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THE CONFLICT GOES ON.

The sooner the courts settle the question of the power to make appointments in this municipality, the better it will be for all parties concerned. The City Council, at its Monday evening session, failed to accomplish anything in that direction. The ordinance introduced by Mr. Hartenstein was voted down, and a resolution introduced by way of retaliation by Mr. Black failed to receive sufficient votes to pass it.

The rejected ordinance, as we have already pointed out, needed some amendments. It appeared to give the Mayor authority as to appointments and discharges in excess of that which the statutes authorize. In other respects it was a necessary measure, because, as matters stand, the legality of the positions held by a large number of appointees is gravely in doubt. The objectionable clauses of the ordinance could easily have been amended, but no opportunity was given for debate, as by a strong partisan vote the enacting clause was stricken out, in obedience to the dictating power that runs the faction which is continually urged to "stand pat," and to act as a partisan combination irrespective of the needs of the municipality.

The resolution offered as a means of "balking the Mayor" in the exercise of his official rights and duties, barely escaped adoption. It would have been merely an obstruction if it had passed, as no resolution or ordinance will stand in the way of a statutory provision. It was devised simply to obey orders, which are, to "resist every effort of the Mayor to change the city officers and employees," and "balk" him when possible.

The law is very plain in this matter. "The Mayor, by and with the advice and consent of the City Council may appoint all appointive officers and agents that may be provided by law or ordinance, and in like manner fill all vacancies among the same."—Laws of 1899, p. 121. That is the provision in question. With it is the provision, that the Mayor, with the concurrence of the City Council, may remove appointive officers.—See Revised Statutes, Sec. 215.

Endeavors to deprive the City Council of its lawful powers as to appointments and removals in conjunction with the Mayor, and to "balk" and "resist" the Mayor in the discharge of his duties as to appointments and removals, are equally wrong and to be condemned. Let every official be supported in his lawful acts, and held up to public reprobation in unlawful doings and obstructions.

The Mayor of this city is authorized by law to make appointments. They are to be confirmed or otherwise, by the City Council. But the council has been and is advised by a factional organ, not only to balk and resist him, but to tell him what he may do and what he may not do. In backing the obstructive clique of the council it says, "It offered a more than fair division of the offices to the Mayor." The brazen impudence of the position! The council may refuse to confirm the Mayor's appointments, but it has no right to "offer" him anything of the kind. And the Mayor, be it remembered, has the power and the right to refuse to sign payrolls for persons illegally appointed.

The complete summation which the organ of the faction—not of any party—has taken on this question, is but one of its gymnastic exhibitions of "ground" but not "lofty" tumbling. For about four years, it claimed in effect that the Mayor was everything and the council nothing. Now it assumes that the majority of the council is the directing, appointing and supreme power, and the Mayor is to submit to everything that faction deigns to "offer."

The proper course to pursue is to concede to every city official that which the law confers upon him. Let the Mayor exercise his official powers, and the City Council do that which its mem-

bers are authorized to perform. There is no need for such a conflict as partisan people and papers aim to provoke and continue. It is simply disgraceful and has become patent to all observers. And there is no need for it.

The Mayor has done nothing outside of his lawful prerogatives, so far, and we hope he will not attempt to do so. The Council should not propose anything that seeks to rob the Mayor of his official rights, or "balk" or "resist" him in the exercise of his duties. Let the law take its course, and if necessary let the courts define its scope and significance. But let us have peace or at any rate some degree of decency!

ARMIES EXPECTED TO MEET.

The dispatches from the seat of war in Asia indicate that news of the first land battle may be expected at any time. A skirmish is said to have taken place on Korean territory. The outcome of this seems to be doubtful. A St. Petersburg dispatch says the Japanese were compelled to retreat and fled, while a dispatch from Seoul says the Russians retired. The Seoul story is corroborated by advices from Tokio.

