

USUAL ANTE-ELECTION DODGE.

The periodical ante-election spasm of virtue has struck the city. It made its appearance for the season last Sunday when by instruction of the mayor the saloon men were ordered to keep their places closed on the Sabbath day and some of those who heeded not the admonition of the virtuous city administration were arrested. It is likely the wave of virtue will extend to the gambling houses and the slot machines and will endure until after the ballots have been cast next November.

This action at this time on the part of the city government is stamped deep with insincerity and is only another instance of the double dealing and duplicity which has characterized the present city government since the day it entered into office. For two years the saloons have had their doors open wide week days and Sundays without molestation. The saloon men were informed by a message direct from the mayor that they might ply their trade on Sunday without being interfered with. Formerly Sunday liquor selling was engaged in on the quiet. The thirsty ones had to gain ingress to the saloons by the back doors or sidedoors and there was a show of obeying the law. Under Mayor Morris, however, no such impediments were put in the way. The front doors of the liquor dispensaries were open on Sunday the same as on week days. Now if that was the right and expedient course to be pursued for a year and nine months, it is right now. Of course Mayor Morris was elected largely by the votes of the good people of the churches to whom he gave pledges that the law would be enforced prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sunday and that gambling would be suppressed. Like the other pledges and promises of the present administration these were entirely ignored. For 21 months they have been a dead letter, but now when Mayor Morris needs the vote of the church people to re-elect him, now on the eve of election, the mayor and his advisers make a bluff at closing the saloons on Sunday.

As to gambling the present city administration and the mayor have aided, abetted and encouraged it until now the vice has grown to alarming proportions. Besides the regular gambling houses which are known and practically licensed as such and fairly well conducted, the town is full of poker and other card games, and slot machines which are a great deal more pernicious than the regular gambling houses, because they inveigle the young and inexperienced and plant within them the seeds from which develop a love for the gambling table. These kind of games have been encouraged and fostered by the present administration. More than half the cigar stores in the business part of the city are in reality gambling houses. The sale of cigars and tobacco is merely a blind and an insignificant part of their business, while in the rear rooms their real business, gambling, is conducted. In some of these rear rooms any day may be seen from a dozen to perhaps 30 or 40 men and boys playing cards for money and frequently the stakes are high. Gambling has become such a profitable adjunct to a cigar store that it is very difficult for a cigar dealer who does a legitimate business without a "back room" to continue in business.

Then there is the slot machine abomination. These machines paying in money or in trade were installed in all the business places in town that could be induced to take them. One of the city employees had the agency for the machines and still has it under the guise of somebody else's name. This change was made necessary after Truth's exposure of the graft some

few months ago. The agent was most energetic in extending his slot machine business. He got a percentage of the profits from every machine. This was done with the knowledge and consent of the mayor and it is pretty well established that at least two members of the city council got a share of the profit from these slot machines. It is a scandalous state of affairs.

A LESSON IN ECONOMY.

One Cent Wastefulness That Endangered an Engagement.

"I have just had a great jolt," said the betrothed young man, "and incidentally a lesson in economy.

"You know, they make mailing cards nowadays that are beautiful and I have been sending daily to the object of my affection a pretty mailing card with a few words from myself on it.

"The other day I got a letter from the old man—I mean the young lady's father—saying that he would like to see me. When I went up to call on him I found him looking very solemn.

"'Young man,' he said, 'I have given my consent to your engagement to my daughter, but I shall have to withdraw it.'

"'What's the matter,' I asked.

"'You are wasteful and extravagant,' said the old gentleman. 'Look at that!'

"And he held up one of my daily postal cards. I didn't see anything until he pointed at the stamp. Then a light broke on me. The stamp was a two-center. I hadn't happened to have any one-cent stamps around, and so on all the mailing cards I had sent her I had been putting two-cent stamps.

"I had simply thrown away a cent, and that had impressed the old man far from pleasantly. He could afford to spend dollars where I couldn't have spent mills, and there wasn't a mean fiber in his body, but he hadn't accumulated his money by wastefulness, and my carelessness worried him greatly.

"After a long wrestle with him I did finally persuade him to give me another trial. And now I'm sending her not one, but four mailing cards daily, with not a two but a one-cent stamp on each. I'm showing him that I can economize."

Older the Better.

"Yes," said the old man to his young visitor. "I am proud of my girls, and would like to see them comfortably married; and as I have made a little money they will not go penniless to their husbands. There is Mary, 25 years old, and a really good girl. I shall give her \$1,000 when she marries. Then comes Bet, who won't see 35 again, and I shall give her \$3,000. And the man who takes Eliza, who is 40, will have \$50,000 with her."

The young man reflected a moment and then inquired:

"You haven't one about 50, have you?"—Judge.

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