

ANNUAL STATEMENT
OF THE FINANCES OF TOLEDO TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE
VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1st, 1898.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL

Mayor's Message.

TOLEDO, O.. October
24th, 1898.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Toledo :

GENTLEMEN :-I have the honor to submit my message to form a party of the annual report from this Department.

There are two matters of special importance to the people of Toledo, that I trust may have the prompt and careful attention of your Honorable Body. I refer to the subjects of light and heat. The first in importance is the City pipeline or natural gas plant. I believe that in the present situation we should deal with this property as any one of us would do if it were privately owned. If this City pipe line were mine, in order to learn practically what can be done, I should at once enter upon the construction of a small plant for manufacturing gas. I should employ a gas engineer of known ability and say to him, that I wanted to build a \$25,000 plant to manufacture gas according to some of the well-known processes now in use for manufacturing a carbureted water gas, or perhaps better, because cheaper, a coal gas of low candle power. The by-product coke oven being out of our reach on account of our inability to market great quantities of coke daily, I do not believe there remains any one process that is very materially better than the ordinary process now in use all over the country in various modified forms for the manufacture of what is known as water gas. We have ample evidence that these processes are cheap enough.

The Toledo Gas Light and Coke Company is making gas, and it is reasonable to suppose, making money. Hundreds of our citizens who have burned their gas, both for fuel and light, can testify to its good quality, and this same object lesson may be repeated in every city all over this country. It is the business of a private company to make gas for the sake of making private profit for the owners; it is the business of a publicly owned company to make gas without profit for the benefit of all the people. That is the proposition that is before us as regards the gas plant, reduced to its simplest terms. This property may be made an incalculable blessing to our people, if we take hold of it with a truly patriotic spirit.

To say that we are unable to deal within a proposition of this kind, is to confess the failure of the institution that we call government: to urge that the City is unable to

employ men of such ability as a private corporation can find, is belied by our experience in the management of such institutions as are now publicly owned. I refer to our public schools, our public library, our parks our City water works, our police department our fire department our city streets—all of these are publicly owned, and the popular argument that a certain property can be managed cheaper by a private corporation than by the city, is as applicable to any one of these as it is to the city natural gas department. Private contractors can be found without limit who will promise to educate our children, provide us with literature in the public library, operate the city water works, put out our fires, take care of the streets, as they now do the work of improving them under the system of private contract, and they will agree to do all this cheaper than we ourselves are now doing it ; and I think that it is as reasonable to urge that any one or all of these functions be turned over to some individual or private corporation to be operated for private profit, as I would think of turning over for such purpose the natural gas department.

I think that such an act would be almost an irremediable error. It would, in all probability, remove from the city the possibility of ministering to all of the people in the important necessities of heat and light, and leave them forever at the mercy of corporations who are in the business simply for the sake of private profit. To say that a private corporation can operate a function of this kind and serve the people better than they can serve themselves, is an unwarranted assumption of superiority on the part of those who make the claim, it is a flagrant manifestation of a lack of the spirit of patriotism, for no man who is truly patriotic will be willing to confess to a desire to use the people of his city simply for what Inc can make out of them. The city and the city government, like the city pipe line, is here for the benefit of all of the people, and the patriots who love the City will be quite as ready to manifest that love and show their patriotism by serving the City in those fields where they possess superiority, whether it be in making gas, operating a public lighting plant, looking after the interests of the library or the public schools, as were the patriots who went to Cuba and gave up their lives in front of Santiago, because they loved their country.

I believe that we can rely upon this patriotism of our people to lay hold upon the problem of what to do with the natural gas department in such a way that it will result in filling the line with manufactured gas, not made any cheaper than a private corporation can make it, but made with the element of profit eliminated, and delivered to the people of Toledo at actual cost. We are not limited to making fuel gas. When once the City pipe line has an abundance of gas, our people should all know that with the mantle burners now in general use, any kind of gas that will make heat will make light and I trust that the natural gas department will, as soon as they have a supply of manufactured gas, encourage the use of it for light so that the people may have the benefit of this civilizing agency at the actual cost of producing it.

A word further in regard to this much maligned property. It is true that it is a costly plant, but I believe that it is worth to the people of Toledo today every dollar that it has

cost, and I unhesitatingly say, for reasons already set forth, that I would not advise the sale of the property at any obtainable

Finally, I do not think it an extravagant statement to make, that the very existence of this City pipe line, as a regulator of the price of gas, has already saved to the people a sum equal to the entire cost of the plant. I am aware that the project of the City line brought an offer to furnish gas for ten years at twenty cents, but supposing that no such pipe line had ever been talked of, what then would the people have paid for their gas .

