

ceived from the street car lessees on mileage. The reserve fund item of \$97,000 in 1897 and \$170,000 in 1898 is the clearest of clear profit. This fund aggregated, according to the report of 1898, as much as £71,693 8s. 10d.—approximately \$350,000.

Ex-Gov. Altgeld's campaign for the mayoralty of Chicago has all the appearances of healthy growth and probable victory. His meetings are large, and the principle for which he stands is manifestly gaining adherents. One of the encouraging facts about his campaign is that several office holders of the Harrison administration have resigned so as to be free to work for Altgeld. Joseph R. Finn, chairman of the board of examining engineers, is one of these. In his letter of resignation Mr. Finn showed the motive of his act in these inspiring words:

I believe that there never was a time in the history of our country when the great cause of human freedom called so loudly to the people to be loyal to the great principles upon which our government is founded. The dark days of our civil war, when nearly one-half of the states of this Union were in open rebellion against it, did not imperil the life of our nation one-half as much as the insidious tyranny and corruption which is an inseparable part of the principle of privilege and monopoly, which seeks to stifle the rights and liberties and the aspirations of our people and poisons all the streams of our social, political and industrial life. In such an hour I feel it my duty to make the pecuniary sacrifice involved in the surrender of an office as freely as I left my engine in 1894, when I considered the rights of 14,000 men, women and children of Pullman at stake. Whether Mr. Altgeld secures few or many votes in this contest does not influence me in this decision. I simply wish to exercise my ability and influence, such as it may be, in the furtherance of the cause for which ex-Gov. Altgeld stands.

In Toledo, Mayor Jones stands among republicans for what Gov. Altgeld represents at Chicago in the democratic party. He was defeated for the republican renomination by Hannaism. The amount at stake for the monopolists was enormous. During the next city administration franchises are to be asked for valued at

\$7,000,000. Jones's reelection meant the certain loss of these franchises. No wonder, then, that money was lavishly spent to defeat him. The corruption was successful at the city convention, and Mayor Jones is to be especially commended for his courage in giving the people of Toledo an opportunity to rebuke this instance of corrupt politics by voting for him as a protesting candidate.

The way of the imperialist is hard. No sooner does Gen. Otis get his reinforcements and begin to civilize our Philippine "subjects," than the Cubans drop some of their gratitude and get us into a snarl over Gomez, while even the Porto Ricans manifest a barbarous discontent with military government. Instead, therefore, of having one job of "benevolent assimilation" by means of "criminal aggression" upon our hands, we have three.

Still this black cloud of imperialism is not without a silver lining. It has induced thought and discussion of the fundamental principles of liberty such as the American people have not experienced since the foundation of the government. Even plutocratic papers have been forced by the logic of the situation to take advanced democratic ground. Here, for instance, is the New York Evening Post which, in criticising the imperialistic idea that we must not treat with Aguinaldo until he submits, is led to lay down a profound general principle. It says:

But the rule of common sense which is recognized in modern times by people who have much occasion to deal with "rebels," is to grasp at any men or organization of men who are obeyed by the rebel community, and are capable of answering for it, in peace or war, without sticking at names or forms, or making any fuss about "dignity" or authority. The power which refuses to treat with or even converse with a man, whether rebel or rioter, who believes he is engaged in a creditable enterprise, does not behave as a civilized government.

We call attention especially to the last sentence, in which it is asserted that a government is not civilized if it refuses to treat even with a rioter who believes he is engaged in a credit-

able enterprise. That is sound doctrine. Yet the Evening Post would not have fathered it when Cleveland was obliterating state lines to put down a labor strike in Chicago with national troops. At that time the Post cried with the other imperialists of the day, that if the laborers had any grievances they must trust to a magnanimous public to redress their grievances after they had submitted to the military power.

It must not be overlooked that one important element of the present flagrant imperialism is the fact that its foundations were laid in the last Cleveland administration, and that such moulders of opinion in avowed opposition to imperialism as is the Evening Post, must share the responsibility. Those who have advocated a domestic imperialism must be held estopped from objecting to the logical consequences of expansive imperialism, unless they retract, as the Post has virtually done, in the extract quoted above. The action of the Cleveland administration during the Chicago strike was highly undemocratic and imperialistic, and people who upheld it must not wonder that those who were then persuaded that imperialism in domestic affairs was all right, are not now inclined to oppose the same policy in foreign affairs.

Let him who doubts the imperialistic character of Cleveland's military invasion of Illinois in 1894, send to Congressman Amos Cummings, of New York, for his recent speech in congress on the right of local self-government. Embodied in that speech is the correspondence between Cleveland and Altgeld at the time of the invasion. It speaks for itself, and places Cleveland in the class with McKinley on the general subject of democratic government.

#### THE RAGE FOR TRUSTS.

The daily papers now are burdened with stories about trusts. Hardly an issue appears without accounts of the organization or prospective organization of one or more. The air is full of these schemes for consolidating large