

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 27, 1900.

ABOLISH THE POLL TAX.

We notice that a movement has been started in some of the States, for the abolition of the antique custom, fortified by law, of requiring every man between certain ages, generally between twenty-one and forty-five, to pay a poll tax, either in cash or in a given number of days' work on the roads.

The laws of Utah provide that: "Two days' work of eight hours each, or in lieu thereof, three dollars in lawful money, is an annual road poll tax upon every man over twenty-one and under fifty years of age, not physically incapacitated to work and not exempt by law."

This is an unjust imposition, because the public roads are not used either exclusively or more frequently by men of that age than by others. Indeed the wear and tear made by vehicles come from the carriages used by the young and the aged, much more than by men of the ages mentioned.

To compel a man who never uses the public roads, except occasionally to walk across them, to work two days on them while owners of teams and vehicles are exempt, if they are either under or over the age limits prescribed, is a manifest injustice.

If there is any discrimination as to this it should be in favor of those who do not ride or drive on the public thoroughfares, and against those who do thus use them.

We therefore favor the abolition of the poll tax, and believe it would be much more satisfactory and equitable, if the repairing of the roads was paid for out of general tax funds.

ANOTHER TURKEY DISPUTE.

It looks as if Abdul Hamid, the Sultan of Turkey, is anxious to provoke further quarrel with our government, notwithstanding his cordial congratulations to President McKinley on the results of the election.

The position of the new consul will not be enviable, if he proceeds to the fulfillment of his duties without Turkish government recognition. The Turkish authorities are great sticklers for formalities, and possess endless resources in making troubles, without formally transgressing treaties and agreements.

It is passing strange that the Turkish government should dare to treat a representative of our government in this manner. Russian, French, British or German appointees would receive more prompt consideration.

The little disagreement about the bill due to missionaries since the massacres in Armenia, appears of less importance than the question about this consul. That bill may, or may not, be perfectly just. It is certainly very large, considering the common value

of a few books and articles of clothing, such as poor emissaries of the Gospel can afford to wear; but the refusal to honor the appointment by our government of a consul is different. It calls for prompt action.

THE DIPLOMATS AGREE AGAIN.

The state department at Washington has received information of another agreement or understanding between the diplomats in China. It is added, however, that there is but little chance that it will be sanctioned by the respective powers.

This leaves the matter very much where it was before. It means more delay in the negotiations, and more time for the powers represented by armies in China, to make the situation more critical, until nothing but the sword can cut the knot.

In all probability the real point of discussion between the powers now is as to how much of the country each of them can claim as its share of the spoils, in case it should be deemed safe and expedient to proceed to partition. The negotiations may turn upon indemnities and punishments, but stripped of all ornamental verbiage, they really amount to questions of partition.

The good humored and common sense manner in which England looks at Mr. Kruger's reception in France robs it of half its interest.

There are five hundred varieties of trees in the Philippines. This will permit the hundreds of different tribes there to each take to its own particular woods.

The first municipal ward is to have three polling places, thanks to the Board of Education. But the two spots selected by Messrs. Wilson and Critchlow, after much pressure, are at the remotest corners of the precinct and the third, it appears, is not to be near the center.

THE CONDITION AND REMEDY.

Cardinal Vaughan, in an address recently issued in reference to the pilgrimage to Rome next month, took occasion to say that the temporal sovereignty of the pope is absolutely necessary, for the conditions of the world at present.

He stated that there is universal uncertainty and unrest. Envy, jealousy, hatred, desires for revenge, avarice, greed of power and influence have broken out among the nations like a plague of vices that threaten to destroy them.

It cannot be successfully denied that this description tallies but too well with the actual conditions. The cardinal might have added that there is a growing contempt for authority and law, even in countries where the people are their own rulers and lawmakers.

The fact is that the popes in the middle ages gained and kept their influence by taking the lead in the currents of that time. The tendency then was in the direction of wars and adventures, and the pope, supreme upon earth, utilized the spirit of the age and encouraged crusades for the "glory of the church."

There is only one sure remedy for the ills of which the cardinal was speaking, and that is the "regeneration" of the world, morally, socially and politically—the pangs which the Lord says shall take place at His advent. Papacy

has had its era, as the religious systems that preceded it had theirs. When the Almighty again stretches forth His hand to redeem the children of men, it will not be through any of the old systems that bear the marks of wear and tear. "Behold I make all things new" is the rule of God's reform work.

NEW YORK WAR ON VICE.

The cover design of the Christmas number of the New Lippincott Magazine publishes complete Anna R. Barr's last novel, "Souls of Passage."

The Christmas number of Success has a most elaborate and artistic cover, revealing the offerings of the Magi at Bethlehem. Its first pages are given to a poem by Edwin Markham, and then the past century is reviewed by William T. Stead, who takes the view that has been part of a policy by which the Tammany power profited.

