

Thus the only officers left for the people to choose are members of the Legislature, justices of the peace, and fence viewers. Authority is given to a board of seven, comprised of the Governor, Secretary, and members of the Utah Commission, to re-district the Territory, and we all know what this means. It signifies that from a party which embraces only twenty per cent of the total population of the Territory, a majority of the members of the Legislature is to be chosen, by means of the "shoe string" process of creating legislative districts. Thus the people, in the true sense of the term, will have the privilege of electing only the officers whose duty it is to sell stray animals, and to ascertain if the requisite number of poles or wires have been used in the construction of a fence.

Such wretched fragments of popular government as would be left to the people of this Territory under the new Thomas-Edmunds bill, would but augment the wrong of its enactment. That bill would produce actual, literal disfranchisement of an abominable form, while hypocritically pretending to do nothing of the kind. If it be urged that all political classes are treated alike, in taking from the voters and giving to the appointing power the right to name the officers the answer is that one class will be partly compensated by having chosen from its members, all officeholders of every description, while the other class will be deprived of vote, voice and representation in the government of the Territory and its counties though numbering nearly or quite four-fifths of the total population.

This feathery compensation amounts to nothing, however, by the side of the political abasement that would ensue to all classes. The only benefits, if they could be so called, would accrue to individuals who would be in direct favor with the appointing power. There is nothing can compensate for the destruction of the right of the citizen to a voice in the selection of the rulers. No American citizen of this Territory, worthy the name will, without protest, submit to an indignity and robbery so gross and unqualified. Such a supine attitude would be a tacit surrender of manhood. If this attack upon a constitutional and Republican form of government guaranteed to the people is accepted and not opposed by the Gentiles of Utah, then shall it soon come to a realization

that the "Mormons" are the only genuine supporters of the organic law of the nation.

This new measure bearing Mr. Edmunds' name is substantially identical with provisions that were embraced in the Edmunds-Tucker bill as it passed the House. But Senator Edmunds, who was a member of the conference committee, insisted on striking them out, and in response to his influence they were eliminated from the bill before its final passage. The ostensible reason for this action, the wrong of placing the Territory so completely under the thumb of one man, was a sound one, but the Senator's present attitude, would indicate that he has undergone a change of heart.

The Utah Commission is, by this bill, given power to order a new registration instead of a revision, and, in connection with the Governor and Secretary, may make and enforce such rules and regulations relative to registration and election matters as they may see fit, consistent with the laws of the United States. If the synopsis gives correctly the substance of this latter feature of the bill, it virtually repeals the election laws of the Territory, and delegates to the Governor, Secretary and Utah Commission power to establish legislation in lieu thereof.

Thus into the hands of these seven men is given the power to control, legislatively and administratively, all elections in this Territory, and to choose all the Territorial and county officers. True, an election would not, under this bill, amount to much, and the privilege of participating in it would not be worth a very desperate contest; but controlled as it would be by this board of seven, the right to vote would be still more of an empty, substanceless shadow.

The principal difference between the new Edmunds bill and the disfranchisement measure is that the latter pours out injustice, in unstinted quantities, upon the "Mormons," and foists the Gentiles into exclusive power, while the former, though equally unjust to the "Mormons," makes the Gentiles partial victims, and raises seven men into autocratic authority over the whole Territory. If the Struble bill is meeting with opposition from Utah Gentiles, what will they say about the measure here under review, when they come to understand its real nature?

If they do not make it warm for

the conspirators who have sought to place both the "Mormons" and Gentiles of the whole Territory at the absolute mercy of a small ring, we mistake the mettle which is characteristic of at least a portion of the non-"Mormons" of this Territory.

MISMANAGEMENT AT THE FIRE.

THE popular verdict in relation to the management of yesterday's fire is that it could hardly have been worse. It had no parallel in any incident of the kind that ever occurred in this city. The chief erred in not deliberately ascertaining the precise location of the flames and centering all efforts on the work of subduing them. The officers acted wrongly by standing in the way of the saving of property, in preventing interested persons familiar with the establishment from having access to the premises.

The refusal to accept of suggestions from men of known ability and experience was a great blunder, while the election of Mr. Ellerbeck, who wished to sever the gas connection, was another foolish proceeding that, but for the promptitude of that gentleman, might have caused a great conflagration and incalculable loss of life and property.

A great deal of wind work in the shape of paragraphic puffs has been indulged in with regard to the efficiency of the present fire department, but when the real test appeared they were found wanting. We believe, however, that the boys as a rule would have worked fairly well had they been intelligently directed.

The destruction of such a large and valuable stock, not a stick of which was saved, considering that the fire was originally in the rear of the main building that contained it, is, we believe, unparalleled in the history of the burning of any single building.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Dinwoodey, the loser by the disaster.

THAT FAMOUS LIQUOR DECISION.

THE decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, rendered April 28, invalidating the law of the State of Iowa which provided for the confiscation of intoxicating liquors exposed for sale contrary to its provisions, has occasioned a great amount of discussion all over the country. It has been both commended and condemned by lawyers and newspapers, and is generally