

tions and amounts to an able plea for the reverting of the public lands to the use of those who live upon or near them. It is written in well-chosen words and, as it should be, is destitute of rhetorical effects or glowing sentences; it is a common-sense chapter treated in a common-sense way and will be widely and attentively read. The government having been so generous in the matter of giving away public lands without consideration presently or prospectively to great corporations, ought, it seems, to be willing to let the people have a share in its munificence especially in view of the fact that all it gives to them does but strengthen its own hands whether for peace or for war. The prosperity of the populace is the foundation of national greatness, and the ex-Governor illustrates quite comprehensively yet tersely how this may best be accomplished so far as relates to the unoccupied soil.

THE GERMAN CRISIS.

The vote in Germany tomorrow will determine whether or not the young kaiser's hope as to the passage of his pet army bill is to be realized. There will be a general election, and upon the temper and complexion of the reichstag to be chosen will depend the fate of the measure. Indeed, it may be said that more than the fate of this particular bill rests upon the election; the unity of the German empire, the continuance of the monarchical system even, may hang upon the result. If a majority absolutely and irrevocably unfavorable to the military bill should be returned, the impetuous sovereign will scarcely hesitate, if we may judge the future by the past, to dissolve again the recalcitrant parliament; or, should that resort fail him, to launch out upon some other despotic tack that would inevitably gather about his nose-too-solid throne the breakers of revolution. The situation is ominous; the more so because of the emperor's stubbornness—his high confidence and haughty firmness may be the very instruments to rob him of his crown.

We are inclined to think, however, that his dissolution of the late reichstag was good politics. He had nothing to lose by an appeal to the country. The new members could not more decisively defeat his favorite measure than the old ones had done. To be sure, he had rejected modifications and compromises that if accepted would probably have secured sufficient support to carry the bill through. But compromises could be made with the new body as well as with the old. There was the bare chance of winning a straight, clear victory by arousing a national tear and exalting the national patriotism. And there was the very likely prospect that the opposition would be split up into factions, the weaker and smaller and less adroit of which would naturally be easier to conquer or cajole one by one than were the compact, well-disciplined hosts that administered defeat to him in the late contest. He took these chances—showing therein, as we think, political skill and good generalship.

It is tolerably clear that the hope of

winning a square victory for the government, if ever it was seriously entertained, has long since faded. But the other hope—that the opposition would be motley and diversified—is abundantly realized. The dispatches say there are twenty different parties in the field, and each is certain to win at some point on the line. If this is true, the scattering votes in the parliament—the members who carry a free lance, the representatives of young parties whose only hope for the present is in winning the favor of the stronger ones—will hold the balance of power. They will naturally be susceptible to the persuasion of those who can promise them the most—and who can promise more than the emperor? Modifications he may have to make, compromises here and there he may have to accept, an apparent surrender on some issues may be extorted from him; but after all he will have secured enough votes to carry his bill. We believe this will be the outcome of the whole affair. It will only be a temporary result, of course; and it will be some time, many months perhaps, before even this doubtful triumph will be achieved.

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION.

An interesting lot of facts regarding the population of American cities was collated by the New York Sun recently. It appears therefrom that there are sixteen cities in the United States having more than 200,000 people each, and of these Cleveland, Ohio, has the largest proportion of foreign-born population, while Washington, D. C., has the smallest, the former containing 45 per cent. This as against 42.5 per cent in New York, 42 in San Francisco, 41 in Chicago, 40 in Detroit, 35.5 in Boston, 35 in Buffalo, 33 in Milwaukee, 32 in Brooklyn, 30 in Pittsburgh, 25 in Philadelphia, 21 in Cincinnati and St. Louis, 14 in New Orleans, 11 in Baltimore, and one-eighth of one per cent in Washington.

We are further shown that there are more than 1,000,000 Germans in the chief cities of the United States. They are most numerous in New York and Brooklyn and in the cities of the West. They are least numerous in Boston and Washington. In these two cities, and in Philadelphia and San Francisco, the Irish outnumber the Germans. In New York, Chicago, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Buffalo, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Milwaukee, the Germans outnumber the Irish. There are 3500 natives of Ireland to 55,000 Germans in Milwaukee. In Boston there are 10,000 Germans to 71,000 Irish.

The element constituting so marked a feature of Utah's foreign born population—the Scandinavian (Swedes, Norwegians and Danes) amount to 125,000 in the chief cities of the United States—62,500, or just half of them, in Chicago, 16,000 in Brooklyn, 10,000 in New York, 6500 in San Francisco and 4500 in Boston. There are six times as many Norwegians as Swedes in Milwaukee, and four times as many Swedes as Norwegians in Boston. As we have no city coming within the

classification, the proportion for Utah is not given; it will not, however, vary greatly from the figures shown by the last census, to which those who would know further are referred.

TROUBLE FOR THE COAST.

There will be a grand obscuration of the sun through the action of the moon in getting directly in front of him on the 9th of next October, and speculations as to what it will do if anything to the earth and how it will be accomplished are rife. It will be visible in the western part of Mexico, some parts of South America and in Canada, but in no part of the United States will the phenomenon be so complete as to justify serious apprehension. The nearest approach to forebodings so far seems to be in San Francisco, where an astronomer named Neidl has warned the people to be on the lookout for an able-bodied earthquake.

The *Chronicle* says that Neidl is an astrologer and inventor also. That by looking at the stars and then referring to an almanac, imported at great expense from Europe, he can tell things that other people never dreamed of. Still he gets nothing for it. He does other people's predicting for them simply because he likes the work. The eclipse, with the earthquake on the slide, which he has arranged to come off this fall, is going to be well worth seeing, that paper announces. "If not too tired Mr. Neidl will remain up himself to observe the phenomena. Immediately after the eclipse the earth will begin to shiver like a mould of calves' foot jelly, and also split open in places. Large islands that have long broken the monotony of the Pacific's watery wastes will be swallowed up, but new ones are expected in other places. Gigantic tidal waves created by the upheaval will break chunks off the edge of the United States and carry them out to sea, never to be seen or heard of again."

As if all this were not quite startling enough, we are further advised that people living along the coast should take timely warning and move back into the interior counties before October 9, 1893, because great loss of life will attend the disturbance, but there is no fear of the earth being entirely destroyed. Mr. Neidl says himself that nature can never entirely exterminate herself. No matter how great the shock there would still remain a few ragged edges of the earth to which those fortunate enough to be in the vicinity could cling until rescued. During Mr. Neidl's seismic disturbance the shocks will be alarmingly frequent, but he is prepared for the worst.

Perhaps there may be found something in the prediction. When the late Professor Proctor was shown that one of Canadian Wiggins's foretold storms had materialized on time, the great astronomer calmly replied that it was no wonder; Wiggins made so many predictions that the weather couldn't steer clear of all of them.

CITINA HAS a standing army of about a million and a quarter men, and it is said when once brought to the scratch they fight like fury.