

its impossible conditions recalls that of Clay.

Gen. Harrison's first canvass was figured under his grandfather's hat—the first witty image of the entire series. He won in spite of it. His second was typified by the substitution of "ice cart" for the slang "band wagon," a second exhibition of genuine wit. With this exception the canvass now closed went off without popular shibboleths that meant anything. The war cry of No Force bill was no figure of speech, but the explicit statement of the dominant and winning issue.

ANOTHER HORN OF THE DILEMMA.

UNDER the new ordinance, relating to the matter of honest weight in coal, the city weighmaster seems likely to become the recipient of emoluments beside which those of even the dog catcher will sink into insignificance. It is stated as coming from the dealers themselves that when business is running smoothly they send out of their yards during working hours a stream of coal amounting to about a ton per minute. When we consider the population to be supplied, and the quality and quantity of the product with which they have been supplied, the estimate is probably a fair one. Sixteen or eighteen hundred pounds of rocks, dirt and coal mixed doesn't last as long as two thousand pounds of the genuine article; and hence the purchaser of the former has occasion more frequently to do his part toward keeping up the dealers' one-ton-per-minute average.

Of course the weighmaster's fees will be paid by the purchaser; whoever thinks the enterprising dealers are going to dispense with their private scales and do business with the official machine at their own expense doesn't know them. They are not handling coal merely for their health; neither is it the business of the city's weighmaster to take his pay in the gratitude of the community. But we think he can afford, in this emergency, to be modest even if the others are not. In other words, he ought to do business at wholesale rates, since he will be in it on a larger scale. We expect nothing else than that when the dealers are compelled to deliver his receipt with each load, they will add a quarter or half a dollar extra for the longer haul made necessary through their having to go to his office. For little tricks of this kind the community must be prepared, though against them it may be helpless; but it is not prepared and does not expect to be burdened too heavily by a city servant through the effort of the city fathers to secure a measure of justice. In the satisfaction that will be felt at knowing that each one gets full measure and fair quality of what he pays for, it must not be forgotten that in the present tight times and at the present price, a ton of coal nearly breaks a poor man's back every three or four weeks.

THE GERMAN CRISIS.

The most sensational European topic just now is the inquiry into the Panama canal scandal; but of hardly less interest and of vastly more importance is the proposition presented to the German parliament by the chancellor of the empire and warmly endorsed by

Emperor William, for an enormous increase in the military budget. The features of the new bill, briefly stated, are that the term of compulsory military service shall be reduced from three years to two, but that the standing army shall be largely increased in number; and its promoters evidently hope that by humoring the people in the first particular (for military service is exceedingly unpopular with the masses), they will arouse less opposition to the demand for the immense sums that will be needed for carrying out the latter part of the programme.

It used to be said of the iron Bismarck that he sought difficulties for the mere pleasure of overcoming them; and it looks as though the young Kaiser derived enjoyment in a similar way. Certainly to the casual observer this would seem to be a time in the highest degree inopportune for the levying of fresh taxes upon the people of Germany, groaning as they are under existing burdens, with the additional evils of low wages and industrial depression. Such a policy would imperil the continuance of almost any ministry in other lands, and under the circumstances would not be without its menace to the crowned head itself. Caprivi may indeed be forced out of office by this move, if the opposition develops the strength that is expected; but that result is unlikely, and it is quite absurd to think that the Emperor's throne will be in the least shaken or that he will lose in any degree the genuine affection in which he is held by his subjects.

On the contrary, he seems to have managed the matter thus far with singular adroitness, and there is every reason to believe he will prove to the opposition that he is not the novice in diplomacy some of them, and notably Bismarck himself, have thought him. One weapon he knows how to use with a master hand—and that is the appeal to patriotism. Let it once be hinted that the Fatherland is in danger and every German rallies enthusiastically to the rescue, be it either with sabre and gun or with the willing fulfillment of the most onerous financial requirement. Pointing to France on the west and Russia on the east, he has experienced, and we think will experience, no trouble in rousing the national heart; and when he offers the boon of shorter service in the army in return for a much more effective war establishment—one in fact that could crush an enemy at the first onslaught—the appeal would seem to be one that could scarcely be resisted. His further proposition to raise the revenue from taxes on the three B's, "*Bier, Boerse and Brantwein*,"—beer, the stock exchange and brandy,—is catchy, too; and the rabble are likely to be taken by storm and his policy fulfilled.

Still, he has to measure swords this time with an abler and stronger opposition than has ever yet confronted him. The exhibition cannot fail to be entertaining, and is pretty sure to be instructive. One would think that France and Russia, the former especially, since in his programme lies a distinct threat against her,—would be not disinterested spectators, as they cast meaning glances at each other across the stormy realm whose turbulence or quietude has so much significance for them.

A GOAL STILL UNATTAINED.

Against the view of the ordinary citizen, that Arctic expeditions are not worth what they cost in perils, hardships and money, we have the assurance of two distinguished experts, General Greeley and Professor Heilprin, that polar exploration deserves more encouragement than it receives, and that neither the risk nor the expense is worthy to be considered in the same connection with the benefits that accrue to science and human knowledge through the efforts that are made to reach the Pole. Both these gentlemen recently read papers before the Contemporary club of Philadelphia, and each advanced reasons for the faith that is within him.

The professor justifies the outlay of money and the willingness to brave the frosty dangers in the aid that is thus extended to commerce and in the additions that are made to the world's stock of scientific knowledge. The general finds justification for such journeys by naval officers like Lieut. Peary in "the benefit that comes to the service from the examples of daring, skill and heroism displayed under privations and in the midst of dangers," he argues that we have no wars now-a-days to develop our young officers, hence their energy and initiative of action may well be permitted to blossom into vigorous life in these hazardous expeditions.

In none of this logic is there anything that is new. Such contributions as have been made to the supply of practical knowledge by recent polar expeditions are so meager and unsatisfactory that no one can be blamed for suggesting that at the price named "they come mighty high." As to the other idea—that the ice-field is desirable as a means of supplying tests of heroism for an example to the officers engaged in Uncle Sam's service—it scarcely merits the name of argument; coming from anyone but a veteran like General Greeley it would be considered trivial.

Nevertheless, the necessity for strong argument in support of their opinion does not exist. The adventurous spirit of the age will continue to develop itself as it has done in the past, in the breasts of brave men who in the role of explorers will themselves believe in the value of their labors. As long as there are such men, as long as they can obtain from private or governmental sources the means to equip themselves for the journey, and as long as the people through lack of active interest take no position antagonistic to the project, Arctic exploration will go on. And while it is generally admitted that even the most successful journey would fail to bring to light anything of value to the world in general, the zeal with which the Pole is sought is a fresh evidence of the readiness with which men in these days will meet any danger in the search for a few mysterious and well-guarded facts.

DISSIPATING THE NEGRO VOTE.

A dispatch the other day briefly noted a movement in Alabama to reduce if not altogether extinguish the colored vote without in the least violating the fifteenth amendment or