

IT MAY FLOCK BY ITSELF.

The City May Conclude to Part Company With the County.

A Bill Authorizing the Separation Would, It Is Believed, Meet the Approval of All Concerned—Would Solve a Vexed Question.

The city hall was full yesterday of a scheme for the solution of the problem of the division of the saloon revenue. The city treasurer has collected the great majority of the saloon taxes, only a few saloonkeepers having failed to pay the license. Of the \$800 license paid by each proprietor of a saloon, the city gets \$250 and the county \$550, or over two-thirds. The scheme which many believe to offer a complete and satisfactory solution of the problem is that the city of Kansas City shall be separated from the county, as is the case with St. Louis. The county would thus be relieved of the burden of many expenses occasioned by the city, and would have no need of the saloon revenue. The city would also be the gainer by receiving all the saloon revenue, with which the additional expenses caused by the county could be met.

Mayor Cowherd has for some time been urging the necessity of a more equitable division of the saloon revenue, and made a strong effort to get a bill passed by the legislature for the division of the revenue on the basis of four-fifths for the city and one-fifth for the county, instead of the reverse, as at present.

City Counselor Rozzelle said yesterday that the county court was in favor of the separation of the city and county, and had made a proposition to make the attempt to get a bill passed in the legislature to that end. He declined to express an opinion on the advisability of the measure, and the mayor also refused to talk on the subject. There have been rumors current for several days that some such an attempt was to be made.

The mayor and city counselor held a lengthy conference yesterday, but at the conclusion of it refused to say whether they had discussed this question or not.

A prominent county officer, who is in favor of the separation of the city and county, said yesterday that he had no doubt but that if a bill was introduced in the legislature it would become a law. He called attention to the fact that the county was compelled to bear many expenses which would not have to be borne if the separation was effected, and admitted that the city was put to expense in the hospital department and criminal prosecutions which could be met without trouble if the city had the entire revenue from the saloons. The bill for the division of the revenue has been killed in the legislature, and the scheme for the divorce of city and county is believed to be the only feasible settlement of the question.

Mayor Cowherd said: "I don't see where we are going to get money to run the city, with the increasing expense of the hospital department, and the probability of the coming of the cholera this summer. The city maintains the police department, and nine out of every ten state arrests made are made by the city police. The city ought not to pay the running expenses of the hospital, and the county should. In other states the county pays for the care of the sick poor and the city only pays for the carrying out of sanitary measures and others pertaining immediately to the city."