

carefully denied anything like conclusive evidence as to corruption among the city officials, but the miserable dilly-dallying of Duluth's common council, with matters of vital concern to the people, can be traced only to one of two causes—corruption or unparalleled incompetence. And the business ability displayed by a majority of the aldermen in private affairs is against the latter assumption.

As to gambling, there used to be in the days of Mayor d'Au-tremont, a regular higer of amateur sports from Duluth to Superior on every pay day. Anybody, conversant with such people and their ways can tell you that such pilgrimages ceased entirely after the first week of the highly moral administration that followed, and they have never since been renewed. The fact is, so far as gambling is concerned, that save on spasmodic occasions and after due warning, few people in Duluth at all inclined to that vice, are aware that there is any law against it.

Judge Moer is to be commended for his vigorous instructions. There is great occasion for them, and it is to be hoped that the grand jury will follow his advice faithfully to the bitter end.

A Tough Outlook.

The city campaign seems to have developed into a series of contests in which personal ambition is the only incentive. The mayor on the one side is intriguing for the election of a council that will stand in with his administration; the republican machine, on the other, is maneuvering for the recovery of its lost prestige. The only principle applicable to a city election at this time—other than the personal character of candidates—is city ownership and operation of city franchises, and this has been completely lost sight of. The issue of personal fitness unaccompanied by a principle of administration always has and

from the nature of things, always will prove a delusion. There being at stake no principle around which intelligent and conscientious citizens can rally, a scrap for a good place at the pie counter is inevitable, and in such a melee only rogues stand any show to win.

A Champion Record.

If the country got another dose of confidence like that administered by the republican victory in November, there soon wouldn't be a solvent bank left in the country. In casual reading we note over thirty banking institutions that have gone to the wall within three weeks and this number does not include them all by any manner of means.

And so it goes. The "best" banking system of late seems to have been making a champion record. A recent issue of the Chicago Express enumerates nine that had gone under on the preceding Monday. Duluth alone has had four suspensions since the middle of August, to say nothing of eight additional during the preceding few years.

It cannot be said that the agitation of free coinage has caused these failures for out of the thirty, only six occurred in states carried by Bryan in the late election, and they are all small institutions. Besides, all these failures have occurred since the great endorsement of confidence, Mark Hanna and the gold standard at the November election. If this is what our republican and gold democratic friends mean by prosperity, won't they please take it away and bring on the other thing?

A bill was introduced last winter in congress, and is said to be still pending, "to establish a bureau of military drill in the public schools of the several states and territories." Special

pleas are put forth in behalf of the measure. One is the benefit to be derived from the point of exercise. But much more actual benefit can be obtained by regular gymnastics and calisthenics. Specialists declare that military drill is defective in meeting the requirements of boys in the growing period. Some military officers are opposed to such a movement. But above and beyond all the possible benefits or defects that may arise, it should be opposed by every lover of humanity. It develops in the child-mind the spirit of murder. He soon looks upon human life as cheap. Instead of cultivating a spirit of love of an enemy, it will lead to his destruction. The gift of life is already considered of far too little value, as evidenced by the annual increase of murders, without introducing a measure of this nature into our common schools. Let the people everywhere, in the interest of humanity, protest against its adoption. Let the young mind be filled with higher aspirations than that of becoming a soldier, being filled with the war spirit, and learning to shoot his fellow man. It is useless to hold peace conventions, while at the same time we foster and encourage the war spirit in the minds of our children.

A Dead Beat Corporation.

The defeat of the Union Pacific funding bill may result in that railroad passing into the ownership of the government. While that is a result devoutly to be desired, it is one too good to be expected. The capitalistic interests in the United States have already taken alarm at such a possibility and, as a result of the defeat of the Powers bill, a scheme is already on foot to organize a syndicate and pay off the government claim. Such a result is something. Payment is away