The Natural Gas Trustees are applying themselves to the task of getting a supply of manufactured gas into the City pipe line, and I earnestly hope that your Honorable Body will loyally sustain them in every reasonable effort to accomplish this much desired result. I am confident that in no way can you serve the people of Toledo better than by making an appropriation for the use of the natural gas department that will enable them to carry out this work, and thus make the City pipe line a blessing instead of a burden, a socializing agency that will make our people love our City better because of what it is doing for them, that will make the City pipe line worthy to be classed with our City schools, our water works our fire and police departments, our library and our beautiful parks and streets. These it is, that make Toledo justly our pride and glory, for they are the property of all the people.

LIGHTING PLANT

Toledo should own and operate a public lighting plant, and should at once take measures to enter upon the construction of the same. The present -contract for the lighting of the City expires December 31st, 1899, and, as I have said in a previous message, that “ without . special legislation in the interest of the people, it will be impossible for the City to have even a semblance of competition in the matter of price for lighting the City.”

The law is an iniquitous thing and we have not the slightest excuse for trifling with it, but your Honorable Body should take hold of this subject vigorously, and, in my opinion provide the funds and proceed to construct a municipal electric lighting plant, following out the suggestions made in a report recently submitted by Superintendent Cook, of the Water Works.

The City is now paying \$90.00 per year for each arc light ; there are nearly eight hundred in use ; we should have at least one thousand at present. Superintendent Cook estimates that the light can be produced by the City under public ownership at a cost of \$60. 00 per light. This would mean a saving of \$30.00 on each one, or \$30,000 on the one thousand lights that we ought to have. The arithmetic of these figures is very simple. In six or seven years the saving in the cost of light alone would pay for the plant, interest and principal. Many cities in this and other countries are doing their work of public lighting;, doing it satisfactorily, doing it successfully, doing it cheaper and doing it better than it has been done under the contract system, and I believe that Toledo ought not to

longer lag behind in this matter.

I believe your Honorable Body will be doing the will of your constituents if you give immediate attention to this important topic, so that we may be prepared to do our own street lighting on the expiration of the present contract.

STATE LEGISLATION

Perhaps the really most important need of Ohio cities is the enactment of laws by the State Legislature that will give all cities such a measure of Home Rule as will enable a city to bring out the best that is in its own people. A commission was appointed by the last Legislature to recommend such changes in municipal law to the next session as they deemed wise and necessary, and I sincerely hope that your Honorable Body may take this matter into consideration and appoint a committee to thoroughly investigate this question and make such recommendations to this committee as, in the opinion of your Honorable Body, may seem just and proper. . It would seem to me that we have progressed in the study of self-government to such an extent now, that the Legislature may safely trust the cities of Ohio with Home Rule, particularly in all matters of purely local concern. I believe that a general law providing a plain for the organization of cities and incorporated villages without any classification whatever, merely enacting a skeleton plan of government applicable to all, leaving each city to provide by ordinance for the exercise of such powers as it shall see fit to use, would be in the interest of good government.

CIVIL SERVICE

I believe that the merit system of civil service should be required to control the employment and discharge of all persons in the public service. I believe there should be an amendment to the Constitution, providing that all cities of a population of over 20,000 should have the right to make their own charter, defining their powers.

NO GRANT OR EXTENSION OF FRANCHISES

I believe there should be no grant of new, or extension of any existing franchise, to private corporations except the question be first submitted to, and passed upon, by the people at a regular election . These are a few suggestions that seem to me to be in the line of needed reform in the laws of Ohio now governing cities, and I urge your cooperation to the end that such law may be placed on the statute books at the next session of the Legislature.

I believe a city should have the same privilege with regard to doing work of public improvement that an individual has with respect to erecting a house, building a bridge, digging a sewer, or constructing a highway. The individual or corporation may do any work of that character either by the day labor plan or he may advertise and let the work by contract. The city has no such liberty, but is tied by law to the contract system.

