

conclusively rebuked in some instances by those who did not want any partisanship in the case—they had the opportunity to give a stern warning that there are occasions when political domination is nauseating and will not be tolerated. It is a vicious system that would draw the party line tight on all questions and in all cases. Surely a school election is one place in which it should never be permitted. But we live and learn!

BORROWING AND PAYING BACK.

It is stated by a writer in a leading eastern journal, and his assertion probably is true, that the American people are the greatest borrowers on earth. This, of course, is in reference to money transactions; for whether deserved or not, Americans would not like to confess that they have a greater proneness than other people to the pecky habit of over-borrowing from neighbors of articles used in domestic life. The great reason for Americans being such borrowers of money from Europe is that they have a big undeveloped country. The possibilities to be wrought out in this continent by the outlay of capital is as great that people familiar with America's resources become imbued with the speculative idea, and consequently the capital necessary to carry out great schemes is eagerly sought for. Hence the people of the United States now owe sixteen hundred millions of dollars abroad. And the fact that they have been able to keep on borrowing to this vast amount from foreigners is conclusive proof that the loans have been, in the main, upon successful investments.

At the same time, it is a most unfortunate thing for any people, whether of a small community or of a nation, to become extreme borrowers. So soon as they reach that stage they cease to be freemen, having placed themselves in bondage to the money lender. When borrowed money is earning more than the rate of interest paid, and the investment is preserved intact so that it is sufficient at all times to liquidate the principal, then the line of legitimate business borrowing may be deemed as not transcended for the development of any resource. The difficulty with the United States is that it has crossed the line, hence much of the national financial distress.

Locally, the past few years have laid bare many examples of the extreme borrowing craze, and numbers of well-intentioned schemes have gone to the wall, leaving their promoters in sore straits to meet money obligations. Now that there are brighter prospects ahead for this locality, in the development of home resources, it may be that the lesson taught will prove valuable in producing a larger degree of conservatism than formerly prevailed. Great as is the advantage of being able to borrow plenty of money, it is overcome when a people take more pride in securing loans than in repaying them. The time seems to have been reached when Americans, having achieved the highest distinction as borrowers of foreign gold, should make a new departure and become notable for repaying their loans and getting along on their own capital. The princ-

ple of co-operation affords an avenue by which this point may be reached.

TURKS AND ARMENIANS.

A writer in a London magazine pictures the Armenians as a half-civilized people, living in burrows in the earth, passing their lives in agriculture or in petty trade, or, when rich enough, lending money at usurious rates to the Kurds, of whose depredations they complain. They are said to be uneducated, fanatical and immoral in the highest degree, practicing vices generally ascribed to the Mohammedans.

It is evident that the author has a purpose, but if his intention is to soften the sentiment against the Turks by emphasizing the dark shadows of social life among the sufferers of Armenia, he must fall for the reason that the responsibility for that condition chiefly rests with the ruling class—the Turks.

The Armenians met with every where in the coast cities of Asia Minor, where laws of civilization are of necessity recognized to some extent, and, consequently, the characteristics of the race are given some freedom of development, these Armenians as a rule are diligent, hard working and beating forth the keen intelligence peculiar to Orientals. Their linguistic skill is simply wonderful. They are progressive as far as circumstances will permit, longing for a place among the civilized nations. Their past history and their traditions inspire them with hope for the future. The race must be judged from the qualities they exhibit under favorable circumstances and not from the condition of the rural population in the relentless grasp of the monster of oppression which for centuries has wound its tentacles around them.

It is almost impossible for people living under the blessings of a free government to realize what despotism really is. Freedom of thought, of speech, of action becomes so natural that a different condition seems almost inconceivable. Even the groans from the depths of the abyss of oppression are likely to be misinterpreted as the rebellious utterances of malcontents, of which the world is full. One must have seen the misery in order to understand it. Fancy a country in which officials are authorized to seize every book, even Bibles, that have not a government "approved" stamped upon it; a country in which the villagers hide at the approach of a stranger, because they fear he has come to gather taxes; where officials with impunity lay hand on everything that is valuable, and where there, consequently, is no incentive to work for the sake of obtaining a competence; where everything beyond the bare necessities of a life in poverty must be hidden in caves or otherwise; where you cannot travel from one city to another without official permission; where you cannot trust a postmaster with a one-cent stamp, but must watch him until he has cancelled it and rendered it not worth while stealing. But these conditions prevail all over the Turkish empire. And worse still, neither the life nor the honor of the women is safe in the trucks of many of the bands that traverse the provin-

ces for the purpose of gathering revenue for the central government. Both Mohammedans and Christians are constantly subjected to these methods, and when they are considered, it is clear that whatever spark of civilization or tendency towards progress still remains, is a strong indication of the possibilities of a marvelous development under favorable circumstances.

The sultan, only a few days ago, intimated that he was satisfied with this mode of ruling, and this is probably true. The Turks know well what they are doing. The fact is that the Ottomans, for some reason or other, do not increase in proportion to the Armenians. They would soon become a helpless minority but for the constant raids by the Kurds, who are decimating a population deprived of the right of possessing arms for their own defense. No one acquainted with the situation believes that the Armenians are innocent of atrocities, but the provocation is such that in any other country, a general uprising would long ago have taken place.

A new stage of the Turkish question is looked for tomorrow, Saturday, December 7, when the sultan must give a definite answer to the demands of England for a permit to send an extra gunboat to Constantinople. Will the sultan dare to refuse? The impression seems to be general that no one power except Russia is in a position at present to do more than threaten the Sublime Porte, and that Russia is merely biding her time for a decisive action. There is a tradition in the Mohammedan world that in the fulness of time the czar will restore the cross to the church of St. Sophia, and if we mistake not, the Turks fear Russia more than all the rest of Europe combined.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

In some parts of this country, there is a growing opinion that the United States receives too much addition to its population by means of immigration, but it seems that a different view is entertained by the leading citizens of the Northwest. There are still large tracts of land not yet under cultivation and people are anxiously waiting for the farmers beyond the sea to come and break the ground and set the work of development rolling.

Not long ago a meeting was held in St. Paul for the purpose of discussing ways and means of attracting immigration. Among the delegates were the governors of Minnesota, North Dakota and Washington; the Railroad King James J. Hill, and Bishops Gilbert and Ireland. By special invitation A. E. Johnson, agent of the Thingvall line and one of the pioneers of the Northwest, was present.

The latter gave a vivid picture of the condition of the country when the journey to St. Paul had to be made on steamboat from the nearest railroad station and how, as by magic, lines were laid in all directions pointing further north and carrying the best class of immigrants to different parts of the country. Thousands of farms along the railroads were then laid out, whose owners today are wealthy or indepen-