

and then Rhode Island with 226.05 miles. Utah has 1,339.86 miles. The greatest increase was in the state of Washington, 556.32 miles; the lowest South Dakota, 7 of a mile. Utah's increase is 77.42 miles, Idaho's 92.92, Colorado 23.86, Wyoming 101.43, and Arizona 64.40. There was a decrease of mileage as follows: Kansas 6.11, Nevada 3, Oregon 19.47, District of Columbia 1.88, and New Mexico 2.03 miles. The number of miles of railway in Utah per 100 square miles of territory is figured at 1.63, in the United States 5.94; and the number per 10,000 inhabitants in Utah at 60.83, in the United States at 26.51.

THE HOG TROUBLE.

The statement made that hog cholera is the cause of the large number of fatalities that have occurred among swine during the last few days, in Salt Lake county, would be alarming if there were reason to believe that it was true. The evidence, however, is against the claim, and it is reasonably certain that the trouble is caused by the food and manner of treatment that the hog raisers who are suffering loss have been giving to their animals. A case of genuine hog cholera has not been known here, and conditions are very unfavorable to its development.

The probability that there is no hog cholera does not, however, preclude the necessity of people being exceedingly careful in their use of hog products. The imported article has been looked upon as the only kind which contained any serious menace to health, the home product being regarded as usually of a fair quality. The fact that some local hogowners are losing animals in the manner stated is likely to shake that belief. People will conclude, and with a good show of reason, that those who do not give such care in food and treatment to their hogs as to keep them from wholesale destruction as in the cases reported, do not give sufficient care to make the animals fit for human consumption. It appears as if the responsibility for the local hog troubles is in the remissness of those who have been conducting the afflicted pens.

SAW THE FIRST BATTLE.

One of the spectators of the first naval engagement between the Japanese and Chinese in the harbor of Chemulpo, Corea, was a Salt Lake boy—Hugh, adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Sainsbury, of this city. He is one of the crew of the United States warship Baltimore, and in a letter to his parents, dated July 26 and begun the day before and finished the day after the battle, he gives a brief statement of affairs as follows:

I am in Corea, and our ship, being the best out on this station, was sent up here to protect the Americans who are in this most lonely place. "I have been trying to get a full story about this trouble but cannot. The war is started and I hope it will not last long, for there is a rise and fall of twenty-two feet on the water, which makes the tides go to and fro at a speed of six knots an hour; and when we pull four times

ashore it makes one feel tired, for we are lying six miles out, so that four trips make forty-eight miles.

We are going out tomorrow to witness the first modern naval engagement ever fought in these waters. When the American minister sent word that the war would break out tomorrow, we landed our troops to go up to Seoul, which is the capital of Corea and where the fight is to take place on shore. I did not go this time with the landing party, but we will relieve them next month. There will not be much trouble for us here, so don't worry.

I suppose you have read all about the fight. It took place yesterday morning just outside of the harbor. Three Japanese men-of-war sunk one Chinaman.

I have taken notice of all the different countries I have been in, and I find that I like America best of all. Just think of these foreigners who go about with only a breechclout on, and live on a plant which looks like a big summer squash. Then the Chinese are the same way, only they live on rice and curry. The Japanese are not much better. Then there are the East Indians, the Arabs, the West Indians and others I have seen; and in fact I begin to think that after all America is the only place I have been that is decent.

VOTERS' PRIMARIES.

It is the duty of every voter to attend his party primaries. There is where the machinery is put in motion for the nomination of candidates for office. When this, that or the other aspirant for official position is able by the formation of small "rings" to control primaries because they are poorly attended, he also is able to bind his party vote for him when in fact he is not the choice of the majority. Thus it is that chronic office hunters and unworthy men get into official position, and politics is but a game of corruption. The honest, patriotic, respectable voter who actually is interested in having politics clean will be at the primaries and see that he does his share there to have things started right.

There are many voters who, figuratively speaking, are "on the fence," in political action. They have their political preferences, but in order to "avoid turmoil," as some of them put it, they do not attend political gatherings. They say they will wait until the tickets are put up, and then will vote for the "best men." In the mean time the primaries are held, perhaps manipulated by "ward heelers," and the conventions fixed in the interest of schemers, so that when the tickets are ready there are no "best men" to choose between. The game has been won by the politicians, and the voters who have been too self-dignified to get on the right end of the political cart growl at corruption and moan for a change. They are themselves in fault; for if they had come down off "the fence" and put in their work at the primaries they would have had something of a satisfactory character to choose between and support at the polls.

In the coming elections the best element in all parties can have representative men on their tickets if they put forth prompt effort. If this is not done the place hunters who want a fat living at the public crib will stand

a fair show of getting there, in some cases at least. The number of candidates now in the field is largely in excess of the number of offices to be filled. Some of these aspirants for political favor are of the highest respectability. Their integrity, honor and ability are beyond question. Others who are scheming for official plums must be described differently. If the patriotic, honest voting element want public officers of the same class as themselves, they will get down to the work at the outset. They will run the primaries, the conventions, and the elections. Then they can hope for a new and fair distribution of the offices, and there will be less reason to complain at corruption in politics. But if they stay away from the primaries their hope is more than likely to be vain.

THE STRIKE INVESTIGATION.

The labor commission appointed to investigate the recent Pullman strike and incidents connected therewith has now adjourned after having heard a number of witnesses for both sides. It is understood the commissioners will re-convene at Washington at the end of September and prepare a report on the investigation.

Some important facts bearing on the labor problem have been brought to public notice by the testimony given. According to the statements of Mr. George Pullman himself, the company had commenced with a capital stock of \$1,000,000 in 1867, and this was now increased to \$86,000,000. During the first two years a dividend of 12 per cent was paid to the stockholders and 9½ per cent during the following two years and after that 8 per cent annually. At the same time the company accumulated a surplus of \$25,000,000.

It further developed that when the dull time came and it was found expedient to continue the construction of cars at a loss rather than to let the workshops stand idle, the management decided to neutralize this loss by reducing the wages of the laborers. In reply to a question if the stockholders who pocketed \$2,800,000 annually in dividends could not afford to share the losses of the employes, Mr. Pullman stated he did not know of any reason why the former should suffer any diminution of their profits. What his reasons were why the employes should be made to suffer first, he did not state; nor did he satisfactorily account for the circumstance that his own wages and the wages of the high-salaried foremen and superintendents remained unchanged while the earnings of the laborers were repeatedly reduced. It was also tolerably well established that the rents exacted of the Pullman hands were on an average too high for them, and what little reduction there was in the regular expenses for living was entirely out of proportion to the decrease in the daily wages.

Without discussing, at the present time, the merits of the strike, it certainly appears that the laborers had more cause for complaint than the general public at first were aware of. It is easy to see that when the talk is of the "loss" of \$50,000 to a company