DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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EXERCISE PRUDENCE.

Every man who has the right and expects to exercise the privilege of voting on Tuesday, has doubtless already been, and if not, he certainly will be, the object of peculiar solicitude at the hands of those who are themselves or whose friends are running for office, or expecting favor or benefit of some sort in the event of their particular ticket being successful. We do not mean to say that such motives are altogether improper, or, within the limits of reason and honesty, improper at all. In that which the best and most unselfish of us call our patriotism, there is usually a spice at least of personal interest. In its purest state it may be nothing more than a conviction that such is the best form of government and ought to be maintained by the best men. But even in that aspect, we who hurrah for the best men and do our utmost to put them in office are all as expectant beneficiaries the result of our success as.

It is, therefore, natural that a man should work with others to secure as far as possible the success of the ticket whose election he desires. His purposes, and his methods even, may be reproachable or they may be worthy. Where he uses only persuasion and argument, it is legitimate and commendable. Intelligent review of the matters in controversy and of the objects sought to be attained, is necessary to intelligence in the use of the ballot. But where he artfully or openly misleads, or where he uses threats or force, it becomes a public duty to warn the community against him, and if that is not sufficient, to expose and punish him.

We regret to say that in this present campaign, short and comparatively uneventful though it has been, an unworthy element has lately been introduced. This refers not only to the municipal contest in this city, but to the legislative ticket here and elsewhere in the Territory. As to the former, we shall have opportunity to speak further, and need only say now that it is a miserable trick of the party opposed to reform, to arouse religious and political prejudice against men on the Citizens-Independent ticket. The source of such attempts is proof enough of their motives. As a subterfuge of the enemy it is too shallow, we should think, to deserve any use.

And so to the misleading statements, either spoken or printed, put forth for effect on the territorial election, there is only time to utter a word of warning and put the people on their guard. They should accept with great dilution the assertions of recognized political opponents; not be too ready to believe all the turpitude of the opposition. They should not be caught by a scare sentence, a purpose phrase or a pessimistic prediction. They should not be frightened by a false issue, or cajoled by an empty promise, or terrified by a silly threat. The game of politics is not nearly so grave and consequential as some would make it. There is at least absolute safety and honor in each one voting as his preference and convictions prompt him, and courageously standing by his colors so long as he is not ashamed of them. This is what the News urges upon its readers. Thought and deliberation in choosing, if they have not already chosen, as between the issues presented, steadfastness in remaining true to the convictions thus formed and then doing their level best to secure the triumph of the principles and party of their choice.

MAY BE DANGER IN IT.

The dispatches a few weeks ago brought news of unemployed men en route from California early, bound for the possession of a railway train in Texas and throwing it out into the wilderness.

A number of larger party of the same stripe are now making their way eastward from the Golden State, in the southern route, to N. w O Leans, and share the railways gobbling it to run on board trains the Texas opinion is have to repudiate on a more or more scale.

These men left San Francisco on Monday night, and up Wednesday had made half the distance from southern California toward the Arizona line, where they expected to reach by the end of this week. They are keeping to a body as one band against the outside, as in that condition they are better able to enforce their demands at food in the small towns and transportation on the railways.

The start was made from a meeting held on the San Francisco sandlots, where there had gathered several hundred men who had arrived recently from the East in search of work, but had failed to find any. About forty members of the number decided to gather to make a move for New Orleans, and organized by selecting as captain a young German named Adolph Hess. They secured a quantity of supplies from sympathetic fellow people as they headed for the Southern Pacific ferry.

The superintendent of the ferry declined to permit them to go on the boat without first paying fare, and they grew boisterous. The majority were from sixteen to thirty years of age, and there was among them a sprinkling in which some the hard lines contained that a resort to violence would not be looked upon with disfavor. The men got out and threats of taking the steamer, beating down the ferry house and burning the wharf were unrestrained. At the juncture a captain of police arrived, and finding that he was powerless to resist the demands of the men, secured an order on their transportation across the bay. Time by paying the boat saw the city get rid of the three hundred and the police avoided a prospective conflict.

