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FAIR PLAY DEMANDED.

The Deseret News called the attention of the Board of Education, a few days ago, to the necessity of providing a sufficient number of polling places to accommodate voters at the school election, to take place on Wednesday, December 6. It is now announced that this policy has been adopted for all the municipal wards except the First. The Second municipal ward is to have four polling places; the Third, Fourth and Fifth two polling places each.

There will be numerous inquiries as to the cause of this discrimination. There are eleven voting districts in the First municipal ward or precinct. These are all to be crowded into one. What for? Is the prevailing question. The ward or precinct extends over a very large area, much larger than any of the other precincts, and its population is greater than either except the Second. Why is it to be put to this inconvenience and be singled out for this indignity?

At the last school election similar tactics were adopted, as well as others at the mass convention, which aroused the ire of many hundreds of voters, and caused the opposition that was then manifested by nearly enough ballots to turn the result. The suspicious which then existed naturally arise again, at this evidence of a disposition to obstruct a full and free expression of the will of the majority of the citizens there.

There ought to be at least three polling places in the First municipal ward, in such localities as will best serve the purpose of the election. One of these has been selected, and it will do for the people who reside in the vicinity of the Eighth ward school house. There should be another in the Second or Third ward, and another in the First in near proximity to the Annex. This would be but fair and right when the population and the extent of the precinct is considered in comparison with the other precincts.

Now as to the manner of this arrangement and the responsibility for it. The matter was left to the members of the board in the different municipal wards. The necessity for more polling places than on former occasions was discussed, and the members from the First, decided that one was enough, while all the other members of the board held to the number that has been adopted. Messrs. Wilson and Critchlow are the members who have put this slight on the First municipal ward, and they should be required to explain their conduct and their motives.

Is it the intention to repeat the obstructions of the last two school conventions and elections, or what is the reason for this new obstacle thrust in the way of a fair election? If the day appointed should be stormy, it would be impossible to save the voters from much suffering and wrong, and they would either have to stay away from the polls or be exposed to the inclemency of the weather as on a former occasion, and numbers would be prevented from casting their ballots. Let the proper number of polling places be at once provided, or let the people rise and demand justice and fair play.

THE NEW YORK NEW CRUSADE

New York, or rather a portion of its clergy, is in the throes of a spasmodic fit of virtuous reform. A war has been commenced against vice and its alleged support by the police. Dr. Potter appears to be the prime mover in the crusade, and Dr. Parkhurst joins in with his support, and even Tammany echoes the battle cries of the chiefs who lead in the engagement. Whether this new spirit will prove more than a "nine-days wonder," time will soon tell. Previous convulsions of the same kind were not of longer duration.

There can be no doubt that the commercial metropolis of the country furnishes an ample field for an army of reformers. Every form and species of vice flourishes there, with a vigor that is startling to the unsophisticated visitor. The collision of the guardians of public peace with the violators of law and promoters of crime and debauchery, is a new allegation, and that there is something in it more than mere rumor, appears pretty certain, although the proofs are rather difficult to obtain in sufficient force to secure conviction in the courts.

Whatever success or failure may attend the efforts of the ministers and others, in their fight against sin and iniquity in the great city, it is pleasant to see the champions of virtue turn their attention to evils at home. They have been so accustomed to straining their eyes to gaze upon alleged wrongs at extreme distances, that

it was supposed they had become "far-sighted," and while able to see, in magnified form, comparatively small irregularities beyond the Rocky Mountains, they were blind to the flood of corruption welling up under their very noses where they live, and move and have their abodes.

By the by, we do not see the name of the Rev. Dr. Josiah Strong in the list of the warriors against vice in Gotham. Perhaps he is too busy battling against the foe of straw which has been stuffed for his antagonism, and labelled "Mormonism," to allow of any time for warfare upon real iniquity so near at hand. However, he may come in later, and participate in the skirmish that will not probably be very protracted. There are others that might be named, who could spend money profitably in aiding the campaign against vice and crime in New York, instead of wasting cash in onslaughts upon imaginary errors in Utah.

