

truth of the charge, relying upon the condition boasted of publicly by one of their leaders, that the "Liberals" have control of the courts of this Territory.

The condition of jurisprudence in this Territory does not inspire confidence in the outcome of a case between "Mormons" and their opponents, unless it is one that can be appealed to a higher tribunal than the Territorial courts. Jury trial, in the English and American sense of the term, has long been practically abolished in this Territory. "Mormons" are rigorously excluded from the jury lists, and should one happen to be summoned on a venire, a cast-iron oath, aimed at his religion, must be taken by him. The practical result is that no "Mormons" sit on juries.

That proof of fraud is entitled to no weight unless presented in the courts, is a proposition original with *West Shore*. Apply this rule to practical politics, and the result would be that the honesty of public men ought not to be questioned, and the people ought to continue to elect them to office, and support the party they represent, until they have been convicted of crime. Facts notorious as any circumstance of current history, ought not to influence the citizen in casting his ballot, nor in determining which party he will endorse, until judicially established. The absurdity of such a position is too apparent to need comment.

The frauds by which the "Liberals" secured a triumph in this city are historical, and will be held by the community as notorious facts, whether the evidence of them shall or shall not be introduced in court.

SCHOOL TAXES.

UNDER the practical operations of the present revenue law a result is reached in respect to taxation for schools, the justice of which is open to question. A Territorial tax of three mills is collected and distributed to the several counties according to their school population. It thus happens that three or four counties pay into this school fund more than they draw out of it, and that a number of the poorer counties draw from it from 10 to 50 per cent more than they contribute. Salt Lake County pays, under this three mills assessment, about \$29,000 per year more than is returned to her district schools, and other counties get the benefit of that sum paid by citizens of this.

This looks, at first view, to be un-

just, but there exist arguments in support of this system. One of these is that the education of the children of the commonwealth is the concern of the entire community, and not exclusively of such subdivisions of it as counties and school districts. Without passing upon the validity of this argument, one thing may confidently be asserted respecting it: It must not be carried too far. If the Territorial school tax shall be permitted to remain at three mills, the people of all the counties will probably submit without very great complaint, but an attempt to double the burden borne by a few counties to the profit of the rest will certainly meet with resistance.

Yet the House has made this attempt. Mr. Allen, in preparing his bill for a school code, adapted that drawn by ex-School Commissioner Williams and introduced at the last session. By inadvertence a section was allowed to remain providing for a three mill Territorial tax. It could never have been the intention, in framing the bill, to double the Territorial tax already provided for in the revenue law. Mr. Allen made this explanation and moved to so amend the bill that it would not duplicate the Territorial tax. His amendment was voted down.

This is carrying too far the argument that the commonwealth as a whole should support its schools as an entirety. In another part of the same bill authority to assess a three mill county tax, or less, is given, on a principle of local option, and the members of the House who voted down Mr. Allen's amendment evidently intend that their counties shall be relieved of the necessity of levying any county tax. It may be urged that certain counties will be thus relieved at the expense of the Territory at large; but the fact is, that the Territory at large would be benefitted at the expense of not exceeding about four or five counties. For example, should the bill in its present form become law, Salt Lake County would contribute \$58,000 annually to the support of schools in other parts of the Territory. At the average wages earned by country school teachers, this county would be paying the salaries of about one hundred employed in other counties.

Now the reason why this county should pay the salaries of all the teachers employed in half-a-dozen other counties is not clear. The House did itself discredit, and attempted to do three or four counties

in the Territory manifest injustice, in voting down Mr. Allen's amendment. It is hardly likely that both the Council and the Governor will endorse the action of the House.

Should the bill in its present form be passed by the Assembly and approved by the Governor, it could not be enforced. The courts would declare the provision now under consideration, void. All tax laws to be valid, must be at least approximately equal in respect to both burdens and benefits; and the courts will always declare void a tax provision which would be so widely at variance with this rule, as would the section in question.

THE "SPOIL SYSTEM."

ACCORDING to the New York *Herald*, President Harrison has unquestionably sound views on the subject of rewards for partizan political work. This will be seen from the following from the paper named:

"The President took occasion a few days ago to express himself in very clear terms to a western congressman on the subject of rewarding the party workers. The congressman was complaining that a certain worker in his district had not been appointed, although strongly recommended. To which the President responded:

"In my opinion the citizen who goes quietly to the polls and deposits his ballot is just as much entitled to office as the class whom you designate as the workers."

"To this the congressman replied: 'Mr. President, if you proceed upon that theory it will not be long before you won't have any republican party.'

"The President thereupon restated his position in still more emphatic terms and expressed the opinion that the great masses of voters were actuated by their beliefs in the cardinal principles of the party and not by any hope of reward in the way of office. He judged the people by a higher standard than that fixed by the spoils system."

Had it not been for the veneration of the "spoils system" which permeates the head and front of the "Liberal" party, certain men who are about to assume positions of importance connected with the government of this city would never have reached the offices into which they have been foisted under the method of rewards.

To place men in position upon that plan is an unpardonable wrong inflicted on the commonwealth. It loads public offices with self-seekers, and not one of that class has ever, in the whole history of the world, struck an effectual blow in the battle of freedom, being mere caruncles on the bottom of the body politic.

When men are placed in public