

stock of gold is said to be lower than it has been for many years.

As soon as the new superintendent took charge, the inevitable rush of office-seekers began, many of the callers being women. He had twenty-eight positions to be filled by females and on the first day there were 450 applicants! It is not such a difficult matter to dispose of a male applicant as a female, at least that is what those who have passed through the ordeal say; so it is useless to try to even imagine what Mr. Daggett's experience must have been—are being, perhaps we ought to say. It is not alone the swarm but the character of the applicants in some cases that causes vexation and annoyance; they present all sorts of endorsements and recommendations from penmanship to personal appearance and from years and character, which are both doubtful to those which, one way or another, are not at all doubtful. One of the applicants was the once notorious but nearly forgotten Laura D. Fair. She was listened to attentively and politely and then given to understand that she could not be gratified. We should think not.

LIGHT WANTED.

Western men assert that the depressed price of silver is the result of a combined attack and an organized unfriendliness on the part of its enemies; that there has been a grand conspiracy to "bear" it in the markets and exchanges of the world merely to discredit it and show how fallacious are the claims of its friends as to its intrinsic value and worth. Of course the Eastern folks who are opponents of silver coinage deny that there has been anything of this kind; they say silver has been simply forced to its proper position, that is, it has had to take its chances in the market like any other commodity. There is no need to argue the issue here, though it is only proper to say that both sides to the controversy cannot be right.

Now then; taking for our side that of the silver West, we ask for an Eastern explanation of these seemingly contrary facts: (1) In the President's message of yesterday the white metal sustained the hardest and squarest blow it has ever received from official hands in all the history of the country; yet (2) silver today is quoted higher than it has been for six weeks.

What has caused this sudden rise in price? Is not the suspicion of the West reasonable, that the anti-silverites, having become satisfied that in Mr. Cleveland they have an uncompromising friend, see no further profit in their "bear" movement and are inclined gradually to abandon a struggle which there can be no further object in continuing? We ask merely for information; the two facts noted seem to the naked eye to be so utterly antagonistic.

THE CITY WARRANTS

At a session of the City Council held on the 7th of July last, a resolution was presented by the president of that body and referred to the committee on finance. It related to drawing war-

rants on the city treasury to meet bills payable, and provided that these should draw interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum from the time of their presentation until paid. The News at the time or shortly after called attention to the fact that the resolution if adopted would be in effect the rendering nugatory of a law of Congress and hoped for that reason if no other there would be nothing further done in that direction. A halt was ordered and for a month the proposed nullification plan has been sleeping but as it appears with one eye open, and last night it was awakened and brought into complete being. Whatever of good or bad it may entail is therefore upon us.

It is unquestionable that the city must have money to get along with, and its bonds are begging on the market; that all current funds are exhausted and all available income anticipated. A condition a long way beyond a theory therefore confronted the solons and they have resorted to the expedient named to get out of it. It is now in the position of a question whose only solution can come with time and through continued application. It aims at good but the manner is bad and the example pernicious. The News has done its whole duty in the premises and will have to be content with that for the present.

THE NORWEGIAN REVOLUTION.

According to a recent dispatch, a Russian paper asserts that the government expects a revolution to take place in Norway, by which a Republican form of government will be established in that country. The same paper says it has information that the Norwegian radicals are secretly importing arms and preparing for an insurrection. Possibly this is more a hint of what the Russian government would like to see done in Norway than a statement of what is actually going on. Still, it is known that in Sweden a suspicion has existed for some time, that Russian influences are at work on the western side of the Scandinavian peninsula. And this suspicion was strengthened when Bjornson, the leading agitator, according to a report, declared that it would only be an act of a friendly neighbor on the part of Norway to give Russia the right of way to the Atlantic. It she desired an outlet in that direction. Now, that is exactly what the Czar needs and what he would claim, were Norway separated from Sweden and thrown on her own resources.

For four hundred years Norway was a province of Denmark. This country, having shown sympathy for Napoleon, was compelled by the European powers to give up this possession after the war of 1813. The idea was to give Norway to Sweden as a compensation for Finland. But the Norwegians resisted that plan and endeavored to establish an independent monarchy with a Danish prince as king. A constitution was adopted in 1814, much resembling the French constitution of 1791. The other powers, however, refused to recognize this arrangement and the crown prince of Sweden, one of Napoleon's generals, led an army into Norway, captured

Fredrickstad and Fredricksbald and threatened Christiania. Under these circumstances the present union with Sweden was effected. Norway was to retain her constitution and enjoy full independence, having nothing in common with her stronger neighbor than the king and consular and diplomatic representation in foreign countries. To cut these slender ties of union is the aim of a strong political party which has adherents in both countries. For years the Norwegian parliament has assumed a very determined attitude, and it is due largely to the peaceful disposition of the present king that the flames of war have not long ago been kindled in Scandinavia. How far the agitation on both sides can be carried on without an appeal to force and what the consequences will be belong to the future, perhaps not far distant. The question is of a similar nature to that which precipitated our own country into a long struggle. For it is this, whether one state has a right to withdraw from a political union without the consent of the other. A perfectly impartial answer would seem to be that it has not, but that in this case, it would be to the advantage of Sweden to give her consent to the desired dissolution and let the events develop themselves accordingly.

WHAT GOOD?

The New York World pronounces the recent gory-tinted episode between France and Siam a "flurry," and after announcing that it is probably ended claims that the value of the gains may be estimated with reasonable accuracy. France, it declares, has acquired a certain "glamor of glory" which passes at home for the real article and the effect will be the sustaining of the government in the coming elections, as if the latter—as on a certain occasion some twenty-three years ago—were the first object of the outbreak.

Beyond this, it is asked, what has France gained? According to the most reliable reports, even from French sources, the country acquired is comparatively worthless. France has for years been in possession of Cambodia and the only navigable part of the Mekong river. Here are the rich delta and the rice fields which furnish the principal part of the commerce of the entire district. Above this region the river is blocked with obstructive falls. Lieut. Gassiez devoted two seasons to a futile effort to get a small steamer above them, and M. de Carne declared in 1866, after repeated surveys and trials, that "steamboats can never plough the Mekong, and Saigon can never be united by this waterway to the west provinces of China."

No matter whether the territory wrested from poor little Siam be productive or otherwise, whether the Mekong is navigable or not—France has got the territory and the river and it will do her the same amount and kind of good that the dumping of a few more coins into his coffer does a miser.

KATE FIELD is thankful that "the coming man will neither smoke nor eat unions." It is a mighty mean man that smokes them even now.