When we contemplate the peace and virtue and comparative purity of life in this State, with the conditions that exist and infect and pollute the moral atmosphere of Greater New York, we marvel at the fatuity of good people, who are inveigled into schemes to invade the quiet and disturb the harmony of Utah society, while all around those benevolent souls, there is a seething caldron of abominations that reek to heaven of which they appear to be utterly oblivious. Perhaps the Potter movement may be the means of reminding them of the injunction to cleanse the inside of their own platter, and also to consider the beam in Gotham's eye instead of troubling about the mote in the sunshine of Salt Lake.

New York is doubtless, as some of its reformers are showing, a very wicked city. But it also contains a great amount of good. Its churches, charities, schools, hospitals, asylums, elegant homes, virtuous domiciles, institutions of science and of art, grand enterprises, noble spirits and Christian people, are magnificent in their array contrasted with the evils that also abound.

If the powers and wealth and influences for good that can concentrate there, shall be aroused and organized and enlisted in a genuine and persistent crusade against sin and vice and defiance and evasion of law, so prominent and deeprooted in the great Manhattan city, there is no reason why the good should not prevail against the evil, and righteousness to a large extent supplant the wickedness that is now complained of, and that brands the brow and covers the face of that proud city with the scarlet marks of shame and disgrace, and makes her an object of opprobrium not only among nations abroad, but even to the moulders of public opinion in high places within her own gates. Let us watch to see how long the crusade lasts, and how soon this spasm of reform will pass away.

TWO VIEWS ON IRRIGATION.

The New York Mail and Express treats with irony the projects to which the irrigation congress, now in session in Chicago, calls the attention of the nation. It admits that irrigation is a "great thing," but intimates that the national treasury cannot "stand that sort of ditching."

But this is hardly representative of the enlightened opinion of the East on this great national question. The Boston Transcript, in speaking of irrigation as a national enterprise says every farmer delights in making productive every portion of his land that is barren, whether it is a bog, a slough or a sandy waste. "If this is true of a single individual, to what infinitely greater extent must it be true in the case of the government, that is now responsible for an idle territory that is capable of supporting a prosperous and happy population of millions were its potentialities only realized."

The question of realization is no bogie man to the Transcript. On this point the paper observes: "The West is in favor of going to Congress with a request for an appropriation of \$15,000,000 as a beginning, and other millions will doubtless be asked for later. These sums look formidable, but if they are honestly and judiciously expended they will prove good investments. The meaning of the enterprise is one that ought to enlist enthusiasm. It means peace and prosperity, good homes, good citizenship and a very appreciable addition to our national wealth. It means actual expansion of territory. It means life to a vast section that is now dead and desolate. 'Save the forests and store the floods' will be the motto of the congress, a good motto for the East as well as for the West. Some may feel that the enterprise is not one of national concern. It is the nation's business to strengthen the nation, and this can be done quite as surely by development from within as by extension from without."

This view will ultimately prevail on that question of national import. It will prevail, because it is right.

KRUGER'S RECEPTION.

Paul Kruger has landed on French soil and received a popular ovation, far more enthusiastic than expected. It may not mean much as far as practical results go, but it is a fresh evidence that among the people of France, there is much antipathy against Great Britain and corresponding sympathy for the late African republics.

The chief point in the addresses made by the ex-president is his declaration that the Boer war is not yet over, and that the Burgers will never surrender. If this statement had been made merely for oratorical effect, it would have no importance whatever. But Kruger is no orator indulging in ornamental platitudes; when he says that if his country is to lose its independence it will be through the destruction of the people, including the women and children, and when he adds that they know their cause is just, and that they place their trust in the eternal God, it is instinctively felt that he states facts, prophetic of still further bloodshed on African soil.

The fact that the guerilla warfare continues lends plausibility to the old man's declarations as to the intentions of the people. And in all probability they will be able to continue this mode of war for a long time. It suits their

military organization better than regular war. In the Boer army, it seems, there are no generals and no discipline, as those terms are understood in other countries. Each Boer is his own general. He never waits for an order to advance, or retreat, if, in his own judgment, either movement is justified. He remains in one position as long as he considers it safe to do so. If a general plan has to be carried out, it is passed upon in a council of war, where the vote of a corporal counts as much as that of a general. By way of illustration, it is said that in the council which decided on the abandonment of the positions on the Tugela river, where General Buller so long was held at bay, General Buller and others, who had done much successful fighting, were voted down by corporals, field cornets and minor commanders.

