

act in his place must be a Democrat because Judge Howat is a Democrat. Nor need it be considered necessary to appoint a Republican to the position because the district is strongly Republican. Neither argument is deserving of notice in the choosing of an incumbent for the vacancy. Yet both arguments seem to render plain the idea that the man to be selected be at least one who has not already been defeated for the place. As to certain candidates who aspired to the position, the people expressed themselves unfavorably in all the majesty of the voice of the ballot. To receive appointment, after falling of election, would appear to be an impropriety, to say the least of it.

FIRE AND POLICE BILL.

The bill now before the Legislature, with reference to "board of fire and police commissioners in cities of 12,000 and more inhabitants, and to place the police, prison and fire departments of said cities upon a non-partisan basis," is a measure which the NEWS believes to be salutary and deserving of passage and approval. It has many friends both in and out of the Legislature, but is pretty sure to excite lively opposition, though this will not be sufficiently strong, we hope, to defeat or imperil it in any essential particular. In order that this opposition may be weakened, however, and many ink-warm friends of the measure be rallied to its active support, it seems to us that two or three slight amendments in the text of the printed bill ought to be made. One of these is to the effect that the requisites for membership of the proposed board be not only residence and the qualification of voting, but also the property tax-paying qualification and sufficient age, experience and reputation to warrant the confidence of the community. Then, as to the maximum salary for the clerk of the board, six hundred dollars per year (which practically means that that shall be the regular salary)—contingency and a due regard for the condition of the public finances would seem to suggest that the figure is too high. For such services as the clerk at present or in the near future will be required to render, four hundred dollars per year ought to be the outside limit. Again, the law would be made more popular if it provided that applicants before the board for positions in the departments under its control, in addition to the other qualifications demanded, should be legal voters and property tax payers in their respective cities. As between an applicant who contributes nothing, either by his influence at the ballot box or by his taxes, to the welfare and support of his city, and an applicant who does both these things, we do not hesitate to say the law should favor the latter. Another section that would be improved by amendment is the one providing for the suspension or removal of the chiefs of the fire and police departments by the board. The proposed law properly increases the authority of these chiefs in suspending or removing their subordinates. The board's power in dealing with the heads of these departments should also

be extended, at least to the extent that a majority and not the whole board shall determine whether charges are sustained and what the punishment—whether suspension or removal—shall be. This would leave the law quite as non-partisan as it now is, but would render one-fourth easier the punishment of a chief against whom charges had been preferred, and were believed by three out of four members of the board to be sustained. We also think there should be an additional section authorizing the city council to fix the maximum number of employees in the two departments.

There may be other amendments that would improve the measure, but these few we feel sure will do so, and they are suggested in a spirit of the warmest friendship for the measure as a whole. Meanwhile, those of the business community who favor the law and desire its passage ought to make their wishes known and their influence felt. The Legislature will do what the people want, we believe, but the members ought to be given to understand what this is; and truth compels the assertion that up to the present time the opponents of the law have shown much more zeal and activity than its friends.

IF WILLIAM WERE A FRENCHMAN.

The young man who is the heir-at-law of the stout family of Hohenzollern, and who at present occupies the throne of the kingdom of Prussia and of the empire of Germany, is altogether too mercurial to be considered a typical German. There is nothing phlegmatic about him, nor does he show a philosophical bent. The traits which usually characterize the people east of the Rhine are none of his; but on the other hand there is no vivacity or picturesqueness belonging to the successful leader of men on the west side of that classic stream that he does not possess in abundance. In performance he is quite as Gallic as Boulanger ever was; and though he is a stranger to the Tuilleries, his temperament is far more characteristic of that royal abode than would be a Bourbon or a Bonaparte or than is he himself in the palace at Potsdam. He has the lively elements of a wine drinker rather than the heaviness of a beer drinker. He is sensational to the point of rashness; and if he keeps his own advisers in a stew as to his mental outbreaks, he at least evokes the applause of a spectacle-loving world by the surprises he has ever in store.

The Boston Herald extracts from Napoleon's history the fact that that conqueror in carrying away the sword and helmet of Frederick the Great from Prussia to Paris, excused himself by saying that in heart and brain Frederick was a Frenchman more than a German. If this is measurably true of the founder of Prussia's greatness, it is almost wholly so of his successor. With a less stolid people his claim of divine right to rule would hardly be necessary to make him a popular idol in whose pursuit men would march enthusiastically to death. A nation easily fired by daring coups and thrilling appeals to sentiment and pride would follow his leadership to glory or

extinction. His egotism amounts to sublimity, and the French rather like that sort of thing. He is a profound believer in himself and in his destiny, which, with the Latin races generally, is the one great requisite in obtaining the faith and devotion of others. With the more sluggish Teutons such a personality is not so disturbing, and the fact contributes materially to the present peace of Europe. If William were king or emperor of France, or even president of the republic, diplomacy could hardly hope to meet the problems that would arise. His is the mailed rather than the velvet hand; and something more effective than words is needed to breast the red billows of war.

ANOTHER FALSCHHOOD NAILED.

The readers of the NEWS have lately been treated to various newspaper dispatches, false in nearly every essential particular, describing the evil treatment accorded Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Southern States. The motive which prompts the sending out of these lying reports we need not now stop to investigate; it is enough to know that save in very rare instances the Elders are well treated, their labors are meeting with much success, and that even the local press and clergy are sufficiently in touch with the popular feeling to accord them a hospitable welcome. It is therefore easy to prove the falsity of the reports to the contrary, and the surprising thing is that the promptness and completeness with which this has almost invariably been done, does not deter the sensation-mongers from their disreputable and unwholesome work.

A recent case in point is a special telegram appearing in the Cincinnati Tribune, which refers to the persecution directed against Elders belonging to the West Virginia conference. We have already exploded more than one story as to indignities perpetrated upon our missionaries in that state and vicinity, but the press correspondent appears to be still unterrified and unregenerate in his falsifying. In the present instance the clipping from the Cincinnati paper was referred from this city to Elder Elias Kimball, president of the Southern States mission, who submits in reply a letter from Elder W. E. Rydalen, president of the West Virginia conference, adding that: "You will be gratified to know that our Elders are receiving kind treatment from the people in that part of the mission and that the story told in the clipping is made out of whole cloth." His letter from Elder Rydalen, dated Jan. 9, is as follows:

Yours of Jan. 4th, with a clipping from the Cincinnati Tribune, at hand. After conference the Elders left for their fields of labor on Tuesday, Nov. 26th, one pair going to Martin county, Kentucky, the alleged scene of the disturbing of two "Mormon" preachers. Now in regard to the article. We have no Elders in the West Virginia conference by the name of Daniel Jones and Samuel J. Smith; the brethren laboring in Martin county are Herbert W. Beers, of Manassah, Colorado, and Fred G. Warnick, of Deseret, Millard county, Utah. Instead of working secretly, they went first to the county seat, Inez, where their mail is received, and where they had been tend-