DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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FIRE AND POLICE BILL.

The bill now before the Legislature, with reference to "board of fire and police commissioners in cities of 12,000 and more inhabitants, and to place the police, prison and fire departments of said cities upon a non-partisan basis," is a measure which the News believes to be salutary and deserving of passage and approval. It has many friends both in and out of the Legislature, but is pretty sure to excite lively opposition, though this will not be sufficiently strong, we hope, to defeat or impair it in any essential particular. In order that this opposition may be weakened, however, and many lukewarm friends of the measure be rallied to its active support, it seems to us that two or three slight amendments in the text of the printed bill ought to be made. One of these is to the effect that the requisites for membership of the proposed board be not only residence and the qualification of voting, but also the property tax-paying qualification and sufficient age, experience and reputation to warrant the confidence of the community. Then, as to the maximum salary for the clerk of the board, six hundred dollars per year (which practically means that that shall be the regular salary)—consistency and a due regard for the condition of the public finances would seem to suggest that the figure is too high. For such services as the clerk at present or in the near future will be required to render, four hundred dollars per year ought to be the outside limit. Again, the law would be made more popular if it provided that applicants before the board for positions in the departments under its control, in addition to the other qualifications demanded, should be legal voters and property tax payers in their respective cities. As between an applicant who contributes nothing, either by his influence at the ballot box or by his taxes, to the welfare and support of his city, and an applicant who does both these things, we do not hesitate to say the law should favor the latter. Another section that would be improved by amendment is the one providing for the suspension or removal of the chiefs of the fire and police departments by the board. The proposed law properly increases the authority of these chiefs in suspending or removing their subordinates. The board's power in dealing with the heads of these departments should also be extended, at least to the extent that a majority and not the whole board shall determine whether charges are sustained and what the punishment—whether suspension or removal—shall be. This would leave the law quite as non-partisan as it now is, but would render one-fourth easier the punishment of a chief against whom charges had been preferred, and were believed by three out of four members of the board to be sustained. We also think there should be an additional section authorizing the city councils to fix the maximum number of employes in the two departments.

There may be other amendments that would improve the measure, but these few we feel sure will do so, and they are suggested in a spirit of the warmest friendship for the measure as a whole. Meanwhile, those of the business community who favor the law and desire its passage ought to make their wishes known and their influence felt. The Legislature will do what the people want, we believe, but the members ought to be given to understand what this is; and truth compels the assertion that up to the present time the opponents of the law have shown much more zeal and activity than its friends.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

The figures given in the message of Mayor Goodfleating to the City Council afford a showing confirmatory of the statement heretofore made by the News that the municipal finances are in a deplorable condition and reveal a record of extravagance in past administrations that is simply appalling. While it has been generally recognized that there has been much waste in connection with many of the public improvements that have been made, it seems that the people have been measurably powerless to prevent it. A time has come when the taxpayers can make their action effective for the future, and in doing so the first blow should be struck at the office holding robbery to which the city is being subjected. For Mayor's message shows that the army of office holders which the city has to support now takes from the municipal treasury the enormous sum of $180,988.50 per annum, or about $20,000 more than the city will have in 1896 for its entire running expense, exclusive of street lighting and sprinkling. This condition must be put an end to. The city business has been run for the benefit of office holders and their friends long enough. The people generally ought to have a turn now.

There are some good recommendations in the Mayor's report, and we hope these will be adopted. We also trust that his policy of strict enforcement of the ordinances against certain offenses whose prosecution has been a farce in the recent past will be given full force. If he accomplishes this he will deserve the hearty approval of the community in the work. His success in this department will be anxiously hoped and looked for by all respectable people.

Some of Mayor Goodfleating's recommendations we do not believe to be wise or timely. Among these is his suggestion that the non-partisan fire and police commission be abolished. We believe that the Mayor and City Council have all that is necessary to engage their attention without those departments, and that, as a principle of municipal government, they are better in the hands of such a commission than of a partisan board. This conclusion is arrived at from general observation of such administration in this and other cities. When the present administration makes a success of what it has to do there will be time to ask an extension of power. Until that time it is better to keep what good we have. As to the recommendation that the estimate of fire and police be reduced at least one-third, it should be adopted.