With the collision of the land armies, the war may be said to have commenced in earnest. The Japanese seem to have aimed at the bottling up of the Russian ships stationed at Port Arthur and Vladivostok, so as to have the route from Japan to either shore of Korea clear for the transportation of troops and provisions. With this object accomplished, as it seems to be now, the contest will be decided by the armies. Russia cannot send many more ships to the Yellow sea, for the simple reason that she has not got many that can make the voyage without coaling on the road, and no neutral power can allow Russian ships to utilize their harbors for that purpose. Russia, evidently, does not expect to make any naval display, except defending the ports she has selected for naval stations. Her plan is to go slow, but to send to the seat of war as many soldiers as may be necessary, and then "sweep Japan into the sea." All that is necessary, according to the Russian strategists, is to collect an overwhelming force, and drive the Japanese armies from the continent. But the question is, what will Japan do, before the Russian overwhelming force has been collected? If Japan can retain her control on the sea, and establish herself in Manchuria, before the Russian forces arrive in overwhelming numbers, the latter may not be able to drive the invaders into the sea. The Japs would then be on the defensive, and have considerable advantage. Rumor has it that the Japanese have landed troops at Pusslet Harbor, the destination of whom is to attack Harbin, the center of the Russian occupation of Manchuria. If this is true, important news from eastern Asia may come at any time.

A FORECAST.

The prognosticators are again out with forecasts as to the future. A Brooklyn astrologer, after having examined the stars, predicts that the war now on between Russia and Japan is the commencement of a struggle of immense magnitude. The next change of vital interest that will alter the whole aspect of the general situation as it appears at the present time, will occur about the middle of March. This change, we are told, will either involve Turkey and the Balkan states, or some other one of the powers will be drawn into the coils of the present conflict. And to convince the world that his prophecy is a true prophecy, the Brooklyn man refers to the fact that he predicted the present war months before it commenced.

It is worth while quoting this sample of "prophecy" of human origin, because it illustrates the difference between such and those of divine inspiration. It was no trick to foretell the conflict between Russia and Japan, for which the two countries have prepared for years, in view of the entire world. In fact, all newspaper readers have felt certain that the war would come sooner or later. Nor is it much of a venture to say that Turkey may cause trouble, about the middle of March. Hardly a month passes in which something is not doing in the Balkan states, and the astrologer cannot miss the mark very much.

Genuine prophecies are entirely different. They predict events which human sagacity could not foresee, and they are all given, not to satisfy the curiosity of man, but to exhibit the wisdom of man, but to give instruction, warning, and information, and to strengthen the testimony concerning important truths. Prophecies that have no moral scope may be regarded with suspicion.

CHILDREN AND INDIANS.

The following curious and interesting story is told by the Kansas City Journal:

"The teacher at the Red Store has a complaint to make against her pupils. The Red Store is an Indian trading post, as old as Fort Sill, and the children who live there have grown up attending the mission school with the white children and associating with them in their play. As a result the white children have learned the Indian language, wear gaudy sashes, paint their faces, and put feathers in their hair. They shoot arrows as well as young bucks. They are now attending their first district school, and though holding high regard for authority, refuse to be taught as civilized people. They read their lessons aloud in study and insist on wearing feathers, sashes, paint and brass earrings and finger rings in the school room. They jabber half the time in Comanche, and continue to run away to the mission school, where the Indian children are. The teacher has resolved that educating an unbroken white child in the Indian language is quite as onerous as educating the real Indian.

If this proves anything at all, it proves that in childhood, the distance between barbarism and civilization is not very great. There is no impassable gulch between them. It is almost easier to pass from the level of the white to that of the Indian, than to pass in the opposite direction. There is, then, nothing impossible in the supposition that the Indians are the descendants of a once highly civilized people. What changes

cannot centuries of savagery work, if the tendency in children is as indicated in the story from Red Store!

March came in like a well bred lamb.

When the lake makes a raise it fore-shadows good times.

Once again the Moros have been conquered and become loyal.

Why not entrust the preservation of the elk to the B. P. O. E.?

Being gone it may now be termed "an old fashioned winter."

The Japanese believe that Port Arthur is a good investment.

It looks as though the Japanese were bound to take Port Arthur or bust.

There are more versions of the battle of Port Arthur than there are of the text of Shakespeare.

When it is good weather no one cares what the weather bureau predicts, but when it isn't all the blame goes there.

