

called license is really a tax for revenue, the situation presents an entirely different aspect, and in principle the law was held, in a state of Washington decision this week, to be against the county commissioners exercising such powers, under a constitutional provision the same as that in Utah. All these decisions may be harmonized on the theory that a county may regulate by license, but may not raise revenue by a per capita tax on animals. It is not the matter of licensing that is pointed out as objectionable in the existing situation, but the evident war on existing industries that is back of the peculiar assessments made.

Under the conditions now presented in some counties, if a man owns 2,000 sheep assessed at \$1.50 head, he is taxed thereon for county purposes, under the ad valorem rule, \$15; then in some counties he is liable to another \$200 tax, which other counties do not require; or if a cattle owner has 300 animals assessed at \$10 each, he pays the \$15 county tax, and in some counties is called on for another \$150, but in other counties escapes free. With this order of business, the constitutional provision that all property shall be taxed in proportion to its value is thrown to the winds; for in proportion some people have to pay from ten to fourteen times as much as others on the same class of property. The Constitution also says the Legislature may assess a tax based on license, etc.; but that is the State legislative body, not county boards; and then such tax must be proportionate on the value of the property.

The News does not raise any question either as to the power of officials requiring a license from the cattle or sheep business, or any other, and fixing reasonable charges therefor. But it points out that when such license fees become so burdensome as to injure an important industry, or to throttle it altogether by a prohibitory license in some cases, or to be a means of persons in one class of business taking undue advantage of those in another class, the act of imposing them is contrary to good public policy, and violative of the rights of the people. And it is regrettable that any official action should give occasion for legal and other quarrelling where there is so much discrimination as appears from the figures in this instance, which now bids fair to come to the front as soon as any effort at collection of the license tax is made.

THE GREEK DEFEAT.

The air of mystery surrounding the conflict in the Levant has not become materially clearer by the last few days' events. The Greek position at Larissa according to all accounts was as well entrenched that even the Turks were amazed at the precipitate flight, which was all the more remarkable because at the time General Smolenski was successfully moving against the rear of Edhem Pasha, threatening to cut him off from his base of supplies. The retreat from Pharsala was no less unaccountable. It was decided on at a time when the Turks were about to give up their attack.

Smolenski was again ordered to retreat from a field he had held for several days. The position at Domokos was declared impregnable by the crown prince himself, in a recent proclamation to the Greek nation, but now, so the dispatches say, it has been decided to withdraw from that impregnable position and abandon it to the Turks. And while this is going on on land, the Greek fleet, in every way superior to the sultan's, is doing almost nothing. No wonder if the opinion is becoming general that Greece has been betrayed, not conquered.

The news from Constantinople does not aid in clearing up the situation. It is stated the powers have asked the Sublime Porte for an armistice pending negotiations for peace, and that Russia has been rather emphatic in her demand; yet the Turkish government continues to mobilize the reserves as if preparing for a gigantic conflict. There is something in all this that cannot as yet be explained. It would seem, though, as if the Turkish government even now entertains a suspicion that some European power may interfere, in the last moment, in favor of Greece. This has undoubtedly been the hope of the Greek leaders, but if there ever was any foundation for it, that has so far not been made apparent.

THE MINERS' FEDERATION.

The Western Federation of Miners is still at work in this city, on business connected with its convention here. No doubt the sober thought of the members of the organization is to keep in touch with the popular sentiment, since the effort is to be made to increase the federation's membership among the miners here; but a strangely unwise method is being pursued to secure such membership from the better classes. As matters are shaping themselves today, every self-respecting miner who can deservedly lay claim to being a patriotic American is compelled in order to be consistent with his claim of patriotism to keep away from membership in the federation.

The unwisdom of the federation's course is manifest in its following the leadership of its president, Mr. Boyce, and ignoring the warning which the public has given concerning an organization that upholds Mr. Boyce's views. The residents of Utah are a conservative people, yet have no hesitancy in giving a plain expression of their views. They are as prompt as any community in the land in recognizing and insisting upon their constitutional rights, and demanding the fulfillment of constitutional guarantees; and they are equally quick to resent a threatened violation of constitutional restrictions. Hence the satisfaction that comes to every lover of liberty in the general expression of the people in condemnation of the views advocated by Mr. Boyce; and that general expression ought to serve as a warning to the Miners' federation as to what is the people's will upon this particular matter.

Notwithstanding the decided sentiment of the community against the violent expressions of Mr. Boyce, we understand that the federation

proposes an abject obedience to his dicta. An illustration is in the matter of the National Guard, the proposition of the federation being to boycott every member of the organized militia. That may not prove so good a thing for the federation as its advocates propose; for such an act is an assault on the public and on government. The National Guard is an arm of the public service, necessary for the defense of the public weal in certain emergencies, and is ordered by the government. Under certain conditions the Governor may order the organization of the enrolled militia of the State, which is then known as the National Guard; in these circumstances, the federation is pledged by its constitution to boycott every able-bodied man in the State between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, because they come under the operations of law. Surely no miner or other workingman who has a spark of real patriotism wishes to belong to an organization which does that.

There is a law in this State against blacklisting, and another against conspiracy. If an employer blacklists an ex-employee so the latter cannot get work, he is made punishable as a felon. That is a protection to members of labor unions and others, even though he latter may have engaged in a strike that has been disastrous to the employer. Yet this Miners' federation proposes to blacklist men for no other reason than that they obey a State law; associating themselves with a State organization. Does any reasonable man think the State will submit for long to any practice of that kind against citizens in its service? A conspiracy to obstruct the administration of law and justice is also a serious offense, and an overt act in carrying out a conspiracy to deprive anybody of employment might bring serious results to the conspirators. Blacklisting by employers, to deprive men of employment, is no worse than blacklisting by fellow employees to do the same thing. Both are equally despicable.

Those immediately concerned in this business ought to give a hearing to all sides of the question, and exercise a calm, dispassionate judgment thereon, remembering that no patriotic element among the working classes will be found remaining or composing in federations or associations that assail the means of effective government. The attitude of the president of the Miners' federation in this respect is condemned by public sentiment, not only here, but elsewhere in the West, as may be seen by the following editorial comments, which are typical of the expressions of the press generally. This is from the Sacramento, Cal., Record-Union of Wednesday:

One Boyce is presiding over the so-called Western Federation of Miners, in session at Salt Lake. He is an ass, and he brayed in convention. He should have been taken out and tied back of the church. The fellow who in this day and land stigmatizes National Guardsmen as \$13 a month murderers deserves to be executed by the contempt of decent men. This same blatant fellow talked of arming the miners with rifles and doing some sort of deadly work on somebody. He prated of some one lying in wait for