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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 10, 1903.

THE NEW "CIGARETTE" BILL.

Some of the ladies of this city are very anxious to stop the smoking of tobacco, particularly in the cigarette form, by youths under 18 years of age. The object in view is desirable, the purpose is commendable, but the measure proposed is, in our opinion, excessive. The bill presented, if it became a law, would be a complete reversal of the edict. "The sins of the fathers shall be visited upon the children," and would visit the vices of the children upon their parents. That is, it provides that a boy under the age specified, if found in possession of a cigarette or other means of tobacco smoking, may be fined twenty-five dollars. That means of course that the parents may be mulcted in that sum, for it is not likely that the young boy would in many instances be prepared to pay his own fine.

A proviso is added that the culprit may escape punishment, if he will divulge the name of the person who sold or furnished him with the obnoxious article. The promoters of the measure seem to think this clause would sanctify the whole scheme, and relieve both parents and child from the consequences of the latter's offense. That is to say, it would compel him to become an informer, if possible, or inflict the penalty upon him, or his parents who in nearly every instance would have to bear the expense.

Our friends should learn that vices of the kind in view cannot be extirpated by law. Religious and moral influences will have to be exercised for that purpose. Laws may and should be enacted which will aid in the good work, but they must be framed to reach the wrong in an effective manner, and not so as to make the innocent suffer instead of the guilty. They should also distinguish between vice and crime, which are not always synonymous.

Tobacco smoking is a vice, particularly when practiced by immature youths, and leads to many evils. But when boys are determined to indulge in it, who can stop them? "Parents ought to do it," some one will assert. That is easy to say, but not so easy to do. There are good men and women who do not use tobacco in any form, who by precept and example teach their children the evil of smoking it, and who check the wrong at the start, but who fall of their purpose through no fault of their own.

To subject them to a fine, if one of their boys is caught with a cigarette in his possession and will not tell where or how he obtained it, is not only a piece of folly but an absolute injustice. We have laws and ordinances enough on this matter. Let them be enforced, and there will be no need of such impracticable and extreme measures as this new anti-cigarette proposition.

A REVAMPED COMMISSION BILL.

The introduction of another water commission bill for this city is a virtual confession of the weakness and imperfection of the measure for that purpose which is now abandoned. It throws out of the first bill a number of objectionable features, and thus makes the new attempt less faulty and more attractive than the old. But it still contains the latent and purpose to place the entire water-system of this city in the hands of a body, separate and distinct from the municipal authority vested in the officers elected by the citizens.

It proposes that six persons, appointed by the Governor, shall constitute the commission. That seems entirely out of harmony with the municipal system in this State. The water-drawing into the city, its works, distribution, rights of use, taxation for its supply, and all properties belonging thereto are vested in the City Council and, under the State Constitution, may not be delegated to any "special commission." "All water-works, water rights and sources of water supply now owned or hereafter to be acquired by any municipal corporation, shall be preserved, maintained and operated by it, for supplying its inhabitants with water at reasonable rates."

The Legislature is barred from taking out of the hands of this municipal government the right and power vested in it by the Constitution as well as by charter, for the control, maintenance and operation of the water-works, water-works and sources of supply. The City Council, elected by the people, is the proper body to regulate this matter, and there ought to be no attempt to create another municipal body within the municipality, under the appointment of the Governor of the State, who should not be endowed with any such discordant powers.

It is argued that the wealth of the city in large proportions want this bill. We might dispute that, but it does not matter. The whole people elected the Legislature and the people of this city elected the City Council. The poor man's vote equals the rich man's ballot. The water users of this city are

represented in the City Council, and they are not clamoring for any commission specially designed for the purpose of financially increasing the bonded indebtedness of the city.

We mention these points because of the shallow reasoning urged in support of the new bill, as they were in advocacy of the one discarded. We believe the whole scheme to be incongruous with our municipal system, and unnecessary to our present requirements.

Let one man be chosen in each municipal ward at our next city election, with a view to his special fitness for handling the water affairs of the city, and these five can be appointed on the water committee of the council, and the matter can be efficiently handled, while the constitutional rights and duties of that body will be maintained and preserved.

KEEP THE SILK COMMISSION.

Senate Bill 156, contemplating the abolishment of the Utah Silk commission, has been dropped by the committee as it ought to be, that body having agreed on an adverse report. The action of the committee no doubt indicates the fate of the measure in the Legislature. The report of the committee ought to be adopted without much argument.

