

## RIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL.

There is considerable intemperate language being indulged in now-a-days by men and newspapers that have "axes to grind" over the action of the upper house of the city council. These self-appointed censors seem to act under the impression that the upper house is simply a body of gentlemen who were placed in their present position as figureheads to do the bidding of the mayor and his advisors. If the power behind the throne says that this or that man must be appointed and the mayor does the bidding of the advisor, then if the gentlemen of the upper house see fit to exercise their legal prerogative and refuse to sanction the appointment what a howl is raised over this exercise of a well recognized right. The law plainly says that the mayor shall appoint "by and with the consent of the upper house of the city council," and this undoubtedly means that the power of appointment shall be in the hands of, not one man and his advisors, but the men elected by the whole people of the city. The members of the upper house have done their duty by the people and all the sneers of disgruntled men and all the lashings of would-be "boss" newspapers will but serve to show the people that the city council can be depended upon to stand by their constituents.

It may be all right for factional organs to call a body of respectable city officials a combine, but the people will say that that sort of a combine is better than the one composed of the mayor and the afore-said organ. The legal "combine" is surely better able to stand between the people and the machinations of ringsters than are the combinations formed for the purpose of self-aggrandizement and plunder.

In this same connection let it be remembered that certain members of the upper house felt that the responsibility on this occasion was such that the people had the right to know all the proceedings and these men, who had nothing to conceal, fought against the iniquitous secret session. In the transaction of the people's business there should be no secrecy. The appointments to city offices are of interest to every voter, and when an action that immediately concerns the whole city is taken it is right and just that the voters should know exactly how each councilman voted on the questions.

Give the upper house its due and let the upper house be open in its transactions and deliberations.

## IN A DILEMMA.

Every day adds to the evidences of the dilemma in which the government finds itself on the silver question. We say the silver question, because that is the only question seriously involved in the question of the treasury's gold reserve.

which would be given a reduced representation by the change, but the party as a whole has to consider only the good of the whole party, and that is the selection of candidates most fully representing the sentiment of the people whose votes must be had to secure an election.

## PARKS AND BOULEVARDS.

It is unfortunate for the city that the finances of the municipality are in such a low state that all the money required by the board of park and boulevard commissioners cannot be appropriated. The board is composed of men who are active, intelligent and thoroughly capable to transact the necessary business, and under their direction there is no doubt that the amount of money asked for would be wisely and economically expended.

But there are two sides to this, as in all questions. It is a fact that the city is short of funds. It is also a fact that there are other departments that must be cared for before the parks and boulevards can be built. While there is no doubt that much more money is expended in the various city departments than is necessary for the economical and business-like transaction of the city's affairs, yet so long as the city does not take the necessary action to weed out the barnacles just so long will the money have to be paid to run these departments.

The slurs at the different offices in the city departments do not help matters a particle nor do they tend to make a kindly feeling toward the board of park and boulevard commissioners. The other departments are not in the least accountable for the action of the committee or the council, and the attacks on the city clerk and other officials are uncalled for and unjust.

An appropriation of \$5,000 has been decided upon by the committee for the use of the park board and because it is not what the board thought it should have the board threatens to resign. While the board is just such a one as the city needs at this time, and while the board would do great good for the city, yet such action and such threats can only be looked upon as being hasty and unwise. There is much good to be done for the city with even the sum appropriated, and the board as at present constituted should not look upon the matter as a personal one. The gentlemen constituting the board are in a position to make or mar the future of parks and boulevards in Kansas City and it is hoped that they will act wisely and temperately.

The *Alliance Advocate*, of Topeka, has procured an amendment to its charter which authorizes the changing of the paper into a daily, though not, it is explained, with the intention of immediately making such a change. The pur-

organ and piano. This concert served to present the chorus as selected and trained for the world's fair. Conductor Busch having been asked to place his singers in the vast chorus of 3,000 or more voices which will be heard in Chicago during the Columbian exposition. As the great oratorios will be the chief chorus music at Chicago, the time has been spent on them by the Kansas City chorus, and last evening's programme was composed entirely of selections from Haydn's "Creation." The work was in advance of anything ever before done by local singers under Mr. Busch's direction. The voices are seemingly strong and under good control. Kansas City needs a dozen good tenors. The weakness of the tenor contingent is noticeable in every chorus in the city, and was especially so last night, because the basses were particularly strong. As a whole, the rendition of last night's programme was very creditable to Mr. Busch and his organization, the celebrated "Heavens are Telling" chorus being especially well sung. The soloists were Mrs. H. M. Beardsley, soprano; Mr. W. H. Leib, tenor, and Mr. F. W. Richardson, basso. Both Mrs. Beardsley and Mr. Leib are fine interpreters of oratorio sentiment, but neither possesses a voice of sufficient power to fully command the solos of this great work. Mr. Richardson came out splendidly in the less exacting music allotted to him. Mr. Frank Fisk, at the organ, and his accomplished pupil, Miss Lorena Searey, at the piano, accompanied the soloists and the chorus admirably. Mr. Carl Stephanides played three pretty piano numbers—a Mendelssohn-Bartholdy fantasia in F sharp minor, a Schubert impromptu and a Chopin nocturne. Mr. Stephanides plays well, but he was scarcely in characteristic mood last night until he reached the nocturne, which number he played with such delicacy of feeling and technique as to win several recalls.

The Apollo Club will have for one of its soloists at the Coates May 10, Mr. Plunket Greene, the distinguished baritone, who has become one of the greatest fads of the East in his unique song recitals. Mr. Greene will be entirely new to Kansas City, and would be unavailable for this occasion save that he happens to be booked for Chicago in close proximity to the date of the Apollo Club concert. Miss Nannie Hands has also been secured as one of the soloists.

There will be a "Crust of Society" matinee at the Coates this afternoon. The engagement will close this evening.

At the Coates to-morrow evening Thatcher's "Tuxedo," one of the most pleasing novelties seen in this city the last season or two, will open a three nights' engagement. All the old favorite Thatcher singers and comedians are in the company, and there are some new faces and voices which promise to be additionally interesting.

## THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

### Looking After the Alum and Ammonia Baking Powders.

A bill for an act, entitled "An Act to Regulate the Traffic in Baking Powder," has been introduced in the legislature at Springfield by Mr. Nohe. The bill is intended to prevent the adulterations of baking powders with ammonia or alum, imposing proper penalties to enforce the law, etc. This shows an earnest desire on the part of our representatives to protect their constituents.

The Chicago Tribune, referring to the question of legislation on alum and ammonia baking powders, says: "It deals in a direct manner with an evil that must be cut down."

Following is a partial list of the names of the brands sold in this state that have been examined and found to contain either Ammonia or Alum. Many of the Alum and Ammonia powders are labeled and advertised as absolutely pure to mislead the public:

"Galmet," "Forest City," "Chicago Yeast," "Grant's Bon Bon," "Hotel," "Taylor's One Spoon," "Snow Puff," "Snow Ball," "Zipp's Crystal," "Glimax," "Town Talk," "Manhattan," "Rocket," "Evans," "Little Giant," "Spot Cash," "Echo," "Empire," "Doudson & Hill's,"

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