

ficial capacity to control or direct the vote of any of their flock, even in this campaign, which has not been run on party lines, if they will put us in possession of the facts we shall take pleasure in publishing them; for that sort of thing has no support from us.

CHURCH INFLUENCE IN POLITICS.

A significant feature of the complaint that is so often made in relation to church influence in politics is the fact that this complaint is never made by the winning side. If the Democrats score a victory they are never heard to complain of the interference of the church, while if the g. o. p. succeed in turning their adversaries down they are not heard from on the subject of church influence. The fact of the matter is that either party is quite willing that the so called church influence should be used, if they are the beneficiaries. It has become the rule here in Utah for the cry of church influence to be raised by the losing party. There is always this source of consolation for them. This old song has been sung a great many times, and is one of the simplest ditties in the book. Nobody is expected to give any particulars, neither as to how, where, or who. We have no recollection of ever seeing the word church defined as used in this connection. If we follow the dictionary and admit the church to be "a body of christian believers observing the same rites and acknowledging the same authority," it is very difficult to see how the church could fail to influence their every act, if they are sincere in their belief. Such a body should always be found working for what their creed teaches them is right, and church influence under such conditions, if the doctrines of such church are good, should be beneficial to the commonwealth, whether it is in the interest of politicians or not. But it is not in this way, as near as we can understand, that the term is used. Judging by the manner in which it is charged, and trying to reconcile the charge with common sense, it must be that those who make the complaint mean it is not the church that uses the influence but only certain leaders, or men in authority therein, who are accused of using their authority to coerce the body over whom they preside to take such action in political affairs as they direct. If this definition of church influence is to be the criterion by which the charge is to be considered, those who make it should certainly be able to do something more than make the general complaint that they are in the habit of doing. Some time, if the church authorities are in the habit of seeking to compel the members to do their bidding in political affairs, they will try the wrong man and he will give the scheme away. As far as we have been able to learn such a case has never been even cited, let alone proven. In the municipal election that has just occurred the stock cry has been raised by supporters of the losing ticket, it being alleged that the ward authorities have used church influence to defeat them. Those who are acquainted with the ward authorities could have told these people that as far as their influence was concerned they might be sure that it would go, as it ought to do, in favor of the suppression of the liquor traffic; and that to expect anything else from them would be doing men of their well known temperance principles an injustice. But, if any man or woman among the supporters of the defeated ticket knows of any one of the ward or stake authorities having sought in their of-