

ful old Johnson a few dollars, but he probably will never get a cent for anything he ever did in the times of Indian troubles. We are disposed to concur in this conclusion, but it is a most shameful state of affairs; not because the old fellow is poor and needy, but because the nation is, according to every sense of justice and instinct of honor, deeply indebted to him.

THE WAGES OF SIN.

Young Larkins, who was on Saturday last convicted at Pocatello for the murder of Josie Hill, presents in his own person and actions of recent years another of those terrible objects lessons in crime and its harvest that seem not to abate in the least because of their frequency. As is usual in such cases, he comes of a good family and doubtless had the benefit of good precept and example so long as he was subject to parental control; but the influences of the home being once broken from and those of the rum shop taken on, the chances largely favor a disastrous outcome. The moral restraints of social life are only potent when subjection is given to them; and the first step in the direction of their complete overthrow is that which brings the person within the walls of those places which do not figure as lawless concerns generally, but are in reality the alpha of that career whose omega if not the scaffold is at least something to be dreaded.

The six degrees of crime have been defined as wine, women, deception, theft, murder and ignominious death. The last of these will soon be pronounced on Larkins, with a certainty that with only one possible exception he has taken all the others. What a shocking thing it all is, seriously considered! With youth, controlled by meritorious effort, how different it might have been! Instead of the record of an immoral and dissolute law-defier behind and a noose now dangling before him, let us imagine the poor victim the head and pride of an honorable household, respected by those who know him, all the world's possibilities attainable but a respectable career under any circumstances well assured—what a sad, significant contrast! What a somber, sorrowful warning added to the myriad that have preceded it! And with all these speaking in language plain and forcible how certain is the payment of the wages of sin, how many of those who are now in the toils of either of the earlier degrees will pause, consider and turn back?

A HORSEFLESH SUGGESTION.

If a German view of the case is to prevail in civilized countries, there will not be a falling off in the demand for horses merely because the bicycle and steam and electric motors are crowding the animal out of much of the field it has occupied so long. This view is that the horse makes better and healthier beef than the ox. In discussing the proposition the Frankfort Journal points out that the horse is the cleanliest of all domestic animals; that it will not eat anything but good,

healthy food, or drink anything but pure water, and that it would rather starve than swallow the rotten stuff often given to pigs and cattle; and the paper quoted from declares that "it is nothing but prejudice that prevents us from eating horseflesh."

Our Frankfort cotemporary further asserts that the nations of Europe have suffered enormous loss by this prohibition of horseflesh; that especially from the humanitarian point of view the results are most deplorable, and that millions of people are forced to live on potatoes and similar food wanting in nutritive qualities, while millions of pounds of the very best meat are wasted. It claims horseflesh is the most nourishing of all meats, and its taste is hardly to be distinguished from that of beef; that "the flesh of a horse fed on oats has a smell similar to gooseflesh. The fat is preferable to lard. Above all, it should be remembered that no flesh is so healthy as that of a horse. Trichinosis and similar diseases are unknown in horses. Tuberculosis, very common in cattle, is very rare in horses."

This argument may be all very good and very true, from one standpoint. Yet there will be a great many people who insist on fancying that the grain, potatoes and similar food alleged to be "wanting in nutritive qualities," yet which goes to build up and sustain the noble equine, is just as good when taken into man's digestive apparatus originally as when carried there after the process of being converted into horseflesh. As to the freedom of horses from certain diseases, that also is true, yet when all the facts are considered there arises in the mind visions of glanders, etc., that may turn the heartiest stomach against the article. Horsemeat may be all very well for those who like it; but the human family has not been mistaken all the centuries in thinking that there is other animal flesh at least equally as suitable for food.

THE NEW RAILROADS.

The giving of the Old Fort Square, for depot purposes, to the Deep Creek and Los Angeles railways on certain conditions by the said railways to be complied with, presupposes the granting of rights of way on necessary streets leading to the proposed depot. The City Council's prompt and magnanimous action in the matter first referred to is not to be regarded as intending that delays and denials are to hamper the granting of a franchise; a depot which can only be reached by balloon or by subway is robbed of the great part of its value—in this part of the world it would be quite useless. To render the gift applicable in the intended and legitimate sense, the Council should with equal promptitude pass the corollary ordinance, permitting the railways the proper use of the necessary streets. This done, there will be no excuse that the city authorities need feel bound to recognize in case there is a failure on the part of the railways to comply with the conditions of the agreement. If good faith is exacted on the one side it should be readily extended on the other.

For ourselves, we have no doubt

that the railways to be benefited by the gift referred to mean to fulfill literally their part of the contract and to give realization to the hopes of their friends. Some people are so unreasonable as to expect that dirt should be flying within a week of incorporation and that the signing of right of way papers necessarily should imply that the line will be immediately made black with men and teams. Such people overlook the large amount of office work that is preliminary to great constructive enterprises, and forget that small field parties are the only possible evidences of outdoor activity that can be given for some weeks after the project is fairly and positively under way. It is only right to bear these things in mind in order that a judicious curb may be placed upon the natural impatience of the community to see these works in lively progress. Their promoters are doing all that men can do to hasten the opening of tangible operations, and the NEWS is in a position to declare that everything is running as smoothly as the fondest friend could desire.

FICKLE CUSTOM VS. ACCURACY.

A great furore was created in this region when some months ago the NEWS undertook to champion the metric system of weights and measurements, because it was held that the introduction of the new system would lead to all manner of complications, inconveniences and expenses. The same hue and cry will no doubt be raised on a national scale now that a bill for the introduction of the system in the United States has been unanimously reported to the House of Representatives by the committee on coinage, weights and measures, with every reasonable prospect that it will pass the Congress and receive executive approval. No one who knows anything about the subject will pretend to dispute the superiority of the proposed system over any other now in use; and even those who do not know anything about it will be able to see reasons for the change if they will but note a few sentences from the report of the committee above referred to. For instance, at present the size of our quart, gallon, bushel and barrel varies materially according to locality. The barrel of oil or cider in Pennsylvania, Ohio and many of the states, according to legal provision, contains 31½ gallons, but in actual fact it contains 40 or 42 gallons. The gallon of milk in New York contains 231 cubic inches, and in Minnesota it is fixed by law at 282. The standard bushel used by the United States in the custom houses is 3 per cent smaller than the standard bushel of Great Britain. The bushel of oats varies from 29 pounds in Maryland to 36 pounds in Oregon. The bushel of barley weighs 32 pounds in Louisiana and 50 in California. The laws of New York and Oregon make 42 pounds of buckwheat a bushel, while those of Minnesota and Nebraska call for 52 pounds, and Kentucky 56 pounds. The bushel of rye weighs 32 pounds in Louisiana, but grows to 56 pounds in Ohio. Potatoes weigh 60 pounds to the bushel in Washington, 56 in Pennsylvania and