The Industrial Exposition of 1909

Cleveland becomes America's city

Fred McGunagle

For eight years, Tom L. Johnson had won the hearts and the votes of Clevelanders and the reputation, as Lincoln Steffens put it, of "the best mayor of the best-governed city in America." In 1909, triumphantly, it all came apart. Before the year was over, he had lost his office, his fortune, his health and the goal closest to his heart—a municipal transit system.

Johnson had reached his pinnacle in April 1909, when privately owned "City-Com" structure company agreed to lease its lines to the city for 3-cent fares for all riders. Johnson proudly drove the first car down Division Ave. and Fulton R. to public square

But a strike by employees of the old company, a serious recession and a reform movement by business leaders threatened the continuation of the revolutionary changes.

Johnson, who had led the fight to grant women the power of referendums, dismayed many of his supporters by try ing to kill Mayor Taylor's budget. When he inspired riders with service cutbacks.

Curt Lorenz, City Hall reporter for the Waschler and Amiger newspaper, was an adm-

The title of the book was "My Story." It appeared in public as the old Tom L. Who had a daughter passed through an audit experience and the outcome for the next election was gloomy," Lorenz wrote. "by an almost superhuman effort he managed to ap-

Because Johnson's most recent book was "Onward," it was described as 'the shortest and dullest' mayoral campaign since Mayor Johnson came to Cleveland, he threw himself into writ-

Johnson immediately declared, "i announce my candidacy for mayor two years from now," but it was trau-

Johnson had died from liver and kidney failure, 200,000 people, many in tears, turned out for a funeral procession past buildings decorated with crepe and pictures of "Mayor Tom." They asked, "Why him?"

They ought to be known as the Naptas, the way they kept up.

In August, Lajos quit as manager, though he continued to play on a outstanding second base. The home team ended in the season with a

Nature went on a rampage: In February, a storm weakened electric lines and halted tele-

A younger Johnson, right, and W.B. Hale in character as the Cheryble Brothers at a costume party in 1898.

Johnson, next to the man with tie and pipe in center, at a baseball game.