

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### ILLEGAL NATURALIZATIONS.

Prior to the close of registration, and at a time when political managers were rushing through the courts large numbers of more or less doubtful naturalization cases, the NEWS deprecated the precipitancy with which the latter were being disposed of, and suggested a more careful inquiry into them. That the suggestion was well-timed is abundantly substantiated by information that comes to us from a source which we regard as being of the most trustworthy character. If the facts are as stated, and we have every reason to believe that they are, a gross abuse of the naturalization laws has been effected, and a situation of great gravity has been created by over-zealous and unscrupulous political workers.

In a city of this Territory where sessions of the district court are held with considerable regularity, a score or more of foreigners are said to have been naturalized and registered, not one of whom was eligible under the law; in a batch not one had been in the United States longer than three years, and some not longer than one year; in several if not in most instances, the first papers had not been taken out; a number of the applicants were unable to speak English; and one, whose name is on the registration list, is not yet twenty-one years old. Now, every one of the foreigners referred to committed perjury. But what is still more surprising, each of them produced two witnesses, who had previously been regarded as honorable and reputable men, who swore to the same false statements.

It is understood that party workers on the opposing side to which these newly-made citizens are said to belong have expressed a determination to prosecute every one of them for perjury should they attempt to cast ballots. A good deal of feeling has been worked up, and friends of the naturalized men are fearful that serious trouble may result to the latter. The evidence with which to sustain a prosecution against them is declared to be overwhelming, and they are at the mercy of their political opponents, and the officers of the law. One of them is reported to have made a confession of the essential facts, and states that his countrymen were deceived as to the requirements of the naturalization laws, and were prevailed upon by political managers to testify as they did in taking out their papers. They are of a respectable and honest class, and have come to Utah to make homes. But they appear to have been duped and placed in jeopardy, all to increase the chances of party success.

This is a scandal that ought to excite the indignation of every citizen, regardless of politics. The naturalization laws are plain enough, and the only reasonable complaint against them is that they are too broad. There is no excuse, legal or moral, for their abuse in this instance. If the facts are as stated, a great crime has been committed, and the rights of all the citizens of our commonwealth

have been feloniously invaded. It would perhaps be regrettable to see men severely punished for doing what they had been led to believe they had a perfect right to do; but if prosecutions are to be instituted, every honest citizen will hope that the weight of the law's vengeance may fall on the men who manipulated the affair, not slighting the witnesses who testified to the eligibility of the candidates for naturalization.

Probably a judge is justified in admitting an applicant to citizenship who is vouched for by two witnesses that are regarded as men of truth and veracity; but it does seem to us that when an alien is obliged to have an interpreter while being examined, it is a suspicious circumstance, and there is an influence of precedents on the records of the district courts in this Territory wherein the judge has, on his own motion, departed from the stereotyped catechism, made a close investigation, and rejected the application if the result was not entirely satisfactory. No district judge ought willingly to allow his court to be manipulated by political workers, much less ought he to be willing to let a reputation attach to it implying that political jobbery can be accomplished in it.

### THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

Under the heading, "Local Business Outlook," the *Chicago Dispatch* of the 19th inst. has an editorial article, giving figures relative to the industrial situation in that city, which certainly have an encouraging appearance, though there is a perceptible political flavor associated with them, from which such statistics ought to be entirely free. The industrial condition of Chicago is an index to that condition throughout a vast area, and as the figures purport to be official, a value attaches to them which is increased by the decidedly cheerful conclusion to which they lead. They are subjoined:

There are about 2,500 manufacturing firms in Chicago, employing, approximately, 200,000 hands. Of this number Mr. Gruenbut selected 140 representative firms in protected industries, including all lines of trade, and personally secured from the superintendents' official statements of the number of men employed now, the number employed during the World's Fair season, and the number employed during the period of industrial depression, which began to affect manufacturing trades in June and July and reached its height in August, 1893.

The following figures are interesting:

Number of employes in May, '93.....	69,024
Number of employes in Aug., '93.....	38,905
Number of employes Oct. 1, '94.....	53,455

This shows that nearly two-thirds of the employes in protected industries were dropped when hard times came. It proves that business has again improved until today nearly all the employes discharged in '93 have been re-employed.

It should be remembered that the large number of employes in '93 was partially due to the influence of the World's Fair, which gave to all lines of business an artificial boom.

Mr. Gruenbut adds: "Chicago is in good shape for the coming winter. Last year we had an army of the unemployed numbering fully 100,000. This army has disappeared. A large portion of it has found employment; the remainder has scattered and left town. The local workshops and factories are busy. There are a few exceptions, but the figures prove beyond any question that business is healthy and increasing."

Speaking locally, it may be said that, while the situation is not such as to relieve the well-to-do from the necessity of aiding the unfortunate, it is far better than it was a year ago. While there are idle men, and families who will be destitute unless they receive aid in excess of their own resources, the number of such cases is small in comparison with last fall. Furthermore, there is more employment now than there was then, home manufacturing institutions, as a rule, running to their full capacity. This creates a state of affairs which affords great relief. There has been a very general adjustment of domestic economy to meet existing conditions, crops have been heavy, the prices of almost all the necessities of life have been much reduced, and the situation as a whole, in this city and Territory, is not by any means as gloomy as it was a year ago.

### FOR UNION OF CHURCHES.

The conference for the purpose of arranging, if possible, a union between the Roman Catholic church and the various ancient Christian organizations in Asia, was opened Wednesday, Oct. 24th, at Rome, his holiness presiding. Reference to this important movement, in which the present incumbent of the papal office has taken the initiative, has been made on previous occasions in these columns. The dispatch concerning the opening meeting contains but few details, but it appears, from the account of the participants, that no representatives of eastern dissenting churches were present, two Catholic patriarchs of Syria and a delegate representing the Maronite patriarchs being the only ones mentioned, except the cardinals representing the western division of the church. Full details must be awaited before the success or the importance of this conference can be estimated.

The Maronites are a peculiar Christian sect of very ancient origin located chiefly on the western declivity of Mount Lebanon, but spread all over the surrounding country as far as Aleppo in the north and Nazareth in the south. At present they number about 150,000 souls. In the 12th century they recognized the authority of the Roman church, and renewed the contract of union in a following century. In their faith and practices they differ somewhat from Rome. Thus they administer the sacrament in both emblems. In their liturgy they use the ancient Syriac language instead of Latin, and their clergymen, if married before their ordination, are permitted to continue their marital relations. They also have some festivals and saints not known by the Roman church. Their chief ecclesiastical head is a patriarch, who, however, acknowledges the supremacy of