

appear inevitable under present conditions. Such a man, unless overpowered by cabals and rings, would be a second Hercules in cleansing the Augean stables of national administration, and making honorable public life and place, instead of, as now, when an official with fifty thousand dollars' annual salary finds it honorable and practicable to retire (according to the press) after two terms of official life, with a fortune reaching into the millions. If so much moral force was concentrated into one man as to overcome the opposition that so brave a reformer was called upon to meet, augmented numbers of the same caliber would speedily work a mighty change in this once prosperous country.

One of our northern neighbors suggests (in the assumed impossibility of government without party) to have two tickets for all local issues, calling them "the citizens' ticket" and "the people's ticket," respectively. But the political cloven-foot crops out in the query: why not retain the name Republican and Democrat as well as to adopt a new cognomen for contest? Simply because it is in the very nature and marrow of political parties to drag in issues which are of no weight or moment, rather than to pioneer in the consideration of questions alluded to by the brave mayor of Detroit, now governor of Michigan.

Water and sewage in addition to those referred to by him are all important questions here, and will be until so settled as to command the approval of the great majority. Let the "Reform party," if such it to be its name, continue the agitation already so auspiciously begun. Let the coming "school election" be pressed upon the attention of the people. Every taxpayer should receive a carefully prepared exegesis of the present situation, uncontrolled by that political clamor which declaims so bolsterously against impairing the efficiency of the public school system, a system which is yet on trial, for no man can predicate advantages or otherwise until at least one generation has proved in citizenship the results of that which is in great part problematic as yet. The schools, as far as observation goes, have not yet (save in few instances) allied the routine of study with practical life. When teachers can point this out to each pupil, there will be quite an advance over much that is seen at present. Then defects may be remedied, excesses pruned, and worthless studies dispensed with; for the intent of a proximate perfect education is not to turn out products all moulded in the same form or with the same likeness as bricks in a yard or castings from a foundry. Individualism while corrected and restrained, must yet be honored, cultivated and developed as soon as advanced methods can supersede fully the routine and stereotyped processes of a professional past.

OCCASIONAL.

CAN'T AFFORD IT

The recent municipal election, while not reaching prospectively far enough along the lines of reform, I am convinced means reformation and inauguration of a more economic government for the city. I am now very much in favor of our school board receiving the direct attention of the taxpayers. Let us indulge in the hope that our approaching election will be conducted in the interests of the men and women who pay the taxes and upon whom rests the heavy burden of sustaining the free public schools of which Salt Lake City boasts so many excellent ones.

But in the past economy does not

seem to have been considered by the members of our present school board. The question that seems to have been paramount in their minds was, "Does the school board deem it expedient that a new school house should be built in this or that district?" And they seem to have asked themselves only about the propriety of maintaining a city free high school and in knowing that under the law they could estimate in advance in a careless manner the necessary amount needed for school purposes, which demand upon the treasurer would have to be met; no amount of protest from the individual taxpayer or from the public generally changes the amount that they, as the city school board, feel to levy upon the home owners and business men. The amount required from the public treasury for school purposes for the school year 1897, I am informed, was three hundred and twenty thousand dollars. From their own showing it appears that the gentlemen comprising the board only carelessly estimated the amount needed, and though to the mind of the taxpayers this vast sum should cover all school expenses for one year, yet by their own report the snug little additional sum of between thirty and fifty thousand dollars has been borrowed from Treasurer Barnett to eke out the meager allowance.

Now I believe I have liberal views on educational matters, and at the same time that I and the rest of the taxpayers are so munificently paying for the education not only of our own children but of our neighbors as well, that there will need to be a limit somewhere; otherwise before the children complete their education and arrive at the destined goal through the mad educational whirlpool through which they are being crowded regardless of their physical endurance—I say, long ere these fond hopes of the Salt Lake school board can be realized, at the present rate of demand, many of these taxpaying parents will be gone where the woodhine twined with their toes turned up to the daisies; and if a truthful inscription is written on their tomb, it must needs be something like the following: "Here lies the body of one of many who were overburdened taxpayers as a remote cause of death; immediate cause, continuance in office of the present city school board."

I understand there is a movement now being started by some of the members of the present school board and those of their sympathizers to make nominations of men for members of the new board who will pledge themselves in advance to maintain the public free high school that has already cost the taxpayers such vast sums of money. If times were good and the people of all classes were not already groaning under unbearable assessments from city and county taxes and assessments of school boards, I too would be in favor of extending our facilities for education. But when I take into consideration the fact that we have within the city limits facilities for obtaining a good start for all our children in educational matters, in our established free district schools, also we have a goodly number of high schools and colleges conducted by able teachers under the patronage of almost every religious society known in the country, and that over and above all we have our glorious State University, I think with all these facilities for learning, the taxpayers may be given a rest so far as the free city high school is concerned. True, this would only be a drop in the bucket, but as it is he has straw that breaks the camel's back, give the tired taxpayers the benefit of the drop—don't pile on he last straw.

When the primaries shall meet, or a mass meeting be held in the precincts

or elsewhere, I urge upon all taxpayers, male and female, to be present, and make their presence felt by nominating men for the new school board who the known to be economical, honest, business men, men who will have some regard for the well being of the entire community—taxpayers and school children alike, considered in their present future and welfare.

SEYMOUR B. YOUNG.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

New York, Nov. 10.—The World prints in a cable dispatch from London the full text of Joseph Chamberlain's criticism of American politics at the banquet of the Glasgow corporation. Speaking of the possibility of municipal institutions in Great Britain deteriorating, Mr. Chamberlain said:

"I am sometimes inclined to put a question of that sort when we think of the result of an election for local officers on the other side of the water. There, in the metropolis—at all events, the greatest city in the United States of America, full of educated, cultivated, patriotic people, we find, according to American evidence, that the government of nearly three millions of people has been handed over for four years to an institution whose object is avowedly to get the greatest amount of spoils.

"That is a most terrible result, and it is worth inquiring whether such a possibility exists in regard to our institutions, and what are the principles we must hold if we desire to avoid such a result.

"Now the explanations given do not seem to me altogether satisfactory. It is said that in New York there is a mixed population, but that is not sufficient to account for the state of things we are considering. Many of those are strangers to whom the United States is opening its arms with so much generosity, welcoming them to the franchise, perhaps a little before they are prepared for it, and are not at all likely to lend themselves to anything in the nature of corrupt administration—the Germans especially. In many of our large towns we have mixed populations; therefore there is nothing sufficiently distinctive in that to justify us in coming to the conclusion that it is the cause of that great difficulty.

"Then it is said that politics is introduced into American corporate life. That is true; but it requires some explanation. In the ordinary sense of the word, that would not in the least account for what we are discussing, because politics does not enter in the usual sense into municipal elections in any of the American cities. This last election was conducted by an independent political organization existing outside of the regular parties in the state.

"It is believed the whole source of weakness lies in the system of administration rather than in anything called with it outside of political considerations, and also in the public opinion which tolerates that system of administration.

"I believe that the causes of success of our system here and the failure of the American system are to be found in the different ways in which we treat officials. Now by officials I mean everybody employed by the corporation. There are, in the first place, the higher offices. When corporations undertake such business as is conducted by the great municipalities of England and Scotland, their higher officials are the men intrusted with the management of the departments, with the control of great manufacturing concerns, or complicated systems of finance. They must be men of special capacity and ability else there will be inefficient ad-