

that he had a decided individuality, and after it, it is said, he could have been elected under any name. He is a magnetic speaker, and he made from five to twenty speeches a day during the thirty days preceding his election. He carried the people with him, and was elected by a greater majority than any mayor of Chicago has had.

What kind of a looking man is he? Well, he is, I judge, about five feet eight inches tall. He is broad-shouldered and full of muscle. He makes you think of a fighter and still you do not feel that he carries about a chip on his shoulder. He has a pleasant, sympathetic face, free from snobbishness or conceit. His forehead is high and almost square. His eyes of a deep blue, look out from under brows of black, and the thick thatch of hair above them is black mixed with gray. His nose is large and straight, his jaws strong and firm, and his face as a whole a somewhat handsome one. He dresses in business clothes and wore today a snuff-colored suit, a slouch hat and a dark overcoat. He hung up his hat and coat himself as he came in and went about his business in a business way. He is a college graduate, has had a course of law at Yale and three years' study in a German university, but his language is every day English, such as any one of the 4,000 policemen under him can understand. He is a man of simple tastes, is fond of his home and his bicycle, caring more for a romp with his children than for a dinner with public men, where he has to make a speech.

It was in his office that I met Mayor Harrison. I got his attention at once by speaking of Chicago. A Chicago man will always talk about Chicago. He may be as reticent as the sphynx, and as dumb as the dead, but question the possibilities of Chicago, and his tongue will rattle like a corn sheller operated by a 12-foot windmill. As to this, Carter Harrison is no exception. I spoke of the Greater New York and asked the mayor whether Chicago could ever equal it. He replied:

"I have no doubt whatever but that Chicago will eventually surpass New York. Had New York not taken in Brooklyn and all of the surrounding villages we should have overtaken it in 1900. As it is, we now have by our police census about 1,800,000 people. We had only 1,100,000 in 1890, showing a growth of 700,000 in seven years. We double our population here about every twenty years."

"How about the World's Fair. Did it help Chicago?"

"There is much difference of opinion about that," replied the young mayor. "The general belief is that the fair retarded the city, but I think not. The World's Fair brought a great deal of ready money into Chicago, just when times were the hardest and the rest of the United States was suffering from a money famine. The result was we did not feel the hard times, and perhaps it is on that account that we don't now feel the wave of prosperity, which is said to be sweeping over us."

"Then you do not think the times have improved?"

"I can't see that they have as yet."

"Tell me something about the office of mayor of Chicago. Does it cost much to get it?"

"I can tell you just what it cost me," was the reply. "My campaign assessment was \$5,000. I paid that, and in addition my total incidental expenses for the campaign were \$135. Of this \$100 went for some cartoons and pictures. As to spending money for lager beer and things of that kind, I did not buy three glasses of beer during the whole campaign."

"What is the salary of the mayor?"

"It is \$10,000 a year, and it ought to be \$20,000," was the reply. "The place is no sinecure. I have never worked

so hard before as I am working now. There are, you know, about 14,000 people employed by the city, and we spend here more than \$30,000,000 a year."

"How about the condition of the city, Mr. Mayor? Is a man's life safe at night on the back streets of Chicago?"

"Yes," replied the mayor; "life and property are as safe here as in any city on this hemisphere. That man Stead scandalized us in his book, 'If Christ Should Come to Chicago.' He wanted to create a sensation and sell his book. Stead came here from London. If there is a more vicious, wicked and sensual city in the world than London I do not know it. I see Stead has now attacked New York in the same way as he attacked Chicago."

"And just here," remarked the young mayor emphatically, "I want to say that Chicago has been misrepresented and misunderstood. It is not the 'wide open city' that many outsiders suppose. By this I mean that it is not at all bad morally for a city of its size. You can search this town over and you will not find a faro bank or a roulette wheel at work in it. There is no public gambling of any kind going on. I have the city carefully watched, and I know it. There may be some games of poker and craps in the poorer quarters that we can't prevent, but as to gambling on a large scale that does not and shall not exist."

"How about the Dr. Parkhurst movement and matters of that kind?"

"We have but little vice of that sort for a city of our size, and such as there is is kept in the background. I don't believe in movements like that inaugurated by Dr. Parkhurst and his crowd in their attempts to reform the municipal government. Such methods are not effective, and I think they are degrading. I don't believe in turning our policemen into a set of spies. It is a bad policy all around."

