

dients that offer a continuation and at best only an amelioration of the ever-present misfortune complained of.

### NEGLECTED ISSUES.

The most important issues involved in the current campaign in this Territory are being neglected by the political orators who are consuming so much of the people's time—and patience—in professed attempts at unfolding the truths and intricacies of the living questions which claim the attention of the voter. Who is most to blame for the prostrate condition of silver? Who took the Church property? Who is most entitled to credit for Statehood? We hear the charges rung on these hackneyed topics *ad nauseam*. And yet each of them is a dead issue. Each relates to that which is passed and accomplished, not to anything now pending. In Utah, both parties favor the restoration of silver and of the Church property; and as to Statehood, it is an accomplished fact, so far as either or both parties, backed by Congress, can make it such. These issues are all dead, and their discussion is a tedious threshing of old straw.

But there are questions involved in this campaign which are living and burning ones, and whose claim upon the immediate attention of the Utah voter is greater and stronger than that of silver or the tariff. They relate to the Constitution which is shortly to be framed.

Why do not the exponents of political science who are doing so much talking to the voters, say something regarding the organic law we are about to have framed for our new state? Why do they not try to educate the people respecting it? Why do they not endeavor to explain the difference between good and bad provisions in a state constitution? Why do not the exponents of the respective parties vie with each other in offering the people the best possible chart?

It is too bad that dead issues should so engross the popular attention as to cause neglect to be shown towards living ones, whose present and future importance cannot be over-estimated. Yet it seems to us that this is precisely what is being done.

### THE BELGIAN BOOMERANG.

At the time the new constitutional amendments were adopted by the kingdom of Belgium, these columns contained allusions to the novel multiplication of the electorate by the system of increasing the votes that certain classes of citizens might cast by reason of business, educational, social and financial qualifications. On Sunday, the 14th, the first election under the amended constitution was held, and the result has been in the nature of a supreme disappointment to the liberal leaders, who were chiefly instrumental in having the changes adopted. Readers thus far removed from the little kingdom may not be expected to have much interest in the parliamentary struggle referred to; but a review of the vote will not be without value as showing that although popular suffrage

is a great and glorious safeguard of popular liberty, it is possible so to manipulate it that the comparatively few rule the many or at least override the will of the majority.

Formerly there were only about 180,000 voters in Belgium. Under the present constitution, while there is no increase in the population, the number of voters is multiplied ten-fold. This phenomenon is explained by the lately adopted constitutional amendments which provide that there shall be three classes of voters: (1) all men over 25 years of age who have lived in the district one year—these have one vote each; (2) married men or widowers, paying an annual tax of five francs (\$1.00)—who have two votes each; and (3) the wealthy and educated classes, which include the priests, who have three votes each. In the first class are many residents of the towns and cities and manufacturing districts, and most of the socialists, representing the strength of the liberal or workingmen's party, and numbering in all about 850,000. The second class is made up principally of the bourgeois, conservatives in politics and Catholic in religion, numbering nearly 300,000. The three-vote men, who are almost exclusively conservatives and Catholics, number about 225,000. It will thus be seen that while the first-named class outnumbers the other two combined, the latter, with their multiplied voting power, are able to completely snuff the workingmen's party under. This has been done in the election just held. The clerical party is strongly entrenched in the new chambers, having a clear majority over any combined opposition. The liberals as a party have lost ground instead of gaining, as was hoped would be the result of the new system; and the reformers who labored so devotedly as champions of the people find themselves with little business left save the contemplation of the havoc and surprise wrought by their political boomerang.

### A GROWING FEAR.

As a full knowledge of the financial condition of this city is forced more and more clearly upon the understanding of the taxpayers in it, the fear grows among them that the straightened circumstances of the municipality may yet be seized upon as a pretext, not only for justifying, but urging, the sale of the waterworks. True, no such proposition is at the present time actually pending, but it is well remembered that repeated attempts have been made by capitalists and their agents to negotiate precisely this deal, and it is well understood that the system of waterworks now owned by the city, would be a magnificent investment for a private syndicate.

No member of the present City Council, so far as we now recall, has placed himself on record as favoring the sale of the waterworks, but it is known that the city's indebtedness is going to be a very onerous burden for years to come, that various schemes for its mitigation are sure to be discussed, and that there is a probability that the sale of the waterworks will be ad-

vocated. At least there is a fear among taxpayers that this proposition will yet become a municipal issue.

It may as well be understood in advance that the people of this city will not consent to having their water supply placed under the control of private parties; that the man or faction proposing such a plan will be snuffed under, if it be submitted to the people at the polls; and that any member of the Council voting for it after being placed in power, will be regarded as a traitor to his constituents.

Taxation on the water the people drink is worse than taxation upon the land which they own, or upon their property of any kind; while a lack of water, or an impure supply, is worse than taxation in any form. If the water works become private property the people will have no sufficient guarantee that the water rate will be kept reasonably low, nor that the supply will be either abundant or pure. Let no occupant of, nor aspirant for, office in this city dare propose the sale of the waterworks!

EXCLUSIVE "SOCIETY" down East has just awakened to the horrifying fact that the most phenomenal applause it bestowed this year upon a foreigner went to the high-flying son of a Paris butcher, Mons. Duval. The petted visitor enjoys the laugh at the expense of American "ultra-exclusiveness," which, he naively says, insists that visitors shall be of blue blood if possible, but of some kind of blood any way.

A BURGLAR who broke into a New York house the other night gathered up what silver-ware he wanted, then sat down in the library with a dull book in his hands, and fell asleep. The moral, that books of the right kind are at times better than a watch-dog, a policeman or a gun.

WHAT one political party lacks in confidence in and understanding of its own principles, it makes up in sneers at and ridicule of the other. And yet men talk of "educational campaigns" and such-like rubbish!

WHERE ONE woman looks in a mirror to arrange her front hair, five men glance in to see if their neckties are in proper position. These are unexpected statistics, but they are true.

UP IN New England a euphemistic newspaper speaks of a local "throat-parlor" when it means a rumshop. The good old rule of calling a spade a spade still deserves to be cultivated.

A BILL "to prevent blindness" was lately introduced in the Vermont legislature. When put upon its passage, the presiding officer gravely announced that "the ayes had it."

THE HABIT on certain railroads of stopping at out-of-the-way places to unload the express car seems to be contagious but is not to be commended.

TWO WEEKS more of the turmoil, then the jollification, or the despair. Politics is a hot old game, and half the time it is not worth the candle.

A FARM statistician calculates that there is one milch cow in this country to every four inhabitants. That means an average of a teat apiece.