

Idaho's mortgage tax law will doubtless be repealed, as the bill before the legislature for that purpose seems to have a large majority in favor of it. Idaho legislators are wise enough to learn by experience and do not require a cataclysm to open their eyes.

The absurdity of writing a letter to the press upon local politics ought to suggest itself to a man who states in his letter that he is a newcomer and is not acquainted with the persons about whom he writes. Such people should refrain from rushing into print until they get their first set of teeth.

For three hours during the busiest part of the day on Monday the people all over the United States were denied postoffice conveniences, simply because Wanamaker's brilliant genius conceived the idea that all post-offices should be closed as a mark of respect to Secretary Windom. Secretary Windom himself would never have so thoughtlessly and recklessly interfered with the business of the country, nor would he have given his approval of this brilliant coruscation of official genius.

The question of the division of Linn county and the creation of the county of Santiam, is causing much excitement, especially in the section seeking to secure a separate existence. It is only a question of time when all the large counties of the state will be divided, as population and wealth increase, and it is folly to oppose such movements when the necessary population and property exist in the sections seeking to improve their condition by securing a county organization better calculated to further their local prosperity.

What will the governor think of this attempt to foist another commission upon the people in the very face of his decree that commissions must go. Once he shouted lustily: "The Chinese must go!" Is it possible that he will be as powerless to disperse the commissions as he was to drive the Mongolian hence? But, possibly, in this instance, the governor may be right and there is no absolute necessity for a commission to count the bricks that go into the city hall. Why not let our perpetual police commissioner have the job? He understands counting from the ground floor up.

Nine out of ten people reported starving in the far west are people who left comfortable homes in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. They belong to the great army of don't-know-when-they've-enoughs. Prosperity can't travel fast enough for them.—*Burlington Hawkseye.*

This is all wrong. There are no people starving in the "far west." Our crops were the best in the United States and our winter has been almost like an Indian summer. To be sure, there has been some destitution in Dakota, but for an Iowa paper to speak of Dakota as the "far west" is one degree beyond the absurd. If the people of Iowa and Dakota are looking for a land of perpetual prosperity, let them seek the "far west" in fact and they will find it.

At last Montana politicians have permitted the spirit of loyalty to the interests of their state to prevail over their fealty to party, and have terminated the unseemly partisan wrangling that has kept the state in a ferment for a year and has prevented all legislation for its interests. Enough of the contesting claimants for seats have retired on each side to permit both the house and senate to organize properly and proceed to business. In this purely partisan strife the best interests of the state have been mercilessly sacrificed, just at the critical moment at the beginning of its career, when it needed all the united wisdom and statesmanship to give force and vitality to its constitution and frame the laws necessary for its government and prosperity. Whatever honor there has been in this contest consists entirely in the abandoning of it; and it is to be hoped that the legislators of other states will look upon it as a warning rather than an example.

The reciprocity sentiment has gained ground so rapidly in Canada that Sir John A. Macdonald has been compelled to dissolve parliament and appeal to the people at a general election. He has taken this step now because he feels strong enough to carry the elections on the strictly national ground assumed by the conservatives. His argument is that the general reciprocity policy of the liberals will eventually lead to annexation to the United States, and he relies upon the national pride of the Canadians to support him in his opposition. But there is a large element in the dominion in favor of actual political union with the great republic, and this sentiment is a growing one. It is for the purpose of going before the country for endorsement while he yet feels strong enough to carry the elections, that Sir John has taken this step. The elections will be held on the fifth of March, and will be a good index of the present state of feeling in Canada towards the United States.

Political finesse is not confined to the party leaders in congress, as a recent incident in the Idaho legislature shows. A resolution denouncing the oppression of the Jews in Russia was opposed by a republican member, and this brought out bursts of pyrotechnic eloquence from the democrats, who raised their voices in behalf of the oppressed and downtrodden of the earth, regardless of race or country. Metaphorically they bruised the heel of the oppressor everywhere and exalted the lowly. The resolution was passed with great enthusiasm. It then developed that the republican member was loaded for bear, and had opposed the resolution simply to put the democrats on record. He then introduced a resolution of sympathy for the oppressed negroes of Mississippi and other southern states, to ascertain whether, as he put it, the sympathy of the honorable gentlemen for the oppressed ones of the earth was "for export only, or if they also had a stock for home consumption." The situation was temporarily embarrassing.

It is said that already unscrupulous immigration agents are advertising in Europe that there is work in Chicago for men of all kinds at high wages, and that there is threatened an influx of ignorant laborers from across the water that will literally flood that city with indigent and helpless foreigners unless some action be taken to prevent it. Congress has been called upon loudly for months to adopt a new and more stringent immigration policy, but has been too busy in its partisan strife to pay any heed to the welfare of the nation. The silverites, the forcebillites, the tariffites, the freetradeites, the blowites and other mites and midgits that compose that honorable body would do well to lend an ear to the intelligence of the country occasionally. If they did they would hear the deep rumbling of dissatisfaction with the present industrial and political condition of the country, due chiefly to our lax immigration and naturalization laws. Permanent prosperity for the working classes of this country can not be expected so long as the ignorant labor of Europe can swarm hither unrestricted, nor can a healthy flow of blood be maintained in the body politic so long as it is contaminated by a transfusion of ignorant, vicious and unrepudiated blood from abroad. Congress should stop the work of transfusion at once and neutralize the poison already absorbed, so far as such a thing is possible.

THE DEKUM.

On the center page is presented an engraving of the elegant eight-story block to be erected by Mr. Frank Dekum on the southwest corner of Third and Washington, work upon which will soon be commenced. The external appearance of the structure is shown in the engraving, which proves it to be as fine a business block as can be found on the Pacific coast. It will be 100x100 feet, the first three stories of red sandstone and the remainder of pressed brick with terra cotta trimmings. Steel beams and iron pillars will add strength to the building and render it nearly fire proof. A light court, 31x25 feet, will extend from the roof to the second floor, admitting light to the interior of the building. The basement and first and second floors will be arranged for occupancy by the largest retail establishment in the city, making a store unequalled on the coast, possessing a special elevator, ladies' parlor, toilet rooms, etc. Above the store the six floors will each be divided into sixteen rooms, varying from 15x17 to 22x22 feet in size. These will be reached by two stairways, one on Washington and one on Third street, approached by vestibules with tile flooring and marble wainscoting. On the Third street side will be two elevators running to the top of the building in addition to the one in the store. Boilers and engine will be located in the basement, supplying power for the elevators, for electric lights, for pumping water throughout the building from a drive well in the basement and for heating the building by steam. In all particulars, external and internal, "The Dekum" will be a model business building.



A little wish I send to you
To show what lieth next my heart,
That little heart pierced through and through
By roguish Cupid's feathered dart—
I wish that you might married be
In some bright, sunny bowler, where
But one man might the wedding see,
And I, that only man, be there.

H. L. W.