

Life has been studied in its various aspects—under the equator as well as in the land of the aurora borealis. The restless search for new knowledge is perhaps more noticeable now than ever before; certainly it is a movement so powerful that in this age no one ever thinks of arguing against it upon the mere ground embodied in the query "Cui bono?"

THAT WARRANT BUSINESS.

Now that the bill validating certain excess county warrants has been passed by the House branch of the Legislature and is in no danger of being defeated in the Senate, the NEWS feels justified in calling attention to a persistent official violation of the State Constitution and laws, which it formerly pointed out as a natural result of condoning of such offenses by the legislative department. We have no retraction to make from our original position upon this subject. We opposed the issuance of warrants beyond the legal limit; we also opposed the repudiation of a debt, because innocent people would be made to suffer. Hence we urged the choosing of the lesser of two evils, that innocent warrant-holder might escape suffering, although by the same act culpable officials escaped deserved punishment.

We now give notice that in our opinion it is time this condonation of official disregard of law was put an end to. The past may be allowed to go, except as a lesson for future profit. Hereafter no warrant holder in certain cities and counties in this State can plead ignorance as to the legal status of those warrants, and if he accepts them, he should do so at his peril. If the warrants are illegal, they should not be paid by city or county, and if the parties who get them want relief they should seek it on the bonds of the culpable official. Some persons may call this a species of repudiation; but it is a repudiation of which everyone now has perfect notice, and which is necessary for municipal and county defense. It is straight business.

This matter is brought forward by the law recently enacted, requiring certain officials to certify that warrants that are issued are within the legal limit of indebtedness. Now there is a clamor to have this provision set aside; and why? Because it will prevent the issue of warrants. In other words, the demand is that the issue of illegal warrants shall go on, in cities and counties where the debt limit is now reached.

It is time to quit this business right now. Some slight modification of the new law may be necessary, but not to the extent that officials are to be winked at in issuing excess warrants. The statute forbids their issue by making them invalid; the Constitution declares that no city shall pass a given limit, which has been reached in certain places. Excess warrants are now being issued therein so that the certification required by the new law cannot be made. This stops the unlawful issue, and is as it should be. Let those counties and cities affected get back within the law, and not continually encourage officers in incurring

an indebtedness which they are forbidden by the Constitution to contract. The line must be drawn in defense of the property owners, and it may as well be drawn now.

"LOOKING BACKWARD."

The interest the public once took in the scheme of Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward" is now about over so far as any thought of practicable application of his ideas is concerned. The closing incident which gives emphasis to this finality is reported from California, in the going to pieces there of the Altrurian colony, expressly organized to carry into effect the principles of co-operation set forth in Bellamy's work.

The colony was located at Mark West, Sonoma county, Cal. Its work began in 1894, and for about a year all seemed to run smoothly, to the outside world at least; then rumors of impending failure began to spread. The scheme was fully described in the NEWS at the outset, with the suggestion that one feature known to be lacking—that of religious unity under direct divine inspiration—was sufficient to cause disintegration sooner or later. Several hundred acres of fertile land had been secured, having with it an abundance of water, supplying all needs in the way of power for municipal and manufacturing purposes; a heavily timbered lumber tract was acquired, on which a saw mill of 10,000 feet a day capacity was put in operation; a big hotel was erected, outbuildings were built, and many other improvements made, involving a great deal of earnest, hard labor. But the colony has capitulated to an adverse fate, and the resolutions of disbandment state that the action is taken because of "lack of resources and disappointment in their expectations." There has been no charge or complaint that the members of the colony were other than good citizens; in fact their conduct has been exemplary.

Many are the reasons now advanced for failure. It has been shown that from the outset the colony has run into debt; and as its productive capacity was not sufficient to support its 500 members, the longer it continued the worse it got. Some of the members were less economical than others, and as the Altrurians were supposed to be equal in every way, this caused adverse criticism of each other, engendering animosities. Then many were inexperienced in cultivating the soil, and could not compete in the market with farmers and gardeners in the locality outside of their colony; the same was true with respect to the manufacturers. There was lacking in the organization the guiding hand that could bring even a small success to each department and unite the whole in the grand triumph which was hoped for but was not achieved.

Looking backward over the history of this State, one might suppose that the Altrurians had a hundred chances of success to one possessed by the early settlers of Utah. And so they had, from a material point of view. They had a fertile country and rich material resources with which they were acquainted; they had a good

start in being well supplied with houses, implements and means to begin in a comfortable, effective manner. But they lacked two essential features to success: one being the necessity of getting along without incurring obligations outside of their own resources; and the other and principal one, that unity of faith which removes mountains when necessary and overcomes obstacles by means of power and light direct from the divine Fountain of Intelligence. Had they possessed the latter qualification, the former might have been attained in the way of instruction in principle; but without both, the blind leaders and followers have landed in the ditch—their anticipations of applying Bellamy's principles are now regarded as imaginary at best.

A contrast has been intimated between the called Altrurians and the successful Utah pioneers; and it has been pointed out that the latter succeeded because of their industry and applying the principles of irrigation to render fertile an otherwise desert soil. But these alleged causes of success were merely incidental to the real cause, which lay in the union and determined faith of the pioneers. It was the religion of the Latter-day Saints that made the Utah wilderness a fruitful field, and the deserts of this State to blossom as the rose. With that religion applied the Altrurians could have succeeded fully as well, and perhaps better than did the settlers of Utah; without, both would fall short of the special success which has marked the history of this State. The result of the Altrurian effort should be a lesson that the world has not yet learned all there is to know of the means for communal triumph. By "looking backward" some day this will be more fully realized than at present.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

The remedy against consumption concerning which Dr. Cyrus Edson has made a statement to the Associated Press, as found in a dispatch, is a fluid called by him asepsolin. It is a combination of phenol (carbolic acid) and other substances.

In a recent number of the Medical Record, Dr. Edson describes his experiments and discoveries in this direction. He says it has long been his belief that many pathological phenomena observed in diseases not usually credited to germ infection are really manifestations of the absorption of poisonous bacterial products. If this be true, the increased excretion of phenol by the system during disease must be looked upon as one of nature's devices to cure the disease by destroying the germ infection. This reasoning led him to conclude that if nature provides phenol during disease, she must certainly tolerate it administered in effective dosages. Yet, the fact was well known that the objection of any known solution of phenol caused poisonous symptoms, and the problem was to find some form in which the fluid could be administered to the system, not objectionable to nature.

Dr. Edson now thinks he has found that combination in a solution, in pure