

The real cause of first circumscribing the liberties of these men and then slaying them is of course the struggle for a better subsistence in which they are engaged, by means of which their employers are embarrassed and hindered in their pursuit of profit. It is quite possible that a justification for the slaughter will be found in the fact that the officers acted automatically in accordance with the orders of those to whom they are responsible—the courts—so that legally the perpetrators are in no danger. Nor is it likely that they are in danger from any individual or any number of them—that is, just now—since they have the law on their side and its fullest protection will be extended. The chief danger to which they will be subjected for a time is that which possesses neither body, parts nor passions; which does not lie in wait nor seek out its victims; which is created by those who do wrong and then enfolds them with the unyielding pressure of the shirt of Nessus—their own consciences. Shooting down men peacefully engaged, even though done in the name of law and order, to the man whose soul is not already seared and whose heart has not become as adamant—in the contemplation of the one who is truly just—is a thing so horrible that not for all the wealth of our land and the treasures of the Ind would he have it or part of it charged to his account. The situation is altogether ominous and terrible, and there are few who will not look upon the proceedings in Pennsylvania as marking a critical, dark day in our country's history.

MUNICIPAL METHODS CONTRASTED.

Mention has previously been made in these columns of the efforts which some of the leading journals and citizens of New York are putting forth to secure a non-partisan government for that city when its name shall have received the prefix of Greater. These efforts are being increased rather than otherwise and show in themselves the confidence which their promoters feel in their success. Strange as it may appear to some of the more unthinking partisans at home and abroad, the best and most voluminous work in the direction of a good government through non-partisanship comes from one of the straightest and most uncompromising Democratic papers in the country—the New York World. In a recent issue of that paper appears a long double-headed editorial headed "Fruits of good government—What British cities have done—An amazing and instructive contrast." In this article is shown, by means of reference to Dr. Albert Shaw's books on the government of European cities, the superiority of the municipal plan contended for as contrasted with a government of spoilsmen for spoils. Three of the principal British municipalities—Glasgow, Manchester and Birmingham—are selected as the exemplars for the theme, though what is said of course applies to many others in the same class. Glasgow contains about 750,000 people. Manchester's population is 520,000, but its municipal government directly benefits 3,000,000. Birmingham has about 440,000 within its corporate limits. All these cities are newer than any of the great American cities. All have had their real growth in the last twenty-five years. All their plans for good government began about the time of the close of our civil war—exactly the period, the article says, when New York and the other American cities fell into the hands of bosses and rings of corruptionists.

We are further shown that the British cities named are governed by an electorate that in no essential respect

differs from ours. The masses of the people vote and have absolute power over their public servants, the officials. They select a municipal council that administers the city's affairs by dividing itself into executive committees, one committee at the head of each department of the public service. These councilors serve without pay, and although elections are frequent, changes in the council from causes other than death are comparatively rare. National affairs in their municipal campaigns are never discussed; the utmost independence prevails in the selection of candidates and voting for them, and an officer who discharges his duty faithfully and efficiently is practically unopposed when he presents himself for re-election. This is pronounced—and the pronouncement is true—the result of the complete divorce of state politics from purely local affairs, and the results are something that demand of all of us on this side of the water the most careful consideration.

In New York, which has seldom escaped partisan rule in any line, the municipal indebtedness has grown and grows with a steadily increasing pace, and the taxes necessarily correspond. In the other three cities the taxes steadily decrease under a bonded indebtedness almost as large as that of New York, but the interest charge is paid for out of the profits of municipal enterprises by which means the people receive the direct benefit spoken of in reduced taxes. It is different under the sway of spoilsmen.

Here is more in the same line:

"The most of the municipal departments are almost or quite self-supporting. Many of them pay a large profit that goes to decrease the taxes for such necessarily unprofitable departments as police, fire, sanitary and sewage. In Glasgow there are now practically no general taxes. In Manchester and Birmingham the general rates are small. And the principal of the debt is constantly decreasing.

Many other instances are given illustrative of the general fact that fostering and protecting the welfare of the citizen as such comes not by parties but by the united action of the best class of people to be obtained, assembled for administrative purposes. Partisans are not ostracized or ignored, but their politics are, and only those things are encouraged and recognized that prove to be productive of the greatest good for the largest number. In other words, the control of cities is or should be a strictly business proposition carried out by business men of recognized ability, honesty and public-spiritedness who may otherwise—religiously, politically or socially—walk in any avenue they prefer.

MANUFACTURING GOLD.

Gold is the prevailing theme as well as the leading product of the day. Mother Shipton's prophecy that it should be found at the root of a tree—meaning, if it meant anything, that people would not have to go to remote or forbidding places to find it—has been more than realized, since the yellow metal is being unearthed almost everywhere, Utah not being overlooked in the general distribution.

In the midst of such a plenitude, with the best of promise for a continuance on an increasing scale, the agitation of the question of whether gold can be compounded or not would seem to be somewhat untimely and out of place. Yet it is being discussed quite vigorously in places. The chemical theory is advanced that there is but one element of which all the rest,

gold included, are compounds or variants, and there are other theories on the subject, one the production of a Russian mathematician, which is pronounced as wild as anything ever dreamed of by the alchemists of medieval times. It is riddled with terms of more or less apparent profundity and obscurity, such as "vortices in the ether," and so on.

The story of the New Yorker who recently took \$20 worth of gold bullion which he had manufactured to the government assay office, and there demonstrated that it was over 900 fine is a familiar one and is tolerably well authenticated. This being a case in which a practical result presumably accompanies the theory, makes it, although an isolated case, famous. A writer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat shows that, according to the new chemistry, it is possible that gold may be chemically produced at some time in the future, but impossible that it should be done with our present knowledge of chemical "synthesis"—that is, of "putting things together." In fact, our chemistry at present is almost wholly analytical, based on observations made when "taking things apart." As a science it is barely 100 years old, and nearly the whole of that time has been devoted to analysis. It is only in the last generation that chemists began synthesis, working the great miracle of making things which are radically different from the same elements combined in the same proportions. When they find that liquids having the vilest imaginable odors can be changed into the perfumes of fruit and flowers without changing their composition, chemists do not say it follows that gold can be made of copper; they only say it may be possible, for they all know to the contrary.

Gold is understood to be the product of intense heat and powerful pressure, like diamonds and other precious substances extracted from the bosom of the earth. Successful experiments are now going on in Paris having in view the production of diamonds from charcoal by applying artificially the conditions named. It is all like the magician's trick—simple enough when you know how it is done, and the "know-how" is thus partly delineated:

"The richest gold region of America is the great volcanic ridge stretching from the Arctic circle almost to the Antarctic. In this great laboratory nature wrought her most precious substances by intensifying her forces to their highest pitch, producing heat through the pressure of the earthquake movements, which raised the mountains from the original level of the paleozoic plain. This heat and pressure made crystals of gold and silver bearing quartz through a natural process, closely related to that through which French scientists are now attempting to make diamonds. Whether or not gold is a simple substance, it is certain that it appears as a product of nature's workshop only under conditions which produce quartz as what might be called a 'by-product' of the operation."

This sounds very much like glittering generalities, a sort of "lucus a non lucendo" or light that does not lighten, only so far as relates to the general proposition previously stated herein in fewer words. This does but bring us back to the beginning of the subject, with the inevitable question repeated, what is the good of it all? Except for purely scientific reasons and as a means of partially gratifying a certain yearning to know the cause and origin of all things, it is a matter possessing but slight importance. A plan whereby the yield of wheat or potatoes within a given area might be doubled