

Governor Russell upon that basis, and if the Republican candidate for President can persuade them that he will secure to the government the purer administration he will get their votes irrespective of his views on the silver question.

This cannot be safely asserted of any other of the seven doubtful States. But the country is drifting in that direction. The inspection of candidates on lines of honesty and capability as distinguished from service that is purely partisan is beginning with the municipal and State elections. It is to be hoped that some day every State in the Union will be able to pledge its vote to the governor or the President that will give to it the most honorable and economic administration of the affairs with which these offices are concerned. We shall then have a proper people's government.

A NEEDED MOVEMENT.

THE movement for the revision of the Salt Lake City charter is to be commended. There have been so many additions to the original instrument that it is difficult for lawyers, let alone laymen, to determine what provisions have been superceded and what remain in force. A new charter should be prepared, embodying all the essential provisions existing, clearly defining the powers and duties of all the city officials, and enlarging municipal authority to meet growing public requirements. And then the old charter with its numerous amendments should be repealed.

This work, it may be argued, properly belongs to the Legislature, and ought to be left for that body when it assembles. But there is too much left to the members to originate and formulate after the Assembly is organized. A bill like that which is needed in the present case, requires long deliberation and great care in its preparation. It ought not to be endangered by the haste which usually attends the deliberations of our Territorial Legislature. Every point should be scanned, and the bearings of each part of the charter to the other should be well weighed, so that there may be no contradictions and no doubtful definitions. If a competent committee prepares such a bill, and the Legislature then gives it a thorough examination in both Houses before passing it, we may reasonably hope for such a measure as will meet the demands of the times and the probable requirements of a couple of decades at least.

The committees appointed on the part of the Chamber of Commerce and of the City Council should lose no

time in organizing for the work and dividing it up so that it may be thoroughly done in detail.

It would be a good thing if other measures necessary to be passed were prepared before the meeting of the Legislature and submitted to the examination of competent persons. The crudeness exhibited in some of the laws passed is evidence of the haste with which they were formulated and railroaded through the Assembly. And the Governor is generally so crowded with bills toward the end of the session that though aided by any number of attorneys he is liable to overlook inaccuracies that should be corrected.

We hope a thoroughly good and competent city charter will be prepared by the committees appointed, and that it will receive the favorable action of the Legislature and the Executive.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE IN POLITICS.

ON Tuesday, Nov. 3rd last, elections were held in twelve different States of this Union. In five of those States governors were chosen. New York, Massachusetts, Iowa and Maryland elected Democratic chief magistrates, while Ohio elected a Republican. In Maryland the result was a foregone conclusion. In Massachusetts, though a Democratic governor was elected, yet the remainder of the ticket was defeated. In Ohio the victory for Republicans is a significant one. In Iowa the victory is still more so for the Democrats.

That State comes within the realm of doubtful for 1892. Boies, the re-elected governor, is a native of New York, who settled in Iowa in 1847. He is now 64 years of age, and a very popular and well-known public man in the West.

In New York the only remarkable feature of the election was the fact that the successful man developed most strength where it was not expected, and fell off where least expected. In Kansas Democrats and Republicans formed a sort of coalition in order to defeat Alliance men. Something of the same kind took place in Nebraska. In Illinois the Republicans seemed to have the best of the fight.

Taking a general view of the situation, the first thing that strikes the observer is the absence of influence on the part of the Farmers' Alliance in those elections. Only one year ago this party controlled the political destinies of several of the most important States. It retired to private life at least two United States Senators, Hampton and Ingalls. It was the

means of electing indirectly two or more Senators. It sent eight or nine representatives to the Congress which meets next month in Washington; and indirectly it helped to send from fifteen to twenty others partially committed to its principles. Its membership, taking cognate organizations, embraced, it is estimated, 3,000,000. In one short year, this once promising party has so fallen away that at the last election its effects were scarcely perceptible.

It can not be denied that the intentions of the promoters of this party were honest. Primarily they tried to achieve for the farming classes independence of speculative and manufacturing interests. As one of their platforms puts it, they aimed also at the "education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly non-partisan spirit." They worked for the development of "a better state mentally, morally, socially and financially" for farmers. They went even further and declared for "entire harmony and good will among mankind and brotherly love among ourselves."

A party based on such planks as these deserved better success, but unfortunately it did not adhere to its original designs. It demanded the abolition of National banks, the establishment of State sub-treasuries, and government control of railroads, telegraphs, and all methods of public communication and transportation. Among its principles, however, were two vital issues. These were the free and unlimited coinage of silver and the abolition of protection legislation for any industry at the expense of another. For these there was no special necessity, in the Alliance platform, because both are live issues between the old political parties.

The sub-treasury scheme was perhaps one of the most visionary and impracticable that any political organization has promulgated. It contemplated the lending of money by the State direct to the people at a low rate of interest, on non-perishable farm products to be stored in government warehouses. This alone by reason of its irrationality and ultra-socialism would destroy any party in the eyes of sensible men.

The rise and fall of the Farmers' Alliance, however, affords a very instructive study to political scholars. Though it is not likely to figure as a factor in politics any longer, yet capitalists, industrialists and statesmen should remember that to a certain extent there were grounds for many of the farmers' grievances, and that many of them were also produced by unwise legislation.