

lowing section from the Michigan school law:

"Sec. 17. Every person of the age of twenty-one years, who has property liable to assessment for school taxes in any school district, and who has resided therein three months next preceding any school meeting held in said district, or who has resided three months next preceding such meeting on any territory belonging to such district at the time of holding said meeting, shall be a qualified voter in said meeting upon all questions, and all other persons who are twenty-one years of age, and are the parents or legal guardians of any children included in the school census of the district, and who have for three months, as aforesaid, been residents in said district or upon any territory belonging thereto at the time of holding any school meeting, shall be entitled to vote on all questions arising in said district which do not directly involve the raising of money by tax."

As will be seen at a glance, the provision which Mr. Ferry so vehemently opposed is practically identical with one contained in the school law of his own State, a law to which he had so frequently made allusions of praise. Under the Michigan law, females vote at school meetings; so they do in Kansas, Vermont, New Hampshire, and, we believe, in a number of other States. In Massachusetts, women hold offices that pertain to the schools.

All this proves the position formerly taken by the News, and recognized by the school bill, namely, that school elections are not elections of the kind included in the meaning of the term as used in the constitutions and laws of the States named, and of the States of the Union and of Congress generally.

It did not appear from the debate that the "Liberals" would vote against the bill on any other grounds than their opposition to the sections relating to revenue and electors, above reproduced. We are not conscious of misrepresenting their position, therefore, in stating that they voted against the bill because of those sections. Such is the conclusion produced by their remarks on the passage of the bill. We are thus specific because we deem it proper to place on record the only apparent reasons why the "Liberal" members of the Assembly have voted against a free school bill, after the long years of clamoring by their party for such a law.

In a speech in opposition to the section relative to electors, Mr. Ferry injected an element which approached the pathetic. He pictured himself as a native-born American citizen, the father of children attending school, but not in this Territory, the manager of a number of

heavy financial concerns, and the present occupant of the office of school trustee, stripped, by that outrageous provision, of the right to vote at a school meeting, for no other reason than that he was not a taxpayer, while his Chinese cook, who might happen to have a little Chinaman, or a moiety of taxable property, could so vote, and was thus placed upon a level so much higher than that to which the obnoxious section reduced him. The case of the able, affable and eloquent gentleman from Park City, as portrayed by himself, threw a shade of disfavor upon the section he was attacking. To read the section made it seem all but impossible that such a case could arise under it, yet there stood the member from Summit, now a school trustee and law-maker, whose doom seemed sealed, so far as school voting was concerned, if the bill became law without amendment.

But in further examination of Mr. Ferry's case, it became apparent that he was mistaken. True he was not building up the Territory in a financial way by paying taxes, but he was strengthening its resources by a method equally as commendable in its ultimate results—he was raising a family. He had children at school. The school they were attending was not in Utah, but he was the father of a school child, and that gave him the right to vote in his school district, whether the child was found there or not.

It is assumed that at least one of his children is of school age, and resides, when at home, with the parents in Park city. Thus fades into nothingness the reason why Mr. Ferry voted against the free school bill.

AN ELECTION LAW NEEDED.

FOR eight years past matters pertaining to elections have been in an anomalous condition in this Territory. Five men who have no permanent interests here, and who have not even the right to vote in any precinct in the Territory, are vested with the control of all general and municipal elections in it. The creation of the Utah Commission by Congress in 1882 was a temporary expedient, designed to bridge over an interim which was expected to terminate at the next session of the Legislature, as it was supposed that the Assembly, at its first session, would pass an election law which would render the further existence

of that body useless. All this is plainly apparent from section 9 of the Edmunds Law, which created the Commission, and is confirmed by section 23 of the Edmunds-Tucker Law, with the proviso that legislation by the Territorial Assembly, designed to supplant the Utah Commission, must be approved by Congress before taking effect.

Two election bills have been introduced in the Council. The second includes the first, and is known as Brian's bill. It is designed to be a complete election code, and to contain all necessary provisions relative to the qualifications of electors and office holders, the registration of voters, the management of elections and the making of returns. It is substantially similar to the present law, but is more specific in some of its provisions, particularly in relation to registration and challenges at the polls. This bill ought to pass, with such amendments as a critical examination of it may show to be necessary; but it is time the anticipations of Congress were met "by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah," that the expense to the national treasury of maintaining the Utah Commission may be terminated. However, it is like hoping against hope to expect that any election measure would travel any further on the road toward the point of becoming a law in fact and effect than the Legislative Assembly. There is too evident a disposition elsewhere to nurse and perpetuate the imported body entrusted with the manipulation of election matters.

PLENTY OF WATER.

THE weather forecasts lately made by Mr. Webb have been unusually correct. In his last forward-pointing statement in that line he assured the citizens that they need entertain no fears of damage by flood during the forepart of the season. This soothing information is based upon his anticipation that the approaching spring will be a late one—that there is yet a lengthy spell of cold weather ahead.

If this be the case, the vast accumulations of snow in the mountains and "munitions of rocks" by which this and other valleys are surrounded will be held there by the persistent grasp of winter, which seems remarkably reluctant to loosen his grip upon the hordes of frozen moisture he has carefully husbanded. Should the