

Light on the Subject of Municipal Reform.

Interesting Summaries of Some of the Papers Read at the Recent Cleveland Conference.

The widespread interest nowadays manifested in the subject of improved city government justifies more attention to the proceedings of the recent Cleveland conference of the National Municipal League...

The Government of Washington.

The municipal condition of Washington was treated by Frederick L. Siddons, who introduced his paper by a careful and detailed review of the four kinds of government that has marked its history...

Under the direction of the commission all assessments for taxation are made and taxes collected; all contracts for school and fire engine houses are awarded; and also for making streets and other improvements...

Congress is supposed to consider the making of laws for the District on three or four days in a month, but so great has become the apathy and indifference to local legislation that "District Day" has become a signal for emptying both house and senate...

There are no circumstances to warrant a different form of municipal government for Washington than would be considered desirable for any other city of its dimensions in the country.

As to the executive department, Mr. Siddons says the commissioners have been, in the main, men who are honest, at least to the extent that it has never been charged that they personally profited by their positions at the public expense.

Mr. Siddons also considers the various associations which exist for the protection of the section of the District which they specially represent, and says that the effort to have "Home Rule" again permitted is hampered by the fear that the financial contribution from the national treasury will be withdrawn...

The Government of Detroit. Donald D. MacLaurin, of Detroit, Mich., acting president of the Civic Federation, read a paper treating of the government of that city.

penditures, a two-thirds vote being estimated to over-ride his veto. Another check on its power is the board of estimates, forty members, which meets in April without fail to pass on appropriations for the ensuing year.

government, who were paid \$16,861 per year. In 1893 all were abolished except nine, who receive \$3,610, a saving in salaries of \$13,251...

WANTED TO BE HANGED. The Prisoner Preferred That to Hearing Joe Blackburn Make a Speech.

At a dinner party some time ago Joe Blackburn was present and in his best form. He got a little the better of Vice President Stevenson, whereupon the vice president assured the company that he fully appreciated Mr. Blackburn, in proof of which he told the following story:

A LESSON IN PATRIOTISM. Editor of The Tribune: Sir--Great praise has been given in history to the Spartan mother who said to her son as he was about to go forth to engage in the battles for his country...

Nothing could show more strikingly than Mr. Graves' presentation, the vicious effects of party and non-party features of municipal administration of which reformers are trying to get rid. For he presents examples of government by commissions, appointive and elective, partisan and bi-partisan, confirmation by one or both branches of the city government...

THE LAD WAS SLOW. An Improbable Tale About a Messenger Boy Unseen to Tips. It was when Ambassador Bayard made his brief visit home last winter. A dozen newspaper men went down to quarantine to meet him.

WELSH JOTTINGS. Rev. Michael Williams, of Cliffryd, has received an invitation to become the pastor of the Rev. Calvinistic Methodist Church, Douglas, in the place of the late Rev. D. Morgan, vicar of Penrhyn-draeth, who has died.

THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS. Government of the people is the people's business, and if they neglect it, government and people both suffer. The duty of the citizen does not end when the polls are closed on election day.

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Business Men Owe a Duty to the Public.

Governor McKinley Urges Them to Come to The Rescue of Our Free Institutions.

In a speech at Cleveland, last week, to the visiting representatives of the chamber of commerce of Ohio, Governor McKinley said a number of excellent things, which deserve, equally with the speech of his which we reprinted last Saturday, to be afforded the widest publicity.

These are times when the wisest would be content to do nothing, and the careless should be unafraid to wish more than ever in his life for the power to speak the words which, at a time like the present, are so much needed. The people throughout the country are at this moment giving more sober consideration to the duties of citizenship than probably at any previous period.

Our government, national, state and municipal, rests upon public opinion. Public opinion creates free governments and upholds them for good or for ill. Public opinion however good, if indifferent has no vital force.

Today's Bargains in Shoes. \$5 Men's French Calf Shoes, \$3.50. \$4 Men's Russet Shoes, 3.00. \$5 Men's Kangaroo Shoes, 3.50. \$3 Men's Pine Shoes, 2.00.

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