This prominent on the part of unemployed men banding together to travel across the country before migrating to the inhabitants of the smaller towns somewhat. While the better element among them has control and they are doing measurably their own way, there may be no damage done. But when the rougher class of serious inferior of the members of the group ordinarily are into the way of unnecessarily traveling in organized bands, as will be the case when the unemployed work the scheme successfully, the hating of towns and villages will follow in the ordinary course of affairs, and a system of pillage that is not second to Greek or Italian brigandage is likely to be instituted in the more sparsely settled portions of the country. The tendency in this direction will bear watching.

OTHERS WHO HAVE TROUBLES.

In these days of suspense and uncertainty regarding Salt Lake City may remember that in the fact that it is not alone in its distresses. Ours is not the only political machine that is in need of reconstruction. New York city has been scandalizing the world for years with its vast variety of crimes, single, duplex, or manifold, according to taste. But now comes Philadelphia to the front with full credentials of a live town of the first class. New York and Brooklyn contest the assumption, of course, but at the same time they confess the presence of a robust competitor.

Like New York, the Quaker city already possesses a municipal league, organized and equipped for the protection of the city from its public officials. The mild-tempered people have not yet risen to that exalted venomous whereat men who want to call disagreeable conditions by their every-day names, but in their peculiar way they let us know that the town council is a pretty bad lot. They boldly proclaim of this imperial body that it looks for orders to certain great corporations and not to its constituents; that it "legislates in the interest of these corporations as against the interests of its constituents, to the great detriment of the city." To put the case in western vernacular, it has sold out the municipal concern, body and breeches, to the money barons, and the people are not in it.

This, to be sure, is rather unpleasant reading for voters of Salt Lake City at the present stage of events, but let us, nevertheless, hope against experience that we may yet enjoy the luxury of an honest city government.

MORE DIPLOMATIC THAN FRANK.

A great many people who have watched and studied the progress of the case of Dr. Briggs vs Presbyterian orthodoxy, are surprised at the apparent control and mastery with which the defenders of the Confession are issuing from the storm. The truth of the matter is, the disinterested observers have been a little shaking in their estimation of the case. In general the character of the prosecution has been misunderstood. The men who have done the talking have been misinterpreted. The ruling and officiate forces were something entirely different from what they seemed to be. The proceedings from first to last, as it now appears, were carried forward in a manner so unusually considerate of even Dr. Briggs himself, as we believe, failed to comprehend his case. The leaders in the work stop on the side of caution from time to time, though in the beginning with legality, speed, economy and many other feasible and desirable measures of which they may or may not have been capable, but as we think we know, carefully adjusted from a nothing but strictly conservative character, of every that extreme or radical was not valued amongst them. Here is where we were at fault early in view. We all expected and we was to have seen Dr. Briggs get the worst of the struggle. Now Dr. Briggs perhaps very one for comparison and his friends.

The fact is well known that he church is forming with fair and believers, or rather unbelievers, as Dr. Briggs, and many of them, as the latter's trial plainly revealed, occupying prominent pulpits; the only difference between them and the learned heretic being in the matter of genius and the ability to lead, in which point the difference was indeed something to be considered. Since the face of heretics, as symbolized in the famous trial, was so sufficiently pronounced by the final council of the church, everybody has been looking for something to fall on the heads of the accomplices in the crime. But they have looked in vain. These offenders still move on in the even tenor of their pastoral ways. It is as last becoming provokingly evident that the Briggs trial closed the docket so far as dissenters were concerned, and it is quite as evident that no one entertains any secret feeling to stir up the baneful embers with any more prosecutions. People on the outside do not generally perceive the mighty difference between the offense of Dr. Briggs and of his defenders who believe and teach precisely the same doctrines for which he was condemned but no matter about that. Whatever the sensible doctor may have been, his disciples are all right, if they will only maintain a becoming humility and have respectful consideration for the credit at stake in those venerated though much reproached institutions of the Griffith dispensation. They may evolve or revolve their doctrinal hornpipe as much as they please, provided they do it on the quiet and without notice.

THE TOBACCO EVIL.

Reference was made in the News last week to the pernicious habit of cigarette smoking that is becoming so prevalent among the youth in Utah. From this it need not be understood that it is a general custom among the sons of Latter-day Saints, or that even a majority of them are affected by it. On the contrary, there is a large proportion who rigidly refrain from the injurious habit, though it cannot be denied that it has far too many victims.