The Boers take the field voluntarily, and fight as they see a chance to do so. With them war is a hunting expedition. They rely on superior marksmanship and mobility, and it is clear that they are, for these reasons, eminently well qualified for guerilla war. And if Oom Paul, in his speeches in France, correctly represented Boer sentiment, the outlook is for a long continuation of the hostilities. British soldiers will be "hunted" like lions in the jungles, until there is no more ammunition, or no more hunters. It is to be hoped, though, that the aged president will have come to Europe for good counsel, and that reason may prevail over sentiment. His people have made a brilliant stand for independence, and can give in with honor and calm resignation to what they with their views of life, must look upon as the decrees of Providence. Perhaps, after all, Boer independence and liberty are better safeguarded under the British flag than under any emblem of their own. Only the future can tell.

LOSSES BY COMPETITION.

In the November number of the Cosmopolitan, there is a prize article, by Jack London, on "What Communities Lose by the Competitive System," which is well worth a thoughtful reading.

The author gives numerous instances of such losses in agriculture, commerce, domestic labor and other branches of activity, where co-operation would mean enormous savings to the individual and the community at large.

Among other items, he calls attention to the case of the poorer families of a large town who buy their food from say a hundred various shops. These one hundred merchants order and handle separate parcels of goods, write separate letters and checks, and keep separate books. Somebody pays for all the unnecessary labor thus performed. Suppose, the writer says, that each store clear only the modest sum of ten dollars a week, or five hundred a year. That would be fifty thousand dollars, to be paid by the poorer classes of the community.

Another item, Mr. London considers, is the very necessary, though not most pleasant, family wash. In it one hundred housewives are toiling in one hundred homes. One hundred fires are kindled, one hundred tubs filled and emptied and so on. Soap, powder, blueing and fixtures are all bought at retail prices. And all this could be done on the co-operative plan by two men in a well-appointed steam laundry, at a tenth of the expense and toil. Each of the housewives might save a sum that would go far towards the purchase of little luxuries, and recreation. It is the same in all branches of industry.

The principle of co-operation is one which most people now-a-days concede to be correct, although its application in practical life has proved to be most difficult. The many failures of experiments made are not encouraging to new undertakings of a similar nature. Still, co-operation is gaining ground. If it has failed in some instances, it has been, and is, a success in others. It is the coming solution of many social problems. A long step is taken from the peculiar dreams of the Frenchman, St. Simon, to the more or less practical workings of co-operative societies of today, and the progress is still onward. With the right kind of material, a social organism on the plan of ideal co-operation can be built up and successfully maintained.

Strange but true that a healthy majority always makes the losing side sick.

Population compared, Kentucky bank delinquencies are as large as those of New York.

"Does a man who really wishes to close the 'dives' go to sea?" asks the Boston Transcript. Well, he goes to sea.

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" in America becomes, Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Aguinaldo in the Philippines.

One way to keep political partisans in line is to present in party platforms unmixing principles. In politics few people care for an alla podrida.

A Boston actor cut his throat a few days ago. It may be but a just retribution, for it is believed that in his time he has murdered many characters.

"No" is by no means the hardest word to say. Anyone doubting this has but to attempt to pronounce some of those Chinese names that frequently appear in the dispatches.

"Preserve the forests" is the theme of many papers read before the irrigation congress. Half a century ago it was the theme of a song by Morris, "Woodman, spare that tree."

The manner in which old Mr. Kruger hung on to and shook his hat when addressing the assembled multitude at Marseilles, suggests that old, old question, "Where did you get that hat?"

The storm at Colorado Springs was a very severe one, the destruction of property being great. That there were not a great number of lives lost is a wonderful and fortunate thing. Perhaps more miraculous yet is the fact that trains running to Denver through

the great storm did not meet with any accidents.

In the death of Sir Arthur Sullivan England loses her foremost musical composer. He wrote some wonderfully popular comic operas, the leading ones being "Pinafore" and "Patience." More than twenty years ago the former was the most popular thing in America, the run it had was most phenomenal, so phenomenal in fact that it induced Sir Arthur to pay a visit to this country. His death will be regretted by all lovers of music.

In the selection of members of the Board of Education, politics should be eschewed and the best citizens chosen. They should have more than an ordinary interest in educational matters and should also understand the needs of the schools. Their aim should be not merely to maintain the present standard but to raise it. This means the weeding out of inferior teachers, and a progressively increasing standard of attainment in the teaching force. The improvement of the schools means an improvement in the teaching force.

