

market," they curtailed their planting operations in that line.

This is near-sighted agricultural policy. Those who look ahead act on the opposite of this course by increasing the average of any product, whether it be root or cereal, that has been plentiful and cheap the previous year. The reason for this is that it may be safely relied upon that after a plentiful and cheap season there will always be a percentage of agriculturists who will feel discouraged and act accordingly. They will curtail their acreage of the product heretofore so low-priced and thus make it comparatively scarce and proportionately higher-priced the year following.

It is always prudent, in business matters, to calculate upon the probable effect upon people engaged in various lines of any extraordinary condition that arises. The hopeless classes must always be considered in this connection. They form a pretty large percentage. They can be found everywhere. Under some circumstances they manifest their leanings pronouncedly. As for instance, when any condition involving loss, even from a natural cause, visits a town or settlement, such as a drought. About then is a time when land can be purchased at low figures, owing to the hopeless fraternity—not being able to see beyond the present and its conditions—becoming disconsolate and unwilling to stay any longer in such a condemned country. They move away to some other region, there to remain until a flood comes or a dry season approaches. Such are without hope and staying qualities, and are therefore never startling successes in any direction except as spasmodic floaters over the face of the land.

A GENUINE HERO.

THE times are filled with dark shadows. Murders, suicides, incendiarism, and the foulest forms of immorality are becoming so common that they fail to shock popular sensibility. Here and there the gloom is dispelled by acts of genuine heroism, but they too are frequently passed by without eliciting more than a cursory comment. Yet they are often as striking as deeds of the past that have been made themes for song and story.

An incident named in a brief paragraph of a press dispatch is a case in point. It occurred near Brooksville, Va., last Friday night. Engineer Emery, on an excursion

train sighted a cattle train coming around a curve. His practiced eye took in the situation at a glance—a collision was inevitable. He put on the air brake, pushed the fireman off the engine to save his life, remained at his post with his hand on the lever and met the crash, being, as he expected, instantly killed.

This noble act was not the result of frenzied impulse; it was the fruit of deliberate courage, with the consequences fully comprehended. This is evinced by the act of pushing the fireman from the engine to save his life. The logical inference is that he understood his own would be lost by a terrible process by remaining. He thought of the helpless people in the cars behind, and to save them he sacrificed himself. Under a trying ordeal no mortal man could do more than he did. Yet, so far as we have observed, this heroic act of a humble but noble man has been passed without public notice, save that given in a brief paragraph of a telegraphic dispatch. But Emery was obscure. Had he been rich, and consequently influential, his act of self-immolation would have created a great stir. His praises would have been sung in sweet poetic strain, and his example pointed to as doing credit to the human race; for such is the way of the world. Fortunately the ways of God are different.

CONSPICUOUSLY INEXACT.

THE charge of Judge Anderson to the grand jury of the Second Judicial District which will be found in another part of this paper is, on the whole a fair and capable address. There is one statement in it, though, which we do not think should go unchallenged. It is this.

"We desire to especially enjoin upon you the duty of investigating all violations of the laws of the United States against bigamy, polygamy, unlawful cohabitation and adultery. These are the prevailing crimes in this Territory and are committed by a large number of its inhabitants."

This language is likely to mislead the public outside of the Territory, and to corroborate the false impression which is sought to be made by designing persons upon the minds of national legislators. We do not say that this was the Judge's intention. It is the grouping together of several offenses, and attributing to all that prevalence which can only be imputed with any degree of correctness to one of them, which is objectionable.

Unlawful cohabitation may be said to have been a "prevailing offence" in this Territory, and this is largely due to the construction which has been put by the courts upon the language of the statute creating it. But that bigamy and polygamy, which are each clearly defined by law, are "prevailing crimes in this Territory and committed by a large number of its inhabitants," is not established by anything that has come to the notice of the court at Beaver nor of any other court in Utah.

The cases of bigamous and polygamous marriages before the courts, during the past few years, are not more numerous than in other parts of the United States. The records are the witnesses of this fact. The Judge of the First Judicial District certainly has not any official reason for making the statement in the form in which it was delivered to the grand jury at Beaver. The records of his court will not bear out his assertion.

It may be eminently proper that in a charge to a grand jury the Judge should draw special attention to one class of offenses against the laws, if it is prevalent in the District. We say nothing against that. But it is only proper that he should be exact. And that cases of bigamy and polygamy, as defined by the Statutes of the United States, have been extremely rare in the Utah courts for several years, also that there have not been at the outside more than a score since the passage of the law against polygamy, are facts that cannot be controverted.

It is to be expected that people at a distance, in speaking of Utah, will be inexact, and that they will class as "polygamy" all the offenses named in the Edmunds-Tucker act; but this is too loose a manner of expression to be looked for from a judicial officer in a charge to a jury. In endeavors to enforce the laws it is but proper to adhere to facts, and it will do no good to give color to the wrong ideas which have prevailed throughout the country upon this subject.

A CREDITABLE ACTION.

THE adoption of a fire alarm system is one more proof of the fact that our City Council is a live body and awake to the necessities of the times. As population increases and buildings multiply, as business advances and houses are crowded more closely together, the danger from conflagrations becomes more than