It is not alone in Utah or in the United States that the serious danger caused by the rapid increase of tobacco-smoking among young boys is apparent. In Great Britain there is an anti-narcotic league which numbers among its members some of the most influential men of the nation, and which is making a vigorous warfare against the evil. This league is proceeding upon the basis that the "rapid spread of smoking amongst boys, by the serious and far-reaching evils, physical, moral and mental, to which the habit gives rise, threatens to become a national danger of the gravest character unless prompt and effectual means are taken for its suppression," and is urging that not only should religious and educational institutions direct their efforts against the practice but that a law should be passed "prohibiting sale under the age of eighteen years from selling, and rendering it illegal to sell, give or furnish tobacco in any form to children under that age."

In response to a call of the league, public meetings have been held, the following being among the resolutions which were adopted at those gatherings:

"That in view of the serious moral and physical injuries resulting from smoking, especially by boys, and of the recent alarming increase of this blighting habit, this meeting earnestly implores all parents, ministers, and Sunday school teachers to do their utmost to save the boys by discountenancing and abolishing from the premises.

"That as boys are not yet responsible for indulgence of men, and in ignorance of the delicious and enervating tendencies of the habit, this meeting earnestly beseeches the school boards and all teachers of private schools to safeguard the coming generation by forbidding in their institutions special teaching upon the real nature and effect of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other narcotics, as distinguished from those of tonics."

The further resolutions ask for a prohibitive law such as has been referred to and pledge to the anti-narcotic league support in carrying out its purposes.

There is no doubt of the baneful effects of tobacco-smoking. Times are apparent to all thoughtful observers. The moral and intellectual faculties are blunted by the habit, and through its continuance the usually polite and affable gentleman often becomes rude and churlish. This latter phase is daily exhibited in public places, where the conduct who ordinarily would score a suggestion of annoying people by impolite contact or words will indeed fill the atmosphere with fumes that are offensive and maddening to women and children and those who do not smoke yet if he is disposed to assist the party to an landlord state or an irritating remark.

But the effort to suppress juvenile smoking is directed against more than a mere violation of moral etiquette. It is aimed at an omnipotent evil which is undermining the very foundation of national strength and intellectual development. The practice, now so prevalent among youths of school age, has proved to be so much of a nuisance that some communities have prohibited the sale of cigarettes, and that among the most prominent men of this is the free employing of boldness in smoking and drinking. The use of tobacco and the habit is deeply rooted, and any attempt at the suppression of these is likely to be met with opposition. It is a matter of moral, mental and physical power which are necessary for the good of the community and posterity of mankind.

While [illegible] is a matter of opinion as to the extent to which the use of tobacco should be carried, there can be no question as to the injurious effects of the habit when carried to excess. Though scientific and medical men raised a warning voice against the peril which was imminent. But now that the pernicious habit has fastened its vice-like grip upon the masses the magnitude of the danger becomes apparent, and those who are already being swept along by the current are putting forth their energies to stem the tide of popular retrogression. In the present situation, however, it is doubtful whether the momentum already acquired is not so great that these efforts will prove futile, and that humanity must pass through another dark epoch of disease and pestilence before there is deliverance from the terrible evil. If such highly commendable attempts as divided societies as those of the anti-narcotic league referred to are to prove successful, they must receive more general support from those who hold the reins of government than they do today. Much may be accomplished by the education of the young, but to cope with the existing condition of things it is necessary to aid the moral forces by the strong arm of legal enactment against those who lead the juvenile portion of the community to indulgence in the evil habit, as well as against those who induce them to engage in any other vice or crime.

With the Latter-day Saints it is somewhat different than with other communities. The former have definite, positive counsel from the Lord, given by revelation in this day on the subject, and when this is applied with the religious force and conviction of which the Saints have shown themselves capable in other matters, they would soon be beyond the evils which arise from the use of narcotics and stimulants. The Word of Wisdom was revealed in March, 1833, for the temporal salvation of the Saints. Of tobacco the Lord said it was not good for internal use by man. Like all other vegetables, it was created for a purpose, but that purpose is not inhalation in the form of smoke or insufflation into the body by chemical. It is "for herb for broken and all sick cattle," and if confined to its proper sphere is beneficial. Its wrongful use is prohibited among the Saints, and if they would escape the horrors of pestilence they will pay heed to the warning that has been given them, and will train their children to follow in their footsteps for safety, now and hereafter.

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