

THE spontaneous tribute of love and gratitude paid by the citizens of Sacramento, Cal., and many visitors on the 6th of May has a significance even beyond that intended by the participants. It teaches us that gratitude is, after all, a living sentiment in the human breast, that genuine efforts to cast a few rays of sunshine into the sunless lives of the poor and miserable do not go without their reward even in this world, and that there is such a thing as honor for a prophet in his own country. The citizens of Sacramento are to be congratulated, not only that they have paid a deserved tribute to true nobility of character, but that they have taught the world a lesson in honoring those noble workers of charity throughout the world whose name is legion.

THE recent disastrous fires that have nearly obliterated the business portion of Miles City and caused much destruction of property in Billings are far more of a calamity in appearance than reality. Those cities are but passing through the same experience encountered by nearly every town of prominence in the West. Hastily constructed almost exclusively of cheap one and two story wooden shanties, the Western town springs into being in a few months. Soon it is found that the very cheapness of its structures which made its initial growth so rapid serves but to retard its future progress. Insurance is high or cannot be had at all, and parties hesitate to erect valuable buildings in the midst of such tinder boxes. Sooner or later comes the inevitable conflagration and sweeps them away like fog before the sun. A mortal blow seems to have been struck, such as in an older and unprogressive town would seal its fate; but not so in the stirring West. The citizens, full of energy, hope and faith in the future, bend to the task of reconstruction, and soon large brick, iron and stone buildings rise amid the ashes of the burned shanties, and the town emerges from the baptism of fire purified, and for the first time enters upon a career of permanent prosperity. Such will be the case with Miles City, and within a year it will be a better town, better built and with better trade than ever before.

THERE is some discussion as to whether the shipment of cattle last April from Walla Walla to Chicago was a paying venture. The *Pioneer Press* gave a set of figures which indicate a total loss of at least \$30 per head upon prices that were offered for the same cattle immediately before shipment. In reply to this one of the men who handled the stock responded with statistics showing the exact state of affairs, as follows: Three hundred and thirty cattle shipped and sold for \$4.40 per hundred; average weight, 1,295 pounds; average price, \$48.20; average expense of shipment, \$13.71; net result, \$34.49 per head. It is admitted that an offer of \$5 per hundred was made just prior to shipment; but that offer, though it does seem to indicate a loss of \$30 per head, cannot be used as a guide by which to determine if the business of shipping cattle from the Inland Empire to Chicago markets can be made a profitable one under the conditions

that then prevailed. A recent shipment by four stockmen of Union County of 335 cattle and two car-loads of horses shows that the growers of that region are satisfied with the results. If the returns from this later venture are satisfactory there will no doubt be a large number of shipments during the summer. The distance is a long one and cattle lose from 100 to 150 pounds in weight, which has to be included as part of the expense of shipment. The main question is, Does it pay? and upon the answer depends the continuance of the business. On another page will be found an article on the shipment of dressed meats which will be interesting in this connection.

THE failure of the Indians on the Umatilla Reservation to comply with the terms of the Congressional act, providing for the assignment of lands to them in severalty and sale of the remainder for their benefit, is somewhat of a surprise, since it was generally understood that such a course met with their approbation. It is more than probable that designing persons in whom they have confidence, and who manage to "turn an honest penny" on the strength of it, are largely responsible. The greater share of responsibility, however, rests upon the inherent laziness and improvidence of the Indians themselves, for which the Government is largely to blame by reason of its policy of maintaining Indians in idleness. It is time more sensible and more stringent measures were taken. Congress should pass a bill embodying the features of the present one, but omitting the clause requiring assent of the Indians. It will be the best course for the people, for the Indians and for the Government itself. There is no good reason why large tracts of fertile land should be locked up and held sacred to the names—not the use or occupation, for they neither use nor occupy a tenth of it—of a few lazy, unproductive Indians. Each should be given a generous tract in his own name and the remainder be thrown open to the people. The true policy is to make the Indian depend upon himself and render him subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State or Territory in which he lives; in other words, make a responsible human being of him and not an unreasoning object of national charity.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SCENERY.

WE present this month four views of the scenery of British Columbia along the line of the Canadian Pacific above New Westminster. The railroad runs along the north side of Fraser River, passing through much desirable and unoccupied land. Heretofore settlements have been made chiefly on the south side of the stream. From New Westminster to some distance beyond Harrison River many desirable tracts may be found. The character of the country may be understood from the engravings. The topographical features consist of meadows, uplands and hills, with high mountain peaks enclosing them. The railroad offers a means of access to much desirable agricultural land in British Columbia, which was formerly rendered practically valueless by its isolation.