

that the great mass of the people here would rather see the office select its own incumbent than to see politicians seek and secure the office. Show them that it is practicable to so arrange matters that the office will choose its occupant, and party politics in municipal affairs will be a thing of the past. The non-partisan committee has therefore only to show the people that the thing can be done, and the thing will be done; because a business instead of a political administration of city affairs is what three taxpayers out of every four would really prefer.

For these and other reasons, the non-partisan reform movement is here to stay. It is not an episode of city politics to be talked about this year and forgotten next. A great and strong moral conviction that the administration of city affairs should be purified is settling down upon the minds and in the hearts of the people of this city; and that moral conviction will gather strength until it triumphs over every obstacle, and succeeds in expelling from power, either in or out of office, the rounder, heeler and boddler, and their friends and confederates.

The political education this community has received during the half century of its existence has implanted and developed in it the reform instinct to an extent not found in any other city of its size in the world; and in order to prevail on the voters here to do a given thing, it is only necessary to convince their consciences that they ought to do it; and when their consciences are directly addressed with a proposition so obviously true and sensible as is the one that the control of a city is a business and not a political matter, their conversion to it is only a question of a little time and reflection.

The ward politician; the factional boss; the sectional leader; the bilbe taker and giver; the procurer of corrupt contracts; the franchise buyer and seller; the incompetent incumbent; the paid protector of lawbreakers; the nepotist; the rounder, heeler and boddler, and all the other political parasites that live upon, afflict and scourge the body politic in American cities generally are destined to be banished from this one. Slowly perhaps, but with the resistless force of a glacier, this resolution is forming in the minds of the voters in Utah's capital.

CONSULTING THE PEOPLE.

When the non-partisan movement began to crystalize in this city, its promoters found themselves confronted with two alternatives: They must take the responsibility of issuing a call for primaries and a convention, or they must take a similar responsibility and dispense with those gatherings. Which course should they take? The question was discussed fully, and answered deliberately.

So far as the right to act was concerned, they had as good a right to do one thing as the other. Suppose they had issued a call for primaries? The politicians would have disputed their right to do that, as vehemently as they now dispute their right to frame a ticket. It would have been said that the call for primaries did not come from the voters, but from a self-constituted committee, and the name of the "dear people" would have been invoked in denunciation of the leaders in the non-partisan movement, just the same as it is now. The movement for reform had for its chief objects the circumventing of the politicians and the elimination of their power and influence from municipal control; and no matter what details of procedure it might adopt, it was certain to encounter the bitter oppo-

sition of those whose occupations it sought to abolish in city affairs.

A ward primary is a ward politician's golden opportunity. Take from him this opening for getting in his work, and he is half defeated in advance of the election. It is very difficult for him to effect the deals, bargains and combinations by which the will of the people is thwarted and corruption becomes triumphant. It is the unanimous testimony of all who have written upon the subject of corruption in the government of American cities that the foundation of it is laid in the primary. Preparatory to the holding of this meeting the ward politicians organize their forces, and if corruption is to be forestalled the decent voters must organize too. But any high-minded citizen feels reluctant to join a cahal for the purpose of controlling a primary; for by so doing he subjects himself, to a certain extent, to the same charges he makes against the heelers and rounders. Rather than do this, on the one hand, or be defeated on the other, he stays away from the primary. Every taxpayer knows the sequel.

Had the non-partisan committee called primaries, who would have conducted them? More important still, who would have secured control of them? Might they not have been so manipulated as to reverse the purpose for which they were called, and make reform impossible? Right here is the chief obstacle with which reform and non-partisan movements in American cities have to contend. Abolish the primary, and at the same time abolish its corruption and the occupation of the ward politician. Cut the Gordian knot at one bold, strong stroke. This is what the non-partisan committee has done and it sufficiently accounts for the howling of the politicians, who find themselves baffled and thwarted.

The "News" confesses its admiration for the shrewdness, courage and statesmanship which the non-partisan committee has displayed in its conduct thus far of the campaign it has undertaken. Its members have exposed themselves to the accusations and abuse of the politicians, and to every possible misconstruction of their motives, a thing that a cowardly man, under the circumstances, would not be likely to do; and when the people understand thoroughly all the phases of the situation, they will vindicate the committee and its methods. So, at least, the "News" believes.

Whether the non-partisan policy will be to permanently abolish the rule of the rounders, the "News" at this time is unable to say. We sincerely hope so, and know that to be the intention of the present leaders. There are several bridges yet ahead of the reform movement which it will cross as it comes to them. Just now the matter that should receive attention and endorsement from all concerned is the triumph of the non-partisan ticket.

LYNCHING IN MEXICO.

The Mexican government just now is setting a wholesome example to some others which would object to being compared with that republic in point of enlightenment. Not only are the authorities adopting thorough and resolute measures for apprehending and convicting the persons who took part in the lynching of Arayo, the fanatic who struck President Diaz, but they also propose to punish the police who, through their laxity in guarding so important a prisoner, gave the mob its opportunity.

The dispatches which recounted the vengeance of the mob, referred to the fact that a lynching was a rare occur-

rence in Mexico, which is true. The truth is that Diaz and his ministers are giving to their country a very good government. It is not so advanced and thoroughly organized in all its methods and details as are those of the more enlightened nations, but it is making progress in the direction of the highest forms of civilization faster, perhaps, than is any other, if Japan be excepted.

What would be thought in this country of the arrest of a chief of police, and his subordinates, for failure to guard a prisoner so effectually as to prevent lynching? Yet that is what has been done in the City of Mexico. When the government of a sovereignty shows such a determination to enforce and vindicate the law, its subjects will have confidence in it, and this confidence will be an effective preventive of future lynchings.

FISH AND GAME PROTECTION.

Utah is in possession, not of as good a law for the protection of fish and game as some commonwealths can boast of, but still a law good enough if properly enforced to work great benefit to these interests. The last session of the Legislature spent considerable time on the subject, and had the advice and experience of several gentlemen who are known to be familiar with the matter in all its phases, the result being as stated an excellent statute. But of what avail are good laws which have existence only upon the statute books? They cannot enforce themselves, albeit they can be made to speak in no uncertain manner if only those whose duty it is will do their part of the work. This is sometimes done, sometimes not.

In a number of counties in the State there is a society having in view the promulgation of good rules as well as the enforcement of the game laws. In this county the society is not only numerically strong but individually attentive to business and determined to confine the evils complained of to the narrowest possible limits if they cannot be suppressed altogether, as we are well assured they could be if others would also do their whole duty. This society is so keenly alive to the necessity of making examples as a means of effecting reforms that it offers rewards for evidence of certain violations and sees that they are paid. As an illustration of how the society's good intentions are sometimes frustrated, it is only necessary to refer to a recent case. It was learned that a certain person had killed ducks out of season, and on his being arrested all the evidence that was required was there. It may be said that the defendant was literally taken red-handed, also feather-handed. The man's attorney had a consultation with the assistant county prosecutor, the result being that a nominal fine and costs, amounting in all to eight dollars, were assessed. This sum, while considerable at times to some people, is wholly inadequate to the ends of justice, in that no example is set and the sum does not reach the amount of the reward frequently offered in such cases. It is urged that as the complaining witness gets no fees he is not likely to come forward at the proper time, or if he does he is apt to be more or less unwilling, and that thereby a compromise judgment is the easiest way out of the difficulty; but if it is right to let one class of offenses down as easy, why not others, and thus eventually weaken the entire legal structure? It is proper enough not to pay complaining witnesses, because of the incentive it furnishes to doing such things for the money there is in them, and by such means the