Just like the patrons of the ring, the world wants to see the Russo-Japanese contest fought to a finish and not to a draw.

The Boston Herald has undertaken to show that Dr. Elliot doesn't use good English. If this isn't lese majeste what is it?

With the telegraph wire encircling the globe, all those shots fired by the Russians and Japanese, whether upon the sea or upon the land, are heard round the world.

Too many young boys around town are possessed of the idea that stolen candies are sweet and also chocolate creams eaten in secret.

The first congressional election ever held in Cuba solely under Cuban control, passed off quietly and peacefully. Was this quite American?

Those Berrys must have been very poor shots. Dewey witnesses testify that they opened fire first, yet they were all killed and none of the Deweys received the least harm.

New York seems proud of the fact that the winter of 1903-4 is the worst recorded in the annals of the weather bureau. Some people think a bad eminence is better than no eminence.

New York's park commissioner is named Pallas. Over the main gateway of Central Park or else upon the Mall, there should be a palid bust of Pallas with the historic raven sitting thereon.

So it seems that during his first term Mr. Cleveland entertained a negro at the White House (which was eminently proper if he saw fit). This offsets Mr. Roosevelt's terrible crime of entertaining Booker T. Washington.

Michael Davitt has presented President Roosevelt a genuine blackthorn shellfish. He must have heard of the President's remark that soft words and a stout stick carry a man far. But why did not Mr. Davitt add a piece of the Blarney stone to his gift?

Members of unions affiliated with the Central Federated union of New York have been instructed through resolutions adopted by the latter to avoid non-union whiskey. Splendid advice! Now if the unions will only instruct them to avoid union whiskey, how much more splendid it would be. Perhaps it is too much to expect that at once.

THE SUCCESSOR OF HANNA.

Kansas City Star.
In selecting Mr. Charles Dick as Marcus A. Hanna's successor, the Republican members of the Ohio Legislature have come as nearly as possible to a fitting representation of the late Senator's interests and methods. Through his close association with Chairman Hanna in the last presidential campaign, Mr. Dick became thoroughly familiar with his chief's line of action and the motives that inspired him. He was a practical and successful politician before Senator Hanna entered the field of public activity, and it must be said that President McKinley's manager leaned a great deal from his chief lieutenant. That he appreciated his help was variously shown, but in no other way so conspicuously as in making it known that he would like to have Mr. Dick succeed him in the Senate.

Pueblo Chieftain.

The election of Congressman Dick as a successor to Senator M. A. Hanna, will meet with general approval. What the Republicans of Ohio think of the new senator is shown by the fact that he received the unanimous vote of the Republican caucus, and other states will be prompt to endorse Ohio's verdict. Mr. Dick has two great advantages. As a member of the house of representatives he has become familiar with national affairs and the methods and policies of the American government. And as a close political associate of Senator Hanna, he ought to be able to do all that anyone could do to lessen the loss to the party of the great leader who was so unexpectedly and so regretfully taken away.

THROUGH THE DARDANELLES.

Los Angeles Express.
At the present moment Russia finds her naval force in the Orient practically helpless; one squadron en route has been ordered to return; her Black Sea fleet of nine available cruisers and battleships, twenty-five torpedo boats and ten destroyers are bottled up because the Dardanelles is impassable and the Baltic squadron is too far from the scene of action to be used. In view of such a situation, European diplomats will be concerned lest there be a popping of the cork in the Dardanelles and an effervescence of Russian warships into the Mediterranean.

Kansas City Times.

The intimation that Russia may disregard its treaty obligations by sending its Black Sea fleet through the Dardanelles, just as it violated the Berlin convention by building this fleet, may help to explain the St. Petersburg protests against Great Britain's policy in the Far East. Russian diplomacy has contended, against what has seemed as conclusive evidence to the contrary, that Great Britain violated a treaty by making certain concessions to Japan at Wei Hai Wei. But possibly the czar's diplomats have been parsimoniously making some show of this kind on even a flimsy pretense, to give its protests wide publicity, and thus make a seeming excuse for its violation of the Dardanelles

restrictions. The intimated theory that if the Russian ships could pass into the Aegean sea on the sly, Great Britain would not be willing to go to war on the issue, may be correct; but the suggestion that its reluctance would be due to a fear of Russia is amusing, to say the least, in view of the handling that Japan has given the Russians thus far.

