

these lines are leased to the highest responsible bidder. The city receives 5,000,000 francs annually from this source. Besides, travel is cheaper, better, more expeditious and more satisfactory in Paris than in any other city in the world.

In the case of municipal ownership of gas-works, Philadelphia is cited. The report says that though some scandals are associated with the city ownership of gas, yet the service has been better and more popular than in any city where private ownership prevails.

Baltimore is cited to illustrate the successful working of city ownership of waterworks. Water service there is all that the idealist requires. Of fifty large cities in the United States thirty-five own their own waterworks, those of fourteen are owned by private corporations and that of Washington by Congress. In the case of private ownership the cost of water per head of the population was \$31.20, and in city ownership only 21.35.

One significant recommendation of the report is, that it opposes the granting of franchises of any kind, by cities to private persons. Large sums of money are paid for franchises, and in State and municipal governments that alone is the most fruitful source of corruption. It is also recommended that though municipal ownership of railroads, waterworks, gas and electric plants, etc., is the best, yet the operation of these departments by the city is condemned. For economy, efficiency and perfect service the leasing system is emphatically recommended. It will virtually take the operation of the works out of local politics. Favoritism among employes will not prevail, because the lessees must look to ability and efficiency in management for their profits as well as their popularity.

### WAMPLER THE WONDERFUL.

THE unprovoked assault made upon ex-Governor West by T. W. Wampler on Thursday evening, brings to our notice the fact of the return of the latter from the East. We have been waiting to see a notice of his arrival, before alluding to some of his endeavors to make a sensation by giving to reporters a mass of twaddle and slander about Utah and the "Mormons." The following appeared in the columns of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*:

"A smooth-faced, thick-set individual, who might be easily mistaken at a casual glance for a priest, was a conspicuous figure in the hotel corridors yesterday. It was T. W. Wampler, who achieved considerable promi-

nence two years ago in connection with the stirring political contest between the Mormons and the Gentiles in the former stronghold of the Latter-day Saints. Mr. Wampler held in his hand a copy of yesterday's *Pioneer Press*, and when accosted by a reporter was more than ready to talk on Mormonism and its evils.

"Here is a report," said Mr. Wampler, with emphasis, "which is one of the boldest attempts ever made to throw dust in the eyes of the American people. The resolutions adopted at the Mormon conference yesterday declare that the leaders of the Church do not dictate to members in political matters, and that members may vote with whichever party they choose. Let me give you a little insight into the workings of the Mormon political system. This man George D. Cannon, who signs this declaration, is one of the brightest men in the United States, and is backed by unlimited Mormon capital. He is a Democrat today, a Republican tomorrow and a Mormon all the time. Absolutely unscrupulous in politics, he is absolutely in the confidence of the heads of the Mormon Church and can ask for a million dollars to fight their battles on the floors of Congress, and get it."

"When Joseph Smith started out on his pilgrimage from Nauvoo, Ill., with his little band of Mormons, he was no wanderer in an unknown country. He had read John C. Fremont's report and he followed the route laid down by that adventurous genius. He crossed the great American Desert at a time when such an undertaking meant almost certain death, and his followers, men, women and children, became glorified in Saints and martyrs. And when they crossed the mountains and saw the Jordan river and the Great Salt Lake in the distance, their wanderings, twice as long and arduous as those of the children of Israel, were at an end. That was their Canaan—a land flowing with milk and honey. All they had to do was to sow the seed, turn on the water and reap a hundred fold. Brigham Young saw their possibilities and established the tithing system, which has continued until today, so that every working man and woman in the place gives a tenth of their earnings to the Church to form a gigantic fund to corrupt legislatures and buy votes. And where they have not been able to buy men they put them out of the way. Why, there hasn't been an excavation for a building made in the old part of Salt Lake City within the past three years that has not revealed human bones! Five skeletons were unearthed in the excavation for the postoffice foundation. Hundreds have been murdered in the name of religion because they opposed the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter-day Saints.

"But the light is breaking. Last city election the Mormons sent committees to the Republicans agreeing that the Church would support that ticket if the Republicans would put a certain number of Mormon names on it; they did the same thing with the Democrats. Both parties accepted their proposition, and, when election day came, the Church voted in a solid body for every Mormon name on both tickets. But we had found out that this was their game and we organized the Liberal party and elected our ticket on the issue of anti-Mormonism, with 1,420 votes to spare. They threatened our lives and property if we didn't stop, but we got Bat Masterson and John P. Clow and all the Denver toughs and prizefighters we could get together, and we put six-shooters in their belts and told them to enforce the law on election day—and for

a few days we had a pure government, run by a gang of organized toughs and thugs. We elected eight out of the twelve councilmen, and last election we got the mayor and the county officials. Now the Mormons are lying low, trying to secure statehood for Utah, so that they can have Mormon State government. They have now twenty-four of the thirty-six members of the legislature, and they want to have the privilege of electing Mormon State officers so as to turn the government over to the Church. Up to the time we elected county officers the Mormons used to assess a corner lot held by a Mormon at \$300, and the lot next to it, owned by a Gentile, at \$2000. Do you wonder that we organized a liberal party? "Now the Mormons are trying their hardest to counteract the influence that the report of the Utah Commissioners will have on Congress by adopting milk-and-water resolutions full of falsehoods. They want statehood, and will make any overtures to both Republicans and Democrats to secure their influence in Congress. But we are not sleeping, and though they are moving heaven and earth to secure statehood, we propose to give them the hottest fight they have ever had, if necessary, with Uncle Sam's soldiers to back us."

It is well enough sometimes to let people at home understand what certain reckless persons have to say about them abroad. Everybody here who knows anything of "Mormon" affairs and who reads the foregoing, will recognize the numerous falsehoods and misrepresentations it contains, and will be amused if not thoroughly disgusted with the egotism and swelling vanity of the interviewed individual, who "achieved" such wonderful "prominence in the stirring political contest between the Mormons and the Gentiles." To the very large majority of the people of this city and to nearly everybody in the Territory outside of the city, this "prominent" person will be heard of for the first time through the notice we now give to his exaggerations and misrepresentations.

The idea that Joseph Smith "crossed the great American desert" with his "little band of Mormons," will be new to the students of "Mormon" history, and fun for the children who have learned that Joseph Smith died in 1844 while the journey of the pioneers took place in 1847. But it is all of a piece with the falsehoods about the tithing, the buying of votes, the unearthing of skeletons, the threatening of lives, and the murdering of hundreds "in the name of religion because they opposed the Church."

All parties will recognize the candor and consistency and high morality of the story about the last city election. From first to last it is a tissue of untruths which are so mingled with brag and buncombe that contempt for their author and laughter at their absurdity make a big struggle for the mastery.

That is an exalted estimate of "a