

low cost of transmuting water power into electrical energy and the ease with which the same can be delivered to almost any desired spot is shown to be not more than half the cost of production of steam; hence in water-power localities steam engines are at a decided disadvantage. With the facts in view, as they are being developed nowadays, it should not be long in this State before every mountain stream affording any considerable water power in the vicinity of a town or settlement should be utilized for the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants of the locality.

ONE HOMESTEAD.

A Scofield correspondent sends this to the News:

Will you please answer through your valuable paper the following: A man has taken up a homestead as a citizen and got his patent. He has served in the United States army. Can he take up another homestead on his soldier's right, giving him two homesteads?

No; the rule is one homestead for one householder. The right of a soldier to take up land is an extension beyond the rights exercised by an ordinary citizen; that is, a soldier is given special privileges by reason of his service in the army, such as allowing him to take a homestead when he has not the right as a citizen to do so; but this special privilege does not extend to allowing two homestead entries.

THE CONTINUING FLOODS.

The series of "cloudbursts" which has caused so much damage in different localities in the State this year does not seem to be ended yet. A vast amount of property has been destroyed and several lives lost as a result of the visitations. Where the end is perhaps none can tell, but since there is good reason to expect some heavy rains, according to the usual course of affairs, the next two months, it will be wise at least for people to exercise as much care as possible wherever they or their property are likely to be within reach of suddenly-swollen mountain streams.

It may be that some of the fatalities which have occurred could not have been prevented; but appearances indicate that it is possible they might have been. In the sad affair which resulted in the drowning of a young lady in Millard county a few days ago, it is easy to think that if there had been less of a feeling of venturesomeness in driving into a rushing flood, the result might have been different. Of course there was not the slightest intention to be reckless or the least idea that all would not be well; but yet the safest course that presented was not closely followed. So it was with the lamentable disaster near Richfield Friday night. None thought the rushing mountain stream was receiving such a terrific flood when the attempt was made to cross it. But the torrent had given a forewarning, the import of which was not fully ascertained and understood, so the venture was made. The result was the end of a life and depriving a wife and thirteen children of their

natural protector. Yet no one can suggest blame for the least intentional neglect.

In the light of these experiences the serious nature of these continued floods should be recognized. There should be no chances taken with human life, either by being venturesome in crossing swelling streams or in other ways becoming liable to their mad rush. It is very painful to record destruction and fatalities when there is no known way to prevent them; it is doubly so when there is even an impression that the exercise of reasonable caution under the circumstances would have rendered escape therefrom probable or possible.

A DISTURBED SITUATION.

It cannot be said that the political situation of the country presents a very alluring spectacle today. There never was a time in the history of the nation when matters were more completely "chopped up" than now. There is division everywhere, and disunion permeates and disturbs the closest ties of national family life. Counting from the head of the nation down, it is doubtful whether there has been any other period in the annals of this country when the more intimate relations of friendly life could have been so readily affected by political opinions and preferences as now; certainly no period gives an illustration of their having been so affected. In the retirement of Hoke Smith from the cabinet and the prompt, to say the least, appointment of David R. Francis to succeed him as secretary of the interior, is an illustration the like of which has never occurred before. Secretary Smith is said to be on the best terms with the President, so far as personal friendship is concerned. He is also of the same political faith, and in his policy as member of the cabinet was in accord with his chief. Yet because Mr. Smith felt obliged to sustain his party nominee for the presidency, in a way in which the administration was not officially concerned, he was dropped out. In his individual choice he was not in accord with the rest of the cabinet, although he was officially, therefore he is impelled to retire only a few months prior to the close of his term. An administration placed in power by a great political party thus purges itself of a member who maintains his party allegiance in most conservative form. This proceeding, coupled by the speedy appointment of Mr. Smith's successor, shows how completely the present administration has cut loose from the bulk of the party that placed it in power.

This peculiar attitude of what is presumed to be the party head towards the body of the organization has been carried to an extent altogether unknown heretofore in this nation. But it is not the only peculiar feature of the present condition. Looking the whole field over, the prominent disunion noted is seen to be merely an illustration of what is manifest everywhere and in every party. There is to be found in each combination formed a centralized thought on some leading topic, but a complete dissimi-

larity of views on almost all other topics which the party combination has under consideration; there is fusion and there is disunion everywhere, with discord predominating. The result is that nobody in any party is fully satisfied, and very many are at a great loss what to do.

This very uncertainty upon a general well defined policy, and the determination to force special issues to a consummation, is fraught with much danger to the Republic—more than many people realize. It may be the case that the disposition of the American people to compromise rather than to engage in disturbances will act as oil on the troubled waters, until a safe landing is effected; but it is also possible that the heat and turmoil of the great conflict at hand may be too much for the bitterness of partisan strife where there are so many factions, and that somebody may pass the bounds of decorum in the eagerness to win. This year has given abundant evidence of the disturbed condition of the elements, the outcome of which has been storm and disaster; there is also commotion in the minds of men, and only cool and wise heads will avert human storms and disasters.

AMERICAN EXTRAVAGANCE.

A few years ago, when the late financial panic began to loom up in prospect, and when it came, there was prominently pointed out in the leading journals of this part of the country the fact that speculation and extravagance were largely responsible for the unfortunate financial condition which existed among the people. There had been a big "boom" in these valleys, and very many persons, having imbibed inflated ideas concerning personal and household expenditures, had plunged forward apparently regardless of consequences; but the pinch came and with it a sense of realization of the situation. At this juncture the people generally recognized the force of the fact pointed out by the press, and it can be said of the population of this section that in the main there was exhibited a spirit of retrenchment, thrift and frugality which went a long way toward wiping out the old fault and freeing the people of the offense which had been charged against them. The result is that as a rule in these mountain vales the craze towards speculation and extravagance received a great check, and consequently people here are in advance of the rest of the country towards the line of paying their own way as they proceed in life. Still there is a painful reminder of the great debt-burden incurred under the old spirit, and yet encouraged by a few for personal ends.

In other parts of the country the leaders of thought who have access to the public through the newspapers are finding time in the midst of the political turmoil to call attention to this other important element in the existing situation. The Dallas Galveston News, for instance, denominates it the weak point in American civilization, and says that the most dangerous developments of popular discontent in this country are traceable to ill and disorders of a nature