

the nights preceding its final passage and studied every provision. There is not a party political point in it. The object kept in view was to settle the disputes that have arisen over the application of the law which it was framed to amend, and which is now subject to those conflicting decisions by the Utah courts which have helped in the cause of fraud in the Ogden and Salt Lake city elections.

The bill first sent to the Governor contained several sections not in the bill as now printed. They provided for an annual registration of voters in cities of the first class, instead of a revision, the registration to take place at the offices of the registrars, the number and street of each voter to be designated, and the lists and affirmations to be filed and become public records open to inspection.

No intimation was received from the Governor as to his purpose concerning the bill until he was questioned about it late on Friday night, and about or after midnight the following message was received by the Council:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Salt Lake City,
March 13, 1890.

Hon. F. S. Richards, President of the Council:

Sir:—I return herewith C. F. No. 35, entitled "An Act amending an act providing for the incorporation of cities, approved March 8, 1888."

This act has been in my hands I think since Wednesday morning last. It is a very important act, and I regret that in the rush of the closing days of the session I have not been able to take it up and give it the careful consideration which so important a measure demands. I do not believe it would be wise to attempt to make it a law without such consideration.

From a casual examination I find it contains some provisions I would be unwilling to approve, and hence, as there is now a statute covering the same subject, which has been passed upon by the Supreme Court of the Territory, I deem it best to return it.

I am, very respectfully,
ARTHUR L. THOMAS,
Governor.

Members of the Council then waited on the Governor, and after a very lengthy conversation learned verbally his alleged objections to the bill. They were chiefly in relation to the new registration provisions. He took the ground that under the Edmunds Act the Legislature could not change the law in these respects. When informed that the Chief Justice, the Commissioner and learned counsel on the "Liberal" side took the opposite view, he had to waive that point in argument. But as he still objected to the changes, every section in relation to them was stricken out. The Governor was well acquainted, by actual observation, with some

of the flagrant frauds at the Ogden City election which these sections were designed to guard against. Yet he strongly opposed them, and to save the bill in its main features and stop the litigation likely to continue, unless some definite provisions were made for the purpose, everything the Governor objected to in conversation was expunged from the bill and it was sent to him in the form in which it is now printed in another part of this paper.

Thereupon the Council received the annexed communication.

Hon. F. S. Richards, President of the Council:

Sir:—I return herewith C. F. No. 35, entitled "An act providing for the Classification and Government of Cities."

The purpose of the act is to clear the ambiguities which exist in the present law, and which purpose has my hearty sympathy.

I enclose a substitute bill which will, I believe, meet the case and will approve it if adopted by the Legislature.

I am very respectfully,
ARTHUR L. THOMAS,
Governor.

This was late on Saturday afternoon, when everybody was utterly wearied by three night sessions and the Governor knew his "substitute" could not receive proper consideration. We publish its full text in another column. The principal objections to its purpose are: That it very cunningly makes an additional tax of five mills on the dollar in cities before they re-incorporate, without saying so in terms; that it gives the veto power to mayors which the Legislature had already voted down; and that it takes away the power of the county courts to appoint or regulate election precincts within city limits.

These provisions were not germane to the bill, and the objection as to repeals and ambiguities alleged against the Council bill is much greater in the "substitute" as will be seen when it is examined carefully.

The failure of this important legislation is chargeable to the Executive. The responsibility for the litigation and frauds that may be repented in consequence of that failure will lie on his shoulders. He feared to do what he knew was right, because of the pressure brought upon him by his ill-advisers whose influence appears to control his acts.

All the talk which his organ indulges in about Church pressure is the vilest falsehood and buldest absurdity, and the evidence is overwhelming that influences are exercised on the gubernatorial will which

limit its free exercise and which are far more potent than anything stupidly charged and constantly repeated by his infamous organ.

The spectacle of a Governor holding the absolute veto and wielding it with supreme autocratic power over thirty-six representatives of the people, and then actually usurping their functions by preparing measures for them to pass at his dictation, has been reserved for Utah, in the great American republic, and in the enlightened and liberty developing nineteenth century.

A BILL TO PREVENT ELECTION FRAUDS VETOED.

TODAY we publish the text of another bill passed by the Legislature and vetoed by Governor Thomas. It was opposed and ridiculed in advance of its passage by the Governor's organ and adviser, and therefore its doom might have been anticipated. But it was so necessary and reasonable a measure, and the ignorance of the *Tribune* as to its meaning and merits was so palpable, that it was thought the Governor would not be influenced by such senseless attacks. However, the bill, if allowed to become law, would have had the effect of preventing in future the shameful things which disgraced the last municipal registration and election, and this would not have suited a certain portion of the "Liberal" element, and so the measure is dead.

Read it, citizens who desire honesty in elections, and point out, if you can, anything in it that is wrong, or unreasonable, or partisan, or likely to do anything except guard the rights of voters and secure fairness and prevent fraud at the polls.

We also publish the text of the Governor's veto. Read that and discover, if you can, any rational, legal or defensible objection to the bill it assassinates.

It should be understood that the bill was only designed as an amending act. It was not to repeal existing laws. It was not to interfere in any way with the powers of the Utah Commission, as pretended, or rather insinuated, by the Governor. It did not intend to fill any office; either for registration or election, therefore the Act of Congress which specially provides that a law of this Territory for the filling of such offices must be approved by Congress before it becomes operative, does not apply to this measure. The Governor in his inference that it does, exhibits