

of those wrongs! If it is a popular part of good politics to "turn the rascals out," how much more worthy the part of good citizenship to "keep the rascals from getting in!"

We hope the statement made a few days since to the effect that in one municipal ward there were over a hundred men who had not registered and said they would not—they were sick of elections—is not now true. On the other hand we commend to all citizens the example of a veteran who lives on lower State street. We do not know his religion or his politics, and as far as it relates to the purpose of this argument, we do not care. But he is ninety-one years old, has hastened to get his name on the registration list, and declares his intention, if spared until election day, to cast a freeman's ballot for the men of his choice and in the interest of good government. The News sincerely hopes he will live to see that day and as many more of them as his sturdy old heart can desire!

### APPOINTED SENATORS REJECTED.

The United States Senate yesterday disposed of the case of Lee Mantle, claiming to be senator from Montana by virtue of the governor's appointment; it also settled the claims of Washington and Wyoming to representation in the same manner. A motion to reconsider was made, but the decisive negative vote, 35, against 30 in the affirmative leaves little to be hoped for from that proceeding. There were 20 absentees, or at least the vote is short that number, not counting the three vacancies, and unless a change of five votes the other way can be secured with their assistance—a not very probable thing—Montana, Washington and Wyoming will have to worry along with but one senator for a while.

Everybody cannot see things as the solons of the upper house of Congress do, and perhaps it is as well that it is so. But for the sake of being informed a great many would like to know the process of reasoning, or interpretation, or finesse—whatever it may be—by means of which the following section of the Constitution was made to mean something different from what the common run of people construe it to mean:

"If vacancies happen, by resignation or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies."

It requires no faculty of divination to show that this provision was intended to secure a state against the abnormal situation which the three named are now undergoing; that, no matter from what cause or by what intervention, providential or personal, a state should not be made inferior to any other as regards representation in the upper house—the place where the states exclusively are directly represented. The idea which seems to have been paramount in the work of the revered compilers of our charter was to preserve unanimity and equality throughout, no section being deprived

of representation in the house because of inferior numbers and no state being subjected to conditions that other states are not subjected to. In order that not even death or resignation might overcome the design for the maintenance of equality, they inserted the provision spoken of. Of course they were not astute or prophetic enough to anticipate the technical points that would be raised in these days regarding their work, nor foresee the peculiar circumstances governing every case; it is quite probable they would have gone no further than they did had they been able to do so, for the reason that constitutions are foundations only, not the structures themselves, and they doubtless thought the provision as it stood was broad enough in its scope and general enough in its language to cover any possible contingency that might arise. "No matter by what means a vacancy occurs the governor of the state can fill it pro tempore," they may have said; and whether they said it or not they must have thought and intended it, or surely they would have made it more explicit and secured the states beyond peradventure in their representation.

It cannot be properly charged that the silver question controls the situation in all cases, for we find by the vote in detail on the admission of Mantle the names of free coinage men among the noes and demonetizers among the ayes.

### GOLD VALUE OF SILVER DOLLAR.

A correspondent writes: "I see frequently in quotations from monometallist papers statements something like this: 'According to yesterday's bullion quotations the actual value of the silver dollar is only 60 cents.' Now what I want to know is, how such a result is obtained and what the process of figuring."

Our correspondent should be made acquainted with the fact in the outset that the value of a silver dollar is one hundred cents, no matter what the bulls and bears of Wall Street may be able to do with the price of silver bullion. The meaning of the papers to which he alludes is that, comparing the market value of silver bullion per ounce with the coined value of gold, the metal that goes to make up a silver dollar "is only worth 60 cents" or whatever the figure may be. This, of course, is an altogether unfair way of presenting the relative values of the two metals. But that feature we have frequently discussed and need not do so here. The arithmetical question as to how to find the gold value of the silver dollar when the price of silver is given is thus answered: Multiply the market value of silver by 77½; this gives the gold value of the silver dollar. The factor 77½ is the result obtained by dividing 371.25, the number of grains of silver in a dollar, by 480, the number of grains in a troy ounce.

POLITICS DOESN'T make half as many strange bed fellows as does the division between Whites and Yellows on the coinage question. And yet a dollar is a very small matter for which to make enemies or choose friends.

### THE SAVINGS BANK.

An eastern paper contains an estimate showing that the total amount of deposits in American savings banks is, in round figures, the astonishing sum of five billion dollars! More than the aggregate amount of metal money in circulation in the whole world, and more than the most expensive war of which history makes mention ever cost the victor! A dozen people could not count it in fifty years, the sum is so inconceivably vast; and how was it all accumulated? By speculation, large investments, great deposits or by a succession of strokes of good fortune? No. Neither of these figured to any appreciable extent. As a rule those who patronize savings institutions are unable to put in more than \$10 or \$20 at a time; a \$50 deposit is a rarity and a \$100 one seldom if ever heard of in the smaller districts. The great bulk of the money finds its way into safe keeping \$5 at a time, and in many places the amounts deposited below that figure exceed several times those above it; yet by continual depositing and leaving where deposited, see what those insignificant sums have grown to! How they have rounded out into a colossal whole, greater than any sum which the nation in which the owners of the money live ever controlled in any year of its life or perhaps ever will! Is not the picture complete without explanation or comment?

The same paper devotes some thought to the savings banks deposits in another relation. It shows that they are worth more than 100 cents on the dollar in times of peace and confidence is abroad in the land. They earn, on an average, 8½ per cent per annum, being the most beneficent money we have. "They keep the wheels of commerce and manufacture going. In the shape of interest they add to the small pile of the industrious poor from quarter to quarter, without asking the depositor to do any extra work. They are always accessible to responsible borrowers and to no others. They are a clear gain to the country's wealth from day to day. They do not figure in speculation. Great commercial and manufacturing enterprises, whose earnings and unnumbered real estate entitle them to credit from a business point of view are accommodated for short periods with a portion of this active, moving, circulating medium, the savings of industrious and economic living. Keep these savings busy earning three and one-half per cent per annum as a permanent investment, and they are better than British consols, which yield only three per cent. And what bank ever refused gold for British consols?"

The inference from all this is shown to be that any kind of money—gold, silver or paper—is worth what it will earn, and as a medium of exchange it should have a greater earning power in the United States than in Europe, because we have more and greater undeveloped natural resources than any other country, these calling continually for money while supplying security for its return. Then let our money accumulate where it will do us and the community in which we live the most good! The people of the world