THE CONTRACT SYSTEM

There can be no doubt in the minds of thoughtful persons, who are at all familiar with the working of this system, that it is responsible for more iniquity than any other one thing connected with municipal government. Our recent experience is very instructive in the paving of Collingwood Avenue, where the bid that secured the work was \$8,010.10 lower than the next highest bid ; the building of sewer No. 690 on the East Side, where the price paid was \$6,350.10 lower than the next highest ; and the building of sewer No. 702 in Adams street, where the difference between the two lowest bids was \$3,787. These three examples teach more plainly than any argument can, that the system is wrong -in theory, corrupt in practice, and that the proper protection of the interest of the people demands that it should be abandoned wholly , and the law should at once be so modified as to allow the City the same degree of liberty with regard to all work of improvement, that is now enjoyed by the private citizen or private corporation. It is a final and complete illustration of the fact that “ competition does not compete, and that the system fails in nothing more completely than in the doing of just what it professes to do, that is, to secure the cheapest work.

CITY DIRECTORY

Another direction in which the functions of the municipality may be enlarged with profit to all the people, is in the compiling and publishing of a City Directory.

Under the present arrangement or rather lack of arrangement, this important work is left entirely to private enterprise and is carried on simply and solely for private profit. I regard this work as too important and too vitally connected with the City's welfare to be thus left to private enterprise, and it seems to me that it is a work that may well be taken charge of by your Honorable Body and incorporated into the regular work of the City. As I have said, the work , while left in the hands of private individuals, must of necessity be imperfectly done, and the very character of it precludes the possibility almost of its being well done by any other agency than by the municipality.

With the work under the care of the City , a monthly bulletin of corrections for the directory might be issued through the Police Department without entailing any expense, or at least with little expense to the people, and this corrected bulletin could be sent around to the subscribers for the directory and would form an extremely useful and valuable addition to a work of this kind. Furthermore, it is probable that if this work were under the care of the City, a satisfactory arrangement could be made with the Post Office authorities to enlist the co-operation of that department in keeping the work up in such a way that it would make a real directory of the inhabitants of Toledo always up to date. I believe this work, under the charge of the City, would effect a very important saving to the people. It is my purpose at an early day to prepare an ordinance and submit a plan for carrying out these suggestions and I respectfully ask for such consideration of it as its importance may merit.

THE DEPARTMENTS

I believe it can be truly said that the work of the various departments in our City is keeping up fairly well within the progressive spirit of the age. After a careful study of all of them as I am able to make, I am led to the conclusion that a comparison with the work of similar departments in other cities will uniformly result favorably to Toledo.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Though the work of this important branch of our civic life is entirely under the charge of an independent Board, I believe it fully within the province of a report of this character, for the chief executive of the City to call such attention to the work of the Public Schools as, in his judgment seems right and proper, either by way of saying an encouraging word for what may appear to him to be worthy of commendation, or, on the other hand, in the making of such suggestions as in his opinion may seem to be helpful to those who have them in charge.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

"A thing of beauty and a joy forever." Such a thing is our new High School Building. Its impressive proportions, graceful architecture and general adaptability to the purposes for which it was erected, all contribute to make it an educational institution (a High School indeed), for every one of our people who have the privilege of looking at it even from the outside.

THE NILES LAW

The reorganization of the Board of Education under the Niles Law, which does away with the Ward as a political division, is a distinct mark of progress in the care of the schools, as was clearly evidenced by the interest manifested by the people in the selection and election of the present excellent Board. That this law will operate in a helpful way to bring the Board of Education to always consider the interest of the City as a whole, and therefore, to consider the interest of all the people instead of wasting energy as has been done heretofore, in trying to consider the interest of each Ward as a separate little city by itself, necessarily antagonistic to the other wards, is certainly a long step towards the unity that must and will mark all of our efforts at public service, before we come to a just realization of the great truth that we truly are one people.

It is to the public schools more than to any other agency of our collective life that we must look for the teaching of the important truth of our democracy, and I am heartily in sympathy with the idea already suggested, that in order to teach this lesson and develop a purer and nobler patriotism, a larger use be made of the school buildings, that the people to whom they belong be encouraged to use them freely as meeting places for assemblages in which the public generally are interested. I unhesitatingly say that no better use could be made of the school rooms than that they be freely given to the people, when not otherwise in use, for any meeting that in the opinion of the Board of Education is calculated to contribute to the public welfare, by adding to the common stock of useful knowledge.

MANUAL TRAINING

I regard with very great favor the free night school that has for some years been maintained in the Manual Training Department. A thing that must always remain fundamental in any just conception of education is the knowledge of the use of tools, how to work and how to work to the best advantage. Much of the imperfect education that has been done through the public schools in the past can be traced to the fact that this important fundamental was left entirely to the caprice of the individual, and the question whether the children were to grow up with correct notions of the nature and purpose of work left to the domain of chance.