In New York they have strange ideas as to what kind of music is proper for a sacred concert. A couple of "artists" in these concerts were arrested the other day and the woman, when brought into court, testified that they sang "The Hottest Coon in Dixie," "Beyond the Gates of Paradise" and "Beau Brummel," but denied that they danced. This seemed to arouse the interest of the magistrate, who asked:

"Did you gesticulate with your feet?"
"No," she replied.
"You made graceful movements of the body?"
"Yes."
"When you sang 'Beyond the Gates of Paradise' did you point to Paradise?"
"No."
"Do you consider the song 'The Hottest Coon in Dixie' a sacred song?"
"No."

The woman at least seemed to have some appreciation of the situation and did not attempt to make black appear white.

NEW YORK'S DIVORCE SCANDAL.

Baltimore Sun.

From the nature of the business done it is inferred the "syndicate" has flourished, and if the allegations be true in only one case, they bring to light the existence of one of the most dangerous attacks upon the very foundation of society that ever has been conceived. If, as alleged, perjured witnesses were obtainable to just such an extent as the complainant cared to pay for them, and separations effected through judicial confirmation, without the knowledge of the husband or wife, as the case might be, this "divorce syndicate" has been frustrated in one of the most abominable and extraordinary criminal schemes on record and one which was capable of inflicting immeasurable and irreparable injury to the happiness and morals of society.

Kansas City World.

It is impossible to estimate the harm that has been done to the public morals by this fraud. Its disclosure, however, may result in great benefit not only to New York, but to the whole country. It is much too easy to procure legal divorce in almost any part of America provided interested parties have sufficient means to pay for procurement of evidence. The frequent advertisements seen in print of "divorces quietly secured" point to one of the greatest dangers our social welfare is exposed to. If a divorce can be "quietly secured" or "without publicity," as so frequently advertised, it is almost safe to assume that there is compliance or collusion somewhere.

New York Mail and Express.

Justice Lovett, of the Supreme Court, has been showing the effect of aroused public opinion by proceeding with caution in the numerous cases now before him. There is no need of any fraudulent case getting through a court if proper attention is given to it by the judges, nor is a wide publicity necessary to such attention. Whether the laws are what they ought to be is another and a larger question.

SALISBURY'S SPEECH.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

On two points the premier spoke in a congratulatory mood. He rejoiced over the election of McKinley as an earnest of continued warm friendship between the United States and Great Britain, and he referred with satisfaction to the agreement with Germany on the Chinese question. Beyond those two points all was gloom and misgiving. The necessity of preparations against foreign hostility other than from those two nations was impressed upon his hearers, and through them upon the whole people. The speech has attracted great attention in the European capitals and its significance is variously interpreted, but its seriousness is generally noted.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Lord Salisbury, the premier of England, did an unusual thing at the Lord Mayor's banquet in London last Friday night, when he referred to the election in the United States, declaring that "the cause which has won is the cause of civilization and commercial honor." But the occasion was unusual. The victory which was gained by the majority of the people of this country at the polls last Tuesday set a good example to the world.

Chicago Record.

Perhaps the most astonishing feature of that speech is that it gives credence to the French threats of hostility. The idea of invading England, which has been a hobby with the French press, has been regarded elsewhere as one of the wild imaginings of Chauvinism. Lord Salisbury evidently believes that there is at least enough menace in the French policy to justify using it as a solemn warning. If the move is to be made the military organization of Great Britain, which was shown to be astonishingly incapable during the Transvaal war, must be effected on new lines.

Kansas City World.

Lord Salisbury's remarkable speech delivered at the Lord Mayor's banquet in London will be interesting to Americans chiefly on account of its startling departure from precedents in speaking of international affairs. It was fortunate, as Ambassador Choate diplomatically remarked, that it was uttered after the election instead of before, otherwise there might have been a revival of the "Salem" incident, with the difference that Salisbury had no fat Washington job to lose.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The first number of a periodical entitled "After Dinner" has made its appearance. It appears in its own words to "people who appreciate a good dinner and a good story afterwards." It contains a number of short stories, some original and some translated from other languages—A. D. Publishing Co., Lincoln, Neb.

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