

appointed in New York to investigate certain charges. One item of information is that two retired Supreme Court judges paid as the price of their nominations \$7,000 to \$10,000 each. The City Club is now preparing a bill for introduction at the next session of the Legislature to prevent levying of political assessment upon candidates for judicial offices. The bill would make it felony for any political organization to solicit or receive such assessment from candidates, or for the latter to contribute to political campaign funds. A leading New York journal says, "Nothing more conducive to the demoralization of the Bench could be imagined than such a system." The proposed provision is well enough in its way, but the true remedy is to abolish entirely the elective system so far as the judiciary is concerned.

The same excellent journal draws attention to the crimes and lynchings so prevalent in the United States. Statistics compiled by a Judge Hillyer show that in 1894 there were proximately 5,000 homicides, in 1896 10,000, and in 1898 over 20,000. This appalling record is attributed to the ease with which so many criminals escape punishment, and to the fact that the people have lost confidence in the administration of the law. The race problem, of course, affects this record, and is partly answerable for the inexpressibly shocking and brutal crimes committed both by blacks and white, but, as the writer says, "neither provocation, justification nor condonement can be found for the maimings and torturings of the victims of Judge Lynch, which make the blood run cold as one reads of them," and the article concludes by saying that this state of affairs is "a disgrace in which the whole United States must share. What, if anything, are the United States going to do about it?" The same journal says that a bill is to be introduced in the Georgia Legislature (that state being the worst offender in respect of lynchings) providing for the trial of a prisoner accused of criminally assaulting a woman, within five days after his arrest, and, upon conviction, public execution within five days thereafter, and the testimony of the victim may be taken in private by a special commission in presence of the accused. The very fact of this special legislation being commended as a step in the right direction is not complimentary to the administration of justice in one of the oldest states in the Union.