

under guard lest the offended secret societies assassinate him.

It will cause no surprise if some radical events occur before this trouble is settled. The Chinese secret societies, commonly called "highbinders," have made themselves offensive because they have sought to enforce Chinese law among their countrymen in California; that is, their courts have passed sentence upon offenders of their own race, even to the extent of condemning persons to death and carrying out the sentence by the assassin's methods. The vigilance of the local officials has limited this business but has not entirely suppressed it, hence the necessity for action which Fung Yung Hen saw. But the permission by the police, if the claim that such was given be true, was unfortunate in being an equal wrong with the other, since it allowed the consul to attempt an enforcement of Chinese law. Because of this occurrence the Chinese of both parties will have less respect for the local statutes than before, since allowing the consul to act was a confession of weakness. The interposition of the federal court and the maintenance of the federal law is the only redeeming feature, and this should be proceeded with till all the parties learn that the American law is supreme in America. The suppression of the lawless highbinder processes should be brought about, not by allowing antagonistic Chinamen to engage in lawlessness, but by processes that are legal in California. Doubtless this will be done in the end, but before the business is settled there may be several lives lost, partly as a direct result of the recent resort to a violation of law in attempting to punish offenders against the statutes.

A FORCELESS ARGUMENT.

A dispatch from Milwaukee says that if McKinley is elected the Illinois Steel company will put \$600,000 into improvements at the Bay View plant, Wisconsin; the first building to be put up will be a new mill to take the place of the mills condemned last year; the building will be 350 by 192 feet and will cost about \$150,000; this will be followed by other improvements which will cost about \$450,000; when all are completed the Bay View mills will be one of the best plants in the country; when the contemplated improvements are carried out the mill will be changed from iron to steel.

This shows how much some business institutions make their affairs a play in politics. As a matter of fact, if the Illinois Steel company has \$600,000 which its management proposes to put into improvements, the money will go there whether McKinley or Bryan is elected. The selection of one or the other of these candidates is not going to either break or make the country. Its industries will go on; its capitalists will seek the highest return for their money; its people will work and eat. Some political policies may produce better results than others, hence they affect all industries to a certain extent. But none of the policies of political parties that get into power have been so much at variance with the general

welfare of the country as bring it to rule; nor are they in the present case. That \$600,000 of the Illinois company no doubt is regarded as safe as an investment before the election as after, if the real business sentiment of the company's directors were known, no matter who becomes President. Examination into statements of this kind reaches the result that either the company is playing a big bluff, or that it has a lot of money that will be invested no matter which party wins; and in the event of the latter being the case some individuals are making the fact subservient to their political desires, with no real force to their argument. With discriminating voters, "ifs" like this do not cut any figure, for they do not represent any actually existing contingency.

"OLD MEN FOR COUNCIL."

Sometimes when men in the sixties are named for United States senatorships the suggestion is made that they are too old—that such a position needs younger and more vigorous blood. But Vermont does not take the same view, judging from her record on the senatorship, and especially noting the legislative action of Thursday. The Green Mountain state evidently is of opinion that vigor is found in men of advanced years, and that their ripeness of experience is more than an offset for the physical and mental fire of youth. Hence Vermont has returned, for the sixth time, Justin S. Morrill as U. S. senator from that state. Mr. Morrill's service began thirty years ago, and now, at eighty-six years of age, he is still the choice of his state for the high honor. His senatorial record justifies the confidence reposed in him, and portrays the wisdom of the maxim, "old men for council." In the U. S. Senate there have been exceptionally brilliant young members, but the history of that august body, taken as a whole, establishes the higher wisdom of choosing men of experience in years as well as in statecraft for the responsible duties that attend the members of the upper house in the national legislature. Vermont realizes that she has profited by choosing such men and maintaining them there as the state's representatives.

DESTROYING THE SHADE TREES.

The manner in which so-called "improvements" in the streets of Salt Lake City are made an excuse for destroying valuable shade trees does not meet with the approval of people generally here. By this destruction, some sidewalks are made almost unbearable to pedestrians in summer, because of the intense heat of the sun's rays from which there is no shade; and the beauty of the city also is marred by the loss of the trees. At present, there is no way to prevent this deliberate vandalism on the part of those who have no particular interest in the locality affected, except to create a hubbub which peaceful citizens would prefer to avoid, even at the expense of suffering considerable inconvenience.

Because of this condition, and for the interest of the State generally,

Utah might profitably follow the example of Massachusetts, which has had a law since 1891 for the preservation of shade trees, upon which a value is placed in that state. Under this law the state board of agriculture provides spikes, on the head of which is the letter M. City or town authorities, park commissioners, or owners of land may, under the permission of the board or its agents, drive these spikes into trees they wish to preserve, and thus guarantee the tree life. The purpose of the law was to preserve roadside trees, and it has operated satisfactorily to this end. After a tree is marked it cannot be cut down without the determination of the state authorities, upon a proper showing being made.

The idea is an excellent one for the preservation of roadside trees, which otherwise are liable to be sacrificed by men who do not appreciate their value or are indifferent to the comfort of people or anyone's convenience but their own. Such a law here could be the means of preserving desirable trees so that even a reckless or arbitrary municipal officer could not remove them without having good reason therefor. It is time that by legislation the inexcusable destruction of shade trees was forbidden.

ISLAM IN THE PAST.

The fact that Russian papers, all of which are subjected to strict government censorship, now are allowed to give details of the affairs in Armenia may be regarded as one of the straws showing the direction of the wind with regard to the policy that is to be adopted in Turkey. It indicates that the czar's government is desirous of preparing public opinion in Russia in favor of interference in behalf of the Christians, in case that step should be decided on. Taken in connection with another fact, that the Russian army is being mobilized in several districts, it is almost conclusive that a definite line of action has been agreed upon between the European cabinets.

The Turkish question is not altogether one of politics. It is in the first place one of the supremacy of two religious systems. In the rise of Islam the reflective mind will see the hand of Providence. It appeared on the scene at a time when the countries that were first illuminated by the Star of Bethlehem voluntarily had turned away from that light and sought refuge in the darkness of error and ignorance. The followers of the Arabian prophet came as a scourge upon the people that bowed down to idols in the name of the true God. Their war cry: "There is one God," was a testimony from the wilderness against the veiled idolatry of civilization, and their swords dripping with blood wherever they appeared, was a sign of the day of vengeance and wrath. Nor could it be stayed until its appointed time had been fulfilled.

But there was mercy in the apparent cruelty with which the world was scourged through the followers of Mohammed. Without that chastisement probably civilization would have become all but extinct in the western world, Mo-