

proportionately greater and means to check them are more urgently demanded.

The most expeditious and certain method of communicating with the fire department is almost as important a requirement as the establishment of that department itself. Impatience is natural on the part of those who see the absolute need of such a thing and are waiting for an official or a corporation to supply it. So the needless remarks of ill-natured and carping fault-finders in this matter may be passed by, for they are but natural ebullitions and have done no particular harm. The City Council manifested wisdom and prudence in taking time to examine into the methods of establishing fire alarms so as to secure the most feasible in vogue. They have settled upon a system which seems to be the best for the purpose desired, and it will be put into practical-operation as quickly as possible.

The Council has done well, and the people of Salt Lake will not fail to see that it is a body active in the public interest and yet cautious and prudent in its activity.

AN AWAKENING.

THERE was evidence at the People's Convention in the City Hall, of unusual activity and interest in municipal politics. All the delegates elected on Monday at the primaries were present, and there was manifest desire to get down to business without much wind-work. Speeches were not in demand. Organization and preparation for a vigorous campaign were the things in view, and some impatience was felt at the length of time consumed by the committees on credentials and permanent organization; but they were, doubtless, only anxious to perform their duties thoroughly and acceptably.

The permanent organization seems to give general satisfaction; and it is expected that the convention will continue its sessions until full arrangements are made for a complete canvass and a vigorous campaign. The resignation of the old central committee, in order to leave the convention untrammelled in the selection of a new committee, was a graceful act, and showed that its chairman and members had in view the welfare of the party rather than any individual ambition.

We believe this is the general sentiment. Honors are not sought for, but the public welfare is the

main consideration. The dangers that menace the city are appreciated, and the necessity for united, unselfish and determined action is realized. These indications of lively interest are encouraging to those who have deplored past apathy, and betoken a stirring up of the People's Party which cannot fail to result in great public advantage.

THE UTAH AND NEVADA QUESTION.

THE eastern press are still discussing the annexation of Utah to Nevada. Most of the papers favor the project, and numbers of them echo the sentiments of some leading journal, copying verbatim each other's remarks and exhibiting an utter lack of any proper understanding of the subject.

The "Mormons" are represented as vehemently opposing the measure, as the idea seems to prevail, that the union of "Gentile" votes in the new State would entirely "overslaugh" the "Mormons." But they are not able to quote any authoritative expression on the subject. The "Mormon" people have not opposed the movement. It is quite doubtful that they would oppose it if there was anything serious in the suggestion. We are not sure that it would not dispose of the "Mormon" question as a national issue and be, for that reason, a great advantage. But however that may be, the "Mormons" have given no definite opinion as to its advisability or inadvisability from their standpoint.

There is one thing that these theoretic settlers of the Nevada question do not seem to take into consideration, and the whole project would turn on that point if it became a living issue. That is, the assent of Nevada to be annexed to Utah, for that is what it would be in fact, because Utah is so much greater in every way than Nevada.

Congress can do almost what it pleases with Utah, because it is a Territory, and the national government has assumed supreme power over the Territories, and the Supreme Court of the United States has sanctioned its exercise. The grounds of the decision, namely, that "it is too late in the day to question the power of Congress over the Territories," is very poor logic and not very sound morality, for it should never be too late to correct an error or provide a remedy for a wrong. But the decision stands, and the Territories are subject to

arbitrary and sovereign rule. But Congress cannot do as it pleases with a State. Nevada may refuse the union and that refusal would be fatal to the scheme.

Before anything practical could come of this proposal, the Legislature of Nevada would have to pass upon it. And no matter what Congress might provide, without the sanction of the Nevada Legislature its provisions in this regard would be vain and void.

Some of the Nevada papers favor the plan, others oppose it. The Legislature has not passed upon it. Some investigations were had a few years ago, but the opinion seemed to prevail that the tail projected would wag the dog, if attached, and so the whole thing fell to the ground.

It would be well for the wise writers of the east, when settling the Utah and Nevada question by joining them—on paper—to allow the rights of Nevada in the premises to cut some figure in their editorial calculations.

CO-OPERATIVE KITCHENS.

MRS. HELEN STARRETT, of Chicago, is worked up over the problem of housekeeping. She ventilates the important subject in the *Forum*. However much her theory may be disputed upon its other points, the whole army of housekeepers will be almost a unit with her statement that "however numerous the causes assigned for the difficulties of housekeeping, all agree that the principal difficulty is found in the incompetence, insubordination, and irresponsibility of that class whom we name domestics." The theme is one of such moment that there will be much interest in Mrs. Starrett's plan of abolishing the servant girl and her uninviting employment. This is the way in which she would precipitate a revolution in matters domestic:

"The city of the future will not build houses in squares, giving to every house an individual kitchen and prison-like back yard. It will rather build them around an open square, and the part now disfigured with the kitchen will be given over for a household sitting-room or nursery, opening into a great green space, where children shall play in safety and through which the free air of heaven shall blow into the houses surrounding it. In every square will be found a scientifically constructed building containing a laundry and a great kitchen, supplied with every modern appliance for skilled and scientific cookery and for sending into every dining-room any desired quantity or variety of food."