

who have returned and who remain unpunished."

A writer named "Kuickerbocker" thus replies:

"I have no desire to condone the crimes of the boodle aldermen, or to defend those worthies, but, to use a popular if not an elegant phrase, 'they could not hold a candle' to the Canadian corruptionists. The latter set up in the boodle business long before the Jaenes started it, but discovery has been slower. There is also another distinction to be made. The Canadians who have been caught are not mere vulgar aldermen, but some of the highest officials of the Dominion. One of them, indeed, stood within the shadow of the premiership. We cannot teach Canada in this line."

LAND COMMISSIONER CARTER ON WATER STORAGE.

THOMAS H. CARTER, Commissioner of the General Land Office, has a very instructive article in the *New York Recorder* on the arid land question. He says that unappropriated lands are now mostly confined to the arid region, and that the demand for homes is unprecedented as illustrated in the recent Oklahoma rush, where long and vexatious contests have been waged over titles. Oklahoma had no inducements in the way of soil or climate beyond millions of acres situated in the arid belt, but crops could be raised there without irrigation. This alone was what impelled land-hunters to rush to that Territory.

The Commissioner is of opinion that some system of water storage should be adopted, but he is emphatically opposed to granting large tracts of land to syndicates or corporations, who would undertake to establish a storage system. This would ultimately lead to a scheme of land-renting that would be antagonistic to our government and to our national institutions. He is as emphatically opposed to the plan of obtaining aid from the Federal Government for purposes of water storage. However, he asserts that it is not the duty of the General Government to assume an inactive or inattentive attitude on this question. There is nothing to prevent tens of thousands of American homes being established in the arid lands, but the absence of water. How is this water to be obtained? Thus replies Mr. Carter to this momentous question:

"There can be but one answer. The problem is a serious one, and its prompt solution is quite as important as its wise solution. There are two ways open: First, to pursue a policy indicated in a recent act of Congress, encouraging private capital to engage in the enterprise. This policy must necessarily result in passing the ownership of water, and consequent control of the land, to corporations. A wiser plan, it seems to me, would be the transfer of the land and water to the direct control of the States,

subject to such limitations and restrictions as would insure the reclamation of the land by the States, and the transfer of title from the State in the first instance to actual settlers."

ONE OF NATURE'S WONDERS.

THE reports of the new sea at Salton, produced by the overflow of the Colorado River, show that wonderful climatic changes may result to that region through this extraordinary freak of nature. It is said that already the effects of the tremendous evaporation that has been going on during the past two months from the hot waters of the lake is being felt. The country in the neighborhood has been visited with several heavy showers such as were never before experienced in that region at this time of the year, and it is believed they have produced a marked change in the usually super heated atmosphere.

This is a perfectly natural result and one that was generally predicted in case the lake became a permanency. It is said that the Colorado river is still pouring into the basin through several channels and the waters of the lake in spite of evaporation are holding their level. Every indication now points to a continuance of the lake at its present height, in which case there is promise of an industrial revolution in its locality.

POINTS OF LOGIC.

SINCE both alcohol and bread are the products of fermentation, says Kate Field, they should stand on an equal footing before the law. If it is wrong, she declares, to sell a bottle of wine, it is also wrong to sell the forty-two pounds of bread that contain the same quantity of alcohol.

Miss Field evidently wanted to be logical, for once, but her burning desire to be smart got the start of her better impulses as usual. In the first place bread is not a product of fermentation any more than valuable womanhood is the product or possible companion of dishonesty, or truth the product of cunning and evasive argument.

Bread that is worth having is the product of honest flour manipulated by a competent bread maker—not for the sake of some intoxicating quality it may have but for its quality to satisfy hunger and sustain life. The skill of this noble artisan is sometimes aided by fermentation, and sometimes it is not, according to his style of bakery. The insignificant amount of alcohol that might be generated in the process is an accident and not an essential of the product and in no wise characterizes or effects its quality.

Wine on the contrary is a product of fermentation invented and manufactured for its intoxicating qualities. Alcohol is therefore not only an essential but a principle ingredient of its composition, and characterizes the quality of the product almost absolutely. Take the alcohol from the bread that happens by accident to contain it and the consumer would not recognize the change; take the alcohol from the wine and it would be utterly worthless.

Moreover, both being the product of fermentation would not make them of necessity the same or similar in any essential quality. Vinegar is the product of fermentation. Gas and tar are two of the numerous products of bituminous coal subject to distillation, but gas is not tar nor anything like it. We might also add that the editor of *Kate Field's Washington*, and Mrs. Cleveland are products of the same process of creation, but Mrs. Cleveland is not Kate Field nor any more like her than bread is like wine. To endeavor to so distort the terms and processes of logic as to make things totally opposed in essential qualities appear to be in the same or in allied categories is a perversion of reason, and a prostitution of argument.

Logic is simply the obedient exponent or vehicle of truth. Of its entire processes truth is both the beginning and end. A single falsehood, expressed or inferred, smuggled into its premises makes of the whole a counterfeit. Such tricks of perverted invention will never stand long under scrutiny.

THE UTAH POLITICAL SITUATION.

THE official returns of the general election show that the total number of voters in the Territory was 27,900. Of course these figures do not represent the full number of citizens who have the right to vote. There are always people, in every part of the country, who neglect the great duty of citizens, to cast their ballots in support of men whom they consider the most likely to support good measures and good government. Added to these are others who possess all the qualifications of voters except registration, and who are not registered simply because they neglect to comply with the law.

Of these 27,900 no less than 14,157 voted the Democratic ticket. The total Republican vote was 6,339 and the "Liberal" vote 7,404. This gives the Democratic party a plurality of 6,753 and a majority over all of 414. The Democrats, therefore have good reason for their jubilation over the result.