

grasp the situation there can be no doubt as to the soundness of the advice given. It is valuable counsel to those who by lending money on farm lands in the West have come into possession of them at comparatively low prices. It would be hard sense on the part of those western men who have not lost their lands in that manner to apply the reasoning of the *Investor* to their own condition. And while this is applicable to the West generally, it is specially so to Utah. With the conditions that exist here and of necessity must surround us in the near future, the farm lands of Utah generally must appreciate in value, and therefore their owners should hold on to them so far as practicable.

A LAST WORD.

In spite of all suggestions to the contrary, both political parties in this city and county, and probably in most of the other counties of the Territory, are determined to nominate party candidates for the convention which meets next March to frame a State Constitution. The *NEWS* laments this, for the occasion was one into which politics need not have entered at all; as in elections of school trustees, there was no necessity to ask of the candidates any other qualifications than fitness, breadth, experience and patriotism. The fact that a man has been a busy party worker or manager should be, in our opinion, rather a disqualification than otherwise; for this would certainly have made him more or less objectionable to the voters of the other party. But if he were a man of standing in the community, sound, clean and just, and were nominated because of those qualities, the people as a whole would have cared little or nothing for his political leanings and would have supported him on his merits as a citizen. There would have been room for only one ticket, that ticket might perhaps have contained the names of men whom everybody would like to see in the Constitutional convention, but who will not run as candidates of either party—and it would have been triumphantly and enthusiastically elected.

Since this is not to be, however, let us in all soberness take the next best step. There are capable, honest, fair men in great numbers in each party and in every precinct and county. The *NEWS* makes this last appeal to the various conventions that are on the eve of nominating the respective candidates, that such men as we have described, and such only, be placed before the people. This is no time to put forward ringsters or rascals; partisans and self-seekers in such a crisis are an insult and a stench; political wire-pullers and harpies bent on preferment and pap must be for once suppressed. The voters are going to look less at the party device at the head of the ticket than at the names of the men that follow it. There is absolutely no political issue at stake, and hence no ground for accusations of party treachery if the citizens' demand for good candidates be conscientiously enforced by independent action at the polls.

Of course each party wants to hold together its vote and strengthen and solidify it at the forthcoming election. The ambition is laudable, but it can only be realized—so far as the candidates for the Constitutional convention are concerned—by the course we have indicated. Party leaders on both sides ought to sense the importance of the case; and men who have influence with their associates owe it no less to themselves than to their party and their candidates that the latter be men against whom on the score of fitness there is no reproach. If there has been sharp practice in the primaries, it is not too late to stamp it with disapproval in the convention; if unworthy and ill-considered pledges have been improperly secured, loyalty ought to find a remedy for the injury that is thus threatened. A lofty sense of duty is the demand of the hour; and the side which shows the best embodiment of this in its nominations, will start out in the race a goodly distance ahead.

LIEUT. PEARY'S EXPEDITION.

In the early months of the year hopes were entertained by those interested in Arctic explorations that great things would be accomplished by the travelers in the frozen regions. Great preparations were made by Nansen, Wellman and Peary, who proposed, each in his own way, to penetrate as far north as possible; and even travelers for pleasure only banded together under the leadership of a tourist guide, to follow in the wake of the explorers. Now, as party after party has returned, the fact is established that a great deal less has been accomplished this year in the way of pushing northward than the elaborate preparations and sanguine representations led the public to expect. Wellman's vessel was crushed in the ice. The tourists' ship had to be abandoned in a disabled condition and Lieutenant Peary's party returned after having ascertained the impossibility this year of proceeding beyond points formerly reached. The failure is owing to unusual climatic conditions.

The story of Peary's expedition is very thrilling. During the month of October last year frightful storms swept over the harbor and the naptha launch was lost, washing away large quantities of oil intended for heating and illuminating purposes. The winter was spent in endeavoring to pass this time to the best advantage possible when a seemingly eternal night rests over the country. In March the main body of adventurers started across Greenland to Independence bay, the point reached on a previous journey. But a terrible storm was encountered almost from the start. After a week Dr. Vincent had to return. An idea of the situation can be found from the fact that the temperature dropped to 55 degrees below zero, remaining so for days, while a gale was blowing about fifty miles an hour. One after another of the party gave in to the hardships encountered. Many dogs dropped dead and froze into solid blocks. Still Lieutenant Peary pushed onward, until he found it impossible to

reach Independence bay in time to accomplish anything further this season. Then with his disabled companions and the surviving dogs he returned southward. The bold explorer has decided to remain another winter at Falcon harbor, and make a new effort next year to penetrate the regions beyond Independence bay. He hopes that milder climatic conditions may then favor his undertaking.

Some criticism has been bestowed upon the leader of the expedition for his failure to accomplish something definite, and it has been hinted that he remained behind in order to escape censure. It is pretty clear, however, that Peary is a most capable Arctic explorer. That not a human life was lost during the terrible experience on the ice-covered plateau of Greenland proves that his arrangements were perfect and that he had adequate resources in extreme emergencies. Without these, the probability is that not one of the party would have escaped to tell the story of its destruction. To battle with a fierce gale at a temperature 50 degrees below zero is to fight with grim death; and no man should be deprived of the honor of victory over that antagonist, no matter how barren of results in other respects it may have been.

THE LEGISLATIVE VOTE.

"A voter" asks the *NEWS*: "Will you kindly publish the vote of the respective parties, as shown by the returns for members of the last Legislature, including the special election held in Salt Lake City in January of this year?"

The vote by legislative council districts was as follows:

	Democratic.	Republican.
First district.....	1,618	1,140
Second.....	1,137	1,327
Third.....	1,168	1,130
Fourth.....	2,823	3,796
Fifth.....	1,836	1,850
Sixth.....	1,676	1,759
Seventh.....	1,540	1,712
Eighth.....	1,799	1,551
Ninth.....	1,387	1,572
Tenth.....	1,353	935
Totals.....	15,865	16,272

*The Fourth district figures are those of the special election in Salt Lake City in January. At the election in the previous November it was a contest between three parties, resulting as follows: Democrats, 2,944; Republicans, 1,600; Liberals, 3,420. The Populist vote at the January election was 70.

A PECULIAR interest is imparted to the subject of irrigation by the announcement that the late drouth has cost the farmers of the country three hundred and fifty million dollars in the corn crop alone. That amount of money would construct a good many reservoirs and canals.

THE REPORT that a mineral bed in central Kentucky closely resembles the diamond-bearing earth of South Africa, must be accepted with the important reservation that at least one vital difference exists—the Kentucky strip has produced no diamonds.

"MONEY OF the world," as a phrase denoting the necessity of a monometallic standard, is a fallacy and a sham. Why must all nations use the same money, any more than the same language?