

**POWER OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT.** The greatest power in America today is public sentiment.

Temperance workers, with the best intentions in the world, overlook this important element in government, and seek to force the citizens of their own community to conform to the code of morals adopted by other communities, the inevitable result being friction, and ceaseless agitation. This is true, simply because it is true. Local sentiment prevails in Kansas today, and regulates the liquor traffic there, as it does in Nebraska. The municipal campaigns there are fought upon the "wet or dry" issue as they are here. For example, at Solomon, a mayor was elected upon the following platform:

"Resolved, That the election of the nominees on the above platform we deem a repeal of the prohibitory law so far as Solomon is concerned."

In other parts of the state campaigns were carried on with license as the leading issue, and it is fair to say that in Kansas today local public sentiment rules, as it does in Nebraska; rules as it does where cattlemen club thousands of the sheep men's charges to death, without fear of prosecution; rules as it does where negroes are burned at the stake, and the crime is unavenged; as it ruled when Barrett Scott was brutally murdered at the side of the wife who believed him innocent and his slayers, though proven guilty, could not be punished; as it has always ruled everywhere, and always will, unless the prohibitionists succeed in reversing nature, and forcing a reform upon people who think they know what they want, and how, when and where they want it. It is easy to argue that murders are committed, and murder is against the law; but did you ever know a man to run for office on a platform containing a murder plank? The difference is that in all communities murder is condemned, and every effort made to prevent it; but in many vicinities the liquor traffic is upheld and it is impossible to punish offenders, even impossible for a man who would punish to hold any office, for those who like the saloons do not hesitate to speak their sentiments, nor do they neglect to vote against any man who would be guilty of enforcing the law. Did you ever know a man to be opposed, perhaps defeated, because he threatened to punish murder or robbery?

The moral effect of these failures is extremely bad and brings the law into disrepute. Therefore, the real mission of temperance workers is to educate the people to look upon the

traffic with disfavor. That accomplished, a law will follow of its own accord, and when it comes it will not be proclaimed a dead letter. To pass the law first, and educate the community afterwards is getting the equine behind the vehicle.

**CAR FAMINE.** In spite of the very large additions that have been made to the equipments of railroads everywhere, there is a belief in many quarters that this year is to see the greatest blockade of freight the country has ever experienced. The warning comes from the eastern lines. Pittsburg seems to be the center of trouble. The traffic of the Pittsburg district is something western people do not appreciate. There are said to be more cars and engines in use within 150 miles of Pittsburg than in any one state of the union. In this district railroad managers are now facing a congestion that is without precedent. Some of the things they have before them there are 20,000,000 tons of ore to be moved; 12,000,000 tons of coal; 10,000,000 tons of steel products to be turned out by one concern alone; 20,000,000 tons of other iron and steel products; 10,000 cars of brick and tile; 100,000 new freight cars and 5,000 new locomotives. Added to this is the prospect of the United States having to feed the old world this year, and the certainty of an enormous increase in the agricultural output of the west, much of which must pass through this whirlpool of iron. Conditions are much the same everywhere; and this explains the feverish haste of all the roads to be doubling their tracks, shortening their lines, lowering grades and increasing their motive power. All this of course means heavier rail, better ballast, stronger bridges and increased shop facilities. There are lively times ahead for railroad men everywhere.

**OPINION MOLDERS.** Editors are the molders of public opinion, but there seems to be something the matter with the molds this spring. The triumph of "Bathhouse John" Coughlin in Chicago, in the face of bitter newspaper opposition, the remarkable success of Mayor Reed of Kansas City, who was elected by an overwhelming majority though opposed by the Journal, Star and Times, Kansas City's leading papers, and the many other instances wherein practical politicians more than offset the efforts of the press, seem to indicate that the power of newspapers in municipal elections is at the low ebb, perhaps because power used is power abused.

**HEATHEN IS PECULIAR.** It seems that there was absolutely no foundation for the suspicion that Wu Ting Fang had misappropriated certain of the imperial funds. From an Oriental standpoint the fact that he had a chance to steal was taken as conclusive evidence that he had stolen, and the throne was so informed. It has been, before this, remarked that "the heathen Chinese is peculiar."

**SUGGESTIVE.** Mr. Payne, the republican leader, finds it impossible to discuss Cuba and sugar, without ringing in annexation. This gentleman's opinion is no idle gossip. Fresh from a council of his party managers, he asserts that Cuba will ultimately be dragged into the union, with the tariff rope. As one card after another is uncovered it becomes more and more apparent that "our sacred duty" is to be forgotten, and "moral obligations" ignored.

**BUYING TROUBLE.** A Kansas organization known as the Farmers' Co-operative Association is endeavoring to secure a railroad, which its members foolishly think they need. They should take the advice of other Kansans, of riper experience, who have learned to say "blank the railroads" without stuttering, and let the blood-sucking corporations go their own way. Kansas hills may be long, and hard to climb with a load of produce, but as these gentlemen can easily learn by listening to the growls of a certain brand of statesmen, to them a railroad would be like Robinson Crusoe's "miserable deliverance."

**COMING.** Miss Stone has landed in America. Secure your tickets! The foot which trod the stony trails of Bulgaria's mountain fastnesses, now treads the pavement of an American city. The hand which guided the meek-countenanced mule through the ravines and over the peaks of a foreign and hostile district, may be even now writing a magazine article. The identical person who threaded the by-ways of the earth in an endeavor to save the heathen, having by a misstep stumbled awkwardly into public notice, has decided to let the heathen save himself from now on; which induces a great many to believe that the size of a missionary's salary subtracted from her earning capacity in other work, gives the amount of her solicitude for the heathen, if she continues to labor with and for him; if she deserts him, the public is left to draw its own conclusions.