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M. C. LARKY, Editor and Publisher.

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In asking for broader powers of local self-government Chicago is not making a demand for anything unusual. Her proposed new charter will not be an innovation. At the same time it will be nothing more than the powers and authority enjoyed by every large city in the United States. It will be nothing more than what Chicago had prior to the adopting of the present constitution.

Perhaps it may be that the people of Illinois generally are not aware that the other large cities of the Union have no township governments and no townships, that most of the other large cities have minor control at a different level than that of justice of the peace and constables, but these things should be generally known by the voters. They should know also that there is not another city of importance in the Union that can not use its credit to a reasonable extent. This Chicago is absolutely forbidden to do by the terms of the constitution which limits the debt of cities in the state to 5 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property within the corporate limits. Now with the momentary limitation placed on the amount of indebtedness which they can incur, but in no other state is it so restrictive as in Illinois. This came about through the revenue law and a decision of the supreme court that the 5 per cent limit applies to the assessed valuation of one-fifth instead of the full valuation of property. At Chicago is up to the limit with a very small public debt.

No other city has so many taxing boards and sub-municipalities. New York, Philadelphia, Boston, St. Louis—all have more adequate charters, and they get better results out of their revenues. Even with the notorious corruption of most of these places they are in better shape today as regards public improvements than Chicago is. In other words, the people of these cities have more to show for their taxes than Chicago has. From every point of view Chicago is justified in seeking changes in her governmental system by way of a new charter and the constitutional amendment. Nothing whatever can be gained by a state in not granting these requirements. On the other hand, the state would to some degree be the loser by a refusal. If the amendment is not carried the people of Chicago will try again. There will be the same struggles with the legislature as heretofore, and bills from other parts of the state will stand just so much less chance of being passed. These facts are well known by prominent men the state over. Republicans, Democrats and Prohibitionists alike favor the amendment for the reasons given. The proposition should be well received because it is good policy as well as being right.

FAVORED BY ALL PARTIES

The Constitutional Amendment— Voters Should All Cast Their Ballots for It. It is a very unusual thing to have the Republican, Democratic and Prohibition parties of a state adopt the same plank in each of their platforms. This has occurred in Illinois this year. The plank is one endorsing the pending constitutional amendment, which applies only to the city of Chicago, and which, if ratified by the voters in November, will open the way for a new charter for that city. Besides endorsements in their platforms, all of these political parties are instructing their campaign speakers throughout the state to call special attention to the amendment and advise the electors to vote affirmatively for it. It would seem as if this ought to assure its adoption, but as a constitutional measure must have a majority of all the votes cast in the state it is not such a sure thing. Every effort is being made by the Chicago new charter campaign committee to inform the voters as to the purpose of the amendment. There is no opposition, but lack of information and indifference is some times more fatal than antagonism. The proposition will be the first on the special ballot, and should not be overlooked.

ALL FAVOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

If the people of southern Illinois have any doubts as to how they ought to vote on the proposed constitutional amendment, such doubts will probably be overcome when they read in the St. Louis papers that the amendment is right and proper. The Chicago Democrat, the Republic, the Star, and in fact all the leading papers of St. Louis recommend the amendment to the voters of Illinois as a measure eminently reasonable and fair. This will probably have more weight with the majority of the voters in the south end of the state than anything that has been printed in the Chicago papers. St. Louis is doing her old rival a good service in this matter, which should not be forgotten.

When the cities and villages act, being the general charter governing all cities in Illinois which was passed in 1892, was enacted in 1872 under the provisions of the state constitution it contained 158 paragraphs. Amendments to it and the acts numbered over 1,000 paragraphs. This shows the inadequacy of the original act for the purpose intended. A large number of the additional acts have

been in fact in the interest of Chicago. If the pending constitutional amendment is ratified at the November election, permitting a special charter for Chicago, it will relieve the legislature of the future of a great deal of this kind of legislation.

THE TWO HEADED SNAKE.

A Don Constable That Has a Very Descriptive Tail.

