

thunder did you uns get the polish on them gubers?"

The Utah man was pestered with inquisitive persons who didn't seem to understand that plural marriages were a thing of the past in Utah. The inquisitives always asked "How many wives have you got?" The commissioner got disgusted and laid a trap for them. No sooner was the trap set than a pert young lady walked through the booth, was shown the exhibits in detail, and then she asked: "Are you from Salt Lake City?" "Yes," said the commissioner, "I was born and raised there." "Oh, my! How many wives have you got?" Then the Utah man sprung the trap. He glanced around mysteriously, then walked up close to her and whispered in her ear: "My dear lady, I haven't any more than five just now, but if you'll say 'yes' I'll make it six." She vanished.

The effect was so instantaneous that the Utah man decided to try the same joke again at the very first repetition of such questions. The opportunity came soon, for a bright, witty girl went through the interrogatories concerning residence, church, etc., and then broke out with "How many wives have you got?" With the same air of mystery the Utah man answered, "I have no more than five at present, but if you'll say 'yes' I'll make it six." To his amazement the young lady grasped him enthusiastically by the hand and answered: "Then I'll say 'yes.'"

It was the commissioner's turn to crawlfish.

One of the most attractive articles in the exposition was a large national flag made of three-month-old lamb skins, which was exhibited in the Utah booth. During the closing days an angular lady called the commissioner and asked: "Young man, what is that flag made of?"

"Lamb skins," answered the commissioner.

"Lamb skins!" she exclaimed. "My, my. Is it wool or cotton?"

In the same exhibit was a model of the great Mormon Temple, built at Salt Lake City, which model was made of Utah laundry soap. "This is a model of the great Mormon Temple," said the commissioner to a crowd of listeners. "It cost in the neighborhood of \$4,000,000, and took the people forty years to build it."

"Pshaw," said an old lady who had been looking at the soap model with a vacant stare. "Them folks must be pow'ful slow to take forty years to build that little soap house."

ELECTION WAYS IN JAPAN.

The prominent part taken by Japan in the Hawaiian question and the frequent mention of the Japanese parliament have given rise to the composition of that body and the Japanese election methods. The latter are fashioned after those of the United States in many respects—the preliminary caucuses and conventions being like those held in this country, in most particulars.

"But there is one thing about our candidates," said a Japanese resident of New York, "that is unlike the American candidate, and that is, he does not ask his fellow-citizens to place him in nomination, but allows them to ask him to become their candidate."

The Japanese parliament consists of a house of representatives known as the Shingi-In, and a house of peers, known as the Kizoku-In. There are 300 members in the lower house, who are elected for four years, and about 200 members in the house of peers, whose term of office is seven years.

There is no positive number set for the membership of the upper house,

because there are many hereditary members, and their number may be augmented at any time by appointment at the hands of the emperor. All marquises and dukes are members of the house of peers by virtue of their titles; the members of the imperial household and imperial princes are also members of the house of peers. Barons, counts and viscounts are eligible to election to the upper house, but none of these ranks may be represented by more than one-fifth of its total membership. In addition to these there are various persons whom the emperor rewards for distinguished services with a seat in the upper house.

The members who are elected are chosen from among the largest taxpayers in the various districts. Fifteen men whose taxes amount to a certain sum a year are elected in each district, and they elect one of their number. He must be at least 30 years old and may be a merchant, manufacturer or a member of one of the learned professions. The president and the vice president of the upper house are appointed by the emperor.

Members of the lower house are all elected by popular vote. Each male of the age of 25 years who has lived one year or more in the district in which the election takes place may vote, provided he has paid at least 15 yen in direct taxes, exclusive of what he paid in local taxes. When the voter is 30 years old he is also eligible to membership in the lower house without any further qualifications. But a man who already holds an office in the judiciary, police or correction department, who has an office in the imperial household or is in any way connected with the custom-house, may not become a candidate for the house of representatives.

When the members are elected they come together and elect three of their number as worthy of the place of presiding officer: from these three the emperor selects the president and vice president of the body.

The lists of voters are made up by officers of various districts, and are completed on or before April 20. From that time until July 1, when the elections take place, much active campaign work is done. The nominations are made in the various counties or districts, and on election day the chief officer of the county takes charge of the voting in his district. The voting places are all in the municipal building, and are open on election day from 7 a. m. until 6 p. m. The voter presents himself at the inspector's desk on which the ballot boxes are placed, and, after writing his name, and opposite that the name of the person for whom he desires to vote, on a book kept for that purpose, he deposits his ballot. In cases where a voter cannot write, an officer may write for him, but the election books must show that such help had been extended to the voter.

Outside the building there are many men who yell and cheer for their candidate and button-hole the voters as they come to the voting place, an act in many respects like the crowd around a rural American election place. Those who compose the outside cheering and electioneering crowds are for the most part young men from the schools and colleges, and their influence with the voters is anxiously sought by the candidates.

After the polls are closed the county officers take charge of the boxes and place them under lock and key in the municipal building, where they remain until the next morning, when they are opened and examined by a board of inspectors, on whose report the candidates are declared elected.

The next general election will take place in July, 1898.

THE SPREAD OF AN IDEA.

Among the many evidences of the growth of non-partisan or non-political ideas, when associated with city and municipal rule surely, nothing more remarkable has come through the press than a speech made last Thursday night in New York city by Governor Hazen S. Pingree of Michigan. The speaker reviewed his administration as mayor of Detroit, and it is the most splendid record of struggle and triumph of patriotism over politics that has been presented; the telegrams give quite a synopsis, and the reading thereof is quite an inspiration. Friends of local reform can realize how many such questions are before this community. As the "News" has already said, there is opportunity enough for legitimate contest, room enough for steady and continuous work, without dragging in "volens volens" those issues which are remote, and outside the reach of city councils great and small.

Such a question is now before the people here and now, viz., the high school question, which should be determined on a board—a generous scale even, but yet with due regard to all associated conditions.

Without accepting the word of those who champion the cause, or questioning their motive, it would appear rather unseemly for interested professionals to be the leading or prominent advocates of the educational scheme. It is a matter of experience that this interested element—one continuously absorbed in it—is a very aggressive one, and it has been demonstrated often that from their standpoint such persons are not considerate either of expediency or of the ability of those who provide the sinews of war.

School teaching is in Utah at present quite a desirable position, as is demonstrated by the number of applicants received continuously from every state in the Union. The writer is no advocate of low remuneration anywhere for faithful work, yet the efficiency of public schools would be in no way impaired if a general reduction in salaries took place all through the schools of this city. Noting the expenditure of a familiar school a while ago, it was seen that it cost the treasury about eleven dollars annually for each registered pupil, exclusive of interest on sixty thousand dollars and annual repairs for the building so occupied.

It is believed also by many taxpayers that they should know whether all the pupils of the city schools are bona fide citizens or otherwise, and it would also be interesting to such to find out how many parents of the children are taxpayers, not the payers of a non-associated poll tax, but legally applied taxes from the possession of real estate or personal property.

The public school facilities were included in Governor Pingree's improvements, but he evidently had looked all along the line, for in his administration the city acquired its own electric light plant and gave public illumination "at less than half the old rate." Gas also was reduced one-third, toll roads (unknown here) were made public thoroughfares, "street car facilities were greatly increased and the cost of transportation lessened," and telephone rates were also reduced through opposition "seventy-five per cent." This might seem like egotism, perchance, but the resume was pardonable in the sunlight of patriotism and thought for the interests of the laboring population, so a few thousand such "Pingrees" scattered all through the land would lessen the burdens of an oppressed people, and probably preserve social ebullition and those upheavals that