I hope that our people will impress upon all the boys and girls of Toledo in the most earnest manner, the truth that the A B C of a genuine education consists in knowing how to do some useful thing and how to do it well ; in short, in knowing how to work.

The people of our City are to be congratulated on having a Manual Training School that is, so far as my observation goes, equalled by few and excelled by none, and the evidence of the high class of work that has been done there is abundant and conclusive.

FREE KINDERGARTENS

" Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," is the injunction of Solomon the Wise.

All educators now agree that very much is lost to the 'work of true education unless it is begun with the child. It is said that the seeds of fundamental truth that form the character of the future citizen must be planted in the child before he reaches the age of seven years. There can be no question but that the thing of greatest importance to a city is the character of its citizens ; it then becomes the clear duty of a city to contribute in every possible way to character building, and, to act intelligently, it is important that the contribution should be made at the time when the apprentice citizen is most ready and likely to receive correct impressions. This the City can do in one way and no other, and that is by establishing free kindergartens ; in other words, making the kindergarten a part of the public school system.

History as well as theory can be cited to prove the correctness of this proposition, and in those cities where the kindergartens have been established long enough to begin to show the fruit of proper training in early years, a canvass of the records of the courts shows most conclusive evidence of the wisdom of thus exercising care over the very young children. Children who have had kindergarten training do not grow up into men and women of criminal character of either high or low class. The way to a good citizenship, without criminal tendencies, is to plant the seed of it in all children through the kindergarten system before they arrive at the age when they are admitted to the public school.

Let us have the kindergartens. "Give the babies a chance." Let them have the right to choose whether they will do right or wrong. It is cheaper to establish kindergartens than

to maintain courts and build jails, workhouses and prisons. Give all the children proper kindergarten training, and the supply of bad citizens for our prisons, jails and workhouses will be exhausted in twenty-five years, and these institutions will be consigned to the domain of relics of an unhappy past.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library is one of the objects that commands the love and pride of our citizens. The artistically beautiful building in which the books are housed and the work of this Department carried on, forms one of the most attractive features of our City; and I think that I can safely say that the work of the Library Board and those who minister to our people in the distribution of the books can be said to be of a high order and in every way deserving of the hearty commendation and support of all of our people.

CHILDREN 'S ROOM

The opening of the children's room upstairs is a move that I think will be appreciated by the children, who are often too apt to be neglected in many public institutions and simply because they are children, are made to stand back and wait until their elders are served. Now that they are to have a room of their own, we may accept it as conclusive evidence that the Library Board intends to "give the babies a chance."

THE STREETS

Next to our public schools in point of importance to the life of the community a-re the public streets, and it is gratifying to me as to every loyal citizen, to point with pride to the generally excellent condition in which our streets are kept. That they are so is clearly due to the faithful and efficient manner in which the affairs of . this department have been conducted .

In a previous message I have called attention to the inadequacy of the appropriation that is set aside for the Street Improvement and Repair Fund, and I again desire to impress upon your Honorable Body the importance of this matter. In no way can the health and comfort of the people be more generally ministered unto than by keeping the streets of a city in as nearly a perfect condition as possible. Filthy streets, besides adding greatly to our discomfort, are a constant menace to health ; and in addition, the spectacle of unclean street is a source of constant irritation to both pedestrian and rider, and therefore, a positive hindrance to the development of the spirit that we all desire to encourage and foster, the spirit of love for our city. Clean and well kept streets always command the admiration of a stranger entering the city, and the people are keen in their appreciation of anything that is clone for their comfort in this as well as in every other department.

STREET SPRINKLING

I believe that your Honorable Body can, with very great profit to the people, consider the question of the sprinkling of the streets at the public expense instead of leaving this

important duty to the care of private enterprise, as is now done. This work is successfully done publicly in other cities, and I see no reason why it may not be attempted within great profit here. The havoc and destruction that is wrought to both life and property by the clouds of dust and filth that is blown through unsprinkled streets now cannot be estimated, to say nothing of the personal discomfort that arises from this cause. I am sure that the small tax that would be necessary to provide for the general sprinkling of the streets of the City would be cheerfully met by our citizens and would be generally declared to be the best kind of an investment, when once it has been tried and the advantage of a dustless city experienced.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

It gives me pleasure to make favorable mention of y the work of this important department (luring the past year. The record of arrests indicates clearly that we are making progress in dealing with crime, with the idea uppermost of using the department for the prevention of wrong doing, rather than in the hope to overcome evil by coercion and punishment, after a crime is committed. I believe that the falling off in the arrests hat are shown in the records of this department is a truly hopeful sign. It certainly cannot be traced to a lack of proper regard for the interests of the people on the part of the police, but is due rather, as it seems to me, to a better understanding of the nature and duty of a patrolman as a public servant, that is taking possession of the police. I believe that the patrolmen of Toledo pretty generally look upon their office as that of a public servant instead of regarding the position as one of a public " boss," which, in other words, is a public nuisance.