Every now and then some traveler tells of a two headed snake which exists in Egypt, and whenever the narrative reader sees the snake himself he is more or less disposed to assert that there really is a snake with two heads in Egypt, because he has been told about it by many reliable persons. Indeed, sometimes a traveler who has actually caught a glimpse of the snake is likely to declare that it truly is a two headed. For the serpent certainly appears to be so when seen only by chance.

It is only when the snake is actually taken up and examined closely that the truth is revealed.

The two headed snake is not a poisonous serpent. It is only a boa constrictor, and it is fairly common. But it is so deceptive that it hides away in its sandy burrows almost constantly. It is strangely formed in so far that its tail, instead of tapering off as is usual at the tail of other snakes, does not widen out into a bludgeon shape, thus making it look so utterly unlike a tail that it is almost impossible to think that it is the tail of a snake. The head of the snake is seen by a trained observer can distinguish the real head from the tail. Thus the story of the two headed snake has obtained wide circulation, and has even crept into the books of otherwise accurate writers.

But the second "head" is only a tail after all—Exchange.

Room For Improvement.

At a dinner given by Sir Joshua Reynolds, at which were present Garfield, Johnson, Fox and others. Dr. Bernier, the doctor of Derby, had asserted that after the age of forty-five a man does not improve. "I differ with you, sir," said Johnson. "A man may improve, and you yourself have a great room for improvement." The dean was confounded and for the instant silent. Recovering himself, he remarked, "On reflection I see no cause to alter my opinion. I do not see how I can improve for a man to grow old—while, I allow, he may—positive, rude and insolent and save arguments by brutality."

Foiled in.

"Madge, Harry asked me to marry him last night." "Oh, I am delighted," replied her friend. "How did it happen?" "Well, you see, he just asked me, and I said 'Yes,' and then he stood up and folded his arms." "Well, I never! Was he not more interested than that? Whatever did you do at such treatment?" "What could I do? You see, I was in his arms when he folded them."

Impossible.

Tommy was telling his mother about the wonderful things he saw at the country fair. When he claimed to have seen a monster pig that was bigger than his father his mother accused him of exaggeration. "It is impossible," she said.—New York Press.

Should Be General.

"Yes, sir, Charley says Miss De Witt made a perfect monkey out of him." "Has he thanked her yet for the important role she brought about?"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Too Hard.

Furmer's wife—Why have you left that piece of stank out for you? Tramp (indignantly)—I didn't ask for you, ma'am. I asked for something to eat.—Illustrated Bits.

Frankness consists in always telling the truth, but not always all the truth.—Balzac.

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White Hair. I am now over 60 years old, and I have a thick, glossy head of long hair which is as black as the hair of a young man. It is all due to Ayer's Hair Vigor. Sold for 50 years.

SHOPPING IN FEZ.

Buy Half the Price Demanded. Grab Your Goods and Go. A white visitor to Fez, in Morocco, once went shopping in the bazaars of the city accompanied by a servant of the country. This was respected, and that the shopper was not cheated by the greedy merchants. At the first shop visited the would-be customer asked to be shown something that rested on a high shelf. The merchant only yawned and said he would rather sell something from the floor, which he did. The visitor, however, insisted on the high shelf. The merchant only yawned and said he would rather sell something from the floor, which he did. The visitor, however, insisted on the high shelf. The merchant only yawned and said he would rather sell something from the floor, which he did.

AIR BRAKES.

