

Wants to Repeal the Law.

P. H. Journal.
The New Orleans Daily Item of yesterday published an article in which it is said that Gov. Foster is now at work making arrangements which will justify him in calling an extra session of the Legislature for the purpose of repealing the constitutional convention law. The Item says the statement is made on what it deems good authority, and says if the Governor can succeed in winning over a majority of the Legislature to the idea, that the call will be issued before July of this year. It says that the Governor is afraid of the convention and the work it might do. This is a very serious matter and if the Governor should pursue the course indicated he will stir up a tempest that will cause him no end of trouble. The people have made up their minds to have the convention and to deny them that right, after the matter has gone so far, would be a shame and an outrage which they would hardly submit tamely.

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A Great Moral Wave.

Times-Democrat.

The moral wave sweeping over this country, just now attended with crank legislation, is becoming steadily more oppressive and restrictive. The drift is decidedly towards offensive puritanism and the laws and practices of the dark ages. It is, perhaps, to be expected that the cigarette should "catch it" in the Legislature, for it is without friends; but then could there be any graver freak law than the provision adopted by the Chicago Council prohibiting the sale and smoking of cigarettes within limit of 200 feet of a school. If the cigarette is unhealthy and dangerous, and there seems to be a great deal of exaggeration on this point, it should be prohibited, instead of having absurd conditions attached to it.

Still more retrograde is the Wilcox bill, being so strongly pressed in the New York Legislature, making it a felony to play baseball on Sunday, to shoot, hunt, fish horse race, game, "or any playing or public sport, exercise or show."

If we are going back to the middle ages, if "playing" on Sunday is to be made a crime, fishing on that day to be prohibited, and riding a bicycle to become a felony, then, indeed, is this country in danger from the excessively virtuous and moral spasm which started a few years ago. Let us hope that the people will be allowed to become highly moral on their own account and without a threat of being locked up if they smile or laugh on the Sabbath.

PROCLAMATION.

Be it known that I, the undersigned, Mayor of the town of St. Martinville, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby issue this proclamation ordering that all qualified voters of the Town of St. Martinville, to meet at the Guard House, in said town, on the first Monday of April 1897, it being the 5th day of said month; then and there, to elect according to the laws of the state, Five Trustees, for the Town of St. Martinville, for the term of one year.

In faith whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially at St. Martinville, Parish of St. Martin, this 3rd day of March 1897. T. J. LABBE, Mayor.

THE HIGH WATER.

Times-Democrat.

The present high water wave will probably pass down and out of the Mississippi in much shorter time than heretofore. It takes a comparatively little time for its crest to pass from Cairo to the Gulf, but in the past, it has always been interfered with and delayed in part by the breaks in the levees or crevasses. The overflow water ran off into the swamps, whence it returned through the Red, White, Yazoo or other stream weeks afterward, delaying the flood wave and keeping the river up much longer than it otherwise would be. If, however, the breaks are closed, as they have been of late, the levees are raised and properly maintained, and no crevasses occur, the velocity of the river is increased and we not only get rid of the water in a much shorter time than otherwise, but it operates more effectually in cutting out and deepening the channel.

The advices from Cairo state that the crest of the high water has passed that point. The river is rising from there down and will continue to rise for some time, but there is little chance of any greater water from above Cairo. The water is cold there and the rains have ceased. As for rains along the lower Mississippi, they do a minimum of harm, as only a small fraction of the fall finds its way into the Mississippi, the bulk of it reaching the Gulf through Lake Pontchartrain, the Atchafalaya, the Lafourche and other streams.

Major Startling, of the Yazoo-Mississippi Levee District, the

first that will have to stand the high water wave, has no apprehension of the result. He finds the levees as strong on the Louisiana and Arkansas side of the river as on the Mississippi side, and believes that they will allow the water to pass without delay or accident. From Greenville down the levees are being thoroughly inspected and put in order, and there is every reason to believe that they can stand the high water as well as those in the Yazoo-Mississippi district.

