

dinary conditions, though, in all probability, of a less serious character. But it is to be feared that an accident of this kind taking place in one of these proposed tubes would lead to the rupture of the enclosing covering, its prompt filling with water, and the immediate death, not only of those who happened to be on the wrecked train, but those on any other train which was at that time going in the same direction between England and France.

A DIFFICULTY IN THE WAY.

THERE is likely to be considerable dispute over the transfer of property from the school districts in this city to the Board of Education under the new school law. This may not perhaps affect the real estate so much as the funds in hand and the special taxes assessed in the various districts.

In some school districts a heavy special school tax was assessed before the new law became operative, while in others a very light tax or no tax at all was levied. Now, it seems unjust to collect this heavy assessment in certain parts of the city where it was intended to be expended locally, and turn it over for expenditure for the benefit of other parts where no special tax was levied. And it is doubtful if the officers who collect will be justified in handing it to the Board, seeing that it was specially assessed for local purposes only.

Legal advice should be had on this important question. It has been suggested that if collection of these special taxes can be stopped, that would be the fairest solution of the difficulty. The general school tax is all right, and will pass into the hands of the school board. This will be the *pro rata* share of both the territorial and county school taxes, and will be sufficient for all needful purposes until the levy authorized by law before the end of the year is made. The following section of the law, however, may stand in the way of the solution of the difficulty:

"Sec. 135. Nothing in this act shall be construed or intended to abate, impair or invalidate any levy of taxes or assessment therefor which has been or is now being made in any school district or county in this Territory, and all such assessments shall be continued and completed and the taxes levied shall be collected in the manner provided by law."

It is to be hoped that no conflict of any serious nature will arise between the collector or the old trustees and the new school board.

It is desirable that the cause of education shall not be impeded. Competent legal counsel should be had and all friction, so far as possible, be avoided. We want a complete and efficient school system in this city. The law was intended to supply it. Now let the good work go on, and such improvements be inaugurated as will place free and thorough education within the reach of all the children of school age in the municipality.

DANGEROUS MISTAKES.

ON July 16th three instances of mistaken identity occurred on the streets of this city after dark. These occurrences appear to be somewhat humorous on the surface, but they came near being attended with tragical results. Each of the persons whose identity was mistaken was a policeman. They were taken for hold-ups or footpads. The persons who were in error were respectable citizens of Salt Lake. Their mistake was pardonable. This is not intended as a reflection upon the police, because, so far as personal attractions are concerned, they will pass in a crowd, but not without being observed.

It was the behavior of the officer, in each instance, that inspired pedestrians with a suspicion that their vocation was not an honest one. In one case the officer, who was doubtless on the lookout for characters of the kind for which he was taken, emerged suddenly from behind a tree as Mr. R. appeared in proximity to the spot where he was stationed. The citizen thus confronted by a person whom he mistook for a "tough" man from Tacoma, pulled a pistol and was about to deposit a piece of lead in the corpus of the officer. Fortunately there was a sudden comprehension of the situation and a tragedy was averted. What made the mistake of the citizen all the more excusable was the fact that the manly form of the policeman was enveloped in a long linen duster. Case number two was of a similar character. Number three had a slight variation attachment. As the policeman came out from cover a pedestrian close by seemed to be suddenly possessed of the idea that he had forgotten his umbrella. He leaped with pronounced agility and thus quickly increased the distance between himself and the supposed holdup. He then sprinted and vanished in the darkness.

The moral of these incidents is

plain; under the unsafe condition of our city, from the presence of many criminals, it is not good nor secure policy for conservators of the peace to dodge behind trees or other cover as if they were on the lookout for victims. Such are the antics of highwaymen, for whom the police are apt to be mistaken. It would be much more advisable for them to be so clothed as not to be taken for officers, and to so act that they will not be taken for any other class than plain citizens. If they could, in fact, so arrange it that the hold-ups would be induced to attack them for purposes of robbery, some good might be accomplished. The way the thing is now running a policeman or a private citizen, is liable to be shot down without there being a highwayman in sight.

ACTION WANTED AT ONCE.

THE facts in relation to the frauds connected with the school election are affirmed by many indignant citizens. They only meet with a jeer from the defenders of the iniquity. And they will amount to nothing in effect, unless they are made to appear somewhere else than in the newspapers. No one of any intelligence doubts the perpetration of shameful wrongs at the municipal election. But an opportunity was lost when those who held the proofs failed to bring the criminals to bar. Do not repeat this error. Let the franchise robbers be prosecuted. And if those who know of the offenses committed will not come forward and aid in bringing the offenders to trial, they may just as well cease to proclaim against the evil and close their mouths against the evil doers. Put the villains through!

APPALLING PAUPERISM AND ABASEMENT.

It is distasteful to us to refer to the statements of the chief anti-"Mormon" organ, published in this city. To do so occasionally, however, serves to throw some important element of the local and, to some extent, national situation into refreshing prominence. For this reason we quote the following from the issue of July 18, of the sheet referred to:

"In its wisdom, the government of the United States believed it owed it to its own people to, under the law, take from the Mormon power property unjustly obtained from its people, and used to pervert and defeat the laws of the government of the United States,