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ANOTHER BID FOR DELAY.

The section added to Senate bill 145, providing for a special election in 1913 to determine whether or not the people want state-wide prohibition, is another bid for unnecessary delay. If there is a sincere desire to give the people a right to speak on the question of state-wide prohibition through the ballot, why not arrange for a special election this summer? Why put it off another year? Why provide for the prolongation of an agitation that ought to be settled in the interest of business, as soon as possible? The prohibition question has been put fairly and squarely to the Legislature, by the people. Why not meet it with equal fairness? Why not give the people a chance to decide now, instead of in a distant future?

We do not want to accuse anyone of insincerity, or of making questionable motives. Each one has his own conscience to satisfy. But the manner in which the temperance question is being handled in the Senate is peculiar, to say the least. The people of Utah are asking for a law closing the saloons and branding the liquor traffic as illegal. A majority of the senators are absolutely deaf to this prayer. They admit that the traffic is bad, and that the people have a right to the protection of the law. But they add, we cannot give it to you now. Two years hence you may ask again. They actually tell the people that prohibition does not prohibit now, but two years hence they can have it, if they want it. They tell the people that it would paralyze business now, but two years hence they can have it, if they want it. What is the reason of this play for time, this delay, this evading and twisting?

In the meantime the saloons are devouring its victims. Food, murder, robbery, impurity, are reeking from the dens, which legislators say they will "regulate." The tears of widows and orphans are flowing, while legislators are dodging the real issue, "Regulate?" You cannot "regulate" murder. You cannot "regulate" robbery. You cannot "regulate" misery. You can abolish it. Prohibit the saloon traffic. That is the only way of handling the gordin knot.

PROF. BEALE'S PLAN.

There are two views on city government, both of which have its advocates. One is that the conduct of municipal affairs is purely and entirely a business matter, like the affairs of any business corporation. The other is, that it is more than a cold business proposition; that it is a matter of government with an educational and moral, and not only a financial object, and that it requires that the people be given full control. According to one view, the more the power is concentrated and the fewer officials there are, the better the city will be served. According to the other view a small executive body of experts is essential to efficient government, but it is equally essential that this body be made fully responsible to the people or their representatives elected for the purpose of watching over the interests of the public.

As stated in these columns some time ago, Professor Joseph H. Beale of the Harvard Law School last summer made public his plan for city government, in which a view is embodied that combines the commission idea with the plan for enlarged representation. Good government, Professor Beale says, depends in the last analysis on the widespread knowledge and interest of the voters. The problem of good government is, therefore, how to get the voter in close touch with city affairs and the conduct of city officials. He points to the old town meeting as an almost ideal institution for the purpose of keeping the public posted on public affairs. The executive branch of the city government were members of that popular assembly which granted the funds, and they had to defend their course in open debate with the voters. Public interest and public knowledge were thus secured.

Professor Beale's plan is to revive the town meeting in the form of a large representative body composed of one member for each 1,500 inhabitants, elected to represent every locality in the city. A mayor and four aldermen are to be elected at the same time, and these are to be members of the larger assembly. They would give all their time to municipal affairs and be compensated for their services. The members of the council, he suggests, should each represent a small district of two or three hundred voters. They might meet six or eight times a year, or as often as necessary, and the mayor and aldermen would be with them and explain the needs of the city and their plans for meeting those needs.

"This kind of contact," Prof. Beale says, "would give Boston about four hundred councilmen at a time who would be in a position to have actual knowledge of the conduct of city affairs, and of the character and tendencies of the five executive commissions. As each member of the council would be personally known to the great majority of his small constituency it seems reasonable to expect that his constituents would get from him a degree of insight into city affairs and officials that is indispensable to good government and is at present notoriously lacking." We give this brief

statement of Prof. Beale's idea of city government for the benefit of our readers who are interested in the subject.

One thing is clear. A municipal corporation is different from a private business corporation in this respect that it does not exist for the purpose of making money and paying dividends. It exists for the purpose of administering to the safety and comfort of all the citizens, and every part of the municipality should, therefore, be adequately represented in the government. One part of the city has as much right to the benefits of the government as any other part.

Another thing is also clear. Good government depends, ultimately, on the quality of public officials, not on the name under which they serve the people. Good men will give satisfaction whether they are commissioners, or councilmen, or aldermen. The name is not essential.

