

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

The events in the political world have changed recently with such suddenness and kaleidoscopic diversity as to defy prognostications even with regard to the immediate future. In the Turkish question the leading feature is the European harmony. The sultan was confronted with a whole continent and yielded, apparently, to the demands made by the united powers. Then came the Venezuelan boundary question, and the European harmony was scattered to the four winds, England standing practically alone in her attitude toward the South American republic. But the Venezuelan question soon became overshadowed by the complications arising from recent events in Transvaal and at present these have developed an account with Germany, as the Venezuela trouble involved a reckoning with the United States. That the spirits of war are exercising a mighty influence among the children of men at present is undeniable. Will they succeed in igniting the torch that is to cause a general conflagration? Is the question uppermost in the minds of many.

The Transvaal question is undoubtedly the most critical one so far. The builders of that little republic settled there for the purpose of having a country of their own, where they could follow their particular inclinations, politically and religiously. They are mostly farmers, content with their own mode of living. They fought valiantly for their independence and bought it dearly. They invited nobody to come to their country, and molested nobody.

In the last two years quite a foreign population has been attracted to this country on account of valuable mines discovered. They commenced by finding fault with existing conditions. The mode of living of these Uitlanders, or foreigners, is entirely different to that of the original Boers, or farmers, and yet they demand control of the country on account of their numbers and the revenue they are required to pay. They object, among other things, to being compelled to contribute to the maintenance of a state church and also to a law by which only Dutch is a compulsory study in the schools. That the Uitlanders have obtained sympathy in England on account of these and similar grievances is a fact, although it is well known that England herself still compels her dissenters to support the church; and that her interest in the quarrel between the original settlers and intruders of Transvaal, therefore, is anything but disinterested, appears evident.

A crisis was reached when Dr. Jameson, president of an English mercantile company in South Africa, planned an invasion of Transvaal for the alleged purpose of rescuing the Uitlanders. England, of course, almost immediately repudiated this enterprise, but the German emperor, who for a long time has been watching with jealousy the progress of Great Britain

in Africa, took occasion to declare for the Boers and virtually challenged the English government to proceed any further. He denied British suzerainty over Transvaal and held a conference with a representative of the little republic, after which its president demanded a large indemnity of England for Dr. Jameson's invasion. This is the present aspect of the case. It looks very much as if the German emperor were seeking a casus belli against England. At least this appears to be the general opinion there, and accordingly, the greatest activity exists in naval and military circles. The question is, will Great Britain pay the indemnity? If not, will Germany assist Transvaal in enforcing it?

Conservative papers generally do not believe that the difficulty will result in extreme measures, and they are probably right. Still, it must not be forgotten that an attack on England by Germany would be in perfect harmony with the policy of Prussia since its destiny was outlined by Bismarck. There is but little doubt that the idea of a triumph over the greatest naval power of Europe would be a particularly alluring one to the ruler of an empire that gradually has risen to eminence by humiliating its neighbors. England is no longer a formidable power. Her prestige is on the wane, owing chiefly to her own policy, and her isolated position almost invites an ambitious government to assume an insulting attitude. Besides, wars sometimes break out unexpectedly, as if by the decree of a ruling Providence. The fate of nations does not rest ultimately with its statesmen. The besom of destruction is often wielded by the Almighty for the purpose of clearing the nations of the iniquity that threatens to inundate them. For these reasons it is not easy to foresee what the outcome will be. In the meantime, it cannot but be the earnest desire of all who love peace, that a solution may be found of the existing troubles in harmony with the principles of justice and humanity.

HODES NO GOOD.

Now that the school, municipal and State officers recently elected have assumed the duties of their positions, and all is supposed to be in that working order which indicates the running character of the machinery until the time shall come for another change, it may not be amiss to point to some things that need correction lest they result in an unpleasant condition of affairs.

One of these is the intense partisanship which is being exhibited by certain officials, notably in matters directly affecting Salt Lake City, and possibly to some extent in other directions elsewhere. The partisanship to which we refer is not so much the line drawn between political parties as that which is in the interest of "the gang" to the exclusion of political associates whose

views of honor and integrity may be more strict than those of some clever political manipulators and wire-pullers. At the same time the intense bias which has been shown toward those of an opposite political faith is far from commendable or conducive of good, because of its manifest injustice. We do not forget that the officials referred to were elected on party issues, and therefore are under certain party obligations; but we also remember that by their election they became public officials whose duty it is to represent fairly all classes of citizens at the command of the latter, independent of party, creed or color. There is a time when party lines cease to be drawn tightly and when the interests of the mass of citizens become paramount. We do not hesitate in saying that in some of the quarters referred to there is a marked tendency to ignore those interests for the advancement of personal or party ends which, if persisted in, will lead to unpleasant consequences. It will be infinitely better for those who now hold office to arrange matters themselves on a basis of equity to the whole community affected than to advance to a point where the people will be compelled to rise and administer a stinging rebuke.

The other partisanship to which there is still stronger objection is that which tends to the promotion of class animosities. The welfare of the community does not require that a particular clique or "gang" should dominate, to the exclusion of all outside of their set from important position; evidences of "good faith" do not consist in unlimited generosity on one side and intolerable boggishness on the other. There is an "eternal fitness" in things which demands that all classes receive just representation; and if there is a refusal to recognize this rule, sooner or later the people will insist on its enforcement. Events of the past few days have given indications of political bossism that bodes no good to the city's welfare. The scheme of "the gang" to dictate and control everything in their own particular interest, regardless of the wishes or interests of the public generally, is almost as bold as its manipulation will be unscrupulous, if successful. There are good officials who are in a position to block the way and promote the public good, if not by their official action at least through an appeal to the public which will not be in vain. Let this excessive class as to classes and political parties be curbed, and such distinctions as are necessary be brought within the limits of honesty and decency; otherwise the situation will be most unfortunate.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Governor Heber M. Wells has addressed to the Utah State Legislature his first message, which is given in full in the News. The document covers a wide range of subjects and presents many important recommendations for consideration by the legislature. It is probable that each topic treated of will come up for discussion in some form in the regular legislative proceedings, when it will be given such attention in detail as the occasion seems to