

Austria as against Russia, because of the fact that so large a portion of the latter's population are Slavs, which race predominates in Russia, and of the spread of a pan-Slavic sentiment in those and other countries where the same race is found. The Latin and Teutonic races have no marked affinities for each other, a fact that weakens any compact between Germany and Italy; while the latter country has nearly all the time for centuries been friendly with France, another Latin Power. The Anglo-Saxon and the Teuton races have generally been friendly.

One of the elements now working out in European politics certain marked effects, is racial affinity. Slavs sympathize with each other, Latins entertain a mutual friendship, while the Teutonic elements of English blood gravitate towards their continental kindred. "Blood will tell." No period of the world's history is so fraught with rich lessons concerning the forces that operate in the politics, rise and fall of nations as are current developments in Europe.

#### THE IDAHO TEST CASE.

THE appealed case in which the validity of the Idaho religious test oath is embraced is now in the hands of the Supreme Court of the United States. The decision of that august tribunal will be awaited with deep anxiety. The question involved is one in which the whole nation is interested. It is not only the well-being of the community of the Latter-day Saints that is at stake, but that of the country at large.

This is necessarily so in every case involving a question of constitutional right of the sovereign citizen. The one in point includes one of the most important guaranties of that sacred instrument, which provides that "No religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust in the United States."

A test which excludes the citizen from the privilege of the elective franchise and from holding office or public trust on account of membership in a particular church is, to all intents and purposes, a bar on the ground of religion, and therefore an unconstitutional obstacle.

Those who have formulated and enacted the infamous test statute have put forth numberless excuses for their nefarious political work, but all of them are susceptible of

being punctured and dissipated. While they have falsely charged disloyalty upon the religious association against which the statute was aimed, they themselves, in the very enactment in question, have manifested that they are disloyal to the core.

It is folly for men to suppose that constitutional rights can be denied to one class of citizens, and the liberties of the whole remain secure. The historian Froude states a striking truth in his work on the Cæsars when he says, in substance, that if history has taught any one thing clearly it is this: When the rights of a constitution are denied, upon any pretext, to any class of citizens, the constitution itself falls to pieces, from mere incompetence for its duties.

Any denial of such rights is tyranny, and as justice is the essence of all government, when that is withheld, disaster to the whole body politic is a foregone conclusion. Even the smallest inroad upon the right of the citizen ought not to be permitted. If it should be it will act like an apparently insignificant crevasse in the bank of a river with an elevated channel. The water trickles through the tiny aperture at first, gradually widening it till it becomes a gap through which the entire stream rushes impetuously, deluging the whole surrounding country. Should the Idaho test oath be sustained, we do not doubt that this figure will have a practical illustration by the appearance ultimately of its legitimate results.

Men who formulate, favor and enact such religious test statutes as the one under consideration are in a certain sense anarchists, because every blow aimed at the liberties of the people of the Republic, or any class of them, leads, when successful, to chaotic results. We hope and believe that they will receive no encouragement from the Supreme Tribunal of the land, whose duty it is to be governed by law and principle, being seated, in their high calling, far above the influence of public prejudice and popular clamor.

#### A FAIR PROPOSITION.

AT last evening's session of the City Council the Hydraulic Canal Company submitted a statement in reference to the obtaining by the city from the County Court of a deed to a one-sixth interest in the Jordan dam and its storage capacity. The recitation of facts is clear and

straightforward. It is presumed that what the statement embodies was understood by the Council committee who investigated the subject and made the proposition to the Hydraulic Canal Company, and by the Council itself. Clear-headed business men do not enter upon such transactions without due scrutiny of the facts and equities involved.

Alleged aspersions cast by one or more members of the Council in the direction of this transaction have, it appears, induced the company to recite the facts and make the proposition which concludes the document. Had it not been for the unprecedented drouth of the present and last year, perhaps there would have been no such reflections indulged in. But be this as it may, here is presented an opportunity for the city to extricate itself from a position in which it was placed by its own act. Let the Council proceed accordingly.

#### FISH THIEVES.

THE following communication, dated Harrisville, Utah, Dec. 6, has been handed to us by the recipient, with the request that we publish it:

A. M. Musser, Dear Sir:

Shad? Well, it appears so. And is there no law to protect them? Can't or won't the people do justice to themselves and the little fish by letting them alone long enough to have one spawning season? I would like to see a native Utah shad. But if your Salt Lake vandals are permitted to destroy the original plant there is but little hope of my wish ever being gratified.

Call a meeting, arouse the people and see if public sentiment won't deter them from pursuing such a thieving course. No honest man would be guilty of catching or selling them, and if there is no law there should be one as soon one can be brought before our legislature, and I would be glad to have it reach back and catch the catchers.

Yours to punish the shaders,

T. W. HURD.

Persons who take fish, especially imported plant designed to stock local waters and thereby furnish a public food supply, are certainly the enemies of the public, and deserve to suffer the penalties provided by law. Something should be done to restrain their greed and cupidity, and to protect society from their ravages upon what would, if fostered, become a source of public wealth. The violator of the fish and game law is a creature who, to enrich himself to the extent of one cent, would rob the public of any