Kansas City Star.
If the sultan of Turkey is truly the czar's friend he will force him to keep the Black Sea fleet not only where it belongs, but where it is secure from the torpedoes of the Japanese.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Improvement Era for March has for frontispiece a portrait of the late Elder Joseph Bull. This is accompanied by a sketch of his life and labors. A notable article is "The Probability of Joseph Smith's Story," by Elder B. H. Roberts. Professor Done contributes "The Celtic Maiden, A Story of Ancient Britain," and Dr. John A. Witte, continues his article, "Joseph Smith as Scientist." A timely paper, "The Jew—His Past, Present and Future," is contributed by Elder J. M. Sjodahl. In the editorial department is found a thoughtful article by President Joseph F. Smith on "A Senseless Campaign." The usual appointments are all filled with interesting and instructive reading matter.—Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

The contents of Pearson's Magazine for March are as follows: "Indian Fights and Fighters—The Tragedy of Fort Phil Kearney," Cyrus Townsend Brady; "The King and Queen of Smugglers—A Girl Commands the Ship," Halliwell Sutcliffe; "Job Brown, J. P. Verse," Edmund Day; "Bird Babies," Jerrard Grant Allen and Leonard Buttress; "Dan Crimmins, Boss," a story, Arthur Hendrick Vandenberg; "Modern Methods of Finance, Example III—the Asphalt," Henry George, Jr.; "When the Revolution Came to San Sebastian, a Story," Frank Little Follock; "His Highness, Yoshitomo, Crown Prince of Japan," Florence Eldridge; "The Precious Ones," a story, Albert Bigelow Paine; "The Death of Queen Draga," A. A. A.; "Miss Aumerod's Tramp," a story, R. E. Verne; "The Lady Speaks," a story, J. S. Fletcher; "The Billy Coal and Transfer Company," a story, Mabel Shippe Clark; "Pearson's Talks with Play-ers," and "New Way of Measuring the Diameter of the Earth," T. C. Porter.—Astor Place, New York.

In the March Success, Edwin Markham describes the express business. His article is entitled, "On the Trail to the Golden Gate." Among the fiction of this issue is the first installment of a serial story, by Joseph A. Altshuler, and two short stories, "With Plenary Power," by E. Spence De Pue, and "Six Pounds Short," by Chauncey Thomas. A glowing tribute to Harvard's president, Charles William Eliot, is paid in a character-sketch by Martin M. Foss, and the story of Madame Marchesi, the woman who has helped to develop so many of the world's most famous singers, is told by William Armstrong in the first of a series of articles to appear about "Women Who Have Won." There are poems by George Shephard Burleigh, Alice Webster, William J. Linn, and Robert Mackay, and Capt. Jack Crawford, and a helpful editorial by Dr. O. S. Marden, entitled, "Over-sensitiveness as a Barrier." Some simple exercises for the improvement of one's physical condition are given by W. B. C. Latson, in an article entitled "Vitality and Success."—University Building, New York.

In the March number of Suggestion, Prof. Elmer Gates has a letter regarding certain stories concerning the soul of a rat. The professor denies ever making any statement to the effect that a soul of an animal had been seen, or that its shadow had been thrown on a screen. The leading articles for March are: Influence of Early Auto-Suggestion on the Formation of Character, Dr. Herbert A. Parkes, editor; Psychic Goodness, Prof. Edgar L. Larkin; Unseen Faces Photographed, Dr. H. A. Reid, M. S. P. R.; The Annular Theory, Prof. Isaac N. Vail; Properties of Radium, Samuel G. Tracy, B. S., M. D.; Psychical Diseases, W. S. E. M. D.; Physical Personality; Psychological Renovation, Charles E. Meisell; Cheating Reform, Dr. J. H. Kellogg; Less Work for Doctors, and The Appendix, Craze.—429 Drexel Boulevard, Chicago.

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