

Lebanon Express.

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Editor - and - Proprietor.

City Election.

The program for the coming city election is still undeveloped, so far as the candidates are concerned. There is some talk of a straight-out prohibition ticket and one or two others. Nothing seems to be settled. The usual amount of fault-finding with the manner of conducting the city government is heard. The burden of the song is, that the present council has failed to suppress gambling and to properly restrain the sale of liquor. In other words, men gamble and men drink—therefore the council has not done its duty. Let us see. There are two saloons in the city. These saloons, according to the stringent requirements of a law, introduced in the Legislature by a strong temperance member, presented to the council a petition, signed by a majority of the legal voters of the city, asking the granting of license to the applicant. Upon the execution of a sufficient bond and the payment of the required cash, the council granted license. Thus far the council acted in accord with the wishes of the majority.

Upon the book of city ordinances will be found strict laws containing penalties for the wrongful sale of liquor and for gambling. To enforce these laws there is a Marshal, a Recorder and a City Attorney. The Recorder cannot punish an offender until he is brought before him; the City Attorney cannot prosecute an offender until a complaint is made; the Marshal cannot arrest until he sees an offense committed, or has reasonable grounds to believe that the same has been done, based upon the information of a reliable witness. To arrest without having witnesses to prove guilt would be to put the city to great expense and to bring disrepute upon our laws. No one will contend that the Marshal—much less the other city officials—should constitute himself a detective to work up evidence against alleged law-breakers. His oath of office does not require it. And again, if a raid was made, it would probably result as did a former raid made by strict temperance men. Within the last few months a strict temperance advocate and a worthy church-member has been on the police force, and by his action, if not by his expressed opinion, he was unable to procure evidence of violation of our laws. No one would dare hint that he was in sympathy with gamblers and bar-rooms. Then it is not a question of the Marshal's wishes, but of his ability to secure evidence, yet people say that gambling is rampant and violations of the liquor law are frequent. If those who know this

truth would make a complaint we believe the city officials would at once put in motion the machinery of the law, and if possible punish the guilty parties. Instead of fault-finding let those who know of violations of the law come forward and help convict. If then the city officials connive at the acquittal of the offenders, let the same official be themselves prosecuted. If, on the other hand, the integrity of the city officials be doubted, let the knowing ones go before the grand jury and procure indictments against the gamblers and bar-tenders. There is another side to the liquor question. Men cannot be made sober and moral by law. That is the duty and the privilege of the churches of which we have many, and of temperance societies, of which we have—how many? One.

No temperance cannot be benefited by mixing it with politics. Let the two parties put forward their best men for the places, and let all good citizens assist in convicting law-breakers. Spread the influence of the Christian religion over the gambler and the drunkard and they, like the great reformer, Luther Benson, will be sound, moral men, but not by abuse

of the single

Does it pay to spend thousands of dollars annually for canned fruit brought in from abroad while our own fruit rot for want of a market? Linn county people should think this over.

Advertisers who know their business never waste money on newspapers which are without a general circulation. Space in such papers would be dear at any price.

Don't stop reading your home paper! A Michigan editor gives this timely warning: "One man discontinued the Six on Monday and promptly on the next day his horse ran away with him, giving him a narrow escape from death. Other people should govern themselves accordingly."

When you come to town subscribe for the home paper. It will do its best to give you the home news, and it will be with you in storm and cloud as well as in the sunshine. It will make you feel better to be a subscriber yourself; then you will not borrow from your neighbor. You will be too proud.

Now that another American girl, in the person of Senator Mitchell's daughter, is to wed a foreigner, it is time to demand that a heavy duty be levied upon all imported husbands, unless it can be shown that they are all wool and a yard wide. And why is it that so few American boys go abroad for their wives? Is it because they are more patriotic than their sisters, or because they have a greater endowment of common sense?—Spokane Review.

It is not often that preachers and saloon keepers are found working together, or even on similar lines for the accomplishment of the same object; but such is the case in the effort being made to have the World's Fair close on Sunday. The saloon keepers of Chicago want the fair closed Sundays because then thousands of people who otherwise would be at the fair would go to the

saloons. The preachers want it closed because they think to open it would be Sabbath desecration. Bishop Grafton, a Wisconsin churchman, is one of those who believe the people would be better off at the fair than at the saloons.—Ex.

The question as to whether the railroad commission can exercise its functions properly while inspecting the roadbeds of the roads running through the state, in a special train furnished by the company whose lines are undergoing inspection, is worthy of more than passing notice. It is almost as delicate an undertaking as criticising mine host's wines at a banquet of his own providing. Any report the commissions might make would be subject to the objection that half had not been told, out of consideration for their entertainer's feelings. The alleged "inspection" of commissioners is not satisfying enough. It reminds one of the innocence of the church committee appointed to investigate an erring sister's shortcomings. To make assurance doubly sure before reporting, the committee took tea with the accused and in the course of conversation, asked her point blank if there was any truth in the assertion; after which they exultantly reported to the vestry that the lie was built out of whole cloth and that the sister was like Caesar's wife, above suspicion.—Jacksonville Times.

J. E. Adams, the new jeweler, will have some nice holiday goods, such as Ladies' and Gents' watches and vest chains, fine gold rings, fine lace pins, earrings, &c. Goods will arrive about Dec. 15th. All goods will be at strictly eastern prices.

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