

In view of the efforts of the Northern Pacific railway company to obtain patents on certain lands within its forty-mile limit in Montana, which are alleged by the citizens to be mineral lands and hence not included in the congressional grants, the members of the mineral land convention, embracing all who are interested in the subject, were called together in Helena yesterday to consider measures to prevent the issuance of the patents. The original grant to the Northern Pacific embraced the non-mineral land of the odd-numbered sections in a strip of country extending twenty miles on either side of the railway track. Subsequently an indemnity grant was made by congress permitting the company to make selections within twenty miles of the limits first set to compensate the corporation for the odd-numbered sections it could not patent in the first grant because of their mineral character or on account of previous occupation by settlers, the conditions of this supplementary grant being the same as imposed by the first except stipulations as to the time of completing the road and similar matters. Lately the railway company selected and applied for patents on about 2,000,000 acres in Montana. It is alleged that much of this is valuable chiefly for its gold, silver and copper deposits. The ruling of the interior department that the burden of proof lies with the people who wish to preserve such lands from falling into the hands of the railway company, is the direct cause of the assembling of this convention. In many instances miners are already located on these lands, most of whom are unable to bear the expense of a contest to clear their title. It is desired that the secretary order an examination of the lands selected by the Northern Pacific with reference to their mineral character and that the patents be withheld until this is done. Failing in this the mat-

ter will be taken into congress and an attempt made to compel the secretary of the interior to provide against the vitiating of mining titles through the blanket claims of the railway company. It is also suggested that the state of Montana, by a proper officer, enter contests in each description of the company's selections in gold, silver or copper bearing lands, in order that gross injustice shall not be done those who have already taken mineral claims in good faith, and that the state shall not be deprived of valuable property through failure to properly look after its own interests. As a last resort an effort may be made to postpone indefinitely the survey of mountainous mineral lands and legal proceedings commenced against the railroad company on the ground that the definite location of the road was not made in Montana until after the time for its completion had expired, according to the terms of the granting act. Undoubtedly the company has equitable rights in the matter that must be conceded, and the question of how to determine these is certainly a difficult one.

An old Indian at Hood River predicts a cold winter because there are lots of acorns on the ground that the Great Spirit has provided for the sustenance of the squirrels and Indians through the hard season. Poor white trash are permitted to weather the weather as best they can without any warning from the clerk or a cellar full of potatoes.

Ex-Father McGlynn says the world needs a pope who can think in English. "Nuisance" is a plain English word and probably even the present pope thinks enough in English to connect that word with effervescent cleric.

SEE WHERE THEY FIX THEIR GUARDING EYES.

Two statues in Alhambra's courts most fair,
Of gleaming marble, wrought in beauty's guise,
Revealed, with eyes alone, where lay great share
Of treasure, buried from the light of skies
For years. Oh, meet it was, a child from care
All free, with life as yet a sweet surprise,
Should read th' impressive glances first,—see where
The graceful statues fixed their guarding eyes.
Oh, Love and Hope, how bright beyond compare!
Ye dwell with men. He, who to read ye tries,
Must come a simple child in trust. Lo, here
The richest treasure of the two lives lies!
Led by Hope's glance, swift does the soul repair,
As flies the bird, to Love's immortal air.

ELLA C. DRABBLE.