The ladies constituting the Utah Silk Commission are doing a good work, endeavoring to establish sericulture in the State. Comparatively few are, perhaps, aware of the results obtained. According to the report for the years 1901 and 1902, no less than 6,479 pounds of cocoons were raised. The planting of trees is constantly going on, and that has great economic value to the state, aside from the benefits derived from the product of the silkworm. Experimental work is being done under the auspices of the commission, and classes in silk reeling and silk raising are given. The commission should be encouraged in their work, rather than otherwise.

Silk culture in this country is emphatically an "infant" industry. But its possibilities are great. It has been demonstrated that it can be made a success in this state. As it develops it will furnish employment to a great many, at a time of the year when agriculturists have plenty of time. It is chiefly a house industry. Were it generally known and practiced, like other house industries, it would be very remunerative. It would be, then, to abolish the commission created for the purpose of awakening interest in and disseminating knowledge concerning that important industry. It is time enough to abolish the commission when it has completed its work.

THE NEXT POPE.

It is claimed that, although the pope's physician assures the public that the health of the venerable pontiff is good, apprehension is felt for him, and that the subject of a successor is freely discussed. And this is but natural. For Leo is 81 years old. He may be summoned to another sphere any moment, and without much forwarding.

Who will be his successor? Beyond the fact that it is thought the choice will fall on an Italian, nothing certain can be said as to that. Three hundred years ago an archbishop named Malachias is said to have made a series of predictions concerning the future rulers of Rome. Little attention would have been paid to these prophecies, were it not that they hit, with epigrammatic correctness, the dominating characteristics of the popes who have sat on St. Peter's throne since 1586. Leo XIII. he described as a "light in heaven." The 264th pope, the successor of Leo, he called "ardent," "burning fire."

The election of a pope is a great event in the Roman world, although its political significance is no longer what it was, when the great powers strove for the privilege of exercising a predominant influence upon the election. Still much intrigue is going on. Diplomats are said to have been busy for the past three years, in the interest of this candidate or the other.

The sessions of the conclave are held in the Vatican, and to ensure secrecy, the quarters occupied by the cardinals are isolated, and every door, window and aperture is walled up, with the exception of a dumb-water shaft, through which food is passed. Each cardinal has a separate room, which he draws by lot. He also has the service of two attendants, members of his own household, and the personnel of the conclave is further increased by the presence of physicians, and others. The cardinals are virtually cut off from the world, until the new pope is elected.

Mass being said, the balloting begins. Around the walls are arrayed as many thrones as there are cardinals, and before each chair is a writing table with ink, pens and paper and a list of the sacred college. In the center is a large table bearing two gilded vases. The ballots are placed in one, and when counted in the other. In one corner of the hall there is a small stove, the long smokestack leading up to a window. When the ballots have been counted they are burned with straw, and the resulting thousands outside can tell the number of ballots by watching the smoke. When the latter is very light they know that the decisive ballot has been cast, as the last ballots are always burned without straw. Two ballots a day are generally taken, until an election is made, the successful candidate being the one who first receives the support of two-thirds of those entitled to vote.

It is of course quite possible that the present incumbent may live several years, but in the ordinary course, and nature, his days cannot be many, and it is but natural that the cardinals should be preparing for the great event. It is now 25 years since an election was held.

SULTAN BUYING POWDER.

The Sultan of Turkey cannot be very confident of the ability of the powers to avert the threatening storm; or else he does not care to take any chances, but he is best prepared for any emergency. For dispatches from Constantinople state that the Turkish war minister is negotiating with Germany

for a large supply of smokeless powder, and that reservists are being ordered to join their regiments. That does not look as if the storm was all over. The fact is that the "reforms" to which the Sultan has agreed are so superficial that the revolutionists cannot be expected to accept them as a final solution of the difficulties. The Turkish ruler knows this, and consequently is preparing for all eventualities. He evidently knows that the European efforts to maintain peace can be upset any day by the insurgents.

It may seem strange that the European powers should hesitate so much in their dealings with the "sick man" at the Bosphorus. But there is the international jealousy which prevents them from reaching an agreement. Besides this, Turkey today is not a weak power. It is claimed that the Sultan at present must have one and a half million soldiers in the twenty classes of which the army is composed. And this figure does not take into account the fleet, were a "holy war" proclaimed.

For the sake of comparison it can be stated that the total military force of Great Britain is given as one million; that of Austria-Hungary, 1,750,000; that of Russia, 1,500,000. It is evident that Russia, though having an army of 1,500,000 officers and men, must hesitate to make the lumbering war dogs in that quarter. Turkey could raise a much larger force for defense than Russia could afford to send against her. And the Turks today are well equipped and armed. A war now on the Balkan peninsula would be a disaster to the world. It is to be hoped that it can be avoided. But at the same time, the world will hail with joy the day when the so-called Christian nations in that region are freed from a rule that has imposed upon them centuries of martyrdom.