Regarding the Mayor's suggestion that the heads of departments constitute a board of public works with himself as chairman, the idea may be good from one standpoint, but certainly not from that of the taxpaying citizens. The spectacle of a board of appointees of the Mayor, subject to his summary dismissal, controlling the business of the city, is not the thing; it is altogether overlooking the "one-man power" business, and however well Mayor Goodfleating may conduct it, the certainties of rule by "the gang" that would follow its adoption are altogether too great to regard it as at all permissible.

There are other recommendations equally suggestive of "centralization" that are decidedly objectionable, but we will not give space to their consideration today; and their adoption may be regarded as so improbable as to render discussion of them unnecessary. We will merely refer to one in closing. An increase—not a reinstatement—is recommended in the appointment of a second assistant city attorney. The practical side of this is that if two competent attorneys be appointed as assistants, the office of city attorney ought to be abolished. Two good lawyers are plenty for this city, and we can name several members of the bar who could do the work single handed, and do it well.

The general tenor of the message, to economize, we hope is see observed. The city must do it. But it will not be accomplished by words while sections look to further loading of the treasury. Let us have retrenchment in deed; that is what the people demand, and will have sooner or later.

LEGISLATIVE DISCOURTESY.

The Legislature passed a fee bill a few days ago, and the Governor returned it with his veto, based on objections which virtually stated that the bill gave evidence of haste in preparation from the fact that it was so imperfect as not to cover the situation intended. Upon receipt of this message the House judiciary committee made a report that the bill be passed over the Governor's veto, and this was done by a vote of twenty-four to nine, notwithstanding the pleadings of some of the members that they be given one day's further time to examine the measure more critically.

In view of the circumstances under which this action was taken, it can be given no designation milder than that the proceeding was manifestly discourteous to the Governor as the representative of the people of the entire State; and this lack of courtesy is aggravated by the fact, if the statement made during the debate is correct, that the vetoed bill had not been printed so as to give the members an opportunity to carefully consider the same. It would have been only just to have given a little further time, we asked, that the provisions of the bill might have been more carefully scanned.

But the disposition to be even more than discourteous, and to be reckless, is displayed in the report of the judiciary committee on which the veto was overruled. There are several points of this character which might be named, but we will refer to one only. Replying to the Governor's objection that the treasury into which fees are to be paid is not fixed by the act, the committee says: "If there be any doubt in the minds of the officers as to the proper treasury into which the fees should be covered it was our opinion when the bill was before us, and is still, that until further and deliberate action is taken by the Legislature these fees might be withheld by the officers." Since the Constitution requires that all fees shall be covered into the proper treasury, the opinion expressed by the committee displays a disregard for the spirit and letter of the State charter that is far from commendable; and the suggestion that officers be allowed to do that which is forbidden by the Constitution "until further and deliberate action is taken by the Legislature," is confession of a haste which is not justified by any pressing necessity which exists.

Again we would suggest that any action by the Legislature which bears an aspect of haste or dilatoriness creates a decidedly unfavorable impression among the people; and members would do well to spend a day or two longer on a bill in order to have it complete rather than rush it through and then have to supplement it by others. The Legislature has a special sphere in which to act, but it should be remembered also that the executive is part of the law making division, and members who give their votes to support a proceeding incumbering harmless or crude purposes, merely to gratify the vanity of others in an assumption of superiority which they do not possess, may have occasion to repent at leisure such ill-advised conduct. The friends of the legislature and of the State are they who contribute to avoiding inconsiderate action rather than they who approvingly greet a display of petulance or defiance. And lawmaking bodies, like individuals, who would about real admiration should display gentleness of manner as well as be resolute in deed.

