

have proceeded otherwise would have been grossly unfair to Elder Roberts. Our Ogden friend's definition of justice seems to be to allow 'him all the say-so, with no opportunity for the other party in interest to have a hearing before the public tribunal at the same time, or until such a late date as would do him serious injustice.]

### PUBLIC PRINTING AND ECONOMY.

As regularly as a legislative session opens, more or less is said, often by inexperienced members, about economy in the public printing. Now there are certain things that have to be printed, in compliance with law and to avoid expense; and there need be no difficulty in determining what these things are.

The legislative journals are required by the Constitution to be printed, and interests and welfare of the people demand that they be given the contents of certain public documents, prepared with great labor and embracing valuable information. Not embracing valuable information. Not to print these documents would be to throw away much labor and useful knowledge, and would be a disregard of real economy.

Before a bill of any length is read in full, in open session, for examination as to its adoption, it ought to be printed. No thoughtful consideration can be given to it by members who merely bear its words pronounced rapidly, and have not copies on their desks; and the time consumed in such a reading, with opportunity of comparison, is almost entirely wasted. A simple operation in arithmetic will show that this wasted time costs the State more than the printing of the bill would, and in some instances many times more. Then there is the ever present danger in acting upon a measure which has not been scrutinized carefully, and such scrutiny is impracticable until the bill is in print.

A good rule is to have a bill printed as soon as it has been favorably reported by a committee, and not till then, except in special cases, or unless the adverse report of the committee be rejected. In other words, the bill should be printed preparatory to its actual consideration in open session. Under such a rule the State would be saved the cost of printing bills in which a committee could not find merit; and expensive loss of time by members of the Legislature, sure to result from an attempt to consider bills that have not been printed, would be avoided.

The time to economize in relation to public printing is when the contracts are awarded, and when the work is measured up. Too high prices should not be allowed, nor should more work be paid for than actually has been done. It is easy to guard both these points.

What public documents shall or shall not be printed at the expense of the State, is not question difficult to determine. The nature and contents of the document, its value or lack of value to the taxpayer, and the increased facility it offers to the public service, should determine the case. But there is far more room elsewhere for legislative economy than in the matter of printing, as legislators gen-

erally are much more free to confess a the close of a session than during its opening hours.

### THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.

Advices from Bombay concerning the prevalence of the dread disease, the bubonic plague, are not encouraging. It seems that a panic exists in the city, and people are leaving their homes and places of business. Mills and factories are abandoned and business streets are being deserted. Hundreds of deaths occur daily and many bodies are left unburied, often to be devoured by wild animals, because relatives and friends are afraid of touching the corpses.

The epidemic first appeared in China more than two years ago and carried off thousands of victims. It has now worked its way to India, and notwithstanding the efforts of medical men to check it, it seems to rage with unabated fury. Will it be confined to the Asiatic countries, or will it start a round of the world as it has done in former ages? A current report has it that one case has occurred in New York, although this was reported as diabetes.

Medical authority states that of all the co-operating causes of the plague, uncleanness is the most powerful, particularly the accumulation of decaying animal matter around human bodies and dwellings. Over-crowded houses with deficient ventilation is another cause favorable to the disease. These are conditions that can be removed and should receive attention before the plague is actually threatening to invade the western world.

### THE OFFICE SEEKING MANIA.

There is in the present Assembly an experienced legislator, who has studied in all the leading educational institutions of the State, is a well informed man, and well known as a stock raiser and agriculturist. He is specially familiar with the fruit and field crop interests of the State. Since the announcement of the standing committees, several of his friends have asked him why he was not given a single chairmanship. The only explanation he could make was that he did not seek any such appointment.

The fact is, an office-seeking spirit, which might be called a mania with little if any exaggeration, is sweeping over the State. The old rule, so long practiced in Utah, which compelled the office to seek the man, has been abolished, and men go about in droves, seeking place. For every vacancy of any consequence there is a clamoring crowd of applicants, while intrigue and bargaining characterize caucuses, conventions and elections.

A restoration of the old rule would be vastly to the advantage of the State, and while such a restoration may now appear like some far-off Elysian dream, at least a little can be done by men in positions of influence and authority. Take county commissioners, for example. If they would make it a rule to give place-

hunters the go-by, and make their own selections for such positions as they fill by appointment, the moral effect would be wholesome, and the people would be better served than by an opposite rule.

The fact is that the man who seeks the office is not always as suitable for it as is the man whom the office seeks; and if this maxim shall be observed by the appointing powers, in city, county and State, the result will be highly beneficial, and the pernicious disposition to seek provender at the public crib will be checked.

### AGAINST CRYING EVILS.

The now famous Seely incident in New York, when society swells paid soubrettes for dancing at a dinner party, in an almost nude condition, reveals to teachers of morality, particularly at least, the condition toward which modern society is sinking, and some of them have lifted a warning voice against the peril approaching this nation, unless a halt is called before long. Among these preachers of repentance is Mr. Moody.

In a sermon held at the Academy of Music, New York, he did not hesitate to say that the nation is decaying. "We are going the way of Babylon and Nineveh and Rome. And we are going down under the polite name of art." He then suggested that all indecent pictures and statues be gathered up and set fire to. "What is needed," he argued, "is to keep the minds of youth from dwelling on evil. If you have nude pictures on the walls of your homes, go and tear them down. Smash them to pieces; make a bonfire of them. And if there is any city on this side of Babylon that needs it, it is New York. The way to begin it is to get all the pictures that are lewd in one huge pile, tear rich paintings from your walls and from the art galleries, collect the newspapers in which are portraits of the nude, and make of all of them a huge bonfire in Fifth avenue."

Another noted evangelist takes up the cudgel in a similar manner. Speaking about pugilism this gentleman exclaims:

That in the latter days of what we are often pleased to call an enlightened century, on the most famous street in the leading city on the American continent, it should be lawful to slug a man to death for the amusement of men who pay so much a head to see the show, is horrible and revolting in the extreme. If these two men had met on the street outside, of their own motion, and fought, and one had died, the survivor would have been held guilty of manslaughter and sent to the penitentiary. But under the peculiar refinements of brutality in our law this kind of killing is given over by license to special societies, who make money out of the exhibition. Can it be that we have got so accustomed to seeing killing done by law under the licensed liquor saloon that we are now transferring it to other departments?

He then refers to the Seely incident in the following language:

If this vile revel had been given in some low dance house by some ignorant thug who knew no better one would understand it. But the horrible thing