

proves) is getting better service than ever, unless it be to points where the need for any service at all is of slight concern to anybody but speculators in vacant land.

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There are only two reasons for the supposition that the Cleveland service has deteriorated. One reason is the widespread newspaper reports of a crooked strike, evidently instigated and fostered by the Chicago Tribune's clients, the aforesaid monopoly street car management. This enables the Tribune rather naively to say of the people of Cleveland that "they can ride for 3 cents when rioters"—its own traction ring's rioters, mind you—"do not upset the car." The other reason is the holding of indignation meetings, also stimulated by the old management, which are led by disturbed speculators in vacant land. But both reasons are failing the interests represented by the Chicago Tribune—the property of the tax-dodging McCormicks (p. 78) by the way, as is also the Cleveland Leader of which it is the echo in Cleveland matters. The crooked strike has been a flash in the pan, and the indignation meetings are fizzling out. The people of Cleveland begin to realize that they have not only low fares, but also a rapidly improving service. There is something even more to the point in the contrast between the traction policies of the two cities. In Chicago the traction system is a stock-jobbing private system; in Cleveland it offers no margin for stock-jobbing. While Chicago is a nominal partner as to some of the profits of the system, over interest and commissions on capital, Cleveland is an active partner as to all profits above interest. While Chicago is practically tied up hard and fast to absolute private ownership, the people of Cleveland may go back to absolute private ownership at any time, or forward to public ownership as soon as the legislature allows it, or continue under a "holding" company managed in the public interest, as they themselves may wish and not as a pack of stock-jobbers may dictate.

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"Business" in Politics.

The "business" administration of Chicago met with financial disaster in the closing hours of the long drawn out Illinois legislature, which has alternately recessed and legislated through the entire period of its two year term. By custom it should have died a year ago; in fact it died only last week. Some of its legislation has been of the worst and some of the best order. It served the political rings by mauling the Chicago char-

ter beyond recognition as a decent document, and thereby causing its defeat by the people. But it enacted a primary law that sounds the death knell of machine politics. And as it expired, it refused to pass a Busse bill for bonding Chicago to the tune of \$16,000,000 without a referendum. Mayor Busse's efforts to manage the public interests of Chicago along the lines of Big Business, without consulting the people, makes slow progress. In fact it makes none at all. With the spirit of the referendum hovering over the land, he and his have fallen upon what they doubtless regard as evil days.

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Women Teachers.

Low salaries in our public school systems have had a tendency, so it is frequently said in educational circles, to drive men out of this employment and to fill the schools with women teachers. In New York the tendency has been pretty frankly met, not to say artlessly, by giving higher salaries to men than to women, and with might and main resisting all efforts to secure equal pay for equal work. But in Chicago, where equal pay for equal work prevails—except for a grotesque salary promotional system, which, however, does not turn upon sex distinctions—great complaints are made of the crowding out of men from the teaching force by women. This is an unconscious confession, of course, that the boast of equal pay for equal work is misleading. For men would not stay out—the work being equal—if women teachers were fairly paid for their work. The inference is, as the fact is, that the Chicago teachers are paid, not upon the basis of earnings, but upon the basis of cost of living. It is because women teachers can live for less than men, not because they are worth less, that they are crowding the men out. To the honor of the high school teachers of Chicago be it said, that while in trying to secure better pay they deplore the loss of men from the system, they do not seek any salary discrimination between men and women. Neither do they aim at making the public schools masculine institutions. On the contrary, they recognize the sound doctrine that the school, like the home, should be under both masculine and feminine influences. And if they do not distinctly assert that these influences should be equally balanced, that may be inferred. At any rate it is true. Wherever the public school system exists, the principle is a sound one, that masculine and feminine influences should be as nearly equal as possible. Neither should dominate; the two should co-operate.