

the box where I had been kept, and two or three people were standing around, and one was this lady I had seen who had smiled so sweetly at me when I was in her home that night. I was glad to see her smile again, though she was dressed in black, and she cried a little when she smiled this time. Then I was carefully inspected, and I heard her say, "Nobody ever had a better husband than mine, for this \$10,000 policy helps to take his place in taking care of the children and me, and it says I receive a yearly income as long as I live, or have the cash now, whichever I prefer." Then she cried again, and said although he was dead she felt as though this policy was his living representative—and wasn't I proud? Well, then I was receipted and sent back to the company, and filed away here where I am now, with some other old and musty papers—for I must admit I was getting a little ashamed of my age—and here I must stay for ever and ever, I expect. But I have not lived in vain, I think; and, if every paper as big as I am did as much for homes and educational advantages as I have done, they would soon have to close up the poor houses and orphan asylums, and jails and penitentiaries.

Now, think a minute, you who are reading this, my life's history; and when you are put away in a dark, musty place, can it be said you have fulfilled the purposes of your existence as well as I have mine?—Facts and Figures, Chattanooga.

CIVIC REPRESENTATIVES.

It is evident from the following expression of editorial regret that Montreal is not the only place having reason to complain that many men of high character and solid ability decline to enter public life. The New York "Journal of Commerce" says:—

"Now that the time is at hand for nominations for Congress it is proper to call attention to the low estate to which the representation of this city has fallen. It is perhaps too late to work a revolution in this regard for the elections for the next Congress, but the subject of proper representation for New York is one which deserves the serious consideration of the business community. It comes directly home to the business man as an individual, and to New York as a competitor for the financial supremacy of the world, because of the degree of influence which might be exercised in Congress on behalf of our varied and growing interests by a high class of representatives. The trouble during the past dozen years has not lain entirely with the individuals who have been put up by the two leading parties as their candidates, but with the manner of their selection and the influences to which they have been compelled to yield. While many gentlemen of fair ability and some of high social standing have been favored by the choice of the bosses, they have usually been eliminated from the House as soon as they showed any disposition to play the part of the statesman rather than that of the servile tool of the party machine.

It is not our intention in this article to plead for the election of independents or mugwumps to the House of Representatives. There are plenty of com-

petent men who are abundantly loyal to the principles of their party, but who do not care to pay the price in the surrender of self-respect and submission to the blackmailing of campaign committees and party bosses, which are now too often involved in the acceptance of a seat in Congress. The influence of New York upon public questions has steadily declined in recent years, and her representatives in the House have become nothing but the voting machines of party dictators outside of the House. It is doubtful if the average voter could give the names of two of the fifteen representatives who now sit for Long Island and this city, and doubtful, in many cases, if he could even name his own representative. There have been, from time to time, men of brilliant intellectual powers who have represented the majority party, but they have been dropped as soon as their independence became uncomfortable to the leaders.

"It would not be easy under any circumstances to obtain the highest grade of service for a long term for a city like New York, where the earnings of competent attorneys, and the rewards of business enterprise are several times the salary of a member of Congress. Other cities, like Philadelphia, however, have solved this problem by securing men of solid abilities, who have risen by length of service to the controlling positions on the great committees. The men capable of rendering such service would have to be looked for among those whose tastes led them to prefer public life to large earnings, or among men of inherited or accumulated fortune. Some of the latter would undoubtedly render valuable service if a career in Congress was one of honor, but the men heretofore put forward of this character have too often been those whose chief ambition has been to give the background of an official title to their efforts for social success. The fundamental difficulty with this class of men is, that those who have character will not surrender it into the keeping of a party boss, and those who have it not, do not attain the influence which should belong to the representatives of the greatest city of the Union. Difficult as the problem of securing the proper men would be in any event, it is rendered almost impossible by the conflict between the character which a representative should have to faithfully represent the city, and what he must surrender in order to have a nomination handed to him by the party bosses.

"It is worthy the serious thought of the men who control the two great parties in New York whether it would not be good policy to send to Congress one or two men of each party representing the substantial business interests of the city, and permit them to continue in service long enough to acquire influence and standing in the House. If the business community should make this demand upon the leaders, with unanimity and earnestness, it would undoubtedly be granted. It is the interest of the political boss now and then to "pander to public opinion," and Mr. Croker and Senator Platt could well afford to give up two seats to men in good party standing, of recognized character and ability, without compelling them to wear the collar of complete submission to their minor ends."

DEPRECIATION IN VALUE OF SECURITIES.—The "Bankers' Magazine," of London, calculates that the depreciation during the past two months on 325 representative securities has reached a total of \$352,135,000, while, since 1898, the fall in market values has been some \$1,150,000,000.