

cannot perform its work thoroughly in others unless every division can be closely scrutinized. And in this city there is a lameness in this respect that is painfully apparent. If the ordinances successfully cover this subject, they should be enforced; if not, then the Council should make the necessary regulation. It is not fair to itself or the public when it stops a leak at the splint and allows a greater one at the bung-hole. The City Council should require every officer, from Mayor down, to report the purpose for which every dollar of city money is expended; then an expenditure which has been cut off by the Council will not be covered in some underhand way.

Upon this point a general illustration may be used which can be applied to the mayor or any other officer of any and every city in the State. Where a contingent fund is allowed the mayor for emergency expenditures, the council should insist upon a detailed report of how that contingent fund is expended. It is not sufficient to say, for instance, that an item of \$100 goes for "legal services"; it should be known to whom the money went, and what the services were. It is the public's money, and the public want to know that it goes to the public service. The rule is good for any officer. If it is not applied, then the officer may distribute city funds to favorites, or pocket it himself, or apply it to engaging services which the city council has shut off. Not only will every honest official uphold the application of such a rule, but it should be given him as a matter of justice in protecting him from suspicion.

THE BLESSING OF BAD WEATHER.

The next best thing to a snowstorm in the season thereof is a good, stiff wind when snow is on the ground; and frequently a few hours of wind at the right time and under right conditions are worth many hours of actual snow-fall so far as later results are concerned. The reason for this is that snow which lies where it falls is largely exposed to the rays of the first warm breath of air and the earliest rays of the spring sun, and quickly disappears in the swollen stream; whereas that which has been whirled about by the wind and drifted into sheltered gulches and on the leeward sides of the mountains and canyons melts more slowly and consequently tends to keep up the supply of water in the valleys during the heated season when water is most needed.

Viewed in this light, the recent and current storm has been and is of incalculable value to the people of the State in every section to which it has extended. Not only has there been a heavy fall of snow, but with it all there have been driving winds, the tendency of which has been to pluck the precious store of frozen moisture exactly where it could be best preserved and where it can be of most use next summer. With the quantity of water safely packed away in the mountain fastnesses and the quantity in immediate prospect, there ought to be no grave water scarcity in Salt Lake county this season; and the wide extent of the

present storm will relieve to a considerable extent the unfavorable situation in other counties. So, while a few buggy and bicycle riders, as well as city pedestrians and tourists, may find fault with the present quality of the weather, the great majority will properly reward it as an undigested and a priceless blessing.

THE NANSEN EXPEDITION.

The dispatches from Yakutsk and Archangel relating to the safe return of Dr. Nansen from the Arctic regions have, so far, received but little confirmation, notwithstanding the fact that the Russian government and King Oscar personally at once took steps to secure full information, the latter through the minister of Sweden and Norway in St. Petersburg. The probability of the dispatch may therefore be considered somewhat diminished, yet until the rumor shall have been traced to its source, it would be premature to form an opinion one way or another.

In discussing the Nansen expedition, the fact is being recalled that his theory about the polar current was founded on a hoax. It had its origin in the alleged discovery of certain relics supposed to have been floated from the wreck of the Jeannette, north of the Siberian Islands to the southwest of Greenland. These relics were found by Eskimos and were collected by Mr. Lytzen and described in a paper issued by the Danish Geographical society. The articles were no less than fifty-eight in number, consisting among other things of written lists of provisions and a pair of trousers bearing the name of one of the Jeannette sailors. They were sent to Copenhagen and were finally destroyed, shortly before Dr. Nansen came over to investigate them.

It is now claimed that Dr. Hall, of the Smithsonian Institute, had suspicions concerning the genuineness of the relics, and that on close examination of the sailors of the Yantic, among whom were two survivors of the Jeannette expedition, he learned that the relics were actually placed on the ice-raft by some of the younger officers of the Yantic in the expectation that they would be discovered by members of their own party, thus affording a cruel mystification and material for "hoax." Unfortunately, the clue drifted off and the relics were not discovered until after the Yantic had sailed away, leaving only Eskimos to pick them up. The sailors who made the statement would not give the names of the two young officers who, when they found that the relics had been found and taken seriously, were alarmed lest they had gotten themselves into trouble, and swore the sailors to secrecy.

It is almost inconceivable that Nansen should not have been in possession of all the alleged facts concerning his reported find; and that he nevertheless believed in a polar current that would carry his vessel across the North Pole, is proof that he relied more on the original story of the relics than on Dr. Hall's exposure. Probably there were other evidences of the existence of the current, satisfactory to his mind. The idle jest of a

merry sailor may or may not have been the main foundation of his perilous undertaking and the opening of the way for a great geographical discovery. Important results have sometimes been obtained from apparently trivial causes.

LOOK TO THE CHILDREN.

The case of a fifteen-year-old girl who was held as a witness against a number of men charged in the police court with the crime of having enticed her into a house, presumably for immoral purposes, suggests the serious responsibility parents and guardians of children incur by withdrawing surveillance or casting them out amid untold dangers and temptations. It appears that in the case in point the girl has been wandering about the city in search of employment until she fell into bad company. Her father is dead, and her mother resides in Norway, in which country the child came about four years ago.

It is also learned that her case is by no means exceptional; that it is too often the case that young girls are allowed to come to the city in order to seek employment, with the result that they gradually are led away from the paths of virtue. The desire among the youth for better clothing and another class of amusements than the quiet country home can afford, often leads to an exodus from parents or guardians, which the weakness or perhaps lack of judgment of the latter frequently concurs in. It cannot be too strongly emphasized, therefore, that the duty of parents is to exercise their authority in wisdom and love, for the benefit of their children, in order that they may be kept in a moral atmosphere and under a healthy influence until the time shall come that their own judgment has ripened and their character been developed sufficiently to allow them to battle successfully for themselves. The responsibility of parents is grave. It would be infinitely better to keep the children together under the influence of home, even at the sacrifice of any conceivable economical advantages, than to let them scatter in every direction as chance may suggest. Some are almost sure to get lost, if sent out to shift for themselves before they have obtained the moral strength necessary for the struggle with innumerable allurements.

As to the canna plant the Kansas Farmer says: "It has been tried in outwestern Kansas and grows well at Garden City, and experimental settings at Medicine Lodge are growing finely. A peculiarity of the plant is that it grows in winter and the top entirely disappears in spring and summer, and the only question about its success in Kansas appears to be that of its ability to endure our winters. Experience thus far indicates that it will be hardy, at least in Southern Kansas. It grows well in arid regions."

LEGISLATORS who are twitted with a weakness for changing their minds, may properly answer that there is novelty in abandoning, even tardily, a wrong position; besides, there is some credit in having a mind to change.