

The difficulties in the way were clearly shown up by Mr. Pike, who said, "There are three questions involved in this matter. First, the legality of the bonds; second, the right of the taxpayers who are not registered voters to vote at this election; third, the authority of the Utah Commission to assume control of the election."

These are all of great importance. There is a conflict as to the conduct of the election, or meeting provided for in the Territorial statute. This, if left undetermined, is likely to subvert the object of the election. If the Utah Commission conduct the election, there will be a doubt as to its legality because the statute places it under the Board of Education. If that body conduct it, there will also be a doubt as to its legality because it is claimed that acts of Congress give the Utah Commission the right to appoint officers to conduct elections in this Territory. In either case the bonds will likely be unsalable, for no one will want to purchase them when there is a doubt as to their legality. A court must pass upon this or the bonds will be a failure.

So in reference to the persons who are to vote on the issuance of the bonds. The Utah statute that provides for them, rightly gives the power to decide whether they shall be issued or not to the *resident taxpayers*. But the acts of Congress in relation to elections in Utah provide that only *registered voters* shall cast their ballots. If these laws apply to the election, or meeting, for the issuing of bonds, then every person who has had his name placed on the registry list, whether he pays taxes or not, can vote away the property of taxpayers who may not be registered and who cannot vote in regard to their own property rights. This is manifestly unjust. But the question is, what is the law? That also can only be determined satisfactorily by a competent court.

Unfortunately there seems to be a discrepancy in the Utah statute relating to this matter. Sections 102 and 103 provide that for the levying of taxes and the issuance of bonds, as well as the election of trustees, the City Council shall appoint three judges of election in each municipal ward and that the election shall be held in each ward. Sections 122 to 124 provide that that for the issuing of bonds the Board of Education shall call a meeting and appoint three judges to conduct the election thereat. This is a defect in the law that complicates the matter.

But these facts remain: The levying of taxes and the issuing of bonds are not in the same nature as an election of trustees. The acts of Congress clearly contemplate by the term

"elections" the choosing of men for office, and it is such elections only that come under the control of the Utah Commission. Also that the law which makes the issuing of bonds for school purposes possible, provides that the determining of the question shall be left to the taxpayers, who are pecuniarily interested in it. And by whomsoever the meeting, or election, for its determination shall be conducted, the taxpayers shall vote upon it, while an election for trustees shall be determined by the registered voters.

The quickest and best way out of the difficulty is to carry it to the courts, and a suit to enjoin the Utah Commission will bring up these questions on their merits, and, we hope, solve them, so as to make the election valid and the bonds sound and solid. Salt Lake wants more school houses, and the issuing of bonds is the easiest way to raise the funds necessary for the purpose. We believe the Board has taken the right step to accomplish the end in view.

#### NAVAL POWER OF THE UNITED STATES.

IS THE Government of the United States a first-class naval power? This is at the present time an appropriate question to ask. In honest truth it must be admitted that it is not. However, it is but fair to say, that it is fast growing into a naval power of importance. Of this fact the *Navy Register* for 1891, furnishes abundant proof. We are, at least, in a position to say that our interests are not entirely defenceless.

There are four new vessels added to the navy which do not appear in last year's *Register*. They are the *Philadelphia*, *San Francisco*, *Newark* and *Concord*. In process of construction are a number of other vessels, including the five armored ships, which are named the *Indiana*, the *Massachusetts*, the *Oregon*, the *New York* and the *Monterey*. The first three of these are belted cruisers of 10,200 tons each, displacement. The *New York* will be an armed cruiser of 8160 tons, and the *Monterey* a low-freeboard, barlette-turret, coast defense vessel of 4048 tons.

There is also a harbor defence ram of 2050 tons now building at Bath. There is a fast triple-screw protected cruiser of 7400 tons in process of construction. A duplicate of the latter has been authorized by Congress to be built. In San Francisco there is a 5500 ton vessel being built. The *Cincinnati* and *Raleigh*, two 3188-ton cruisers, three

2000 ton vessels, and two 1050 ton gunboats are also in process of building.

Three new tugs and a practice cruiser are also being set up at Elizabethport. In addition to all these, bids have been asked for a new vessel capable of making 27 knots an hour in the open sea. This shows that the United States are fast becoming a naval power, and if Italy only waits one year longer, she will meet with a warm greeting on this side the sea if she seeks a "brush" with America.

#### THE RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

Most people regard Alaska as a dreary, far-away province, entirely destitute of ordinary resources. The census bulletin on that Territory affords a different view. The sources of wealth there, are furs, fish, minerals and timber. Since Alaska became a Territory of the United States the value of fur seal skins exported to London has reached \$33,000,000, and for other kinds of fur \$16,000,000.

It is thought that the extermination of the seal would be a positive benefit, notwithstanding the amount of money the fur realizes. This animal preys on the fish to such an extent that it almost renders the fisheries of Alaska unprofitable. Were it not for this the takes of herring, cod and salmon would supply the whole country. Red and King salmon have been caught in Alaskan waters weighing 120 pounds each and measuring six feet. The waters of the great Yukon river for 1500 miles abound with this kind of salmon. The seal lives on the young of this fish, so that the extermination of the animal would be a boon.

The whale fisheries for 1890 yielded 226,402 pounds of whalebone, 2980 pounds of ivory and 14,567 barrels of oil.

The annual production of gold dust and bullion averages about \$700,000. Copper abounds in the Territory, but the difficulties of transportation are such that at present it is not worth working. Lignite coal is found in several districts, but there is only one coal mine in operation. The quantity of merchantable timber is overestimated, according to the census bureau, especially so of that valuable timber the yellow cedar, which is found only in isolated groves.

People who are conversant with the situation in Alaska, favor the opening up of the country to bona fide settlers. At present it is the prey of adventurers who denude it of its resources, and who have only a passing interest in its affairs. By colonizing it with industrious, hardy families, it will have a far different showing at the next census.