THE ABBREVIATED costume of a ballet girl which appears in this and other cities advertising a certain brand of cigar is against the ordinances of Los Angeles, so the police commissioner of San Francisco, who is agent for the cigar, was requested to remove the objectionable display. This he did on Friday, by sending a painter, who caused the dainty skirts to disappear and give place to bloomers of the most approved pattern, while the upper portion of the dancing girl was ornamented with fashionable big puff sleeves. The Los Angeles law is satisfied, and the "girl" made more attractive than ever, from its novelty.

NOW THE Illinois people are raising a great cry against the fee system in that state, and demand its abolition because it has been an "unbearable burden on the taxpayers." Illinois will do well to come into the anti-fee system procession of which the Constitution-makers of Utah took the lead.

IDAHO PEOPLE need not be particularly alarmed over the fact that a firm in Gayhee county has slaughtered a large number of horses recently. They are not converted directly into sausage, as is being done by about thirty establishments in Chicago. In Idaho they feed the horses to hogs before the sausage-making process goes on.

THREE MONTHS lighting of the streets in Detroit by the city's electric plant shows a saving of $16,000 over the corresponding last three months of 1894, when the city had the lights on contract from a private corporation; and Salt Lake City could have an electric plant fully as easily as Detroit got it.

THE LEGISLATOR from the south who declared that several members from a certain locality were not taxpayers, raised quite a breeze in the Legislature. Just the same there are members who cannot show a receipt for taxes paid on a dollar of personal or real property in the State.

CENTRAL UTAH has had an abundance of snow this winter; but in the north and south the supply is such that irrigating must be conducted with care so as to have sufficient water to go around.

THE News is under obligations to Hon. Clarence E. Allen, Utah's Representative in Congress, for the Congressional Record and other favors in the way of public documents.

Electric Bitters.

Electric Bitters is a medicine suited for any season, but perhaps more generally needed in the spring, when the languid exhausted feeling prevails, when the liver is torpid and sluggish and the need of a tonic and alterative is felt. A proper use of this medicine has often averted long and fatal bilious fevers. No medicine will act more surely in counteracting and freeing the system from the malarial poison. Headache, Indigestion, Constipation, Dizziness yield to Electric Bitters. Only fifty cents a bottle. E. C. M. I. drug department.

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From a letter written by Rev. J. Gonderman, of Dimondale, Mich., we are permitted to make this extract: "I have no hesitation in recommending Dr. King's New Discovery, as the results were almost marvelous in the case of my wife. While I was pastor of the Baptist Church at Ilives Junction she was brought down with Pneumonia succeeding La Grippe. Terrible paroxysms of coughing would last hours with little intermission and it seemed as if she could not survive them. A friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery; it was quick in its work and highly satisfactory in results." Trial bottles free at E. C. M. I. drug department. Regular size 50c and $1.00.

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Utah Day at the Louisville Ice Palace.

February 14th has been selected as Utah day at the Ice Palace; it is also the special jubilee day of the order of the Mystic Shrine. February 15 and 16 are Elk days, so that a continuous round of gayety is assured. The Rio Grande Western Railway has just announced a round trip rate of $12.00 for train leaving Salt Lake City at 7:00 p. m., February 13th, on which train a large delegation of Utah Shriners, Elks and others will visit the Ice King and enjoy the hospitality of the Cloud City. Utah should not fail to send a strong delegation to Louisville on this excursion to strengthen and encourage the mining interest of our respective camps, etc.

SOMETHING NEW.

M. W. Newcombe has opened up the only electric light commercial gallery west of New York, giving pictures exclusively. Absolutely the latest and the finest pictures in the United States. Even if you don't want pictures call and see the work; open until 9 o'clock each evening. 150 South Main, near Auerbach's store.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is famous for its cures of bad colds. It opens the secretions, relieves the lungs and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. If freely used as soon as the cold has been contracted, and before it has become settled in the system, it greatly lessens the severity of the attack and has often cured in a single day what would have been a severe cold. For sale by druggists.

Burlington Route Dining Cars.

The Burlington route is the only line running dining cars on the "A la carte" plan, between Denver and Omaha, Kansas City and Chicago. Passengers have to pay only for what they eat. Be sure that your tickets read via the Burlington route.

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