

torney, who was present, being appealed to, laid before the Council the legal proposition that it had no right to hold executive sessions. He quoted Section 8 of Article III of the general municipal law, passed in 1888, as follows:

"Sec. 8. It [the Council] shall sit with open doors and shall keep a journal of its proceedings."

The Mayor found a short cut out of the dilemma by simply declaring out of order the motion to go into executive session. This fiat suddenly transformed the existing condition of secrecy to one of publicity, the doors were thrown open and the yeomanry surged in as before. The city attorney is known to be a very jovial gentleman, and has a countenance which indicates ability to enjoy a good joke. He is also reputed to be a good lawyer and thoroughly familiar with the statutes and duties relating to his position. We dislike to accuse him of a blunder, or to charge him with having played a practical joke on the Council. But his guilt is fixed as to one or the other. The section of the statute which he quoted as prohibiting executive sessions does not apply to cities incorporated before that statute was passed. Even if it did, it would be interpreted in the light of well settled parliamentary law and usage, and would be construed to mean that the ordinary business of the Council must be transacted with open doors, but that discussions which the interests of the municipality require to be kept private, may take place in executive session. To take the position that all that is said and done by the Council must be said and done in public, is absurd. All parliamentary bodies have a necessary and natural right to go into executive session if they choose.

It will be well for the city if all its business shall be transacted in a manner to correspond with this outward openness. But if everything has been open and above board, why did one Councilman get "fired"—to quote a term used in the same connection by the chief "Liberal" organ—because more than one nomination was made for a certain city office last evening? And if all city business has been done in open session, who are the citizens and taxpayers that were present when the compensation of city officers was publicly discussed, before being irrevocably fixed? Were not the nominations and salaries agreed upon in caucus? And when all the

members of the Council are of the same political party, what is the difference between a caucus and an executive session?

These matters require explanation in order to harmonize much that has been done in the line of public business with this show of openness; otherwise the latter will be suspected of having two objects, a reflection upon the former Council and a desire to secure to the present one undeserved credit.

MORMONS IN CANADA.

THE *Guelfh, Conn., Herald*, contains the following:

"It is learned from the *Regina Leader* that Lieutenant Governor Royal recently visited the Mormon settlement at Lee's Creek, Alberta. He found a village of about forty houses and three hundred inhabitants. An address of welcome was presented to his Honor. In the course of his reply he said that although Canada opened her doors to the people of all nations and welcomed all classes and conditions of men, of course she laid down one condition—that the new settlers must come to a determination to obey all laws. This, they assured him they fully intended to do. They have each, said his Honor, but one family, they are a self-supporting community, neither seeking nor deriving government aid for their needs; they are well satisfied with the prospects of the part of the North-West in which they have settled, and our own people might with advantage borrow many of their ideas and customs. They are good irrigators, and this year are going to irrigate their town to assist in growing trees, a number of which were planted last year, but did not make much progress on account of the draught. To the representative of the *Leader* Mr. Royal remarked that while the Mormons were active propagandists, no effort was made to alienate them from their system. He advocated missionary work among them. Next year, Mr. Royal stated, the Mormons at Lee's Creek settlement intended to go into the dairy industry. 'They are a well-to-do people,' he said. 'They do not practice polygamy. They are sober and industrious. They own stock and their log houses are very comfortable. They do everything on the co-operative plan. Their store is run on this plan, and of course they can sell lower than the stores at Macleod, and this is the cause of much of the jealousy that exists regarding the Mormons. They take a great interest in our Canadian laws and in politics.'"

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN WYOMING.

THE opponents of woman suffrage failed to make the point they sought to make when the bill to admit Wyoming was under consideration. Of that occasion the *Springfield Republican* says:

"The admission of Wyoming was a foregone conclusion, but the House surprised a good many yesterday by refusing to allow the enabling act to be used as a weapon against woman suffrage. Actual experience is often a

more telling argument than logic. The success of the experiment of extending the elective franchise to the women of Wyoming is generally acknowledged. The constitutional convention continued that privilege to the sex in its rule of the suffrage, and the House of Representatives very wisely refused yesterday to make an issue upon it. The sentiment in the Senate has long been favorable to this cause, and it is thus a foregone conclusion that the bill will become a law substantially in its present form. A special to a New York paper says that the galleries of the House were filled during the debate by 'an odd assemblage of women suffragists, masculine-looking women and long-haired men'—which sounds like ancient history. That order of wit had its day a decade or so ago. The republican party is destined to have the distinction of being the first to pass an act of Congress that places the women of a State upon a complete political equality with men."

GERMANY AN OBJECT OF INTEREST

THE attention of observing people of all civilized nations is more or less centered upon Germany, in consequence of the movements in progress in that country. They are asking whether or not the situation forebodes the early breaking out of a gigantic war in Europe. The ambition of Emperor William in the direction of military prestige and glory for Germany is well known, and it is generally understood that Bismarck was removed because he stood in the way of the young man carrying out a war programme.

The visit to Germany of the Prince of Wales and the cordial reception given him by his nephew has been widely commented upon by the newspapers of that country. This sentiment of the press means something when taken together with the announced wish of the Emperor to foster the closest relations with England. A prominent journal of this country says:

"These indications show the nervous condition of the public mind brought by the retirement of Prince Bismarck. There was a time, not more than a year or two ago, when the question of whether or not England entertained friendly feelings for Germany was a matter of supreme indifference to the German people, if the utterances of their newspapers were to be trusted. At that time, however, they had at the head of their affairs a man who had shown himself to be equal to almost any emergency. At the present time the men in whose hands the destinies of the empire rest are untried, and, so far as foreigners are concerned, almost unknown. Under such conditions Germany may look with favor upon allies whom a short time ago her people held but in slight esteem."

France is massing troops on her frontier, for the purpose of preventing her being taken by surprise by a sudden movement on the part of