

tertain. Not long ago the president of the London Exchange in an address at Croyden said that American competition seriously threatened English commerce; German competition was comparatively of little consequence; and he added that the United States had contracts which properly ought to belong to England; thus, an American firm secured the contract for the Central underground railway in London, because the American bid was lower than the English, and the American firm could complete the work in a time shorter by three months than the English competitor. He continued by saying the Americans take contracts on the European continent, and in Japan and Egypt; the Americans know how to use machines better than the English do, and this is one of their advantages.

Well, there is no reason why this country, with her natural resources and inventive genius, should not maintain this superiority in the world's markets, if those advantages are aided by wise statesmanship.

THOSE WHO "KICK."

There is a class of people who are perhaps as well represented in Utah as elsewhere and whose numbers are by no means insignificant in any part of the world, who have been given the unpoetical but suggestive designation of "kickers." These are not all alike of course, some being occasional while others are continuous or chronic, and still another division line separating the mild from the hard membership of that select band. The very top notch is reached in the case of those who make it a practice never to agree with anybody about anything at any time or under any circumstances, and there is quite a sprinkling of these, too.

A representative of the "News" recently listened to the plaint of a citizen that in the judgment of many will entitle him to rank well to the fore among the "kicker" fraternity. However, as to that, the substance of what he said is here given so that the reader may form his own conclusions. After some preliminaries of no special relevancy the speaker went on to say:

"It does seem to me as if there ought to be a point at which the liability of the citizen for his neighbor's welfare ought to cease. The man who would not do so much as he might to subdue a fire that was destroying another's property, or would refuse to assist if he could when such or any property or life or honor were unlawfully assailed, would be a very unreliable and undesirable pillar of society. But it does not follow that he should stand guard over his neighbor's property night after night while the latter slept, nor pay any one else to do it while the owner paid nothing. This view of the case comes of proper discrimination, which should obtain among sensible people at all times. By the use of common sense and the employment of common justice we are apt to avoid those spasms of ultra patriotism which an eminent authority associated intimately with scoundrellism. I hate to see a community possessing reason, judgment and education go off half-cocked, so to speak, when there is no earthly call for it. Recently this one, which may be thus defined, got so badly off its gray matter regarding the merest abstraction that they haven't all quite recovered yet. Sentimentalism was pumped into one of the prosiest and most commonplace situations until it looked at times as though it was not so much a continuance of the high school as an enlargement of the asylum that was needed. One of the papers had a car-

toon representing that institute of learning as being in the greatest danger, surrounded by massive fortifications from which protruded with awful significance a lot of cannon presumably ready to belch forth destruction at a moment's notice, the improvised 'fort' being garrisoned by Democrats, Republicans, Populists and Non-Partisans, while under the picture was the line, 'Now bring on the enemy!' Having pretty much every political division of society fighting for it, it sounded a little like the braggadocio of a small schoolboy safely stowed to call for those who would fight against it to appear. As a matter of fact, the high school has no enemies, and the assumption that it has or had any of them in this city is and was perfectly gratuitous as well as savoring not a little of self-sufficient provincialism. No form or degree of education within proper channels can be too high or too good for the right-minded citizen, but the question as to how and when some of the branches should be carried on is a legitimate subject of controversy, and at the expense of being classed as a 'kicker,' I draw the line here and now at the high school supported by general taxation. How many Presidents of the United States had as good an education when they started out for themselves as can be obtained in our grade schools ending with the eighth? Mighty few. How many had high school advantages? Fewer still. The fact is, if the pupil once acquires the rudiments and has the thirst for knowledge, which is the sine qua non of an education, it doesn't matter whether he ever gets to any school again or not, you can't stop him. I am in favor of the high school, also of the University, also of those institutions where our young men graduate as footballists and oarsmen, such as Yale and Harvard—providing those responsible for them or they themselves can afford it; but I do not believe in making such instruction a public charge. If I want my son or daughter to learn French, German, music, painting, and so on, it is nobody's business and should be at nobody's expense but my own. It is to the interest of property owners that education be made free and compulsory, but there is a limit to their liability in this respect. They should not be compelled to pay for other people's children acquiring a knowledge of how to establish and apply the angle of parallax, to fathom the mystery of the demon star Algol, or to make the Greek kalends as familiar as a, b, c; they should be compelled to 'put up' until every child capable of learning has thoroughly mastered the 'three r's' and there it should end. A majority of the people, I believe, look at the matter as I do, but through the foolish fanfaronade of a sensation-loving press and its devotees hereabout and the backwardness of those who know better, the voters were carried off their feet apparently. It doesn't matter now, but I want it understood that though I may be a 'kicker' I am no 'sucker.'"

And then the interview was at an end.

UNIVERSAL STARVATION PREDICTED

A question now worrying some statisticians is whether the world is nearing a period of starvation—whether a time will come when the human family can no longer find food enough for its support. A Belgian expert with figures believes that such a time will come in less than four hundred years. The alarming view of the future is based on calculations as to the probable denseness of the population four hundred years from the pres-

ent date, and the estimated area of land necessary for the support of one human being. According to these calculations there ought to be twenty-seven and a half billion people on the earth in the year 2232. Where is this immense crowd to obtain food from? It takes about two and a half acres to supply three persons, and if this be taken as the limit to the capacity of the soil, there is land enough on all the earth only for six billion people, a figure which it is supposed will be reached in 176 years.

The figures and terrible conclusions drawn from them are interesting only as indicating exceedingly remote possibilities. The improbability, not to say the absurdity, of the calculation is shown by a contributor to the *Cosmos*, who argues as follows:

"According to the law of Malthus, when the population is not arrested by any obstacle it doubles every twenty-five years, in geometrical proportion. Let us turn the process the other way about, and try to find out, by the aid of this progression, in inverted order, when the population of the globe should have started to have become a thousand millions in 1825. The calculation is very simple, since we have to do with twenty-five year periods. At the beginning of the century there should have been only 500,000,000, 250,000,000 at the beginning of Louis XVI's reign, and finally, keeping on in the same way, we shall find that in 1575 the population of the globe should have been only 1,000,000."

Keeping the calculation up in the same way it is easily ascertained that the human race should date its beginning on earth only to the year 1100, and no further refutation is needed of the premises on which the argument rests.

Undoubtedly, were there no Providence to guide the course of the earth in its silent speed through the immeasurable space, or the affairs of the inhabitants of the globe, disaster would long ago have overtaken them. But mankind is not being hurled through the universe as passengers on a vessel without commanding officers, without provisions for the voyage. Everything is calculated. The time and course are well determined. The means of supply will last as long as the voyage lasts and if old resources are insufficient new ones will be found, and the more plentifully as the need increases. There will always be something left over in the great household of Providence.

The belief that wars and famine are necessary to reduce the population in order to keep the Lord's family within His resources for supply is not supported by facts as observed. Wars particularly destroy property as well as men, and it is clear from history that countries after the scenes of wars and other visitations are less able to support the reduced population than they are their teeming millions in prolonged times of peace and application to the pursuits of commerce and industry. It generally takes years to repair the damage of a few months of destruction.

The Malne man who has used the gold dug out of his own farm to pay his fare to Klondike, probably feels that by the change he isn't likely to find a much worse climate for farming and he may find more gold.

The complaint of good citizens that they cannot find a policeman when they want one, will not be considered important if of the thieves it may be said that they always find a policeman when they don't want one.

One cannot help but wonder and worry as to what kind of a merry Christmas the poor fellows at Dawson City, Klondike, are going to have.