

## CHAPTER XXII

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### POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS SUSTAIN MONOPOLIES

Any serious attempt to limit the exactions of privileged trusts or to abolish their privileges develops at once the fact that the party organizations of both parties in most States are the secret allies of these trusts. The party leaders receive very substantial rewards from the trusts either in the shape of direct money payments or other advantages which the trusts have to give out, and in return they secure the nomination and election whenever possible of party candidates who will take orders from the political machines.

These machines are able to control nominations largely because the law has vested in political organizations very powerful privileges in the shape of extensive patronage. This was strikingly illustrated by a speech by the young Mr. Taft, son of the former President, in New York recently. He stated that some twelve men had for twenty-five years controlled the government of the City of Cincinnati, and that they were able to do so largely because of the fact that they had in their control the appointment of over eight thousand public positions, and Mr. Taft estimated that

this enabled them to poll at least twenty-five thousand votes at the party primary. In Cincinnati they cured this condition by the adoption of the City Manager Plan, and by the placing of all of these appointments under the civil service.

It is obvious that the wholesale power of appointment in the hands of political leaders enables them to bring to the polls particularly on primary days a large percentage of the electorate who are biased, and in effect bribed or coerced into supporting the machine candidate. The theory of this government is that the citizens all go to the polls with no selfish interest and only the interest of the public at heart. It is obvious therefore that this patronage should be entirely taken away from party machine leaders, and all appointments of a subordinate character should be made through the medium of the civil service, and such appointments as can not be so made should be made by or put under the control of the highest judicial officials of the State.