The outlook is encouraging, but there is always the danger that there may be some point of weakness in the levees concealed from view, and disclosed only by the pressure of the water. That the levees are high enough for the present rise we know. The chief point of defense will be to watch out for all weak points to strengthen them whenever it becomes time. If we can arrange and perfect this system of defense there will be no cause of alarm from the present high water.

From Cripple Creek.

After the big fire in Cripple Creek, I took a very severe cold and tried many remedies without help, the cold only becoming more settled. After using three small bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, both the cough and cold left me, and in this high altitude it takes a meritorious cough remedy to do any good.—G. B. HENDERSON, editor Daily Advertiser. For sale by T. J. Labbe.

SENATE FORECAST.

Washington, March 14.—Vice-President Hobart will rap the Senate to order at noon to-morrow for the beginning of the work of the Fifty-fifth Congress.

The week does not promise to be a busy one in the Senate, except in the event that the arbitration treaty between this country and Great Britain is considered. The chairman of the foreign relations committee said to-day that he would force the question of ratification to as speedy a termination as it would be possible. The treaty will be considered in executive session. There will be considerable opposition to it even in its amended form, but the friends of the treaty assert that they will not be exceeding twenty opposing votes when the final result is announced.

Some nominations are expected on Monday, and there may be a brief executive session to permit their reference to committee. A number of bills, a majority of which will be those which failed in the last Congress, will be introduced during the week, but as none of them can be taken up until they receive committee action, there will be but little or no legislative work. The President's message is expected Monday.

Considerable time during the week will be spent by the committees of the various parties in the Senate in an effort to reach a harmonious adjustment of the Senate committees. There is now talk of an agreement to fill all vacancies except those existing in the committees on finance and appropriations. Both these committees are, fortunately, quite equitably adjusted, and it is feared that an effort to supply the vacancies might result in bad feeling and an entanglement which the Republicans desire to avoid on the eve of the tariff fight.

There is occasional reference to changes in the elective offices in the Senate, and there is no prospect of a controversy over this point at the present time.

The Senate and the Gag Rule.

States.

The extra session of the Fifty-fifth Congress begins to-day, and the indications are that the week

in Washington will be a lively one. In the House the new tariff bill will be presented this evening if it comes from the hands of the printers in time, and then it will be known how much time the Republican majority will allow for debate. In the Senate it is quite probable that Mr. Hoar's resolution amending the rules so as to limit debate will come up for consideration before the week is out, and, as its purpose is to gag the Senate and enable the Republicans to rush through any measure that they wish to become a law, a very lively discussion is promised, but the adoption of the resolution is by no means assured, because even on the Republican side there are several Senators who are opposed to any interference with the rules on the ground that the Senate is a deliberative body in which the fullest discussion should be allowed of all important measures bearing on the interests of the people, and also to prevent bills being railroaded through without any opportunity for either the Senate or the country to ascertain their true character or purpose.

Attention has been called to the fact that the freedom of debate in the Senate has prevented the passage of vicious measures of a partisan nature, and the defeat of the Force bill, which was denounced as one of the most iniquitous measures that ever crossed the threshold of the Senate, is cited as an instance, but there are others which it is not necessary to mention. The consensus of opinion is that Mark Hanna is behind the movement to gag the Senate and to give Vice President Hobart the same power to cut off debate and force a vote as Tom Reed possesses as the presiding officer of the House, and this fact, it is said, will precipitate a hot debate when the Hoar resolution is laid before the Senate. Nothing has yet occurred to indicate the sentiment of the Senate regarding the proposed change of rules, but the fact has not been forgotten that during the long debate on the repeal of the Sherman law and the Wilson tariff bill Senator Hoar himself was the most active opponent of the motion introduced by Senator Hill to amend the rules and limit debate and thus expedite the passage of those two measures. Under the circumstances there is reason to believe that the Democrats, Populists and silver Republicans will unite in opposition to the Hoar resolution and defeat it.

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