THE MERIT SYSTEM OF CIVIL SERVICE AND THE EIGHT HOUR DAY

The introduction of the merit system of civil service and the eight hour day here, I believe, had much to do with the improved work of our Police Department. The men, feeling secure in their positions as long as their meritorious work will entitle them to stay, are thus encouraged to do all in their power towards building up the City by serving all of the people instead of exhausting themselves in the mere effort to " hold their jobs " by devoting their the to the service of some narrowly selfish politician. The testimony of the Chief 'of this department is to the effect that both the discipline and morals of the entire force have been greatly improved, and, as he believes, it is due very largely to the introduction of the merit system of civil service and shorter work day.

CANES INSTEAD OF CLUBS

I am sure our citizens will notice with pleasure that canes have been substituted for clubs in the hands of these officials, a change that I believe adds very materially to both the appearance of the officers and the morals of the community.

In this connection I cannot speak too highly of the faithful and efficient service that has been rendered to the people of Toledo by the present Police Board. The constant care

and helpfulness of these unpaid officials have contributed greatly to bringing about the improved order. A visit to the police headquarters and a glance at the marvelous improvement that has been wrought by the renovating and general cleaning up of the premises will greatly increase the respect of any of our citizens who may deem it worth while to devote a little of their the to an inspection of the work of this Board.

SO CALLED TRAMPS

The plan of providing food and lodging for homeless men without money who come to the City in search of work, allowing them to pay for it by working on the streets, has produced such satisfactory results that the Police Board will continue this worthy reform during the coming winter.

It would be a pleasure to speak words of commendation for the work of nearly every individual composing the department ; suffice it to say in general terms, it has all been good. After having made comparison with police departments in several other cities, I can say that the Toledo police are today in point of efficiency, which means genuine service to all of the people, the peer of any similar department that the country can produce.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

I have nothing but words of commendation for this branch of the public service. With comparatively meagre equipment, at their command, the record of our fire department is one of which we may all be justly proud. I trust that your Honorable Body may supplement the work by passing the legislation that this department stands in need of, providing for the appointment of a Building Inspector. We have the melancholy evidence in the loss of the life during the past year that there are more ways than one of doing murder for money, and without a Building Inspector to supervise buildings so that proper precautions are taken in a growing city like ours, there is increasing danger that such a calamity as befell the City in the loss of the life of brave Captain Wills, in the Dow-Snell fire, and the frightful destruction of life at the Union Elevator may be repeated through the erection of buildings that, to satisfy human greed, are lacking in ordinary precautions for the protection of life. Unless the City Council shall do all that lies within its power in the way of providing such legislation and further sacrifice of life is the result of such neglect, I cannot see but the City itself will stand equally guilty with the greed of the property owner, which is the prime cause of the trouble.

What has been said of the work of the Police Board with regard to efficiency and faithfulness will apply with equal force to the work of the Board of Fire Commissioners, which is also unsalaried .

THE WORKHOUSE

I believe that this correctional institution of our City is keeping in line with the general march of improvement. Reports from the institution indicate the most careful and prudent management, and it is a pleasure to note that the Board of Workhouse

Commissioners have, during the past year, taken into serious consideration the work of character building or rather restoring, in connection with the unfortunate class of our citizens who come under their care. I trust that this feature of the work of the institution may be enlarged upon, for I am sure that if we can point to the fact that detention for a term at the workhouse is not only punishment, but in addition that it aids to restore a man to a life of good citizenship, it will be a source of gratification to all of our people.

PARKS

The parks of a city in their importance to the public welfare bear a very close relation to the streets. They are the meeting and resting places of the people, and this is especially true of the great cities. That they are so freely 'used is the best evidence that they are justly appreciated. It is a pleasure to call attention to the progressive work of our Park Board in the management of these properties in the City of Toledo.

