

trolled chiefly by impulse, and sensational impulse at that, never seem to take into consideration. Look at the other side, or rather our side. We have a greater number of craft, it is true, and a still greater number of guns, while of course our resources as to men, money and the ability to procure the other needful things to carry on a war are immeasurably superior to those of Spain. This is the best we can say. Our sailors and fighting men never have, with but very few exceptions smelt hostile powder or even trained a gun in the direction of an enemy's flag. The veterans of the late war have largely passed away, and of those who remain a great percentage are too far advanced in years to be efficient.

France lost its struggle with Germany not because of lack of men able and willing to fight, not for want of skilled and experienced leaders, but because of Louis Napoleon's impetuosity and short-sightedness, causing him to declare war at a time when his armies, like ours, existed chiefly on paper. Germany was prepared, and her forces swept across the Rhine and then on to Paris with the irresistible force of an avalanche. We are in no need of any French experience of that kind in this country, and there is no reason why we should have any, albeit if the inconsiderate had their way we would for a time be in danger of just such reverses as France had from first to last. Of course, we should gather strength and skill as we went along, and eventually the Spanish nation would be on its knees begging for mercy; but there is no necessity for paying any such price for that result as the jingoes would impose on us.

It is not to be inferred from this that the really existent but inorganized power of this land is underestimated, or that under any circumstances or through fear of whatever consequences a blow at our national honor should pass unavenged. It simply means that while we are in a dignified way getting at bottom facts, we are at the same time making all needed preparations—which are considerable—for any emergency. Is not this line of action greatly to be preferred?

POLITICAL ETHICS.

The man who is honored and trusted by his party by being placed in charge of a campaign, deems his duty done and his labors finished as soon as the ballots are counted. Even if his party is successful, he does not assume to control the policy of the officers who have been chosen by the people, the presumption being that their official course has been sufficiently determined in advance by the platform upon which they have stood, and that they hold themselves responsible to the voters in the matter of adhering to it. Much less does a defeated candidate seek to direct the successful ones on the same ticket.

Such are the rules of elevated political ethics as observed in every state in the Union, and in every municipality in every state, with rare exceptions. The campaign chairman and the defeated candidate who assume to control the officers that have been elected are regarded as bosses, with all the odium that the term implies, and where bossism has not gained ascendancy over the self-respect and moral tone of party leaders, the individuals referred to are not permitted to manipulate the men who have been made the servants of the people.

It is to be profoundly regretted that a higher ethical status has not been maintained in political circles in this city than is now prevailing. Instead of this the wholesome rules above stated are being flagrantly violated. It

is charged, and so far as the "News" knows, without contradiction from the puerile creatures who dance to the party music as piped by the personages referred to, that a campaign chairman and the defeated head of his ticket are having a good deal more to do with the management of municipal affairs than are any two of the men that were elected by the party. At least some of the latter are cutting much the same figure that puppets do which jump when a string is jerked.

The City Council is practicing extremely bad politics. Under every rule of political ethics relating to the matter, the man whom the people elected Mayor is charged with responsibility for the results of the administration, and being so charged is entitled to select his own subordinates and associates from among such of his fellow citizens as are friendly to him and will work in harmony with his policy; only for a cause involving trustworthiness has the Council the right to reject a nomination made by the Mayor; but instead of these principles being observed, the Council is rejecting or hanging up the Mayor's appointments for purely political reasons, or motives still worse.

The "News" has good ground for asserting that the caucus of City Council members which has laid out and is pursuing a policy of obstruction and coercion in reference to Mayor Clark is disrupting the party it claims to represent. A numerous and powerful element within that party is intensely opposed to the fatuous and bullheaded course of certain members of the Council, a fact that will be fully demonstrated in due time.

The universal desire of taxpayers and citizens at the last election was that the city might be given a business administration, free from the juggling and wrangling of petty politicians. Mayor Clark has repeatedly and abundantly shown his desire to give the city precisely such a government as this during his term. He has obliterated party lines, and has even gone among men who worked against his election, in selecting appointees; and not in one single instance has the Council advanced a valid reason for refusing to confirm. These facts are notorious; they are fully realized by the people; and they give good promise of being made the ground of such a public censure as will destroy the political machine that stubborn and short-sighted men, wearing a little brief authority, have constructed for ulterior purposes of their own; and the destruction of the machine means the consignment to oblivion of its supporters and adherents.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

The present time is certainly remarkable for the general prevalence of disturbances in the political atmosphere. Even making allowance for the part played by "yellow journalism," the condition is best characterized as one of "wars and rumors of wars."

The situation in eastern Asia has almost been lost sight of for the events in Cuba, where American interest has been centered the past few weeks, although the probability is that thunders of war are more likely to burst forth there than nearer at home. Now, however, attention is again called to China, partly by the alarm prevailing on the London stock exchange, affecting nearly all kinds of securities, and partly by rumors that the division of China is in actual progress. The disturbances in the commercial centers of the world are believed to be among the most alarming features. Stock exchanges are regarded as pretty reliable barometers, indicating coming storms. During the previous war scares, accom-

panying the action of the powers in China, the European bourses remained firm. The loss of the equilibrium in London at the present time gives emphasis to the conviction said to be entertained there that the peace of the world now can be preserved only by a miracle.

The situation seems to be that Russia is making encroachments on Chinese territory on so large a scale that the jealousy of Japan is aroused. The latter country realizes that the fruits of her victory are being taken from her one by one, and that the only way of securing for herself the real benefits of her conquests is by another victorious war. It is believed that the Mikado is preparing for this, and that his next military enterprise will be directed toward Russia. In that event England can hardly remain inactive. War between Japan and Russia would in all probability be the signal of the great European conflagration believed to be the unavoidable outcome of the present political combinations.

FISH AND GAME PROTECTION.

The fish and game law passed by the late Legislature provides in section 28 a general penalty, consisting of a fine of from \$5 to \$300, or imprisonment of from 5 to 30 days, or both, for violation of any of the provisions of the act except section 14; which section reads as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or take any fish from the waters of the State by the use of any poison, deleterious or stupefying drug, giant-powder or quick-lime, or any explosive substance whatever, or to place or to use in or on the surface of such waters, any giant powder, quick-lime or any explosive substance, or any poison, deleterious or stupefying drug, or to have in his possession any fish killed or taken by the use or aid of any of these substances. Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions in this section shall be fined in any sum not less than one hundred dollars for each offense, or imprisoned in the county jail not less than ninety nor more than one hundred and twenty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

It may be known to the public generally, as it undoubtedly is to law-breakers particularly, that in this county the fish and game protective association has been paying rewards out of its own treasury for convictions of violation of the provisions of this law. It is safe to say that at least fifty offenders have been brought to trial and punishment under this stimulus, who would have escaped had not the association's standing reward served as an additional inducement to detectives. That the whole nefarious business of violating this beneficent law has not been rendered more odious and perilous than it is, is due to the fact that in almost every instance the courts and public prosecutors have shown a lack of zeal and sternness in enforcing its provisions. The dockets will hardly show a case where more than the minimum fine has been imposed; and this is so small that those unlawfully inclined have felt emboldened to take the risk of capture and conviction by reason of the ease with which they could escape the law's meshes. The result is that while the willingness and determination of the protective association are in no wise abated, it finds itself impoverished by the frequent calls for the payment of the promised rewards. This reflects poorly upon the official activity and energy of those whose duty is to enforce the law. In the first place, rewards should have hardly been necessary, or, if offered at all, should have had to be