

men who will be as famous for their skill in settling international disputes by peaceful means as their predecessors have been in conducting wars. Nations as well as individuals can exist in two ways, either by honest labor and industry or by violent means. The latter has been resorted to more or less, so far. The former will finally prevail universally.

COMMERCIAL TARIFF CONVENTION.

The NEWS acknowledges the receipt of an invitation to attend "the national commercial tariff convention," to be held at Detroit, Michigan, commencing at noon on Tuesday, June 2, and continuing until the business brought before it shall be completed. The subjects to be acted upon are as follows, and commercial, manufacturing, labor and agricultural organizations of the United States are invited to be represented:

First—The discussion of ways and means for taking the tariff question out of partisan politics and making it a business question, instead of a "political football."

Second—The discussion of ways and means for the improvement of the consular service of the United States and the employment of such service for the increasing of our foreign trade, especially with the Central and South American republics.

Third—The advisability of recommending to Congress the creation of a department of commerce, manufactures and labor, and of making the chief of such department a member of the President's cabinet.

Fourth—The advisability of forming a permanent organization for the purpose of holding annual conventions for the consideration of national questions and of recommending to Congress each year such changes in our laws or in their administration as may be deemed for the best interest of our country.

The convention will be non-political and non-sectional, and all questions must be discussed from a purely commercial standpoint. The invitation herewith tendered is without limit as to the number of attendants, and is cordially extended not only to accredited delegates from organizations either commercial, manufacturing, labor or agricultural, but to every citizen who may be interested in the questions to be discussed, and who believes that more can be accomplished by the united effort of all the different interests involved than by each acting independent of the other, to meet with us. The plans adopted by this convention will be put in proper shape, and a committee appointed to present them to the two great political conventions to be held in June and July respectively, and urge their embodiment in their respective platforms.

APRIL'S STORMS.

The long continued low temperature of this spring has materially retarded vegetation in the west, and it is to be hoped that with the present downpour a change to warmer weather will come—provided it be not too warm. The drying wind of the past few days has had an injurious effect. "March winds" are all right in March, and in this locality perform an important part of the spring work in loosening the grip of the frost king; but when the vigorous

movement of the air so welcome at the breaking up of winter is deferred a month or more, the delay is not altogether relished by those who anticipated a different procedure—hence the coming of the rain is a welcome relief both for its promise of moderating the breezes and the revivifying effect it will have on plant life.

Throughout the State there are sections which yet complain some of drouth; but in the larger portion, and over the West generally, the redundancy of April showers this year has been quite unusual. In those places where a record has been kept it is announced that the quantity of rainfall this spring has exceeded that of any similar season since 1871. In some sections the frosts following storms have done considerable damage, as in southern California, but generally the effect of the April rains and snows has been beneficial, and will go far to aid in producing heavy crops of vegetables, fruits and grain.

It would have been more satisfactory if we could have reported that every section in the southern part of the State, as well as the northern and central portions, had been well supplied with moisture; but as it is there is reason for thankfulness that even on the drier parts there has been bestowed a fairly good amount of water, and through the irrigation system in vogue here all danger of serious loss is averted. Looking the whole field over, the outlook in this State for the cultivator of the soil and the stockraiser is full of good promise so far as nature's workings are concerned; and this will put everybody in a better frame of mind to meet and cope with disadvantages wrought through man's mismanagement in matters that depress financially. For the goodly share they perform in giving a cheery outlook, the present April showers are made welcome.

NEARING THE BATTLE.

It is now only a few weeks till the great political battle will be fairly on in this country, when it is probable that questions will be settled that are of far greater moment than which of two great parties will win in the November election. The issue before the national conventions at St. Louis and Chicago is higher than the selection of individual candidates or than those that may be tried between the great parties on old lines. It is quite possible that the question of higher import may be settled in the conventions themselves, viz: whether or not this country is to have a single or double standard for its currency. If one convention should decide each way as to the big parties, then the matter would go to the polls; but if both agree, the point of most importance will be settled in advance, so far as the presidential election is concerned. If the gold standard prevails in both parties there is perhaps more prospect of a general breaking up of political lines than by any other way.

In the West it is being generally conceded that there is no really good prospect of free silver men getting in control of either of the great parties,

although there may be more hope of their doing so with the party which seems to be at a disadvantage now in the nation generally—the Democratic. This hope lies in the fact that the West would probably support a free silver ticket. The chief prospect of the free silver advocates, however, appears to lie in the possibility of their having a sufficient number in both Republican and Democratic conventions to hold the balance of power, and thus compel important concessions on the part of the faction which wins. To achieve this much at least will be the aim of the western delegates.

The great papers of the East have been discussing the outlook for some time, and have reached the conclusion generally that each of the great parties will nominate a "sound money" or gold standard candidate. In the middle West, however, the sentiment on this point is not quite so unanimous, and the St. Paul Pioneer Press, whose opinion on political matters carries great weight, is emphatically of the opinion that, so far as the Democratic convention is concerned, the free silver forces will control it by a considerable majority. In that case they will force the nomination of a free silver man on a free silver platform. The Pioneer Press says the result will inevitably be that "the sound money Democrats will bolt the ticket in every state of the Union, and either stay at home or vote the Republican ticket; the same result will happen if a straddle platform shall be adopted—unless a sound money man shall be nominated who will repudiate it. No matter in what way the sharp antagonism between the bad money and the good money elements may be handled, the Democratic party is certain to be tossed upon the horns of a dilemma from which there is no escape."

As to the other great party, the Pioneer Press is equally confident of what will take place. It declares that "the Republican party is virtually a unit for sound money in every state of the Union where it has a voice in the election of a President, with the exception of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Montana and possibly Idaho and Wyoming—having a total vote of 19 in an electoral college of 447. The Republican leaders in some of these states, such as Teller of Colorado, threaten to bolt if a sound money platform shall be adopted, but the paper referred to says that if all of them should bolt it would cut no figure in the result, for the Republicans will easily carry a large majority of the electoral college without them. But it is safe to predict that the bolt, if any occurs, will be confined to Colorado and Nevada. The other four silver states may be safely relied on to fall into line, and at least two of them, Wyoming and Idaho, will do so cheerfully; for the people of those states have no interested attachment to free silver and are only awaiting a favorable opportunity to escape from its toils."

The Pioneer Press prediction that "the Republicans will nominate a sound money statesman on a sound money platform at St. Louis next June," seems quite probable of fulfillment. Whether its prognostications as to the Democrats are correct so far as a candidate is concerned, is yet an