According to my understanding of the temper and spirit of this Board, it has been their aim to aid the people in making the largest possible use of the parks. They are and have been greatly hampered by lack of funds to pay for the necessary work, and what has been said upon this point in regard to the department of streets will apply with equal force to the park department ; and in this connection I know of no better way to express my views than to quote what I have already said in a former message : " I believe every dollar expended upon the public parks is an investment that will return to the City an hundred fold in the improved quality of our citizenship. There is nothing that serves to cement people into one common brotherhood and build up that family feeling so necessary to the real progress of a city as getting together in the public parks. The people soon partake of the feeling that the parks are their property, and this feeling I am sure your Honorable Body can well afford to foster and encourage in every possible manner.

MUSIC IN THE PARKS

One of the greatest civilizing agencies of the day is music. The progressive cities of the world have long recognized this fact, and particularly in Europe, have provided for the largest possible indulgence in this civilizing agency by liberally subsidizing musical organizations. We cannot hope to compare with the older cities of the world in aim effort of this kind, but we can reasonably expect to emulate their example, and I trust that your Honorable Body will seriously consider this question as one of vital importance to the people. There is no room to doubt the wisdom of an appropriation of a few thousand dollars annually for music in the parks. I am satisfied that if the proposition were submitted to a vote of the people, it would carry by an overwhelming majority, and believing this to be true, I earnestly recommend that the necessary steps be taken to provide a fund for that purpose so that the experiment may be tried during the next year.

Concluding this reference to the parks, it is a special pleasure to call the attention of our people to the fact that that relic of bossism of a barbarous age, that modern atrocity, " Keep off the grass," has departed from the parks of Toledo, and I trust forever.

PLAY GROUNDS FOR THE CHILDREN

I again wish to call the attention of your Honorable Body to the necessity of providing playgrounds for the children. This movement is making rapid progress in the cities of our country today, and if we are to keep our place in the vain as one of the leading cities of America, we cannot long neglect . the children. Play is the normal condition for the healthy child as work is for the healthy adult ; it is necessary for its well-being and proper development, and really another part of their education ; and to provide satisfactorily equipped playgrounds for the children is, in my opinion, to minister in a most substantial manner towards the building up of the future citizenship of our City. Give the children playgrounds and lots of them. It will be money well spent, and, without a doubt, in many instances will result in saving children from falling into vice and possibly crime, by providing them a place to go where they can be engaged in healthful recreation; whereas otherwise they might be wandering aimlessly about the streets and demonstrating in their lives the truth of the adage that the " idle brain is the devil's workshop." Keep the children at play and the men at work, is my plan.

PUBLIC BATHS

The movement for public baths that originated sometime ago in your Honorable Body seems to have "died still born." and I recommend that this matter again be taken up and carried to a successful conclusion. In taking this step we are not making -an untried experiment; we are following in the wake of rather than leading, other cities in this matter. Free public baths have been a feature of the cities of Great Britain and Europe for many years, and during the last few years many cities of America are making decisive advance in this direction.

" Cleanliness is akin to Godliness," and one of the first processes necessary to make a good citizen out of a bad citizen is that he shall "wash and be clean"; then certainly it is incumbent upon the City to provide means whereby he may wash. As matters now stand, if some of our citizens avail themselves of the only opportunity they have to wash, that is by taking a bath in the Maumee, instead of being commended for their action, they are subject to arrest and to be locked up in a felon's cell. Clearly this should not be in a civilized community, and on behalf of the people who desire to be clean and have no opportunity to do so, I earnestly urge your Honorable Body to make the necessary provision to enable the Park Board to carry out this eminently Christian and humane project. Let us have free baths.

WATER WORKS BOARD

The report of this department tells a tale of faithful service and excellent management so plainly and so well as to need no elucidation on my part. It is but simple justice, however, that honorable mention should be made in a report of this kind of such efficient work as has been done by the Water Works Board.

I am sure that this municipally owned and well managed property of the City excites the

love of, and is worthy the admiration of every loyal citizen. I especially urge upon our people the importance of making themselves acquainted with the material interests of the city. It cannot help but contribute to our self-respect and improve the quality of our citizenship to pay frequent visits to the various departments in which we all have a community of ownership. The Water Works Department, especially the carefully kept pumping station, is an object lesson itself that will contribute to an important degree in developing further civic pride and leading to purer and better conceptions of citizenship. An inspection of the physical conditions of the property of this department and an examination of the, report of the Water Works Board ought, I am sure, to silence all objection to municipal ownership, and, at the same time, put a quietus on the absurd claim that a city cannot serve itself better without profit than a private corporation can minister to it with profit as the only incentive.

