

imperialism and kings with a rope around their necks, never knowin' fer certain just when it was a goin' to be pulled. Look at 'em! Ain't they fine figgers? Nary one of 'em afraid of a rich man! No little Supreme Court questions of who goes first among them! Where ary one of them old McGregors sits down is the head of the table, an' right well he knows it; and he ain't botherin' his head about precedence. They were men, these fellers, free men. They were American citizens and honored the function. Land! I wisht I had a couple of hundred like 'em now! It would leaven the whole lump.

Instead of that, what have I got? Chaff, John, and peanut hulls! Fellers like G. Cleveland, who got rich bein' president, goin' around with an air of conscious holiness among sinners. Chaps like Theodore, who go about with the railroads a payin' their freight, and they with money in their pockets, and unashamed, leaders! Why, they cheapen humanity.

Well, I don't see, John, that you are a doin' any better. What possesses you, man! What made you slaughter those four hundred Thibetans? They were at their own home in their own country; you traveled thousands of miles away from yours, and went with superior arms in your hands. You know well what that means. If the English common law of murder were enforced by inflexible power, and with universal venue, thousands of gibbets would arise in Britain, and hundreds of thousands of your reputable citizens would be hanged by the neck until they were dead. What do you mean by havin' one law at home and another abroad? Eh! Same with me, I know, and lots of my boys would be hanged that ain't expectin' it, and think they are of the Lord's anointed; but I'm not a restin' easy under it—
I tell you that.

UNCLE SAM.

MUNICIPAL ART.

An extract from an article on "The Importance of Municipal Improvement," by Hon. John De Witt Warner, published in *The Craftsman* for Jan., 1904.

It can never be too often recalled that Art is not a thing to be done, but the right way to do whatever is to be done. Municipal Art is, therefore, simply the best way to make a city what it ought to be—best fitted for all ends of a city—a city of to-day—a city of the future.

First and most important of all are the means of ingress and egress, and of transport within the city. Upon such development of the former as makes it a center for a locality, a state,

a continent, a world—absolutely depend the possibilities of any given city. Upon the latter equally depends the economy of a city's life and business—in the long run the extent to which its possibilities shall be realized. These, therefore, are the first essentials of a city plan—the data with relation to which all development must be had.

These possibilities, however, are those of a home, a shop, a caravansary, a place for the life, the work, the culture and the entertainment of human beings, ever more and more free to choose the best opportunities anywhere offered. The prosperity of a city will, therefore, ever more and more depend upon the extent to which such demands are met. Next after the general features of a city's plan come, therefore, bright skies and abundant water; and—scarcely less essential—cheap fuel and clean streets.

No mistake could be greater than that which assumes Municipal Art engrossed with, or mainly interested in, mere decorative features. Rather is it true that in its more essential features, a city must fairly have achieved dignity and beauty and order and cleanliness and convenience, before it is fit to be generally decorated, or decoration can be made really effective. These essentials provided for, the beautiful—not as opposed to the useful, but useful in whole or in part because it is beautiful—can then well be sought, and such civic adornment had as shall serve religion—as at Athens; civic pride—as in Florence or Budapesth; or offer hospitable welcome and attraction for residence and amusement—as at Paris; or express national ideals—as at Washington or Berlin; or more or less equably meet or serve all these—as at Rome or Vienna.

Of this, perhaps the most essential item is proper emphasis of civic centers—the architectural treatment of the city considered as a whole. Indeed, this might well have been included in the prerequisites for adornment. And the finest examples of such emphasis, serving as they do the convenience and the dignity of the city, are striking arguments for the truth that, in its last analysis, fitness for use is the normal of beauty. That public business can best be transacted at the most natural place for greatest public resort; that the various classes of such business can be transacted most conveniently in the neighborhood of each other; that, in proportion to the variety and amount of public business to be provided for, economy permits and

popular sentiment dictates extensive and imposing architectural groups, with park and plaza treatment; and that foci thus developed are the points at which may best be located the more important transport connections—each is obvious. Combined, they show the ideal of a city to be that of an organism, rather than of an aggregation. From the standpoint of utility as well as of art, a thoroughly developed and dignified civic center with secondary local ones, as naturally characterizes an ideal "city" of to-day, and distinguishes it from the mere massing of humanity that has sometimes been called such, as does a definite head with well-defined subsidiary vital centers a man, as distinguished from a jelly fish.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAND QUESTION TO THE ENGLISH LIBERAL PARTY.

A portion of an editorial on "The Coming Budget" in the *London Speaker*, of March 12, 1904. It is to be noted that in Great Britain "rates" are local; "taxes" are imperial.

The secretary of the Tariff Reform league has stated in a recent address that the taxation of land values is the only alternative which Mr. Chamberlain's opponents can find to his proposals, and adds that he is entirely opposed to any such reform. We welcome this challenge, and we are exceedingly happy to know that as we go to press important legislation on the subject is being submitted to the House of Commons. The Prime Minister said the other day that the taxation of land "may or may not be wise." Doubtless he has submitted at least two memoranda on the subject to the Cabinet—one for and the other against. Now, we suppose he will make his election, and we fancy that the lilies of the field will win the day. But whatever may be the result of the division, the principle has made great way in England during the last few years. Its history is curious. In 1871 Mr. Goschen introduced a bill to divide rates between the owner and the occupier; but the landed interest was too strong in the House of Commons. In 1885 Mr. Chamberlain worked up popular feeling in the towns on the question of unearned increment. The question was pretty thoroughly discussed, and was never forgotten, though for a decade the Irish question kept it in the second rank. But the Local Government acts of 1888 and 1894, which extended popular self-government from boroughs to parishes, districts and counties, have given an enormous impetus to local activity, and, incidentally,

