

THE "GANG" IS AFTER HER.

It Is Plotting to Remove the Board of Public Works' Stenographer.

"That girl typewriter has got to go, too. She can't vote, you know."

This remark was made recently by County Assessor George Petty while discussing with a friend the probable membership of the next board of public works.

"That girl typewriter" is Miss Ida G. Field, who has been employed as bookkeeper and



"THAT GIRL STENOGRAPHER," WHOM THE "GANG" IS AFTER.

stenographer by the board of public works since May 11 last. Mr. Petty spoke the sentiments of a large proportion of the element that is living at the expense of the city and county. The cause of their anxiety is that Miss Field is holding a position which a man, who can work at the primaries and talk politics in the saloons, might hold.

In the good old times before the present board of public works began to reduce expenses the position called for a salary of \$1,000 and of course it was filled by a man. Miss Field is willing to work for \$50 a month or \$400 a year less than the salary paid to her predecessors. Until the last charter amendments were adopted there was comparatively little work for the bookkeeper in this office and the revision of the salaries of employees in July, 1891, dropped the office of bookkeeper from the list, but when the powers of the board of public works were increased under the charter amendments of February 27, 1892, the board soon found a stenographer necessary. Miss Field has been carried on the pay roll as an extra clerk and has been paid from the expense account, but if she was not there the old

ordinance would necessarily be revived and what an excellent position this would be for some of Joe Shannon's followers in "de Ninth" or some trusty friend of Andy Foley from "de Second."

This is the cause of their lamentations: That a woman who can't vote, who is of no use at the primaries, who doesn't know "de boys" and won't spend days and hours seeing that everything is "all right" in a doubtful precinct, should be given a position which has been considered the proper reward for good political service, is an outrage. It doesn't seem proper; it isn't.

The question was under discussion in the street superintendent's office not long ago and the course taken by the board was severely criticised. The charter provision which requires that every office holder should be a taxpayer and a voter is construed by these statesmen to extend to minor employees as well.

It is too early for "de gang" to make an open fight yet, because the mayor hasn't appointed the members of the new board. The mayor, too, is keeping quiet about his choice and the politicians are still guessing whom he will appoint. If he reappoints the members of the present board all is lost, as far as "de push" is concerned. If he appoints a board which will suit the politicians there are two heads which must come off. Miss Field must yield her place to a successor who can vote and draw \$1,000 a year, whether he knows the difference between a typewriter and a sewing machine. John Hope, purchasing agent, who is too particular about what the city buys, must step down and let Arthur Chapman take his place. Some of the clerks in other departments who have friends in need of good places, have been investigating the duties of Miss Field's position and the possibilities of a change. They are ready to spring a candidate the moment there is a chance, but as long as the present board is retained Miss Field, who has done her work to the satisfaction of the board and frequently does stenographic work for other departments, has an advantage which they cannot hope to overthrow.