

citizens from that violence which could be prevented by a competent administration of law. It will require but a short time more before civic and other combinations will follow the example of the bureau of freight transportation in New Orleans and, declaring that forbearance has ceased to be a virtue, take the administration of the law into their own hands. Then there will be sensational matter enough to surfeit the strongest appetite, though its cost to the nation may be appalling in its vastness.

#### JUSTICE FIRST.

The business men of New Orleans are much concerned about the labor troubles which yesterday, March 12, at that place culminated in the massacre of colored workmen whose only offense was that they quietly took up the work abandoned by the others. Such violations of law naturally tend to create distrust, and business will, as a consequence, drift away to places where more favorable conditions exist. Seeing this danger the leading men of New Orleans promptly held a meeting to discuss ways and means for the protection of the city's commerce. The lawless element was warned to desist from the nefarious work, and not attempt to prevent any man from performing honorable labor. So far the sentiments expressed by the leading business men of the city are beyond criticism, but in the address issued to the people, they further say: "We are willing to meet them [the rioters] amicably if they will return to peaceful methods and accept work, according to all men equal rights. If not, they must stand aside and let others work who will."

This is a rather remarkable offer after the disgraceful occurrences referred to, and cannot serve to create a favorable impression abroad as to the esteem in which law and justice are held in New Orleans. The leaders of the murderous mob at that place are not entitled to the "amicable" settlement conditionally promised them, whatever their deluded followers may be; they have placed themselves in the position of outlaws and as such soiled their hands in the blood of their fellowmen; they deserve to be delivered up to the law, and the efforts of business men and others interested in maintaining the reputation of the city should be directed first of all to ascertain who the guilty parties are and insist upon their punishment. The time for an "amicable" agreement has passed when the majesty of the law has been insulted to the extent of the commission of barbarous crimes.

The riot in the same place a few years ago, on which occasion "respectable" citizens, as they were called, constituted themselves a howling mob and killed deliberately a number of prisoners, is a precedent upon which the enraged laborers may have acted and deemed themselves justified in slaying the negroes; and if this new outrage is permitted to go unpunished, on some flimsy pretext or other, it is tolerably certain that at the next opportunity offered more blood will flow in the streets of New Orleans. The first outrage led to unpleasant correspondence with Italy and the second may involve a mil-

itary dispute with England, but this is not the worst feature of such affairs. The reputation of the state in which lawlessness can flourish unpunished is at stake, and that cannot fail to reflect dishonor on the whole Republic, to some extent. Let, therefore, the murderers be punished to the full extent of their crime, and when the law is vindicated, the time has come for an amicable adjustment of the differences between employers and laborers.

#### SAN JUAN PETROLEUM.

The editor of the NEWS has received, and will hand over to the Chamber of Commerce, a small bottle of the crude petroleum which, as has previously been mentioned in these columns, is found oozing up along a certain stretch of the San Juan river banks in southeastern Utah. Just how much of an oil region that section of country may contain, or what the probable capacity of the springs that have been discovered may be, we are not in a position to state. One fact, however, is indisputable; that is, that the stuff is the real petroleum, and all that has so far been seen has been found without special excavation, exploration or expense. That development will materially improve the prospects in this particular line may therefore be reasonably anticipated. Meantime, there are comparatively few of our readers who have ever seen illuminating oil in its native and unrefined state; all such, if they have no other interest in the matter than curiosity, can be gratified by calling at the Chamber of Commerce and examining the specimen referred to.

#### MUCH TOO ELASTIC.

When lawmakers overcome the fallacious idea that it is their privilege to be lawbreakers upon certain occasions without having to render an account therefor, we may be rid of the absurd practice of extending the legislative day which is the common resort both of Congress and of various state legislatures. It is true that the last Congress did not prolong the session beyond the statutory time, and deserves credit for conforming to law in that regard; but it followed a procedure quite as ridiculous as the other, if not so unmindful of legal enactment. It held a session on Sunday, yet under the procedure adopted, the *Congressional Record* has it that Sunday's session of Congress was a part of Saturday's session. With reference to this ludicrous feature of the case the story goes that late Sunday night, in the House, Broderick of Kansas strolled over to the seat of Bailey of Texas and asked: "Do you suppose the 53rd Congress, by calling this Saturday, will be able to fool the Lord?" "I don't know," replied Bailey, doubtfully; "perhaps it will. It has fooled everybody else."

But there is "any" "fooling" after all, except to the parties who followed the deceitful formality of appearing on the record not to work on Sunday while they had everything in full blast. When Congress does business on Sunday there should be no hypocritical concealment or mockery by seizing the cloak of a Saturday session. Let a Sunday session be known as such.

As to extending the time of Congress beyond the designated hour for its close, very many sessions have witnessed the farce of the long wand of the sergeant-at-arms being used to turn back the clock in the legislative hall, as if that stayed the progress of time for the convenience of the lawmakers. State legislatures have followed the same method; the late Idaho session was thus prolonged two days, and one Utah legislature went still farther than that. All of which is as unlawful as it is foolish and unnecessary.

When the statute provides that a legislative body shall cease to exist at a given hour on a day named, the law is intended for just what it says. The turning back of a couple of clocks, or of all the clocks and watches in the country, will not defer the designated time one moment, and when it arrives the legislature ceases; it is dead legally, and its members are no longer legislators so far as their authorization for that term is concerned. By the sufferance of the people, irregularities which were violations of the law strictly construed have been permitted to go unchallenged. The growing sentiment of the people, however, is for applying the law as strictly to legislators and other public officials as to the humblest person in the land. From this cause alone, if from no other, the prompt adjournment of the late Congress at the legal hour received the commendation of the public. It is to be hoped that future Congresses and state and territorial legislatures will have the good sense to follow that example; then there will be less of the dilly-dallying in the early part of sessions which causes an excessive rush of business during the closing hours.

#### THE COLORADO VIEW.

There is little prospect of extended discussion in the Utah Constitutional Convention over the equal suffrage clause in the State charter, since the people of this Territory have had an experience of women exercising the right to vote, and both parties have made an unequivocal pledge to confer the franchise on the gentler sex. In relation to the general subject, however, it is interesting and may not be unprofitable to note the progress and experience of others. In Colorado, for instance, equal suffrage has been put to a test in pretty close work since the constitutional amendment was adopted there, and based upon this actual experience a leading journal, the *Denver News*, says: "In all seriousness we advise the rest of the United States to set about enfranchising the women as soon as possible." Then, after reference to certain tendencies and fears that the fair ones would cease to be womanly in the higher sense of that term, and would seek positions to which they are not adapted, that paper adds: "They find politics absorbing and even interesting, and as the greater includes the less, the moment they become citizens they quit wanting to be policemen and putmen and all sorts of things of this kind, for which they are not intended." These expressions, coming from those having immediate practical knowledge of the workings of the equal franchise system in a state government, are of vastly more weight than finely spun but untried theories of any character.