the America of our dreams. We lack the faith in each other that will bind us together as one man, and that is the real obstacle in the way of municipal ownership and operation of every public utility in the city, state and nation today. Because of this lack of a common faith, we have laws that are purposely made to hinder officials of the municipality from doing the business of the city as well as the same officials would do the business of a private corporation, and these laws are more a manifestation of our innate unworthiness as a whole than the work of "evil corporations," for, be it remembered, these are usually composed of some of our citizens, and usually they are claimed to be the "best," but this is evidently due to the fact that we measure "goodness" too often with the sign of the dollar.

AS THINGS ARE TODAY.

Had the managers of the Northwestern Gas Company been subject to the limitations and hindrances of law that were laid upon the city officials who undertook to handle the city gas property, they would have met with a similar experience to that which overtook the city with its property; or, to put it more plainly, had the board of directors of the Northwestern Gas Company been placed in charge of the city property and subject to all the hindrances of the law that are supposed to be made for the protection of the people, the successful operation

of the plant would have been as impossible to them as to the men who had it in charge.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Toledo has doubled its population in the last ten years. It is twice as big as it was; if that bigness represents real improvement, then Toledo is twice as good. There is no real growth unless it includes the whole. Greater Toledo means better Toledo, or it means worse Toledo. Neither the city nor the individual can stand still; we are going ahead or we are falling back. I believe our course is onward and upward.

"To the better, to the brighter, on! on!" Five years ago our patrolmen laid aside the brutal club and have since carried canes instead. This was a splendid move in the right direction. The day is not far distant when the patrolmen of our cities will disarm, and the murderous "gun" or revolver that they now carry concealed, because we are ashamed of it, will be relegated to the rear along with the rack, thumbscrew and other relics of a less happy past, and our patrolmen will walk the streets in the conscious peace and security of the "just man armed;" for the just man has no need of gun or sword or weapon. The very fact that he is *just* literally surrounds him with an impregnable wall of safety; he has nothing to fear.

"No harm from Him shall come to me,
On ocean or on shore."

Much praise is due to the loving heart of our deceased chief, Ben Raitz, for his humanizing work in this department during the ten years that he was at its head. He was a genuine lover and many an erring one was helped toward a better life by the gentle words of this brave man, whose highest ambition was to do his duty and be kind.

BETTER TOLEDO.

What is the lesson of the statistics of arrests in Toledo? During the year 1882, 20 years ago, there were 4,493 persons arrested in the city; the population was then about 50,000. During 1902 there were 3,881 persons arrested, or 632 less than 20 years before when the city was one-third its present size. Had the ar-

rests increased in proportion to the population, there would have been 13,749 persons arrested last year, or about 10,000 more than there were.

I make no attempt to draw a conclusion from these striking figures; it is joy enough for me to know that in them I see a certain promise that jails, prisons and penitentiaries will one day be things of the past and love will rule the wide world over.

POLICE COURT.

In two former messages I have advocated that this court be abolished. I care not how this is done; the detail is for the council and the legislature to pass upon. But I do declare it my sincere conviction that inasmuch as a very large per centage of the arrests by the police are for petty offenses, such as "drunkenness," "disturbance," "disorderly conduct," "prostitution," etc., many of whom are dismissed by the court with only a reprimand, it is clear that this service may be better done by a loving-hearted man and woman unhindered by the machinery of law and the expense of a court. I believe it would be to the very great ethical and economic advantage of our cities if such cases were turned over to the chief and matron, and the really "criminal" could be sent to the "criminal" court for disposal.

FINES.

I again enter my protest against the infamy of sending people to prison for inability to pay fines. It is imprisonment for debt, and an outrage on the poor. How shall we answer to God for taking the earnings of a prostitute and putting it into the treasury to pay the salaries of officials?

Let us have done with this sin by abolishing the police court.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire in general terms to commend the work of all of the departments as being fully up to anything we can expect until we are *free men*, free to select the best and to do our best, and with the one obstacle that has formed the subject of this address out of the way, none but a poet's fancy can paint the glories of the comradeship that will be ours.

To the members of the common council and of the various

departments of the city government, from the least to the greatest, and all of the people of the city that have so lovingly upheld my hands, as I have stood for the patriotism of the Golden Rule, I am happy to acknowledge a debt of gratitude that I can never repay, the remembrance of which will be with me a solace and comfort throughout all time.

I hear it is charged against me that I sought to destroy institutions;

But really I am neither for nor against institutions
(What indeed have I in common with them, or what with the destruction of them?)

Only I will establish in the Manahatta and in every city of these States, inland and seaboard,

And in the fields and woods and above every keel, little or large, that dents the water,

Without edifices, or rules, or trustees, or any argument, the Institution of the Dear Love of Comrades.

—Walt Whitman.

Very faithfully yours,

SAMUEL M. JONES,

Mayor.