

kaleidoscopic politics. Reform is not an issue in the present campaign. The whole fight is a struggle for spoils."

It has been stated that Harrison is opposed by every English-language paper in the city except his own—the *Times*—but this is not correct, as the following from the *Dispatch* shows:

If a choice must be made between two undesirable candidates, we believe in supporting the one who is best fitted by education and training and experience to greet the World's Fair visitors as the representative of Chicago. No one who knows both candidates can hesitate for a moment in deciding that Carter Harrison is best qualified to fulfill the duties of mayor.

Also the *Mail*, while not supporting Harrison, has fought Allerton persistently and bitterly. At the time of writing nothing has been received as to how the contest is going, but there is a great deal of excitement and will be a great lump of disappointment remaining, no matter what the count may disclose.

WANTS TO BE GOVERNOR.

A gentleman of peculiar mien and actions somewhat at variance with regularity called at the News office this morning and stated his case with considerable fluency. His name, he said, was Joseph Morris, and he desired to be appointed governor of Utah! He was assured that the appointing power was not only absent, but that it did not reside here at all; but the office-seeker was persistent and would not depart until receiving assurance that what could be done for him would be with pleasure. Hence these lines.

Mr. Morris' case is one that requires some investigation. Whether or not he has permitted his mind to dwell upon the one subject of office-holding until aberration regarding that particular matter, or general aberration, has set in, is not known. However, he exhibits some phases of rationality which all those in quest of official positions do not show. He makes his application at home and thus saves the expense of a trip to Washington and the very high rates of living there, while standing fully as good a chance of getting what he is after as though he were enrolled in the grand army now and recently paying tribute to Washington hotel keepers. But governor of Utah! What could have put that into his head? There are many other local offices which pay very much better and have the additional desideratum of not being so conspicuous nor requiring so much in the way of "style;" in plain terms, they are supporting, not supportive. That our caller does not select one of these as the mark of his ambition is somewhat mysterious.

While returning due thanks for the honor and all that is implied in making the News the distributor of patronage for the Territory, we must respectfully decline all such, to some, coveted power; not because we do not, cannot and would not have it, but because it is not in our line and is too risky a business. If those who do the appointing are satisfied, the chances are that just one other person will be the appointee. With these few re-

mains we will pass on to something else, hoping that the particular caller spoken of will favor some other establishment next time and that no one else will call with a similar purpose in view.

"THE POLITICAL BOSS."

Duane Mowry, Jr., has an interesting and timely article in the *American Journal of Politics* for July, on the subject of "The Political Boss." The writer shows that that particular feature in politics is no longer an unknown quantity; that the patient masses have been slow to recognize the unpleasant fact and have endeavored to explain, account for and even at times apologize for his obnoxious presence, but that they have so far not produced one good reason for his existence in the practical affairs of the government. He has none of the qualities, the writer continues, which fit men for the responsible duties of leadership. "His executive ability at most is never above mediocrity, and, generally, it is far below that point. As a rule, up to the date of his entrance into the arena of practical politics, he has had no training or experience in the administration of public affairs and, therefore, lacks that mental grasp so necessary to the most effective and efficient work in the public service. His statesmanship is sadly wanting. But the average political boss is not wholly devoid of qualities which at least commend him to his fellows. Often he is an active man of affairs. His acquaintance with his men is extensive; his methods are frequently skillful; his reserve power sometimes great. He is always a man of infinite pretense. He never hesitates at anything. It is his effrontery and loquacity that secure for him a certain prominence, where a more modest and retiring but more worthy nature must remain unrecognized."

Cannot the average reader see at least one familiar face peering at him from out those quoted lines? Is it not as nearly the "cold reality of a photograph" as the mute and motionless type can make such a thing? But the description does not end there. There is a great deal more of the same kind, although one would be tempted to think that the picture being so complete, to add to or take from it would be to spoil it. Not so, as witness: "His self-conceit is without limit. He talks much of what he has done and of what he can do. Nothing is impossible with him. As a political manipulator the average boss is thoroughly unscrupulous. If he has an honest political principle he will not let it interfere with his political ends however dishonest they may be. He is in politics to win; and the mere matter of principle shall not stand in the way to success." Now, whoever would seek to add more or improve the "counterfeit presentment" in any way would certainly "gild refined gold and paint the lily." The writer thereupon proceeds to show some of the methods and characteristics of the boss, saying among other things that because of the dishonesty so frequently employed by the latter one of the dangers which threaten the practical politics of our

times and country confronts us, the tendency of which is and must be to keep out of active politics many clean, wise and honest men, and surely this cannot be regarded as a healthy or desirable condition of affairs.

The motives of the boss, it is shown, are never lofty and disinterested. They are essentially low and selfish. Usually he is in politics for revenue only. Sometimes he is in quest of political self-aggrandizement. He is never there solely and exclusively for his country's good. He has no laudable ambition, no devotion to principle, no self-sacrificing patriotism. He is at all times and under all conditions and circumstances, the constant and abiding conservator of his own dearest interests. And to secure them, he will hesitate at nothing. It is true that he is a shrewd and crafty fellow, fertile in resources, unscrupulous in methods, hypocritical in motives, without integrity, without large capacity, without honor. Why, then, should we tolerate him—is there need for him? Mr. Mowry asks, and then gives the only answer: "It is a travesty on the history of these latter-day political conditions of America that such a unguis growth has been allowed to exist and flourish. He has no proper place in our midst. He is foreign to the spirit of our institutions. Improve public opinion, demand better requirements for public servants, and thus make the life of the political boss impossible in free America. It can be done. I believe it will be done."

The fungus growth, however, does exist and flourish, as all can see. It has grown and flourished so long and with so little disturbance that it has taken deep root and its extirpation will be a very much more difficult task than Mr. Mowry or perhaps any other political reformer thinks it will. But he is on the right track, and the proper thing for all good citizens to do is to encourage by all proper means every effort to expose and then to overcome the evil.

HOW MAN IS VANISHING.

That it is easy to "prove" nonsense by the employment of figures is illustrated by the following from the *San Francisco Morning Call*:

A French statistician, who has been studying the military and other records, has found that in 1610 the average height of man in Europe was 5 feet 9 inches; that in 1790 it was 5 feet 6 inches; in 1820 it was 5 feet 6 inches and a fraction. At the present time it is 5 feet 3½ inches. It is easy to deduce from these figures a rate of regular and gradual decline in human stature, and then apply this, working backward and forward, to the past and to the future. By this calculation it is determined that the stature of the first man attained the surprising average of 18 feet 9 inches. Goliath was a quite degenerate offspring of the giants. Coming down to later time, we find that at the beginning of our era the average height of man was 9 feet, and in the time of Charlemagne it was 8 feet 8 inches. But the most astonishing result of this scientific study comes from the application of the same inexorable law of diminution to the future. The calculation shows that by the year 4000 A. D. the stature of the average man will be reduced to 15 inches.