

During the debate, Councillor Sowles remarked that he

"Thought the city got all the title that anybody could get. It was identically the same as the other canal companies got and the city received in the first instance. He had never heard a legal opinion in regard to the matter. I voted for the proposition because it appeared to me it was a good buy. I am not convinced yet it was not."

Other statements in a similar line were made, but the foregoing are sufficient to show the grounds upon which the indictments have been found. Some of the parties under prosecution have been asked why the City Council was not indicted collectively and individually. The reply was that such a proceeding would have been an outrage, there being no foundation for it. The retort to this was, that in that regard the aspect in relation to those who have been indicted does not differ

### CRIMES ON CHRISTMAS.

DOUBTLESS Christmas throughout the country was attended with all its delightful features, chief among which are the family and friendly reunions that occur in the holiday season. But the otherwise joyful picture was blotched and blackened by horrible scenes of debauchery and blood, of which the dispatches furnish enough information to render the reader sick.

In glancing down the carnage column of the telegrams, one cannot help being struck with the fact that probably no former Christmas day in this country ever witnessed so many fearful crimes as did yesterday. Some of the murderous affairs that marred the record of the day were of a most extraordinary character. One stabbing tragedy in Illinois occurred over a dispute about a distribution of presents from a Christmas tree in a church. What a fearful mockery of the day and occasion! How out of harmony with the genius of Christianity are many of the features of civilized society today. He whose future reign is to be characterized by "peace on earth" as well as "good-will to men," has said to this generation that not long hence and peace would be taken from the earth, as preliminary to the inauguration of a brighter era. The evidences that it is gradually departing, are too potent to be mistaken.

The situation at Charleroi, Brussels, is serious. There are now 17,000 strikers. There is a great scarcity of coal.

### STRIFE IN GEORGIA.

THE bloody conflict which has been in progress for several days at Jessup, Georgia, is another indication of the inflammable elements which constitute the population of many portions of the South. The account of the tragical occurrences reads like a dime novel, yet the details are substantially true.

It is the old story of colored renegades shooting white men, the latter flying to arms and the negroes to the swamps; the battering down of jail doors and assassination of the inmates; the appearance of troops on the sanguinary scene; colored people flocking to the kitchens and out-houses of white friends for protection, being in terror of a general massacre of their race.

The conditions have only to become more unmanageable and unmixable to render the south a gigantic arena for the bloodiest scenes of modern times. When such a man as General Sherman asserts to the world, through the columns of a popular magazine, that a race collision is inevitable unless certain steps are taken, the subject is a serious one. The preventive to which he referred was the recognition by the white population of the colored man's legal right to an untrammelled exercise of the elective franchise. It may be taken for granted that where there is a prospect or probability of colored voters carrying an election their legal right will never be conceded by the Southerners. The latter would probably prefer blood, slaughter, and death to negro domination. Consequently, if the General be correct in this prediction, the conflict must come. If it does, the same veteran says it will be so disastrous and appalling as to cause the war of the Rebellion to be practically forgotten.

Even now the colored population seem to be nearing the point when all they need to cause them to arise in revolt are strong, aspiring spirits to lead them to the fray. When such characters appear upon the scene the bloody work will begin. The frequent local outbreaks that occur are but the symptoms of a smouldering fire, susceptible of being awakened into general activity.

### A CHAOTIC POST OFFICE.

THAT the Ogden post office should be permitted to run at haphazard for so long a time as it has, is one of the local anomalies of the times.

The mails constitute one of the most important branches of the public service. That they should be manipulated in the careless manner in which they have been in so important a railroad center as Ogden is inexcusable.

The newspaper matter appears to be treated in the post office of that town with contempt, much of it never reaching the parties to whom it is directed. Letters seem to be viewed with indifference, numbers of them being delayed all the way from a day to a week or two before being forwarded to their destination.

There is one thing that palliates this offense against the public so far as General Nathan Kimball, the postmaster, is concerned—that gentleman is ill. But that fact does not exonerate the department. It is probable that the office is practically in the hands of the clerks, whose indifference, superinduced by the absence of responsibility, creates confusion.

It was a mistake in the first place to give the office of postmaster to a veteran in failing health, and, at the best, probably not naturally adapted for a position of that character. If it was deemed necessary to recognize in some substantial way the services of General Kimball in the cause of his country, or party, it could easily have been done without jeopardizing the business and other interests of any portion of the public.

A remedy for the postal wrong caused by the chaotic condition of the Ogden office ought to be applied at once.

### EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA.

ABOUT the middle of November a disease appeared in Russian cities, supposed to have originated in the far east and to have taken a westward movement, which is apparently infectious in the highest degree. Soon after it appears in a given city, multitudes are seized with it, and in some instances a very large proportion, or even a majority of the inhabitants are almost simultaneously affected. An official report states that fully two-thirds of the inhabitants of St. Petersburg were attacked with it within about one month of its first appearance in that city. The disease, as love and death are said to do, "levels all ranks and lays the shepherd's crook beside the sceptre." The Czar was so ill that he was unable to appear in public for some