"If you don't know what is going on how can you reform such evils as exist?"

"If we have to get our knowledge of them by sneaking and spying, I prefer to have the evils remain rather than to do so," said the mayor. "I think the work can be done in other ways."

"And besides," Mayor Harrison continued, "I am not a reformer, I think the world is fairly good as it is. I want it to be better, of course, but I don't think man's whole nature will be revolutionized during my term of office."

"How about the boodlers in the city councils? It is said Chicago has a lot of such councilmen."

"I don't believe she has more than some other cities. I see Philadelphia, which poses as the city of brotherly love and perpetual piety, has lately had a scandal about a sale of its gas franchise by the city council. I believe all of our cities are none too good in this respect, but I know that Chicago is improving. Only a few years ago there were not more than five men in the council who were not owned in some way or other by corporations. Now there are twenty-three, or more than one-third of the body, who cannot be bribed. These men stand out for reform. It is almost impossible now for any boodler bill to go through, as it requires a two-thirds vote to pass bills over my veto."

"I understand one such bill was passed during your term," said I.

"Yes, it was; but I vetoed it and they could not pass it over my veto," said the mayor, as a determined look came into his eyes, as much as to say, "and I will do it again if they try."

"Do you think such bribing of legislators and councilmen should be punished?"

"Yes, I do," was the reply. "Not only the men who take the bribes, but those have been going on in New York, and he thinks the political machines we

now have are amply good enough for good government. He prides himself on being a Democrat, and is ready not only to help his party here, but other Democrats all over the Union. Since who give them should be put in the penitentiary, and those who do the bribing should have the longest sentences. The men who are bribed have often the excuse that they are poor, but the bribers are generally rich men who corrupt others to add to their wealth."

"How about the giving valuable franchises to corporations for nothing?"

"I don't believe in it," said Mayor Harrison. "They should be made to give up a percentage of their earnings to the city which gives the franchise. Take the street cars, for instance. Chicago pays every year more than \$18,000,000 in street car fares. The fare is five cents, and the profit is enormous. I would not reduce the fare, for I think five cents a ride is little enough, and if you come down to three or four cents the street car profit as much by it as the citizens. I would make out the franchise so that one cent of each fare should go into the city treasury to form a special fund for keeping up the streets. This would give the city twenty per cent of the receipts, and this year we should have a fund of \$3,600,000 from this source for keeping up our streets. I would save taxation and all charges for street improvements. I don't think it is at all right for a man who has been assessed once for putting down a pavement in front of his property to be assessed again to change it. If the pavement is changed the city should pay the bills."

"Will Chicago ever be a seaport by way of the Great Lakes? What do you think of the scheme of a great ship canal, which is now proposed, connecting all of the lake cities with the sea?"

"I doubt whether it is practical, but I do think that our drainage canal should be taken up and paid for by the government. This is one of the great engineering works of the age. It has cost us in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000, and when completed vessels drawing nine or ten feet will sail through it into the Illinois river, and on down into the Mississippi. When this canal is finished all the sewage of Chicago will flow the other way. It will go down into the river instead of polluting our drinking water in the lake. It is a national affair and the government should pay the whole bill."

"By the way, Mr. Harrison, there is much talk of you as the possible democratic candidate for the campaign of 1900. Will you be a candidate for the nomination?"

"No; I am mayor of Chicago and I have plenty to do without bothering my head about such reports. Besides, I am a friend and supporter of William J. Bryan. I believe and hope that he will be the nominee."

"Then you have no Presidential ambitions?"

"No; I am not so foolish as that."

"But how about the vice presidency? The circumstances may make Bryan and Harrison the best ticket."

"I don't think the office of Vice President is a very desirable one," was the reply. "I would rather be mayor of Chicago than Vice President of the United States. Here you can do things and you have enough work to tax your best energies. The Vice President is to a great extent a nonentity in the machinery of the government. He calls the Senate to order and draws his salary. That is about all."

"You speak of Bryan as the coming candidate of your party, Mr. Mayor. Will not the silver question be a dead issue in 1900?"

"That cannot be," said the mayor of Chicago. "It will never be a dead issue until we have both silver and gold