The December Pearson's opens with a Christmas story in verse. Then comes an illustrated article on "Pre-historic Monsters." Among the most striking pictures is one of the giant sloth in search of which the Pearson expedition under Hezekiah Peckham has recently set out to Patagonia.

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York was carried for Bryan cannot be retained for Tammany nominees at city elections against the consolidated elements of the city population. So the tiger seeks to change his stripes! He can do so, however, no more than the leopard can change his spots. The roared conscience of New York will be content with no subterfuges of reform. Tammany's sense of power is apparently drawing to an end.

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER.

After all it is doubtful if New York can hold a candle for openly flaunted vice in Chicago. If the Chicago papers are right about it Chicago's 400 down town saloons are jammed nightly—and all night, too—with criminal characters, a very large proportion of them being women. The numbers on the outside carnival of crime gaily go on.

NEW HAVEN REGISTER.

The Potter movement is directed first at the exposure of the corrupt alliance which exists between the Tammany and the proprietors of vicious resorts, and second at the correction of a form of local government which shall make such an alliance extremely dangerous, if not impossible. The Platt state constitutional bill is no remedy; it would only make matters worse. What is needed is the abolition of bi-partisanship in the government of the state, and the complete divorce of the department from politics. When this has been accomplished it will be possible to take up and intelligently consider the control and regulation of vice wherever it exists.

NEW YORK WORLD.

Men do not gather grapes from thorns, nor do they get reforms from rotten material. The Tammany party is the need of reform. New York cannot be made clean without a new broom. It is a reform which must begin at the top. If we had a police commission and chief of police who were honestly intent upon repressing vice, vice would be repressed. And it will not be permanently repressed until we have such a board and such a chief. If Mayor Van Wyck really means what he says in his letter to Bishop Potter he will take immediate steps to remove the present incompetent or corrupt police board.

NEW YORK JOURNAL.

It is difficult to deal adequately with such a state of affairs without relapsing into theatrical declamation on one hand or falling into mere vituperation on the other. There is reason to suspect that conditions in New York, horrible beyond description as they are, may be typical of a state of affairs prevailing in many parts of the country. There are in a metropolitan certain local influences at work which result in a peculiar character of crime. At the suppression of that evil here will bring about its restraint elsewhere. Its encouragement in New York stimulates vice all over the land.

NEW YORK MAIL AND EXPRESS.

In considering what the authorities have now been stirred up to doing, we are constantly driven back to the position that it is no more than they should have done to do so. We are compelled to believe that they have not been ignorant of the conditions now forced upon their attention, but their inaction and connivance at gross evils have been part of a policy by which the Tammany power profited. They needed no sudden revelation to show them the path of duty, but only the motive or disposition to pursue it. Efficiency, zeal and honesty in administration simply not the object of their striving.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Much of the contents of the current number of Harper's Bazar is devoted to subjects suggested by approaching Thanksgiving day, such as "Thanksgiving," "Thanksgiving at the Home," "The Thanksgiving Dinner," etc. There are numerous contributions on fashions, as well as special articles of interest to mothers. The magazine is, as always, beautifully illustrated.—Harper & Bros., Franklin Square, New York.

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A Brief History of Springville, Utah, is the title of a little work just published. The author is Don Carlos Johnson. It is highly interesting as a record of the struggles of the first settlers of that locality. Such records will be much valued by coming generations, and every Utah settlement ought to have a well-written, while the people of the Pioneer are still among the living witnesses to the scenes that were enacted. The History of Springville is rendered doubly valuable by the illustrations and the illustrations on its pages.—D. C. Johnson & Wm. F. Gibson, publishers, Springville, Utah.

It is announced that the December number of the Cosmopolitan will contain an important article on the "slight" of Pekin by Sir Robert Hart, who for twenty years has been the most influential foreigner in the Chinese empire.—Irvington, N. Y.

The announcement is made that H. Reuter, the marine artist, has returned from abroad with drawings to illustrate a series of articles on the life and customs in the navies of the world which will appear in early numbers of Collier's Weekly. His sketches are so well obtained under great difficulties and in spite of the fact that the naval regulations of most countries forbid the presence of an artist on board their various ships.—New York.

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THANKSGIVING WEEK OPPORTUNITY. GREAT NOVEMBER SALE AT Z. C. M. I. WEEK COMMENCING, MONDAY, NOV. 26. Choicest Bargains of the year in Thanksgiving Linen. Colored Dress Goods, Ladies' Suits, Jackets, Coats, Skirts, Capes, Waists, Wrappers, Fur Goods, Etc., Underwear, Corsets, Notions, Flannels, Blankets, Etc. CLOAK DEPARTMENT, Reductions of from 20 to 50 per cent. THANKSGIVING LINEN SALE, Wonderful Bargains in this division. See them. Specials in NOTIONS DEPARTMENT, KID GLOVES, COLORED DRESS GOODS, UNDERWEAR, CORSETS and UNDERSKIRTS. Z. C. M. I. T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

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