

If there are between 200,000 and 300,000 unclaimed patents "covered with dust and cumbering the pigeon holes" in the general land office at Washington, then there has been a great wrong done to a multitude of people in the United States through official incompetency, an incomplete system or an utter lack of regard for the rights and interests of settlers upon the public domain. When a settler upon public land, under either of the various land laws, has complied with all the provisions of the law, the regulations of the land commissioner and the red tape of the department, and has paid all fees and charges, he certainly is entitled to a prompt issuance and delivery of his patent. It seems incredible that such a vast number of them should be held in Washington for lack of a proper effort to deliver them to their owners. Congress should promptly pass the proposed bill for that purpose. It is only when some one gives the departments a vigorous prodding that the people at large learn in how many ways their interests are being neglected. Settlers who have tried in vain to secure their patents have now the satisfaction of knowing that they did not get them because it was too much trouble for the department to deliver them.

In view of this great outcry by western cities about their census returns there seems to be some point after all in that old joke about the enumerator taking the "senses" of the people, for they have certainly gone somewhere. One can but admire the true grit of the Montana supervisor who telegraphed to Washington, in answer to complaints, that his work was correct and he did not propose to keep up with the inflated ideas of newspapers and real estate boomers. As a matter of fact, except for boom purposes and the opportunity it may offer for bragging, it matters but little whether a city is credited with its full population or not. To be sure, to be of value the census should be as nearly correct as it is possible to make it, but that is a matter of national concern rather than local. This great local complaint and show of indignation has its foundation solely in boom circles, backed by that trait in human character that likes to boast of having a lightning rod higher than anyone else in the neighborhood, or owning a dog with the crookedest legs and the stumpiest tail in the county.

Again is there a promise from Washington of an early passage of a land forfeiture bill that shall include the grant made to the Northern Pacific from Wallula to Portland, which the company relinquished all hope of acquiring years ago. As has been said before in these columns, these lands would have been restored to the public domain years ago, had it not been for the conduct of certain demagogues in con-

gress who insisted upon tacking upon the bills introduced by Oregon senators for that purpose, amendments including other grants over which there was a contest. The people who have suffered through this long withdrawal of lands from settlement can thank the demagoguery of their special, self-constituted congressional champions for the evil consequences of it. That it has been a serious drawback to this entire region is not questioned, but the real interests of the settler have to give way to the manufacture of political capital when important questions fall into the hands of congress.

The question of co-education of the sexes was much discussed at the national council of education in St. Paul, and the fear was expressed by some that the association of boys and girls at college might lead to improprieties. The experience of many of our smaller colleges and state normal schools, where the sexes are admitted upon even terms, does not justify this fear, while it does demonstrate the quieting and refining influence of the girls upon the rowdyish tendencies of the other sex. It is safe to say that if Harvard admitted girls into full fellowship, the students would conduct themselves less like an aggregation of hoodlums than they have been doing of late.

By the signature of the president Idaho became the forty-third state of the union on the third of July, as near to the nation's great natal anniversary as it was possible to make it. The celebrations in Idaho on the fourth had a double significance, and were marked by more than twice the usual fervency and enthusiasm. Those people who, from ignorance, have supposed that Idaho lacked the elements of a great state, will soon see their error, for the time is not far distant when the "Gem of the Mountains" will far outstrip many older and now more populous states on the road to prosperity.

Now that San Francisco has ceased—temporarily at least—to offer her hospitality to prize fighters, the proposed great contest between Sullivan and Jackson is indefinitely postponed. However, the "Puritan" Athletic club is anxious to bring these representatives of Boston culture and Australian intellectuality together on Long island, and may succeed. If the fight takes place under Puritan auspices, no doubt black and blue laws will govern.

If the Germans who live in America beat the Germans who live in Germany at shooting this week, it will prove something, no doubt, but just what has not been stated—possibly that beer made with American hops is the best in the world.