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY

The reduction of the hours of labor in this department from ten hours to eight hours and increasing the pay from \$ 1.25 to \$1.50 is a departure in the affairs of the department that I believe is strictly in the line of progress, and I predict that the experience of the department. will prove that this important movement will result in better work and better men.

THE MARKETS

Your attention is called to the need of improved market facilities. The most reliable estimates now give the City of Toledo a population something like 145,000 people, and we have practically the same market facilities that we possessed a decade ago when the population was only about 80,000. The City has outgrown the provision that has been made for it along this line, and I am sure that in taking steps to provide better market facilities your Honorable Body will be looking to a much needed improvement and do that which will meet with universal approval from a large and important class of our people.

NEW CITY BUILDING

It is gratifying to note a disposition on the part of the Common Council to take steps looking to the providing of the City with a new public building. It is clearly out of keeping with the dignity of a people of a city of the wealth and importance of Toledo that its public offices should be housed in rented quarters, and the question of how best to provide a public building of such a kind and character as would meet the requirements of the City for many years to come, is one worthy of your most serious consideration.

I am in favor of a proposition to consider the erection of such a building on the space in the rear of Memorial Hall and between that and Madison street. With little difficulty enough could be added to the public property now owned by the City in that locality to make room for a building that would comfortably shelter all of the City Departments, and the location is one most excellently adapted to the purpose on account of its central

character. In view of the fact that Toledo has been designated by the Legislature as the location for the holding of the Ohio Centennial Exposition in 1903, it is certain that the matter of a public building should be engaging the attention of your Honorable Body, so as to allow ample time to consider the needs and requirements of the City, and give our people every opportunity for discussing the project and aiding you in this important matter by their counsel and advice.

OHIO CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

Toledo is particularly favored at this present time in the fact that the Legislature of the State has decided upon this city as the location of the Centennial Exposition in 1903. That there is a determination and purpose already awakened in the hearts of our people to make this a truly great exposition is plainly evident to every thoughtful person, and there are many circumstances that favor us in this matter that should be used to the best possible advantage. In the first place the time is ample for preparation. We have an object lesson before us of a noble and successful exposition now nearing its close in Omaha which was recently visited by the Ohio Centennial Commission and many of the people of our City. There is yet ahead of us in 1900, the great Paris exposition from which I have no doubt, we will gather many lessons of wisdom that will aid us still further in devising and carrying out large plans with respect to our own exposition.

I believe that there are great possibilities in store for -Toledo with reference to this important event. I believe that the City of Toledo may be more conspicuously useful in promoting and perfecting our civilization between now and 1903 than any other city of Ohio. I believe that our people have in them the spirit of progress that, if rightly used and conserved, will make our beautiful city the model municipality of America ; that will make our city conspicuous by reason of the fact that it is a truly great city ; great in ministering to all of its people, great in its love and loyalty for Toledo, and that love and that loyalty manifested in the doing of those things for the people that make the people in turn love the City and loyal to it, because of what it does and has done for them.

A great poet has told us where the great city stands:

"Where the greatest men and women are found, There the great city stands."

I believe there is a purpose on the part of the State to make the Ohio Centennial Exposition a truly great exposition. I believe this spirit inspires the Ohio Centennial Commissioners, and I know of but one thought now necessary to impress upon our people with regard to this opportunity, that is the thought of unity, the thought that but one purpose should inspire us ; that purpose should be to do everything in our power from now on to that time to make the coming exposition the greatest, not in size, perhaps, but the truly greatest and grandest educational object lesson that the country has yet seen, the indescribably beautiful World's Fair of 1893 not even excepted. To do it but one thing is necessary: we must all " pull together. " You say this is a dream? It is a possibility : nay, more, it is a probability. Let us arise and possess it.

FINANCES

A study of the reports of the City Auditor will show that the finances of the city are in a healthy, and to my mind, fairly satisfactory condition. If we consider our assets at anything like their marketable value, and reflect that the affairs of the city are not, or ought not to be, carried on primarily for the purpose of making profit but rather for the purpose of providing for the comfort of the people in the most economical manner, I am sure that there will be no cause for apprehension as to our future financially.

The Sinking Fund Trustees are taking all the bonds that are issued and there is a gradual decrease in the public debt which, large as it is, is not abnormally so either by comparison with the public debt of other cities or, as I have said, with the assets we possess.

TAXATION

There has been a gratifying increase in the revenues derived from taxation, due to the fidelity of the officials upon whom devolves the duty of looking after this important interest. The amount would be largely augmented were the law observed as it is set forth in the Constitution of the State of Ohio, which provides that "all property in the State of Ohio must be returned for taxation at its true value in money." It is unfortunate that public morals are so perverted in regard to questions of property that there is usually an irreconcilable difference between "the true value in money" of property when returned for taxation and when sold in the open market: and in addition we are confronted with the fact that a vast amount of property annually escapes all taxation.

