

who are now unable to make purchases of flocks, because present owners have no desire to sell in the face of the improved outlook for the industry. A comparison of the local stock-sheep market today with that of a month ago shows an increase in marketable value of about a million and a half dollars, counting sheep that range in this State and those owned by Utah residents who herd their flocks in Wyoming.

So far as the winter outlook is concerned, everything is encouraging for sheep owners. The promise of an early winter, and a fairly cold one, has with it also the fair assurance of an early spring, while the unusually good condition of the ranges is an offset for any fears that may come from a cold spell. Hence in this regard experienced sheep owners are more hopeful of the future than they have been for years. The sheep industry of this State being one of vast proportions, there may be looked for from that quarter material aid in greatly improving general financial conditions here.

SHOULD BE ELECTIVE.

When the next Legislature assembles it will have before it some very important matters for legislative action; and among others it could take up with advantage the subject of making elective, in cities of the first and second classes, the office of city attorney. The State attorney general, the county attorney, and the judges of all courts, now are elected by the people. One reason in favor of the attorneys named being classed with the judges is that in a large degree their labor partakes of a similar character with that of courts. They are not only legal representatives of one party in an action, as a hired attorney usually is, but they exercise a judicial function in deciding on behalf of the people, both in the latter's capacity of an electorate and of a public corporation, what the law is. Hence, if the people are properly trusted with the power of electing directly the courts that represent them in administering the law, it is proper also to entrust them with the direct selection of other officials the greater portion of whose duties is in a similar vein.

The election of attorney general and county attorneys has been shown by experience to be a wiser procedure than to have those officers in the appointive class. In the latter case they would be subject to the will of one, or at the most three persons, which will be often influenced by private motives in such matters than is the will of the body of voters; while in the former case the record of the official is one for public inspection and consideration, and his position is not that of a servant to one man power, sometimes right and sometimes wrong.

In the case of city attorney in large municipalities, there exists every reason that can be brought forward in the other cases for the election of the other officials named; while in the practice we have witnessed there are very many reasons why a city attorney should not be merely an appointee, or the "hired man" of a single official.

It may be urged that a competent executive will make a better selection than when it is left to the chances of a political contest. But such reasoning does not hold good, since the mayor himself is a result of such chances, and no stream rises higher than its source. On the other hand, it is a common thing to give appointive offices as rewards for clever political trickery, and because of that there is more danger of getting tricksters and incompetents into appointive than into elective offices, as the voters have more chance of robbing the latter than the former, and of exacting a direct responsibility therein.

Another point is that it is not unusual to have the mayor of a city on one side of a question and the council on the other. If the city attorney be an elective officer, he has a direct and independent responsibility between the two, for which he is amenable to the same power as they—the voters. As it stands now, the attorney is commonly recognized as being on the mayor's side, and there you find him almost every time. As a result of this, in case of a dispute between mayor and council the latter has no confidence in the opinion and advice of the city attorney, any more than does one litigant have in the special plea of the lawyer on the other side. Thus the chief consideration for a municipality having an attorney is thrown away—the legislative department of the city administration has little or no use for him. There are so many instances of this kind that any legislator who is at all acquainted with affairs in large municipalities will recall them in abundance. On the other hand, if the city attorney were elective he would not have to depend on either mayor or council for his position, but would act as an adjudicator between them, pointing out the law as it is, and not as either of the disagreeing parties would like to have it.

Many other reasons for a change from the present method of filling the city attorney's office could be cited, but these are sufficient to call the intelligent legislator's attention to the subject as one for inaugurating an improvement. And now is as good a time as any to provide a remedy for a condition that for a long time has been very unsatisfactory.

A THANKSGIVING SUGGESTION.

The Worcester, Mass., Gazette is a staunch and ably edited Democratic paper. In the recent campaign it preferred the National Democratic nominees to Mr. Bryan, for the reason that it believed, no doubt sincerely, that the independent free coinage of silver was too large a financial contract for this nation to attempt. As soon as the result of the campaign was known, it remarked that there was a general condition of thankfulness that the contest was over, and suggested that the feeling of generosity, especially on the part of those who were victorious, whether on the national or local ticket, should give a practical turn to their feeling of gratitude. It pointed out that Thanksgiving Day is at hand, and so is the cold weather;

that the victims of the long depression in business suffer most as the season approaches when warmer clothing and heat for the house are needed. It then adds that those victims have been promised more prosperity at a future time, but that the proper thing now is to see that they are relieved immediately. For this the Gazette says "there could be no better expression of thanksgiving over the result than by thank offerings for the less fortunate than ourselves; while we are in the giving mood let us make the most of it;" and proposes that a jubilee over the result take the practical form of incidental offerings for the needy, clothing, food, fuel, or even money. The proposition is timely, and certainly money could be put to better use in relieving distress than in flaring torchlight processions and pyrotechnic displays. But whether or not those people who have means intend to celebrate a local or national victory for the side they espoused, it would be a display of true American generosity to see to it that all the deserving unemployed, who are consequently in straitened circumstances, have occasion to rejoice at the coming Thanksgiving, because of the openheartedness and practical liberality of those well provided with the comforts and conveniences of life.

MRS. CASTLE'S CASE.

The Castle case, now terminated by the release of the unfortunate woman from prison, on the ground of physical and mental weakness, "and other circumstances," has opened a general discussion in the press about the existence of the peculiar form of insanity known as kleptomania. Opinions differ on this subject. Writers on mental diseases point out numerous cases where the habit of stealing seemingly can be accounted for on no other ground than the supposition of insanity. One victim, says the San Francisco Argonaut, who was in an asylum, was well educated and could converse rationally upon many subjects. Upon certain occasions she was extremely irritable, but under ordinary circumstances she was very morose. This moodiness was evidence of an unsettled mental condition, and, when the suspicion of kleptomania was aroused, she was searched. About her person fifteen bags were found, and in these bags were eleven hundred and eighty-two articles, most of them utterly worthless, that had been stolen and concealed. A curious case was that of a gentleman, otherwise mentally sound, who, when traveling, invariably stole the towels from the hotels at which he stopped, and, upon arriving at home, he sent them back to the owners. A case is mentioned by Pritchard of a man who would eat no food unless he had stolen it, and his attendant would be obliged to hide his meals in order to persuade him to eat them. A clergyman, who otherwise led an honest and upright life, was in the habit of stealing Bibles wherever he could find them, under the delusion that he was thereby promoting the spread of the Gospel.

On the other hand it is maintained that there is no case on record of a