

## WHAT TO DO WITH THE RELIEF FUNDS.

THE following from *Peck's Sun* is reprinted as a suggestion to the people of the Pacific coast, who are enjoying unexampled prosperity and can afford to contribute liberally to aid those who, in seeking a home in the west, cast their lot upon the prairies of Dakota rather than in the lovely and fertile valleys of the Columbia basin. It is especially recommended to the attention of the relief committees of Seattle, Ellensburg and Spokane Falls, who hold in their hands unexpended balances of the most liberal donations made by their sister cities of the northwest when the hand of affliction was laid heavily upon them. What better use could be made of the money than to help relieve this destitution in Dakota, and thus make it perform an errand of mercy, for which, though in another locality, it was originally sent? The article referred to says:

"At a recent meeting of the Loyal Legion, a check for \$100 was returned from the fund sent to Johnstown, Pa., not having been used, and immediately the money was voted to the Dakota sufferers, and sent to the governors of the two states the next morning. The action of the Milwaukee Commandery of the Loyal Legion should be followed by all other organizations that can spare a dollar. The suffering of the Dakotas this winter will be a thousand times greater than at Johnstown. The actual suffering at Johnstown was comparatively over before a dollar was contributed. The people who were drowned could suffer no more, and the survivors could be fed and clothed by the locality, which was rich. There was never any sense in a dollar being contributed outside of Pennsylvania, because the millions sent there did more harm than good. It made thieves of many people who handled the money, caused quarrels and fights, and thousands of people in the vicinity of Johnstown who were not entitled to charity became lazy mendicants. No contributor objected to the purchase of food and clothing for the destitute, but they did kick on having their money used to repair railroads and streets and to provide buildings for people to be set up in the jewelry business, as was the case in one instance. The money was largely diverted from the uses intended by those who contributed. In some of the counties of Dakota the farmers have not had a decent crop in three years, and they are destitute. With farms partly paid for, they will lose everything if they leave the country, and they will stay as long as they have a mouthful to eat. There is no fuel, as even the hay they have heretofore burned is not to be had on account of the drouth of last summer. There are women and children without food and clothing, children with no shoes or stockings, and the coldest kind of a winter coming on. Im-

agine your own children, reader, that are now warmly clothed, in warm houses, out in that dreary country, compelled to exist in a one-room sod shanty, with no food but corn meal perhaps, no fire but a few smouldering corn-stalks or sun-flowers, barefooted and shivering. Think of those children sent to school, miles across a prairie, with pieces of gunny sack tied on their feet! Think of the blizzards, and the hopeless life they lead! These people can not make known their sufferings, because the local papers dare not say much against the country they are published in, for fear of keeping people away. County officials are in the same fix, not desiring to officially endorse the idea of asking for help, when they are claiming that their country is the garden spot of the earth. New governors of new states are not anxious to pose as asking for alms for their people, who have been represented as happy and prosperous, and who are inviting countless thousands to come there and settle. So the settlers are in hard luck. There is money enough that would flow to the Dakotas if people of the east could be acquainted with the facts, but it is not state policy to begin to beg so soon after becoming states in the union. There should be an organization in every town and city in the east to help the destitute of the far west. [The term "far west" does not here include the region west of the Rockies, where prosperity reigns.—ED.] Money, clothing and food should be sent at once, or there will be a wail pretty soon from that destitute prairie that will chill the marrow in the bones of those who hear it, and it will tax the living to bury the dead before the winter is over. The Loyal Legion of Milwaukee has made a starter. Let everybody contribute."

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce draws the line on country boards of trade and Sullivan draws the line on "niggers." The meat of the matter is that the "nigger" can whip Sullivan and the country boards of trade can give the San Francisco fossils a few points on enterprise and brainy work. They propose to be the biggest toad in the puddle if they have to keep every other toad out.

Silver Bow county, Montana, is indulging in the luxury of two judges and two sheriffs for one court, and it may be that in a few days the state will be blessed with two legislatures. Other states manage to scrub along with one, but the great and growing west cannot be hampered in that way. She must have a chance to grow.

The "English syndicate" has bought the elevators and flouring mills in Minneapolis again. If this thing keeps on they will have possession of them in a few years.