

letters which keep our friends in a continual state of apprehension when there is not the slightest iota of evidence that anything serious is contemplated. While our government has put itself totally in the wrong, and no right-minded person can justify its position and approve the exclusion act, yet there is no evidence that the Chinese government regards the case as of sufficient gravity to warrant serious complications.

It is well known, however, that the presence of Christians in China is not particularly agreeable to the Mongolians and that the surest protection the former have is the fear on the part of the latter of the consequences that would follow a massacre, in case the victims should belong to a nation with plenty of ships and gunpowder. That the Chinese government would retaliate in favor of the deported coolies is not at all probable. But the question is whether the fanaticism of the mob in that vast empire might not lead to acts and atrocities which even the government would be unable to prevent. The cruel massacre a few months ago of two Swedish missionaries shows what the mob is capable of doing even without much provocation.

It would be interesting to know the exact reason why the majority of the Chinese in this country have refused to register. One of the rascals the other day stated in reply to a question put to him, that he did not comply with the requirements of the Geary law, because somebody had told him that the people of the United States contemplated making slaves of the Chinese as the negroes had been once, and that registration was the first step towards bringing about that condition of affairs. He added in his broken jargon that he would go back to China voluntarily if he could not stay here, but he did not want to become a slave. This may only have been the individual opinion of this person, but it would not be surprising to learn that the unwillingness to register depends largely on a misunderstanding of the consequences such a step might ultimately lead to.

### THE UNION PACIFIC FAILURE.

A decided ripple appeared on the otherwise placid surface of the commercial pool hereabout yesterday by the announcement that the Union Pacific railway was in the hands of receivers. It was not at first believed in many quarters, and as conviction was gradually established the impression was that the receivership applied only to a portion of the system. This was also dissipated by later advice, showing that the entire system with its laterals, branches and belongings of whatever name or nature were turned over, by order of court at Omaha, to certain gentlemen duly constituted by the order to accept and hold the trust.

The Union Pacific has been under a financial cloud for some time past, and its management in places and at times has been questionable if not actually bad. In some instances there was such shortsightedness as seemed utterly inexcusable. As instances may be named its operations in Cache and Sanpete counties, both of which

have been treated with shameful neglect even while excellent and growing feeders of their respective departments of the system.

This community, or the great majority of it, is disposed to entertain kindly feelings toward the Union Pacific. It is the pioneer route and many of our people's names are associated with its advent and subsequent career. Those who blaze the trail and break the way for others are always associated with a condition of things bordering on the revered to us, and in this light alone, saying nothing of the grand and diversified benefits in the way of opening new fields and general development, do we look upon that road with respect and hope soon to see it emerge from its present difficulties. It is understood that these are not so much the result of sharp competition as the universal falling off in trade caused by the severe financial stringency through which we are passing and which we have reason to hope we have endured the brunt of. When the restoration comes of course the Union Pacific will look up along with the other enterprises presently affected and push its system on nearer to what it ought to be.

### THE SENATE.

The Senate of the United States is just now an object of profound interest. What it will do and what it will not do are subjects concerning which there is a great deal of natural controversy. There is not that aureole of national esteem surmounting the dome of the capitol that used to be there, because senators and congressmen are not looked up to as they were in the early days; but while this change for a time referred only to the House, while the greater dignity, more deliberative purpose and more thoughtful poise of the ideal senator long saved the upper chamber from the disillusionment and leveling that had taken place, it has at last gone the way of the other branch and a senator now is not so much bigger than many other men in every community. This is not because of inate disrespect nor by reason of constant familiarity with the subject on the part of the people; but just because the lofty estate has been crumbling steadily away through the acts of the senators themselves. The discipline of the pothouse has supplanted the Chesterfieldian and Palmerstonian methods of deportment; parliamentary etiquette, legal lore, finished oratory and dignified demeanor have been succeeded by the manners and tactics of border political conventions, and great is the fall!

At the present time the Senate has a Democratic majority of three and a plurality of seven. Except by death or resignation this cannot be changed till next year, when a little more than one-third of the whole body will be chosen. It is within the possibilities for either the Republicans or Populists to overcome this ascendancy at that time. Following are the states which elect legislatures whose duty it will be to choose senators: Arkansas, South Carolina, Louisiana, West Virginia, Wyoming (2), New Hampshire, Texas, Georgia, Illinois, Rhode Island,

Oregon, Maine, Tennessee, Delaware, Massachusetts, Virginia (this year), Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, Nebraska, Kansas, Alabama, California, South Dakota, Montana (2), Idaho, Mississippi, Minnesota, Iowa (this year), Colorado, Washington. Thirty-two senators altogether.

The political status of the legislatures at present is—Democratic 14, Republican 10, all the rest having more or less Populists who hold the balance of power. The reader can figure out for himself about what changes from one side to another are likely to occur, but is advised to keep in mind the settled fact that politics is as slippery a subject to handle as an eel is and that another year may bring about changes which none of us count on.

### SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

The official text of the treaties between the Argentine republic and France and the republic of Uruguay and France were given to the public during the latter part of the summer, but have occasioned such slight comment and been published so infrequently that but little is known regarding them. And yet they are of great importance as showing now aggressively the nations of the old world are following in those commercial paths which are opening up and lengthening out in the South and Central American nations.

A trade journal snobs that no opportunity is lost by them to obtain the benefit of what is known as the most favored nation clause in any arrangements made by them for securing trade. This is perfect natural. The Franco-Argentine treaty, even though it has substantially only one provision, is interesting, in that it expressly declares that no favor or immunity of any kind shall ever be granted by either nation to the flag or the commerce of another nation unless the same favor or immunity is at the same time granted to the flag or commerce of the two contracting nations. The Franco-Uruguayan treaty differs a little from that just mentioned in that Uruguay reserves the right to grant for her own benefit whenever she deems it advisable to either of her neighbors, Brazil, the Argentine Republic or Paraguay, special commercial favors and advantages without thereby entitling France to claim the same privilege.

It is a little singular that the United States takes the subject of trans-equatorial traffic so easily while the more distant powers are ever on the alert to open up trade where they have it not and extend it where they have. As yet all of the countries to the south of us are but meagerly developed, and the possibilities which they present are utterly incalculable. Brazil alone, equalling in extent almost the whole of Europe, has vast tracts which have never been trodden by civilized man, but it will all be in subjection some day no doubt, and then there will be an empire of other than a political character there.

Ex-Governor Count G. Lagerbjelke has been re-elected as member of the upper house of the Swedish Riksdag.