

any real deserving veteran in accepting the allowance made by the government for injuries sustained or disabilities incurred in the line of duty. On the other hand, there is disgrace, and it ought to be made public, in plundering the treasury by drawing a pension which under no construction of law or justice can be deemed deserved. The publication of the lists will doubtless do much in the way of purging and purifying and restoring the lists to what they should be—a roll of honor.

Should the proposition to publish prevail, many surprises will be in store for the public. It is not generally known, for instance, that Secretary of State Gresham draws \$30 a month for a gunshot wound in the leg, and that Senator Manderson of Nebraska receives \$15 for a similar wound. Ex-Commissioner of Penitents W. W. Dudley of Indiana lost his right foot at Gettysburg and draws \$36 a month; while Corporal Tanner, also ex-commissioner, lost both feet at Bull Run and receives \$72 per month. Another ex-commissioner, Congressman-elect John C. Black, draws \$100 a month under a special act of Congress, which is also the case with the aged veteran, ex-Speaker N. P. Banks. General Neal Dow, the Maine temperance man, is wealthy, but he draws \$7.50 per month for a wound in the thigh; and Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, at one time candidate for the Presidency, has a pension of \$20 a month as the widow of Captain Lockwood of the District of Columbia volunteer infantry. Among the list of prominent pensioners from which the foregoing have been culled we notice only one Utah man, General Salomon, ex-surveyor general of the Territory, who is rated as receiving \$30 a month for disability resulting from hardships suffered in the Yazoo Pass expedition. There are doubtless others of some prominence in Utah, but not many.

In all of these cases it will be admitted, we think, that the pension is not undeserved—the financial condition of the beneficiary having nothing to do with the case. In fact it is more than likely that there is much dry and little wool in all this political chatter about frauds in the pension bureau. There can scarcely fail to be some error and abuser; but if these or even the bulk of them come from a mere leaning to generosity's side, a patriotic and grateful nation will not feel to deal too rigorously with the offenders.

### THE PEST OF PLACE-HUNTING.

What is this dreadful infection that, spreading all over the land, has even invaded the valleys of Utah, and makes of its victims a scheming, hungry, insatiable class of office-seekers? Whence this insidious poison that finds development in the courtier, and that aforesaid in slightly different form made possible the praetorian guards? What mysterious enemy of good sense and stout manhood transforms so many choice mortals into pitiable mendicants for place and greedy starvelings for pay? Are we destined to nothing better than to become a well-clothed, educated, two-legged race of "hunters and setters"

—when not hunting for position, "settling" around aimlessly till we get it?

Alas, that American spirit and sturdiness should have sunk so low! Thrice pitiful is it that young men, with all the world before them, should be the chief examples! Sound in limb and mind, fitted by nature and education to fight the world's great battle of work, they shrink the honorable field and aspire to camp duty—duty that must be done, indeed, but that no courageous soul would ever ask for. It is a sad commentary upon the tendency of modern times, and is one of the most baneful and least excusable consequences of politics.

Against the man to whom office comes unsought we utter no reproach; an office-holder is not necessarily a truckler or a beggar. There are times when the acceptance of a public trust involves self-sacrifice of the highest order. There are frequently times when an appointed or elected officer shows rare fitness for the duties involved, when he proves himself, in fact, a real blessing to the community. There are cases where the veteran of a hard-fought field, in war or politics, renders such distinguished service, to the peril and injury of his future life, as to make an easy, remunerative office his just due. Then there are cases again where the incumbent or the aspirant cannot make a living in any other way. Wisdom, patriotism and charity are therefore moving causes that tender many selections and appointments fitting and beyond cavil.

As above stated, we have no quarrel with those whom the people's will or the friendship of the appointing power, without undue pressure or persuasion, places in position of reward and responsibility. Such persons have only their own inclinations and their own sense of duty and the proprieties to consult. But against those, especially young men, who grovel and plead; who pass around petitions, or induce or permit friends to do it for them, asking their appointment; who seem to think they have a mortgage on the soft places in the world; who manifest the lack of independent manhood and disgust those who still admire that quality—against these we lift up our voice. For the capable, industrious, worthy official, whose place came to him without hypocrisy or chicanery, we have much respect, though not one whit more so than for the courageous, manly fellow who, in the absence of anything more promising, is not ashamed to take to the pick and shovel or go out and reclaim the desert waste. But for the mincing, dawdling, lily-banded, undignified crew that devote their time to place-hunting and place-getting, we have no room for a regard less tender than one of profound pity!

### THE FORT DOUGLAS HOMICIDE.

Elsewhere in today's NEWS will be found the result of the coroner's inquest which was instituted at Fort Douglas regarding the killing of the ex-soldier Leonard. The jury's finding considered as a piece of non-committal literature of a legal stripe is a masterpiece; that is, it tells everything that the people knew before but fails to enlighten them or the officers of the law as to the degree of culpability or

whether in fact there is any at all. It reads like a prosy recital of facts crystallizing in a suggestion of semi-justification for the authors of the killing.

The killing of a civilian by a soldier is at any time a subject of inquiry and determination in accordance with well understood rules. It is necessary that this principle be kept in full view all the time, lest once losing sight of it it may escape us altogether. The President of the United States is commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and the governor of each state is the head of its militia system; it would be impossible for our institutions to put forth plainer or more decisively that the civil dominates the military power—that, in fact, the latter is the creature, not the peer and least of all the master, of the former. There can be no commissions held by an army officer save such as bear the seal and come with the authority of civil sovereignty, and even in time of war or other violence the highest ranking officer may not disobey orders from the duly constituted government headquarters, while being answerable thereto for all he does. This illustrates the relationship sufficiently.

How greatly is the taking of life aggravated when the only pretext therefor is a technical violation of some rule the extreme penalty for which could not be more than a few days' imprisonment at the most! And when to it all is added the fact that the offender could be arrested and held with but very little trouble or delay, thus leaving such punishment as might be met and proper to the authorities constituted for that purpose, it assumes a phase that ordinary language does not fit; it seems to be all at once and in one ugly transaction, insubordination, usurpation and murder. We would not prejudice any case nor contribute toward a defendant's embarrassment by creating or assisting to create prejudice against him; but when a rule of governmental conduct is overturned, when a principle upon which all things else relating to the government are based is set aside and through such action a man not amenable to the extent of severe punishment by either the civil or military power is shot to death, it is not then the case of the actors altogether—it is our case, it is the case of everybody interested in the preservation of peace and order.

### AN IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARY.

June 17 is a more conspicuous day in the history of the United States than everybody is aware of; it is entitled to rank among the days set apart for special commemoration. A hundred and eighteen years ago the first blow for liberty was struck at Bunker Hill, Massachusetts. It is an elevation commanding the ground on which Boston is situated and where General Gage with lordly mien and a defiant presence personated British authority over the colonies. The "rebels" were becoming quite troublesome and it was deemed necessary to strengthen Gage's hands for any emergency that might arise; so large reinforcements under Howe, Burgoyne and Clinton had been sent over. These added fuel to the little flame