But under all forms of government it is essential that the people should be in touch with public affairs. They concern every voter, every taxpayer, and if things go wrong or threaten to go wrong, the people should be in a position to assert its generally sound, good judgment. That is the best safeguard against misgovernment.

ROOT'S TALK TO PARTIES.

Politicians all over the country would do well to listen to the sound and sober counsel of Senator Root, given in an address at Albany to members of the New York Republican party organization. He stated the present attitude of the people toward parties as follows:

"There is a process going on now to which we should give heed—we of the Republican organization and of the Democratic organization also—a process that has gone beyond the grumbling of men who sit in the clubs or who sit in the armchairs and find fault with everything that is done in political life. It is a process to which we as a party organization should give heed. I think there has been for some time past a widespread feeling among the people of the United States that party organizations are not truly representative of those they profess to represent. I believe the blind efforts, serious as to method and more serious as to results in some of our western states to dispose of party organization altogether, is an indication. Here such indications are the demand for and application of the initiative and referendum in some of these states, as well as the wide difference at the last election of the state for president and for governor, as represented by the vote for presidential electors of one party, and the vote for governor of the other party. The wide popularity of Gov. Hughes, not only with the state of New York, but in the West, is based on the presumption that he has jumped on the politicians."

The country is not prepared to do away with party organizations, but people do insist that the fact be recognized that the country is bigger than any party, and that the value of services be measured not by the standard of party loyalty but by loyalty to the country. Men like Governor Hughes, and others, who insist that party organizations be truly representative of the people, are the men of the day.

PASS A SUNDAY LAW.

We hope our legislators will pass the Sunday bill. It is one of far more importance than some of the measures to which a great deal of time and thought has been given.

The "News" has for some time published letters from prominent actors and actresses on the Sunday amusement question, and if the legislators will take the trouble of perusing them they will find that the best of them are opposed to appearing seven days in the week. Even those who have no religious views on the question believe that they can serve the cause of art better by having one day of rest out of seven. And they positively refuse to play on Sundays, themselves.

The result is that Sunday theatricals must of necessity be of a secondary quality, and this is one more reason why they should not be encouraged. If it is true that there is a class of people who have no other time than Sundays to attend amusements, that class is wronged by being barred from witnessing the best performances, since the best actors and actresses do not play on the first day of the week. The remedy is shorter working hours, and not Sunday amusements.

But as Mr. Pyper, in his letter to Mr. Otis Skinner points out, no such class is known to exist here. Sunday amusements are no more necessary than Sunday stores. Pass a Sunday law, in the interest of the home and the places of worship, or be consistent and open all places of business so that all have an equal chance.

What a proud day it was for Yale.

And still they come—more Panama libel cases, indictments.

Private Citizen Roosevelt must feel like a fish out of water.

"Why marry at all?" asks Lady Arthur Paget. Why anything?

In the literature of war he will be known as Brian the Silencer.

Arizona and New Mexico can and will try again, and will yet succeed.

Many buildings are going up but no rents seem to be coming down.

The Record of the Sixtieth Congress is made but it is not published yet.

A man advances much more rapidly in years than he does in knowledge.

The Standard Oil company does not ring. Judge Anderson, my Jo, Judge.

When it is nasty Washington weather or is the nastiest weather in the world.

Prosperity now can offer no excuse for not returning except that of pure laziness.

Couldn't Secretary Knox claim a "constructive touch" on that salary reduction?

Members of Congress have to face both a deficit and a Cannon. It takes brave men to do this.

In the mad fight for basal supremacy

any that nation will win which has the biggest shows of war.

All kinds of farming congresses except baby farming have been held. Why not have one of that kind?

Mr. Harriman says that he is wearing a last year's coat. Lucky man! Most of us are wearing coats of the vintage 1907.

George Bernard Shaw announces his intention of standing for parliament. He thinks he will secure a seat but he may find there is standing room only.

Stopping the dealers in coal and drivers of coal wagons for short weights just as winter is over is like locking the stable after the horse is gone.

To every member of the cabinet it is a new and delightful sensation except Secretary Wilson. His tenure of office seems to be for life, or during good behavior.

"Some conception of the expensiveness of war may be gathered when it is known that it costs as much money to fire a 12-inch gun as an editor makes in two years," says the Newark Evening News. It is much cheaper to fire an editor.

A MUCH-ABUSED PUBLICATION.

