

of the opinion that the three mills should go to the Territory. This is a demand of present conditions that cannot fail to be recognized by every fair minded person who is conversant with the situation. It is perfectly proper in flush business times to require the wealthier and more thickly populated parts of the country to aid in bearing the burdens of the other portions until such times as they have strength to go alone. But when the centers of business and population are stricken with financial paralysis such as they are at present until they are the weaker and more heavily burdened of the two, it is only the part of manhood and justice that the rural districts should make a sacrifice to carry their own loads for a while, even though they may not be in a situation to render aid to the others. It is an undeniable fact that the mass of the people, the home-owners in the thickly settled districts, are much more closely crowded by taxes today than are those in the rural districts. With a very large proportion the burdens are grievous to be borne, because of the situation in which they are necessarily placed by reason of their being taxpayers in centers of population. Would it be justice, would it be humanity to make the load heavier still? Or would it be the better course for the country school districts to make some extra effort and sacrifice at the present time in the way of local taxation for local educational needs?

The NEWS is strongly averse to going into debt, realizing that it is a burden both upon ourselves and those who succeed us; but sometimes the involving of such an obligation is a necessity. In the situation of our Territory at present, however, we believe the only wise course is to observe strict economy. The same rule should be also applied in municipal affairs. Works that are necessary for the public good should be continued and their administration carefully conducted. But because Salt Lake has had its borrowing capacity extended is no justification for involving the city in greater financial straits. The load is already too great, yet some borrowing to keep public works going will be necessary even now. But there are a good many proposed expenditures that are either wholly unnecessary now or are greatly in excess of present needs. These should be promptly checked. The present city administration was elected on a platform of reform in municipal expenditure, and the citizens expect from it, as fully as has been pointed out in the case of the Territory and its legislators, that a policy of firm, wholesome retrenchment be inaugurated and carried out until we are again on a sound financial basis.

MEDICINE AND FAITH CURE.

It is perhaps true that every well-governed commonwealth, under present conditions, needs laws regulating the practice of medicine, for the preservation of the lives of those who are afflicted with sickness; and no fault can be found if such laws are framed so as to secure to the people only the best skill obtainable. There was a time when the best thing a sick person could

do was to take a prominent position in a much frequented place, where any passer-by might suggest a remedy, to be tried for better or worse. But that primitive stage of medical practice belongs to the dim past and can no longer be looked upon as the ideal. Before the physician of today lies ages of experience carefully recorded; he has access to the results of the clear observations and deep thought of thousands who have trodden the path before him. The public justly expects him to know something and it has a perfect right to guard itself as far as practicable against the imposition of the snobs of the profession. "Mistakes" of doctors are generally serious and often disastrous.

But while the necessity of a sound medical law will not be here disputed, any attempt to encroach upon a territory not properly belonging to medical practice will justly be resisted. It is proposed, we understand, to bring before the Legislature at an early date a measure stamping even healings by faith as a crime. Section eleven of the proposed bill is directed against "any person who shall practice medicine or surgery according to the theory known as 'vitapath' or 'faith cure,'" and also against "any person or persons who shall sell or offer to sell any medicine or nostrum of any kind." That section should not be allowed to stand as it is. It may not be the intention of the framers of the law to strike at the religious observance known as the laying on of hands for the healing of the sick, but the wording of the section is such as to leave the intention at least doubtful, and an Elder who performs that sacred ordinance may as a result some day find himself under arrest for violation of the medical law. There is probably no danger that such a measure will pass the scrutiny of our lawmakers. It would be a usurpation on the part of the law of a power that does not belong to it, inasmuch as such remedies as faith and prayer evidently cannot be construed as belonging to medicine. This point was settled years ago in the Swiss courts, when the medical faculty prosecuted Dorothea Trudel for healing the sick by faith and prayer. The interpreters of the law took sides against the doctors. It is idle to revive the question in this Territory.

What the law should aim at is to prevent ignorant as well as better informed persons from experimenting with human lives. To gain this end, as far as it can be gained by law, the handling of poisonous medicines and the instruments of surgery should be restricted to those who have by study and practice acquired the knowledge necessary. To these points the law should confine itself exclusively. Medicines that are harmless should not be legislated against; nor persons, who confine themselves to the use of such remedies. We believe that when a medical law is framed on this fundamental principle it will give satisfaction to all concerned and result in much good to the people. But it must be free from every suspicion of legislation in favor of a class, must not be in the interest of any or of no school, and must establish beyond reasonable question that its purpose is simply and singly to protect the people, not to restrain them in any sense in the se-

lection of those with whom in case of disease they may wish and have the inalienable right to treat.

A CASE OF REVENUE-RAISING.

There have been some very severe remarks, and for most of them we imagine there has been plenty of foundation, concerning the exorbitant fees and expenses that the law permits the tax-collectors to extort from delinquent payers. A case was cited not long since where an extra tax (after the regular assessment had been duly paid) amounting to only a few cents, had been added to, multiplied and piled up until it aggregated more than six dollars. Many other instances, perhaps not so startling, but yet flagrant enough to suggest a thorough overhauling of the laws on the subject and a sharp rebuke to the merciless and avaricious spirit of some who act under them, will be recalled by all who have read the newspapers with attention and regularity. If out of all the ventilation the subject has received there shall come an abatement of the more grievous of the evils complained of, tax collectors may lose a little in purse but will gain in popularity, the critic's tongue will be stilled, and the public heart will be made to rejoice;—desirable objects all, and for the attainment of which the whole official family ought to be willing to labor with zeal and to promote with unanimity.

By way of another "awful example" and in order to point an effective moral and adorn an appropriate tale, we are constrained to give an instance of how they do these things in Idaho. It will immediately be seen that such information is not calculated to induce a great influx of home-makers into that ambitious state; so we shall not be accused of any speculative or improper motive in the free advertisement we are about to give.

This city is the headquarters and principal place of business of a somewhat extensive corporation which has certain small possessions in one of the southern counties of Idaho. Last year, and for several years previously, the amount of taxes on such property was between three and four dollars per annum. This year the amount was multiplied some seven times, and the collector's notice, asking for \$23.83, was sent to the company's head office. Astounded at the enormous increase, and feeling certain that a mistake had been made somewhere, the manager delayed the forwarding of his check. But if he was amazed before, he was simply paralyzed later when he received an estimate, certified to by the auditor of the county, of the costs of sale of the company's property for delinquent taxes, said sale having taken place early this month. This "estimate" is so surprising a document that we give it herewith:

Amount of original taxes.....	\$ 23 83
Ten per cent added.....	2 38
Penalty on personal property.....	50
Costs of advertising.....	1 00
Additional penalty 50 per cent on original tax.....	11 91
Filing and entering certificate of sale.....	50
Making estimate of costs.....	2 00
Treasurer's deed.....	2 00

Total.....\$ 44 12

What does the esteemed reader think of that little effort at revenue-