How They Are Made and How They Are Applied on Trains. Every one has heard of the air brake, and references to it are sure to be made when the subject of passenger safety against railroad accidents is under discussion, but like many inventions in common use it is more or less of a mystery for which an explanation is demanded from time to time. The modern air brake consists of twelve parts, among which are the air pump, which compresses the air; a main reservoir, in which the air is stored; the engineer's brake valve, regulating the flow of air; the train pipe, which carries the brake valve to the triple valves under each car; the quick action triple valve, controlling the flow of air to and from the auxiliary reservoir, which is supplied from the main reservoir, and the brake cylinder piston rod, which is forced outwards, thereby applying the brakes. The theory of the air brake is the equalization of pressure. When the brakes are not in action the pressure on the train pipe is made such as to prevent an escape of air from the auxiliary reservoir. When the engineer desires to make an application of brakes he turns his brake valve so that there is a moderate reduction of the pressure in the train pipe. This causes the greater pressure in the auxiliary reservoir to force air into the brake cylinder, forcing the piston out and applying the brakes. When it is desired to release the brakes the engineer turns his valve in the opposite direction, permitting the air to flow from the main reservoir, located on the engine, into the train pipe. When the pressure thus restored in the train pipe is increased above the pressure in the auxiliary reservoir certain valves are moved, communication is thereby restored between train pipe and auxiliary reservoir, the piston is forced to its normal position, the air escapes from the brake cylinder, and the auxiliary reservoir is recharged through the train pipe. When the train breaks in two or a hose pipe connection between it has the effect of a sudden and material reduction of the pressure in the train pipe, the same as though the engineer had made an emergency application. The sudden reduction of pressure also opens supplementary valves, which increase the pressure upon the brake cylinder about 20 per cent. The brake shoes are attached to rods, which in turn are attached to the piston in such manner that when the air from the auxiliary reservoir forces the latter out, pulling over it is exerted upon the brakes.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Wags and Wapers.

The very best writing paper is made in a mill but even the higher grades there is a certain percentage of wood pulp, and the product which comes of this combination is if anything superior in look to the paper made wholly from rags. For bank note paper only clean new linen rags are acceptable. Nothing but linen will suffice, and the change from men's shirts form a considerable per cent of the raw material. A good deal, too, comes from Ireland, which can always be had at a cheap price, and is the best in the world. When you reflect on the length of time a piece of paper money lasts and the immense amount of hands that are changed, it is readily seen that no inferior elements can enter into its production.—Washington Post.

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Malay Peninsula Diet. "Probably the most varied diet in the world," said a traveler who had just returned from the Malay peninsula, "is that of the Jakuns of the See, or Orang Utau, who are the real Malay pirates. These people have about all that there is to eat, and they eat everything as it comes along. Although they have all kinds of fine fruits, at certain times of the year they eat a yam which is so poisonous that they have to grate it and mix it with water. And they seem to swallow it. In the way of flesh they eat most kinds, deer, wild pig, birds, fish, porcupines, lizards, squirrels, rats, mice and snakes. And they seem to turn from venison to rat or from wild pig to snake with equal appetite."

An English Joke. "What people are always sure of finding the biggest fish near their coast?" "Give it up." "The English, because they can always find Wales."

The New With Servants. Mrs. Wray writes: "The servant girls are as independent and as impudent as they can be. Now, I believe it's best to take a young greenhorn and train her up in the way she should go and then—Mrs. Olden—First thing you know she goes.—Philadelphia Press.

Punishment. "Tommy," said his mother, who had him across her knee, "this hurts me more than it does you." "I was afraid," said Tommy under his breath, "that har-bored I put in the seat of my trousers might hurt her hand."—Chicago Journal.

Unforgetting. "I suppose you have made it a rule in politics never to forget a friend." "There's no danger of that," answered Senator Sorghum. "If a man has done anything friendly for you in politics he never lets you forget it."—Washington Star.

No matter how a man gets a black eye, he is bound to have a guilty look along with it.—Atchison Globe.

Worth Keeping. "He asked the firm for a raise in his salary." "Did he get it?" "Yes. They consider him the most valuable man they have. You see, when he petitioned for more money he did so on the ground that he had just discovered that the firm could get along without him."—Cleveland Leader.

Woodsen Rheumatism. "And you say the rheumatism's in your left leg, colonel?" "It is, sir." "Why that's your wooden leg?" "I know it, sir," replied the colonel. "That makes it all the harder."—Atlanta Constitution.

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