

ANOTHER CITY SINECURE.

THE manufacture of sinecures by the "Liberal" city government goes forward apace. Last night (Tuesday) a cement inspector was appointed, with a salary attached to the new office of \$75 a month. Of course this appointment was an absolute necessity—in order to give a political partisan a job at the expense of the people, who get no adequate service in return for the expenditure of their money.

To make this point clear it is only necessary to explain the intelligence and amount of labor needed in the cement-testing process. We give an instance: One thousand sacks of cement (equal to 300 barrels) have arrived for the paving of Richards Avenue. The tester simply takes a shovelful of the material from each twentieth sack, mixes it, and, with a small brass mould, the dimensions of which are only a few inches each way, makes a number of "brickettes." This work can be done in about one hour. These "brickettes" are put into water, where they remain seven days. That is the entire test. If the articles are sound at the end of the specified time, the cement is pronounced all right; if not, otherwise.

It will be observed from this explanation how much necessity there is for the creation of a new office, the making of an appointment and the payment of a salary for the purpose of attending to the duty of testing cement, which the law provides shall be done by the city engineer, or in connection with his office. This does not mean, we presume, that he shall do it personally, but under his supervision, by one of his aids.

The present "Liberal" administration are making a record that will count up at the end of their term.

DAHOMY IN FRANCE.

THE trouble between France and the King of Dahomey is not yet settled. According to the dispatches the French expedition from the coast to the interior is decided on, and a soldier named Colonel Dodds appointed to the supreme command. Troops which are more or less acclimated in Africa will be used. Contingents will be drawn from Senegal and other points for the expedition. Behanzin, King of Dahomey, has, it is said, 16,000 warriors now prepared for action. And if he would only take time by the forelock and not wait until the French are fully prepared, it is thought that his lady soldiers would achieve a conquest.

The capital of Dahomey is the City of Ahomey. It is situated far inland. It is said to contain vast treasures in the way of gold accumulations amounting to \$100,000,000. The successive kings of the country have been in the habit of burying large quantities of bullion in pits within their palaces. It is well known that gold exists in the country. In fact Dahomey is embraced in what is known as the gold coast of Africa, and there may be some truth in this report. Traders and missionaries assert that such is the case, and the London papers say that the object of the expedition is King Behanzin's bullion.

BAD FRUIT IN GOOD LOCALITIES.

OWNERS of orchards and particularly growers of fruit for the market, will do well to pay attention to some remarks in regard to "bad fruit in good localities" made in an article by William E. Smythe, that appears in the latest number of the *Irrigation Age*. We reproduce a portion of them, which we commend to the attention of our horticulturists. After criticising the poor policy of not engaging more extensively in the cultivation of fruit, he says:

"But there is a still more serious criticism to be made on many localities where fruit is already raised largely. This is the fact that it is raised with an utter disregard of the best varieties and the best methods, and is often left undefended against the commonest and deadliest pests. If this evil flourishes in one section more than in another perhaps its largest type may be seen in the lovely valleys of Utah. It is almost a proverb that a sound apple cannot be found in Utah. Like all proverbs, it is not strictly true, but, like all proverbs, there is a large element of truth underlying it. All the hardy fruits and many of the more delicate varieties are raised in abundance in the golden valleys that nestle under the peaks of the Wasatch. But, with few exceptions, this abundance brings no wealth to the cultivators and reflects no credit to the country. It is a sort of drunken horticulture—a waste of splendid resources and a travesty on what might be.

"The reason is that intelligent study was not used in the selection of varieties, or in cultivation, or in the defence of the orchard against its natural enemies. The result is a miserable apology for what should be a wonderfully prolific and substantially profitable horticulture. It is a case where stupidity has nullified the bounty of God and set at naught the genius of man. We never can have a great country until these fundamental errors are remedied and the irrigator understands that not only by the sweat of his face shall he earn his bread, but that by the exercise of his brains he shall lay up a competence."

In consequence of the backwardness of spring it is not too late now to select and plant out good varieties of fruit trees. There are lots of old and worthless stocks that should be cut down and new and valuable budded trees put in their places. Concerted and determined efforts to destroy the codlin moth and other pests would be another step in the way to improved fruit culture, and if this good work were continued awhile, it would not be long before the reputation of Utah would be restored for producing the finest fruit in the world.

THE PURITANS AND THE "MORMONS"

THE newspaper discussion over Professor Eliot's defense of the "Mormons" is not yet concluded. It has been a great deal more than a "nine days' wonder." The public mind seems very sensitive on anything that relates to the "Mormons" and the public prints of course have an eye to supplying the popular demand. We clip the following from the *St. Louis Republic*, because it treats on the matter in a different view from most of the newspaper comments:

"The row between New England and President Eliot of Harvard College is a family quarrel in which the REPUBLIC has had no mind to interfere, but it does seem to us that there ought to be some limit to New England vituperation of a worthy and benevolent doctor of all the laws, theologies and arts, whose sole offense lay in comparing the sacrifices made by the Mormons for conscience sake to those made by the "Pilgrim Fathers" and charged to the same account of profit and loss.

"Dr. Eliot rather understated the case, for the sacrifices of the early day Pilgrim saints of the 'Mayflower' were not a patching to those of the Latter-day Pilgrim Saints who crossed the plains and colonized Utah. The earlier day Pilgrims crossed the ocean in a ship with all the comforts and conveniences of the time. The Latter-day Pilgrims crossed the desert in wagons. The Puritan saints had an easy time blunderbussing Indians who had nothing but fishbone and flint-tipped arrows wherewith to defend themselves. The Mormon Saints had to deal with Indians much more ferocious and well armed with guns they knew how to use. The Puritan Saints left England that they might worship God in their own way, with the privilege of hanging Quakers and boring their tongues, which was denied them in England. The Mormon Saints left Missouri that they might worship God in their own way and marry more wives than the law allowed in Missouri.

"If Brigham Young is not just as high up in the roll of saints as the saints who hanged Quakers and burned Pequot squaws and papooses alive in their wigwams, on the theory that the earth belongs of divine right to the saints of the Lord, then the Republic is not capable of acting as an impartial umpire in this quarrel between Dr. Eliot and the Latter-day Saints of New England."

AN UNDIGNIFIED SPECTACLE.

THE scene that occurred yesterday during the investigation into the alleged crookedness in the pension department at Washington, was disgraceful. Commissioner Raum several times made a negative reply to a question put to him by Representative Enloe, of the committee. The latter wanted an affirmative answer and became angry because his wish was not satisfied. He hurled an offensive epithet at the witness and was about to follow up this breach of decency by pounding him on the head with a sponge glass. This latter operation was luckily prevented.

This was certainly an unseemly spectacle, and savored of anarchy, as far as it went. An intelligent man like Mr. Enloe could scarcely have been incited to act as he did in the hope of eliciting an affirmative answer to his question from Mr. Raum by cracking his skull with a sponge glass. This process has no effect in inducing a man to tell the truth if he be otherwise inclined; neither does it result in letting sense into him if he does not naturally possess it. When there is a question of veracity between an interrogator and a witness—especially in connection with an important investigation—everybody ought to know that the settlement of the difference ought to be left to substantiation of the respective assertions. There ought to be a wide difference between the aspect of a deliberative body and that of a bear garden.