

according to the civil law, shall marry," etc. The Territorial enactment of 1892 uses the same language. The degrees of consanguinity are traced through a common origin or source. For instance, from parent to child is one degree, that is, the relationship of these two classes is the first degree of consanguinity; brother and sister have the relationship of the second degree, and uncle and niece of the third degree. Following the same unvarying rule of tracing through the common head, first cousins have the relationship of the fourth degree of consanguinity. This is the computation of the civil law, which is simple and easily understood, not only by judges and lawyers, but by other people who give the subject attention. As the fourth degree of consanguinity is exempted from the inhibition of the law, it follows that first cousins, so far as the legal aspect of the case is concerned, may be properly joined in wedlock.

### THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS.

Utah is now approaching the most critical period of her history. Up to this point her political business, so far as her relations with the general government are concerned, has been managed largely at Washington. Whether her citizens have any rightful accountability in that respect or not, they have not been privileged until now to exercise any in matters of serious importance. Her political household is now by grant of Congress and the President formally transferred to her charge. Her people are given the liberty thereby to erect within the Territory a structure of state according to their own notions of economy and good government which are conformable to the provisions of the enabling act. This is a great and a grave responsibility. Upon the wisdom, strength and perfection of that structure will depend the future happiness and prosperity of the coming State of Utah. As to what is wise or expedient in the case, men will hold vastly different opinions. There will be associated in the work those who believe that the future greatness of the State will turn wholly upon the success or failure of a particular political party in obtaining control of the establishment. There will be others who may have conceived the not uncommon feeling that nothing in the premises can be safe or desirable that does not emanate from themselves personally. And there will be no end of notions and crotchets or special lines of policy which will be intruded into the question, and all must be harmoniously disposed of if possible in order that we may not only adopt that which is the best but support it unanimously.

But leaving minor differences to the discretion of those who shall be immediately entrusted with the work, the NEWS has a word to say on a question of general principle which, as it believes, lies at the foundation of the whole business of government. In most of the states and in the nation at large, the main use to which parties and all auxiliaries of elections seem to have

been put is the forcing of partisans into office, their qualifications for public trust being determined largely if not entirely upon the quantity and firmness of their partisanship. Against this system we emphatically protest. We understand perfectly what the politicians think of this sentiment. The rule of strict party allegiance has been a characteristic doctrine with that class of statesmen from the beginning. But we feel safe in asserting that not only the plain logic of party government but the entire experience of modern politics antagonizes the principle of subordinating the question of personal incapacity or the party of the candidate for office to that of his party affiliations. It is for the development and maintenance of correct principles of government that parties are instituted. Before a people can possibly have a desirable government they must secure honest and capable men in the places of authority. In the hands of any other class of persons, no matter what might be their party title, the play at policy is either a roaring farce or an infamous humbug.

In this work therefore of setting up the machinery of the State of Utah, we want at the front the best men to be found in the Territory. The State constitution at least is not in any sense a party instrument, unless perchance a corrupt policy shall make it so. The registration for the coming election of delegates to the State convention is now in progress. Every citizen of Utah who has a patriotic interest in the future of the Territory should be considering who in his district would be likely to wield the most influence for the good of the State in the framing of that constitution. The qualities for such a duty depend upon first of all patriotism; without this, sagacity, influence, and all the rest are liable to be turned to a mischievous purpose. After this comes the question of ability, of which there may be as many parts as you please; and though it is impossible to find them all combined in one person, it should be the business of every voter to find as many of them in his candidate as he can.

### INDIANS AND LAND SHARKS.

The statement in a dispatch from Washington that the Yuma Indians are entering Mexican territory and corrupting the Cocopah Indians, and will have to be taken care of by the government, is denounced by Arizona people as a misstatement of the actual condition, got up in the interest of landgrabbers. They say the tribes are on the most friendly terms and have been for thirty years. They have intermarried, some of the Mexican Indians coming on this side of the line to live, and some of the Yumas proceeding to Mexico in the same way with the families into which they married.

Now that the rule of the Mexican government to give to each family of Indians residing on government land eight hectares, or about twenty acres, is to be applied to the Cocopahs and others south of the

line, and some of the Yumas who have taken up their abode with the tribes to which their wives belonged are coming in for a share of the apportionment, objection is raised on the part of white men who want to secure as much as they can of the rich land there. To do this they want the Indians who have changed their residence to be disqualified from receiving the allotment; and a like scheme is being worked to exclude from the benefits of the Yuma reservation allotment in Arizona those Indians from the Mexican tribes who have been living on the reservation.

It is said that a movement has been instituted on the part of philanthropic white men to set the facts before both the Mexican and the United States governments, that the Indians referred to, who number several hundred, may not be deprived of their rights to land in one or the other country. If it is decided by the two republics that the aborigines must return to their own country, then it will be insisted that the nation where they belong should give them their share of land. As the numbers who have crossed the border north and south about equally balance each other, the allotment of land by both governments would be then about the same as if it were made by leaving the Indians as they are, and the land grabbers would be disappointed in their scheme. If this object is accomplished it is believed that Mexico and the United States would agree that it would be cheaper to make the allotment to Indian families as they now are rather than attempt to move them. Under the view of the case as it is presented by the Arizonans, it is to be hoped that there is enough of strength and vigor in the movement by the friends of the Indians to see that the latter are not robbed; as they usually are in deals of this kind.

### IT IS OUR BUSINESS.

It has been insisted in some quarters that the Reilly funding bill, extending for fifty years the time of paying the Pacific railways' indebtedness to the government, is "not our fight" so far as Utah is concerned. An examination into actual conditions, however, makes it clear that this claim is a mistake, since the matters connected with and to be affected by the funding bill are of the gravest importance to the people of Utah, and therefore are emphatically their business. Not only do these conditions make them concerned as spectators in any contest that is being waged affecting the Pacific railways, but self-interest requires some measure of active participation therein. This is the case notwithstanding the fact that the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, as a local business organization acting in the interest of merchants here, was justified in pursuing a conservative course in not invoking at present the antagonism of the railways, and therefore laid aside the anti-funding bill resolutions.

The attitude of the railways toward Utah makes every move affecting them of vital importance to the people generally. Our business and industria