As ex-President Harrison so well said in his address before the Union League Club in Chicago last February: "It is not only wrong, but it is unsafe to make a show in our homes and on the streets that is not made in the tax returns." While the present system, or more correctly speaking *lack of system* of taxing property remains, and until a system of taxation having its basis in a scientific conception of justice shall be adopted, I do not see as there is anything left for us to do but to appeal to those upon whom rest the obligations of wealth to be honest, to pay their full share of the cost of government.

LICENSES

The interests of the people of the City imperatively demand a careful revision of the license laws. At present some of them impose an unjust burden on a class of people who are least able to bear any burden. Others are a direct tax, upon industry and fail to carry out the purpose for which they are designed.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

You should at once repeal the ordinance licensing Employment Agencies, and make the carrying on of the business of an employment bureau within the City limits unlawful.

FREE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

The State of Ohio is unique in having a law for Free Employment Agencies in certain

Cities, of which Toledo is one, and the City bears the expense of conducting the office. The absurdity of licensing a private enterprise to carry on the same class of work in competition with the City is apparent. But the infamy of this sort of business can only be understood when we reflect that our people do not go to an Employment Agency to seek for work save as a last extremity, and that the City should then license an individual to make profit out of this distressed class of people is a flagrant wrong that should be stopped as soon as it is possible to enact the necessary legislation. The State has made a most commendable beginning in the right direction by establishing Free Employment Agencies. Let us supplement this work by enlarging the field of their operations in every possible way so that all of the people may contribute their mite towards finding employment for those who are in need of it.

TOLEDO IS A CITY OF MANY DEPARTMENTS

I have spoken at considerable length of the work of a few. To commend the work of all as they deserve and as I would like to do, would extend this message beyond reasonable limits. I must therefore be content with speaking comprehensively and saying that, so far as my observation goes, the work of all departments has been faithfully and well done.

Very faithfully yours,

SAMUEL M. JONES,
*Mayor of the City of
Toledo.*

SUPPLEMENTARY

TOLEDO, Oct. 26, 1898.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Toledo.

GENTLEMEN :—In the message for the Annual Report, which I sent to your Honorable Body last Monday evening, I inadvertently omitted making special reference to the work of your department during the past year. I believe that such mention is justly due your Honorable Body, and embrace time first opportunity to make the correction.

Few of our people have any conception of the demands upon the time and patience of an Alderman or Councilman in a City like ours, and that the work of these officials is often made the subject of unjust criticism and censure usually arises from lack of knowledge of the service that is rendered. The large amount of the work of public improvement that has been carried on under your direction has made your duties especially onerous during the past year, and it is a pleasure to call attention to the patriotic and disinterested character of the service that your department has rendered in looking after these various

enterprises.

I am confident, after pretty careful observation and study of time question since I have been in the Mayor's office, that if there are any failures in the work of municipal government chargeable to the Common Council. it is due to the limitations imposed upon your action by the law, aided and abetted by the octopus of custom, rather than to the shortcoming of the Council itself.

In general terms I desire in the most emphatic manner to testify as strongly as I can to the nobility of purpose and worthiness of motive that has actuated your Body. Familiarity with the work has mimified to a very great extent the " boodler councilmen, "" that is the subject of much thought-less talk among those unacquanted with the men usually elected to office. If we amend our system so as to make in-operative the work -of the rich "boodler" who goes about seeking for the needy councilman whom he may devour with the poison of his money, all suspicion of corrupt legislation will soon vanish from our midst. There are but few measures that have passed your Honorable Body that I have felt called upon to vote against and in all but one case. the veto was ineffectual as there were sufficient votes in the Council to carry the legislation despite the Mayor's opposition. I never was much of a believer in the autocractic power of the veto, an(l my experience has confirmed my doubts as to its value. I trust the time is not far distant when the veto power for the mayor will be abolished and the referendum to the people substituted in its place.

It affords me satisfaction in concluding this short reference to the great amount of work that has gone through your hands to make a record of the pleasant relations that have existed between us, and to assure you of my earnest desire to co-operate in every way that I can iii the work of serving the people. Thanking you for the uniform courtesy you have shown the office which I hold.

I am, very faithfully yours

SAMUEL M. JONES,

Mayor. 0