

fifth, \$30; sixth, \$25; seventh, \$20; eighth, \$15; ninth, \$10; tenth, \$5.

These premiums encouraged the farmers last year, and Nebraska will grow a big beet crop this year.

The *Sugar Bowl* gives the annexed report of applications for the Government bounty:

"Up to the first of the month 1950 claims, amounting to \$5,875,958, reached the sugar bounty division of the treasury department at Washington, of which 1457 claims were passed, amounting to \$4,443,778."

CLEVELAND A PROBABLE CANDIDATE

OUR dispatches today announce that Frank H. Hurd, of Ohio, conspicuous as the only prominent out and out Free Trader on the rolls of the Democratic party, is out with an announcement that if chosen delegate at large to the Chicago Convention he will present the name of Grover Cleveland for nomination as President. Mr. Hurd says he has seen the ex-Magistrate and that the latter is a candidate.

The Ohican has been for several terms a member of Congress; he has always been recognized as one of the ablest and most eloquent members of the House, and his acquaintance with public men is quite extended, while his veracity has not been questioned. If the Associated Press does him justice, it is a matter of great importance that is reported, because with Mr. Cleveland an avowed candidate all the dormant following he has had, and which mainly subsided because of his refusal to assert himself, will be apt to spring into renewed life. Mr. Cleveland's name may yet be one to conjure with, and it is not wise in the political prophets to rate him as a back number.

A REMARKABLE MAN.

IT was rather a conglomerate sort of convention that has been held in St. Louis, that is, it seemed to consist of those who belong or belonged to all other parties as well as those who have no affiliation with any. One of the master spirits is Ignatius Donnelly, of St. Paul, whose political and other public experience is more widespread and variable than that of, perhaps, any other man in the country. Without desiring to reflect upon the gentleman in any manner whatever, and repeating only what is recorded, we have to credit him with being at different times a Republican, a Democrat, a Granger, a Prohibitionist, a Greenbacker, a Labor Reformer and now an active worker in the ranks of the Farmers' Alliance. If we are not forgetful, he has been a candidate for office in each and all of these organizations, and has enjoyed (if that is the correct word) defeat in each and every instance since he came out of Congress in 1869, as a Republican, having served three terms. It was during the last of these that the remarkable controversy between his colleague Washburn and himself took place, the repartee being strictly American and typically western, while parts of the language were

so broad as to be excluded from the *Record*.

Mr. Donnelly is classed as an author. His writings partake strongly of mysticism, dealing generally with more or less occulted subjects. One of his first essays was "Atlantis," and the theme was to show that an island bearing that name once existed in the Atlantic, opposite the Straits of Gibraltar. Undoubtedly his greatest work was "The Great Cryptogram," a book of 1,000 pages, in which he sought to overthrow Shakespeare's authorship of the plays bearing his name and place it upon Lord Bacon. The cipher which he claimed to have discovered in proof of this, and which his book is ostensibly designed to make clear, remains as deeply shrouded in mystery after reading the book as before, that is, to the general reader. This work was a flat failure, as indeed have nearly all of Mr. Donnelly's later efforts been, the most signal of which was his libel suit against the St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* for \$100,000 last year, in which he was awarded a solitary dollar and his attorney a fee of five dollars.

Notwithstanding all this, Mr. Donnelly is a man of extraordinary attainments. He is an excellent writer of current events and thus a superior journalist, and as an orator he has few superiors at home or abroad. There is a certain lack in his make-up of that which causes men to pay strict attention to the practical affairs of life, and to exclude more of theorizing than is consistent therewith, and this seems to be the missing balance wheel in his mechanism. He is a conspicuous candidate for President before the aggregation referred to (we believe it has no specific name yet) with excellent chance of success—that is, before the convention, called for the 4th of July next, not at the polls, unless history has concluded to quit repeating itself in his case.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

A DISPATCH from Paris, France, dated February 24, says that De Freycinet will not attempt the task of forming a new Cabinet owing to his very weak state of health. Considering the fact that a republican form of government prevails in France, this crisis in French ministerial affairs may appear to many peculiar. The defeat of a government measure in that country involves the fall or reorganization of the ministry. In this particular it resembles England, though in the latter country the defeat of a government measure means more than ministerial downfall—it means an appeal to the people at large, and a new Parliament as well as a new ministry.

About a week ago what is known as the Associations bill was introduced as a government measure, and defeated in the Chamber of Deputies by a vote of 304 to 202. This was effected by a coalition of two factions in the Chamber. Immediately after, all the members of the French Ministry tendered their resignations to President Carnot. Since then the political situation has been rather critical.

French politics at all times are not the simplest in the world, but at this

time they are more complicated than usual. The present crisis, however, might be traced indirectly to the incident of the French pilgrims in Italy last summer, when insults to the memory of Victor Emanuel caused some excitement. The French government peremptorily prohibited future pilgrimages from France to Rome. The Archbishop of Aix, in rather intemperate language, criticised the action of his government. He was taken in hand by Fallieres, the Minister of Public Worship, prosecuted and fined.

This led to a sort of politico-religious agitation in France. It was soon ascertained that a strong party in the Chamber favored a severance of Church and State. It led also to what might be termed two parties in the church itself. The radical wing, comprising mostly the higher dignitaries, are monarchists, and they endorsed the action of the Archbishop of Aix. The moderate wing comprise the main body of the priests and humble clergy, who are all republican. They endorsed the action of the government.

At this juncture the Pope interposed. He forwarded to the Archbishop of Paris a letter or epistle to be read to the bishops and minor clergy, instructing them to abstain from active interference in politics. This letter the archbishop withheld. The Pope, in the meantime, seeing that his advice was not complied with, forwarded a copy of his letter to his nuncio at Paris, who had it promulgated among the bishops, priests and laity. The archbishops and cardinals did not like this and proceeded immediately to do some active political work.

De Freycinet, seeing that the Pope and the humbler clergy of France were in harmony with the republic, deemed it prudent to meet them half way. He had the Associations bill introduced in the Chamber of Deputies. This was in reality a religious measure intended to regulate the relations of Church and State in such a manner that the priests and bishops, and even the Pope, could be made steadfast friends of republican government. The measure did not suit the Radical politicians nor the Radical cardinals. Both factions united in the Chamber and defeated it.

From this it will be seen that the situation in France is critical. The high clergy are more Romish than the Pope himself, and join with infidels in defeating a measure not hurtful to the church, but tending to weaken their own prestige.

As much as 14,000,000 francs is paid annually by the State treasury to the church in France. The richest benefices are held by church dignitaries who favor a restoration of monarchy. There are five Cardinals in France, and they are active in politics. The feeling is fast gaining ground that a divorce between church and state would be the proper thing. The Pope's reference to the United States in this respect shows that he is prepared to accept the severance when it comes.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

THE Governor is placed between two roaring fires on the sheep question. Petitions and protests are piled up in about equal volume. The bill which he