to local expenditure. Local bodies have emulated one another's improvements. At great cost parks have been made and improved, public baths and conveniences of all kinds erected, new systems of sanitation introduced, streets widened and better lighted. In less than 40 years local debts have risen from 50 to 400 millions, and local taxation from 40 to over 100 millions. But among other consequences this expenditure has improved property and enabled landlords to increase rents. The cost of improving a town falls on the occupiers, and the pecuniary proceeds go into the pockets of the ground landlord. It is high time that the unearned increment should be made to flow automatically into the local exchequer of the community by which it has been created, and is constantly being augmented. There are pitfalls in the way of the reformer, and a Liberal government will have to proceed with wariness, as well as with resolution. But the principle of rating the landowner has already been applied in an act of 1889, by which the owners of land used for advertisements were made liable to rates. An obvious extension of the principle to which absolutely no valid objection can be offered is to rate owners of unoccupied building land on its selling value. This will not only relieve the ratepayers of many urban districts and boroughs; it will also tend to reduce rents and to solve the housing problem.

Besides the principle of rating ground values in towns, which has been recognized by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir Edward Hamilton, and innumerable authorities upon local finance, there is the kindred problem of restoring the land tax to its original importance in the financial system of the country.

On going to war one of the first steps taken by the Japanese was to double the land tax, just as Mr. Gladstone's first step in 1854 was to double the income tax. In the eighteenth century the land tax used to be the most important source of revenue, and Adam Smith used to say that on this account the country gentlemen were generally much less inclined to war than "the monied interests." But, unfortunately, at the end of the century, when war became chronic, the country gentlemen who supported Pitt insisted that the land must not be further taxed, and so, when taxes had been laid on every article of consumption, and the Minister was still at his wits' end, he had to invent the income tax instead of developing and improving the system of land taxation. But we believe the Radical financiers in the im-

mediate future must, after retrenchment, look for national revenue to the license duties and for local revenue to a rate upon the owners of ground values. A reform in the land tax is required; but it cannot be undertaken at present, or until it has been carefully considered by a commission of legal and financial experts. Further, since the demand arises from the municipalities and the ratepayers, it will be far better for reformers to concentrate their present energies upon the rating of site values in towns.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.
PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF CANDIDATES.

Mayor Johnson is making himself personally acquainted with the entire staff of assistant city engineers. Under the guidance of Chief Engineer Carter three of his assistants called upon the mayor yesterday. Each was closeted in the inner office for a considerable time.

It is Mr. Johnson's intention to become perfectly familiar with the qualifications of each of these assistants before recommending one of them to the board of public service for appointment to take the place of former First Assistant Engineer T. H. Ogden, who resigned last Saturday.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of Feb. 4.

A NIGHT SCHOOL AT THE CLEVELAND WORKHOUSE.

Member Harris R. Cooley of the board of public service has established a night school at the workhouse, with H. D. Crane, a night guard, as instructor. All the more elementary branches are taught by Crane, and many of the prisoners have taken up the work with avidity and zeal.

The attendance at the night school is entirely voluntary. The pupils are largely foreigners, young men ignorant of the customs, language and institutions of this country. To these the most rudimentary branches are taught. Some of the men cannot even read or write their native language, and these are being taught by Crane to read and write English, in some cases with remarkable success. To those who have received a primary education Crane teaches such branches as arithmetic and geography. School Director Cadwallader has furnished Crane with a quantity of ragged and cast off text books for the use of his classes.

"The interest displayed by many of these men is very remarkable," said Member Cooley yesterday. "The star

student is a young Italian, who is serving a long term. The ignorance of this man was of the densest character. He was entirely unable to read or write his own language and he could not speak or understand a word of English. This man, after about three weeks' instruction, is able to write, and can talk enough simple English to make himself understood. He is so engrossed in his work that it is almost impossible to make him go to bed at night. He displays an intense desire to sit up all night to study.

"There are a number of other young foreigners who have taken hold of the work in a most earnest manner. Any who do not evince the desire to learn are not taught.

"In a year I hope to have a regular night school, under the authority of the school government, established at the workhouse. The present work is merely experimental, but it is proving successful beyond expectation."—Plain Dealer of March 31.

The success of the night school at the workhouse, which was instituted a few weeks ago by the board of public service, is greater than even Mr. Cooley expected. A number of the prisoners, many of them foreigners of complete illiteracy, have taken hold of the work with a will, and have made remarkable progress under the tuition of Night Guard H. D. Crane.

The most remarkable student is Tony Casseno, a young Italian. Tony could not speak or understand a word of English, and, what was worse, he could not read or write his native language. In three weeks his progress has been remarkable. Yesterday Member Cooley was amazed to receive a letter from Casseno. Following is a verbatim copy of the epistle:

Mr. Cooley—Dear Sir: In Italy where I come from I no went to school. I no write Itallo and no read—I gied to study nights in work House Mr Crane teach me study 3 weeks. I know my letters and can write some. I can read my book. When I come too prison I no speak or write no things Two more from my country study hard too. We get a good job. I fight no more I stay a long time

I much glad to study I get along in this country

Thank you for the school. Yours truly Tony Casseno Work House.

Night Guard Crane, who is the sole instructor of the prisoners' school, yesterday made a written report to Mr. Cooley. Crane is very well pleased with his work, and satisfied with the results already accomplished. Mr. Cooley is more than pleased. Following are extracts from the report of