

may suggest to outside friends the millennial condition of peaceful relations between lamb and lion; and we can assure them that Utah is in the lead in the onward movement of civilization to that point, while those who regard it as remarkable or surprising are hardly up with the times in the progressive new State of Utah.

FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature to amend in some important particulars the present law on the fire and police departments in cities. Under this law the departments are non-partisan, and in this regard there has been little to complain of in the administration of the statute. The boards of commissioners have conducted affairs in such manner as to prove beyond doubt the superiority of the main feature of the law. In some respects the statute is deficient, and has caused some ridiculous transactions and miscarriages of justice. Notably is this the case in the discretion it allows the heads of departments, who have been unnecessarily hampered. These defects are of an important character, and the new bill is intended to remedy them.

It is a matter of congratulation to the people of the State that Governor Wells recognized the marked improvement to be secured in certain directions by these non-partisan, or at least bi-partisan, commissions; and his recommendation that they be extended to other divisions of administrative government that are always impaired by partisan control should receive the support of the legislature regardless of party. The Governor's view should obtain emphatic endorsement by maintaining non-partisanship in its best form in police and fire departments.

As to the special features of the bill just introduced, there is no occasion for discussing them now, since their main idea is all right and the form of their presentation may undergo revision in committee, where the bill has been referred. If any essential point should escape the attention of the committee it will be time to notice it when the bill is reported; and public interest requires a favorable report at an early day.

We are aware that there is to be an attempt to get the present non-partisan fire and police law repealed, and substitute therefor a partisan board, made up of mayor and city council, or in some other way. We are also fully aware of the motive for such attempt, that—it is adverse to the best interests of the public. It is a plot against the welfare of the respectable and law-abiding element of the community, and should receive the treatment all such schemes deserve. Its success would mean the placing in power in some of the larger cities of Utah a gang whose administration would bring lasting disgrace on the State. As such we believe it will meet the opposition of a great majority of the legislature; and those who support a measure so evil in its purpose, if there be any, should be held in constant remembrance by the voters in case occasion should arise in the future to pass upon them.

At its inception the News was outspoken in favor of the non-partisan law for fire and police divisions. In some respects we have not been pleased with the effect given the law, but in the main it has been demonstrated to be a wise and beneficent provision which should be kept in force, and as such we advocate it. We may add that we also approve the suggestion that further steps in non-partisanship be taken, as to boards of equalization, etc. But whether or not this is done by the present Legislature, the State cannot afford to take the retrograde step of repealing the non-partisan fire and police commission law. For the sake of the efficient service which should be given the citizens in the important matters of fire and police protection, there should be no retreat from the advanced position assumed on this matter by the last Legislature.

GOOD ADVICE ON GIVING.

The current issue of the Ladies' Home Journal has an article on "Right Habits of Giving," by Dr. C. H. Parkhurst, which contains some thoughtful suggestions to parents and others on the bestowal of charity through donations or the giving of contributions in aid of various organizations. Dr. Parkhurst starts out with the proposition that a man cannot be trusted to do right in any particular till he can do right easily, that is to say until it has become his habit to do right; that giving cannot be left to impulse any more than spelling can be left to impulse. Impulsive spellers, says he, make just the same wretched work with orthography that impulse-giving makes with charity. Nor is the purpose subserved by putting into the child's hands as a gratuity the money that he is expected to bestow as a beneficence. Merely letting money go through his hands will not make him charitable any more than letting water slip through a lead pipe will make the lead fertile. The act that is going to strengthen the little boy-giver or the little girl-giver in the direction of a matured generous disposition must be an act in which the actor feels that he is parting with something that is his own, not something which he is merely handling in the capacity of agent. It is a very common thing, if there is a beggar at the door to whom a pittance is to be given, or a gathering in the church or the Sunday school where contributions are to be asked, for the child to obtain from his father or mother the requisite penny, and then for the child and parent both to imagine that the child was somehow involved in and disciplined by the penny's conferment. The child in the Sunday school does not learn to give in that way any more than the child in the spelling class learns to spell by the bare mimicry of the letters that the teacher herself puts into the child's mouth. For the express purpose of teaching them to be generous, parents should place their children in a way to acquire a small fund which they may regard as their own, and which they value through having earned it by little acts one way and another; and from this fund they

should be taught to give that which they are to receive credit for in the way of being charitable. Thus they acquire generosity by feeling the need for and value of the contributions they make.

AN IRRIGATION PROPOSITION.

The recent action of a California canal company ought to serve as a means of impressing upon the present Legislature the necessity for wise provision respecting the rights of irrigators. On Monday last the Sweetwater system of canals, which irrigates the largest portion of San Diego county's lemon orchards and supplies the town of National City, was without a drop of water. The San Diego Land and Town company had shut off the supply, leaving National City, Chula Vista, Sweetwater Valley, Nestor, Oneonta, Otab, Mission, Paradise Valley and other communities with only what their wells contained. This action was taken by the receiver for the company when the water consumers refused to pay \$7 an acre per year water rental, instead of the \$3.50 per year they had been paying. To prevent the consumers bringing suit in the State courts to have the water turned on, the company filed a complaint in the United States circuit court praying for a decree that the company has the power to fix rates, that the \$7 rate is reasonable, and enjoining the consumers from interfering.

The manifest disadvantage at which the irrigators are placed and the injustice done them through inefficient legal provision at the outset, are evident upon relating the circumstances of the affair. When the company started operations it sold "water rights" to irrigators, and in addition charged \$3.50 per year rental for operating expenses on the canal system. The company now alleges that this rental is insufficient to enable it to pay off its bonds and earn six per cent profit, hence the increase. The consumers claim that, having paid for the water right, they satisfied the portion of the bonded indebtedness due on their behalf, and acquired a practical deed to the use of the water upon meeting current operating expenses. To make them pay off the bonds now, they assert, is charging a second time for the water right. The company collected for the original cost at the first purchase.

Here is where wise State legislation would prevent such trouble, which is sure to come if there are no laws to avert it. Under the Utah method the individual using the water acquires the right to such use.

Here is no means of preventing here, any more than in California, the acquiring of water rights by associations or companies; to attempt to prevent them would be wrong. But the distribution of such water should be under State control or regulation, so that individuals taking water from corporations which have built canals, reservoirs, etc., could acquire full title to the use of that amount of water with the land it irrigates, if they so desire; and having purchased such title cannot be made to do so a second time or to pay excessive fees for operating the