New York Evening Sun.

Mr. Taft's suggestion at the Carnegie Hall meeting for negro uplift that perhaps his hearers read the Congressional Record provided the grumbles of the audience. Nevertheless the compendium of legislative proceedings to which he referred could be read with profit by many men who rarely or never see it, but profess to take an intelligent interest in public affairs. The inaccuracies of the Record, such as the post delivery embellishment of speeches and the publication of undelivered speeches under the leave to print, are negligible in comparison with its veracity, fact as a whole it furnishes a quantity of useful information indispensable to an adequate knowledge of the workings of our government.

SMASHER MEETS HER MATCH.

Los Angeles Times.

Carrie Nation has ceased to be a subject of real interest in this country, but across the Atlantic she is sufficiently novel to attract attention—and retain it. In a London music hall she recently took to the stage, and, to the amusement of more or less badly aimed but unpleasantly smelling missiles, and the manager had to cancel her engagement because the authorities said they feared, and wished to prevent, a breach of the peace. Carrie was disgusted; not with the hoodlums but with the manager. "I'm not a bit afraid of the wicked, miserable cowards," she said, referring to the gallery "foes," "and they're only wicked, miserable cowards, because they are slaves to the publican, and I mean to release them."

THE ART OF SEEING.

Pail Mail Gazette.

In his Royal Institution lecture Sir Hubert von Herkomer, incidentally touched on the point that no two people seem to see alike, as illustrated by the familiar experience that twenty eye-witnesses of a street accident will give twenty widely varying accounts of its details. We had an instance of this recently in the case of the Tottenham outrage, and few failed to observe the extraordinary fact that, when the Drury coffin was opened, two reporters made hopelessly divergent statements as to the beard—the very thing that was most interesting.

ENGLAND'S WOMEN VOTERS.

Westminster Gazette.

A return of the number of women voters in England and Wales who are qualified to vote for county councils and for councilors in municipal boroughs issued today shows that the women's franchise for county councils extends to 56,945 for England and 1,945 for Wales, making a total of 58,890. For county borough councils in England and Wales the number is 265,592, and for non-county borough councils there are 131,421 voters for England, 5,863 for Wales, making a total of 137,324.

JUST FOR FUN.

"You act as your wife's leading man, I believe," began the interviewer. "Yes," replied the husband of the star. "But," he added, "only on the stage."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"You are going to marry a rich widow," said the fortune teller. "Hew," replied the man whose hand was being held. "Is another dollar. Make her a young mother and beautiful."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Lawyer's Wife—What does the paper say about this season's suits? "Dude," answered Mr. Dustin Stutz. "Large checks will be the correct thing in law suits this season."—Life.

"I have been taking some moving pictures of life on your farm." "Did you catch the hired man in motion?" "I think so." "Ah, science can do anything these days!"—Detroit Free Press.

"Mom," said mischievous Tom, "I saw a big rat in your room this morning." "Good heavens!" cried the excited mother. "I must tell your father to get a trap right away." "A trap won't catch this rat," announced Tom. "It's Sister Jane's."—Baltimore American.

"Do you think the color of a woman's hair has anything to do with her temper?" "Not now. So very little of it is her own."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Do you love your enemies?" inquired the man of lofty principles. "No," answered Mr. Dustin Stutz. "I don't exactly love 'em. But I appreciate 'em. My biggest profits have been derived from people who started in to fight me."—Washington Star.

"When we take charge of the government," says the wise old suffragette, "we will make some changes in the naval bureau." "I should hope so!" agrees the enthusiastic young suffragette. "Why, bureau are hopelessly out of style! We will have a combination wardrobe and chiffonier."—Judge.

Him (at the reception)—That young man talking to my hostess is quite a cut-up. Her—Why, he looks rather solemn and dignified. Him—Yes, but he's a hospital surgeon.—Chicago News.

"It must be due to work in the weather bureau." "Think of all the criticism we have to undergo!" rejoined the climatic expert.

"Yes, but you're the only people before the public who can go wrong on your facts without being landed in the Asinaria club."—Washington Star.

"What do you think of a woman

who wants to give up a career to darn her husband's socks?"

"I think her ambition is wholly domestic."—Baltimore American.

Another Remedy.

"I notice a man who had a cold in his head has committed suicide." "Poor fellow! Now, what fool friend would have advised him to try that remedy?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

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