

That bill the Governor also vetoed. It specifically repealed the very provisions which he now cites as unrepealed by the bill under present consideration. Both bills are now published and both the messages that vetoed them. Let the thoughtful reader compare and judge, and form his own opinions of the shifting and dodging that had to be resorted to, in order to frame excuses for killing those co-relative and necessary and careful enactments.

The gist of the Governor's message is to be found in the closing paragraph. Like a winged insect, which it resembles, it carries its sting in its tail. This bill, if it should become a law, he says, "would serve to prolong a conflict which under existing conditions and progressive influence is rapidly solving itself." Exactly. Leave the laws, as they are now administered, without any further safeguards against fraud, chicanery, injustice and illegal voting; leave the election machinery to be manipulated in the interests of a party which the Governor supports and to the influence of whose leaders he humbly bows, and the conflict will soon be over for all practical purposes. As to the process of a "conflict" "solving itself," we leave to the Governor's message-makers to explain; we are not familiar with that sort of chemistry.

The bill, although unapproved by the Governor, will, under the provisions of the Edmunds-Tucker act quoted above, be forwarded to the Congress of the United States. If the Governor and his advisers and apologists do not like this it cannot be helped. The Utah Legislature did not make the provision and it does not argue much for the consistency of those who kick against it to find fault with the Assembly for complying with it. The provision is better far than the shameful absolute veto monstrosity.

The veto power, under constitutional and republican restrictions, is a wise and beneficent executive endowment. Without those restrictions it is a menace to liberty and human rights. In the hands of an impartial and unpartizan official it might prove a barrier to bad legislation. Wielded in the interests of a faction or in hostility to a class, it is a weapon of death wherewith to stab to the heart any vital measure essential to the health of the body politic, and is to be ranked with the knotted club or the sharpened tomahawk of the savage who beats

out the brains or cleaves through the skull of his bound and helpless victim. It is a disgrace to modern civilization and its arbitrary use is worse than imperial despotism.

### THE GOVERNOR'S PRESENT AND PROPOSED POWERS.

EXTRAORDINARY power is already vested in the man who holds the office of Governor of Utah. He lays before the Legislature a message which is presumed to indicate all the important legislation which the Territory requires. This message is divided up among the committees of the Assembly, who report upon their respective portions of it in due time, by bill or otherwise. Thus the Governor introduces all or most of the important bills of the session, or at least the subject matter of them.

Then, by a judicious use of the absolute veto power, he may coerce the Assembly into such amendments to any bill as will cause it to conform to his views or wishes, on pain of depriving the people of legislation which they may greatly need. Or, by an unscrupulous use of that same power, he may kill any bill he may choose, and his caprice may nullify any portion of the labors of the Legislature.

The Governor has the nominating of all Territorial officers, subject to confirmation by the Council; but should the Council fail him, he may appoint *ad interim*, notwithstanding its objections. The command of such a patronage alone makes the office one of great power; and, in view of modern political customs not unknown in Utah, we may add, profit. The Governor may pardon any criminal convicted of a violation of any Territorial law. He is also presumed to exercise, in a legitimate way, an influence upon congressional legislation, and the policy of the various departments, respecting the Territory, by means of his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, which is supposed to contain statistical and other information of a reliable character, and good faith recommendations as to the Territory's needs, made by its Chief Executive. In addition to all this, he has all the authority usual to the same office in other Territories and the States.

Is not this enough power for one man to wield? Is it not a strain upon American principles and institutions to vest so much in one individual? No State Governor in the United States approaches, in the

extent of his power and patronage, the Governor of Utah, population considered. Not a single official known to the laws of the Union, or any State thereof, is vested with such extensive authority. The existence, beneath the Stars and Stripes, of an office bearing such a close resemblance to an old world despotism, is a discredit to our country.

But it is coolly proposed to make of Utah's Governor an autocrat of powers enormously increased beyond those he already wields. The Stone bill, of which we have already briefly treated, aims to make him, the Secretary of the Territory and the President of the Legislative Council, successors to the Utah Commission. As we have explained, this would virtually be to transfer the powers of the latter to the Governor direct. Still, as our readers are aware, another measure, now pending in the Senate, proposes to give the Governor power to appoint all the important county, district and precinct officers at present elective. Senator Paddock is credited with being the principal advocate of the latter scheme. It will be remembered that he and the present Executive of Utah, were on the Utah Commission together, when, doubtless, the ties were formed which explain the Senator's interest in the aggrandizement of the Governor.

Seriously, is it not time to call a halt in these endeavors to enlarge the already kingly powers of Utah's Governor? What need exists here of a man clothed with such might? No more than exists in any other Territory or State. There is no reason why the institutions of Russia should supplant those of America, in the Territory of Utah, the representations of scheming, ambitious and unscrupulous politicians to the contrary notwithstanding.

### ABOUT KEEPING THE STREETS CLEAN.

THERE is in existence a very salutary ordinance to prevent the accumulation of extraneous rubbish on the streets and sidewalks of this city. It makes it an offense for any person to dump or place substances that would naturally come under that head upon the public thoroughfares. The following is quoted from section 31:

"No person owning, occupying or having control of any premises, shall, after reasonable notice by the city marshal or any police officer, suffer to be or remain in front thereof, upon the sidewalk or the half of the street next to such premises: First—Any