A fool's mouth is soon parted.

And now Utah has its own Buffalo Bill.

The writing itch often precedes writer's cramp.

The new manager of the Gould system is a rare avis.

The man who has a graft and is not satisfied with it is the gardener.

Dave Francis has stood before Kaisers. That beats standing before kings.

The burial service might be changed to read: "In the midst of life we are in weakness."

The legislative report on the Reform School seems to belong to the "No Name" series.

The Burdick murder mystery will remain a mystery so long as there is a woman in it.

Some thief has robbed St. Paul's chapel. And he did not do it to pay Peter, either.

The dentistry trust has bursted up. It couldn't stand because it hadn't a strong enough pull.

Papers that do not like Admiral Crowninshield say that his resignation is his crowning glory.

Alfred Knapp has made no new confession for several days. He must be indulging in catnaps.

No matter what may be said against the dunder all must admit that he is a young man of good habits.

The longest day of the year is not the twenty-first of June, but the last day of the Legislature.

A man who attempts to be facetious in prayer is totally lacking a sense of the eternal fitness of things.

If the Cuban reciprocity treaty fails to pass the Senate it might be taken through the Windward Passage by way of compromise.

Leo treats his physician's advice not with silent contempt exactly but as though he believed in throwing physic to the dogs.

That hobo on a Southern Pacific train who started to shoot at the train crew and was himself shot brought his well-deserved fate upon himself.

The Sultan of Morocco is said to have purchased an estate in England. The wise man foreseeth the danger and hideth himself, while the pretender passeth on and maybe is punished.

According to Prof. Oscar L. Triggs of the University of Chicago, the coming business man is to be unselfish. Triggs is the same man who put John D. Rockefeller in the same category of greatness with William Shakespeare.

"After a hard fight the Utah senate defeated the referendum. Doubtless it is because the Rocky mountains are so high that we did not hear the heart-rending shriek that liberty must have uttered," says the Chicago News. There was not much shrieking over its defeat for as it said, "I'm better without it."

THE EXTRA SESSION.

Kanana City Star.

President Roosevelt has been entirely justified in calling the extraordinary session of the senate to consider these two treaties. He would have been derelict in his duty if he had failed to issue the call. The people want the Ishman canal to be gotten under way. It represents one of the greatest enterprises to which the country has ever set itself. It has been considered for half a century. As for the Cuban treaty, public sentiment in the United States is all one way. The wonder is that Congress has had the temerity to tangle with this sentiment so long and so defiantly. Justice must be done the Cuban and justice must be done the American people. Both demands that the pledges of the government shall be fulfilled in some measure, even if the contemplated treaty does not give the Cubans all that they should have.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The president has not called an extra session of Congress, it will be observed. He has called upon the senate to sit after the adjournment of the Fifty-seventh Congress. The way will still be open for the ratification of the Cuban treaty, and of the canal treaty, too. It is the senate's duty to call for the extraordinary session of the senate is the president's checkmate to Senator Quay, by reason of whose obstructive tactics earlier action on those pending measures was thwarted. The senate in ex-

tra session will not disturb business as would an extra session of the house.

Boston Herald.

There are one or two important, and we may almost say necessary, pieces of legislation that are in danger of falling, but the country must be resigned to getting along without them. The power needed that at Washington has passed that a session of the senate is all that is advisable. There will be several new senators in the body, notably those from Delaware, which has not had a full representation for four years, and has been without any for two years. Of the distant states, Oregon and Washington will send new senators-elect from this latter state is a member of the present national house of representatives. It is not unusual for the senate to be called together in extra session. This is always done when a new administration comes in.

San Francisco Call.

Dispatches from Washington describing the closing scenes of the session in the senate show that the distinguished statesmen of the upper house deem the delay of public business by dilatory tactics to be a laughing matter. Despite all that has been said by the country against the disgrace of minority rule as manifest in the proceedings of the senate, every allusion to the subject on the closing day was taken as a joke and received with merriment.

Chicago News.

The failure of certain important measures, such as the Philippine tariff and the Aldrich currency bill, is traceable directly to the system which permits one man or a small group of men to hold the senate in deadlock and refuse to permit action of any kind until some pet measure is passed. Mr. Cannon abuses the case of the South Carolina claim for \$47,000 alleged to be due that state from the federal government, extending back to a debt of 31 cents, though based on a claim of 1812. The joint conference committee threw it out, whereupon Senator Tillman announced that unless this appropriation were provided for he would permit no further legislation. At the mandate of one man, therefore, both senate and house had to consent to the appropriation, the money being in order to save important appropriation bills from defeat.

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