

far from restraint, there has been actual applause of the acts mentioned. Under such circumstances there seems to be but one course open—that which was adopted in Montana. We believe that unpartisan citizens throughout the nation at large will commend the action there taken. It will be a sad day for American liberty when, because the states themselves will not protect its citizens' property, the national government must not do so. There is no longer credit in, and we trust there is no longer necessity for, the coarse and cruel suggestion that though "your cause is just we can do nothing for you!"

NEW GOLD PROCESS.

General Don Carlos Buell, who first came to public notice through his bravery in the Mexican war, at Monterey, Contreras and Churubusco, and retired from military service in 1864 subsequent to his defeat of General Bragg, who had served with him in Mexico, but who espoused the cause of the Confederacy in the Rebellion, now appears in the roll of inventor of an important gold recovery process. If the general's claims for his invention are verified in practical use, he soon will be numbered among the greatest gold miners of the age, notwithstanding the fact that he is 75 years old.

The general has been a close worker as a chemist for some thirty years, and has attained a high grade of proficiency. Of late years he has devoted himself to electrical science, and it was in this branch that his discovery was made. It is on the same general line as Edison's idea of reducing iron ore, but is adapted to recovering gold from sand, extracting the entire quantity of the precious metal that is determined by chemical analysis to be present. The process consists in dissolving the gold from the sand in a solution, which is the inventor's secret, and then the precious metal is separated by the use of electricity.

The practical application of the method is to be made at Westport, state of Washington, where a plant is being erected and will begin operations early next month. It consists of a number of tanks and a powerful electric battery. The material to be operated upon is the black sand along the coast of Oregon and Washington. General Buell says it will yield \$10 of flour gold to the ton of sand, and that enough exists on the Oregon and Washington beach to pay the national debt. He also says that the quantity of platinum which he can extract is equal in value to the gold. If the veteran soldier should prove as successful in this venture as he anticipates, none will begrudge him the honor of a brilliant scientific triumph to mark his closing days.

THE "WHIPS" GET PAID.

The members of the British Parliament serve without salary, but connected with the House of Commons are several well salaried positions, the occupiers of which earn their money by reason of their labors in keeping the M. P. at work, so that their party

may not be defeated through the absence of members of the majority. These gentlemen with pay are the "whips" of the party in power, whose duties gentlemen of aristocratic birth and high social position are eager to perform. The duties of junior whips are not only onerous but irksome. Their hours are from 11:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m., or thirteen hours daily, and sometimes longer, with intervals for lunch and dinner. From 12 to 3 o'clock they have to attend in their office. Then from 3:30 to 12:30 o'clock at night they have to sit or stand in the outer lobby of the house, and ascertain from every member who passes out where he is going, whether he is paired, and when he will be back. If he is not paired they have to either find a pair for him or prevent him from passing out by coaxing or threats, preferably the former. If members fail to come and have not made the necessary pairing arrangement, they must rustle them up. For this service the junior whips get £1,000 a year. Those holding similar positions for the minority party do this work for nothing, except that they are relieved from office duty.

The chief whip of the party in power gets £2,000 a year for his services, and his official position outside of the simple duties of whip is such as to enable him to render material service in bringing recalcitrant members to time. In addition to keeping an eye on the junior whips he deals with members on their more touchy side, inasmuch as it is he who practically distributes ribbons and titles and sees that cards of invitation are sent to this man and that—that no one is given undue preference—a delicate duty which requires much tact and skill. Of necessity this office must be filled by one prominent in aristocratic circles, and is frequently, though not always, occupied by one of the nobility, even with the liberals in power. While in Britain there is strong feeling against paying the legislators, there is no advocacy of requiring free the services of the majority party whip, as there attaches to his official position much expense of which members of Parliament are relieved.

THE CRY FOR STATE HELP.

The grave question raised by the appearance of "Industrial armies"—whether there be any proper way for the state to give work to the unemployed—is discussed, pro and con, in the last issue of the *Forum*; and nothing could be more timely and interesting. Dr. Stanton Colt, of the University Settlement in New York City, who is recognized as one of the most eloquent and earnest advocates of state aid, makes a plea for help by cities—and if by cities also by states. He argues that it is not socialism for a city to appropriate money in a time of general distress to make great public improvements; and that by this method employment, at the usual rate of wages, would be given to large numbers of idle men. This would help only those who are willing to work, and it would not be charity or socialism.

On the other hand, Mr. David McGregor Means, the political economist, under the heading, "The Dangerous Absurdity of State Aid," maintains that such a plan is nothing less than socialistic, because the work must be paid for, and it can only be paid for by taxation. If, therefore, any unusual quantity of work be given out in a time of depression, to that extent the city or state overtakes itself just when it can least afford to do so. This is the very essence of socialism, Mr. Means contends, and history is full of instances of bankruptcy and ruin that have been brought about in this identical way.

The controversy, while sharp and direct, will not settle the problem that at present confronts almost every locality in the country. But its bearing on that problem will be readily seen, and its discussion can hardly fail to excite sober and serious thought among many who, up till the present time, have only approached a decision under the influence of sentiment or passion.

THE FIGHT IS ON.

It is gratifying to note that the Utah coal miners are not participating in the general strike which has been inaugurated in the country by the mine workers. The present dullness makes things bad enough for the miners any way, and a strike here would make the situation worse. This the local miners seem to realize, and acting upon such understanding, they are deserving of consideration on the part of employers for not giving way to a popular pressure in the ranks of mine workers. Some of the Colorado miners, however, were not so judicious in their action, and already they are beginning to find out that there are two parties to the conflict now being waged.

As might have been foreseen by the mine workers, the operators are taking a hand in the matter in a way that will make any settlement favorable to the miner hard to reach. The prospect is that in Colorado the strikers will get back to work after a while at reduced wages, and that they will thereby bring down the wages of those in the state who did not strike. An example of how affairs are going may be seen in connection with the Colorado Fuel company's mines at Coal Creek. The men went out for a week, in conformity with the program of the general strike. One effect of thus throwing down the gauntlet to the mine operators was that the miners were discharged, and a notice was posted up that a ten per cent reduction would be made in the wages of all who returned to work. Thus the week off there is likely to be an expensive luxury, since it involves a lowering instead of an increase in the price of wages. The company's manager in explaining his action said, "That is our way of treating strikers. The only reduction made at any of the mines of this company the past year was at Newcastle, and the reduction there was due to a strike. When the men struck at Newcastle I told them it would cost a reduction of 10 per cent per month every month they staid out. They were out three months and returned to work at a 30 per cent reduction and were glad to get that. You may be