

public carries us back to the methods of Tweed.

The difficulty of forming correct conclusions concerning the details of objects seen a great distance off, even in a clear atmosphere and through good telescopes, is apparent to all who have any experience in the matter, on land or sea. The fact accounts, probably, for the extraordinary confusion *The Outlook* displays in that brief paragraph, where fact and fancy are mingled together, regardless of rhyme or reason.

In the first place, the furniture deal referred to was one in which county officials, not city officials, were interested.

No local paper had any account of any investigation regarding the contracts made by the city's public servant. And in the second place the presentation to the city of a valuable frame for a picture adorning the council chamber cannot reasonably be taken as a proof of existing corruption.

But the conclusion arrived at by our contemporary from these confused premises is most extraordinary. The paper insinuates that the picture frame represents a five per cent rebate donated to the Church on stealings from the public. This misstatement of a fact can be excused only on the ground of utter ignorance, which, however, itself is inexcusable in this matter. Journalists at least ought to know that a municipality county government is not a church, in Utah or anywhere else in this country, and that no ecclesiastical body can be held responsible in any way for the possible short-comings of civil officers. And as for the Mormon Church, as is well known in this region, that organization never receives one cent except out of the honest earnings of its friends and supporters, for charitable purposes or to defray its legitimate expenses. The scurrilous attack on the Church in *The Outlook* is therefore as unjust as it is without foundation, and our contemporary cannot neglect to correct the misstatement made without lowering itself in the estimation of all familiar with the excellent record of the Mormon Church.

RAIN NEEDED.

There are some farmers with hay and grain still in the field; others with their stacks uncovered or their threshing in progress; builders with the roofs not yet completed on their present jobs; excursionists and campers to whom fine weather is desirable; housewives with their washing out on the clothesline; and no doubt many others who will not today feel like recouping the NEWS' motion for a right good rainstorm. All the same the country needs just that very thing, and needs it badly—the air wants a thorough bath, the soil a thorough soaking, the foliage and vegetation a complete drenching. The first is necessary to health, the second to future agricultural wealth, the third to fresh beauty. As to the trees, horticulturists say there were hardly ever so many insects upon the leaves and branches as now, and they assert that the prolonged drought is responsible for them—that where sprinkling of the foliage is impossible, the little pests have

multiplied and cling in myriads. The soil is dry as an ash-heap, and a great deal of plowing that ought to be done to kill the later growth of weeds is almost impracticable until rain shall come. The prevalence and extent of canyon fires round about this city and in other sections bears testimony to the dryness of the grass and underbrush. And lastly, physicians say that the atmosphere is full of injurious germs or microbes (or whatever the proper term may be) which are certain to produce a great increase in disease and mortality in a very short time unless heaven's cooling and cleansing showers are speedily forthcoming. It is only in rare and unusual seasons that the earlier and the latter rains have failed us. This year the earlier contingent came along most generously, and by this time nearly everybody ought to be quite ready for a goodly installment of the later supply.

FEES AGAIN.

While there was perhaps some seventy in the NEWS' remarks on the shamelessness with which most officeholders extort the uttermost farthing in their pursuit of fees, we are encouraged to believe that the sentiment expressed have met with warm approval, not only from the higher-minded and more respectable of the official themselves, but from the public generally. Pursuing the subject a little farther, as we propose to continue to do until every grabber shall be made odious, and every unjust exaction be made impossible save under peril of imprisonment, we give place today to a query and a comparison offered by a local correspondent:

Editor Deseret News:

While you are on the subject of "fees" would it not be as well to touch upon the extraordinary charges made here compared with eastern prices? For instance, fees charged for naturalization papers:

Declaring intentions here	\$2 50
Declaring intentions east	20
Obtaining final papers here	5 00
Obtaining final paper east	50

See Kate Field's *Washington*, page 259, 1894.

There are other things high in proportion, which should come down these hard times.

We are not able to vouch for our correspondent's figures, and are furthermore not altogether disposed to approve the idea of making American citizenship too cheap. Still, if the wholesale naturalization business as we have seen it in the past is as much of a "snag" as has been commonly understood, there ought to be conscientious and modest enough somewhere to force the compensation down to something like a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

A SPREADING REFORM.

The Utah Constitution makers who required so much urging before they would vote to institute the metric system in the new state, and who, many of them, after all, only voted for it with misgivings and reluctance, are respectfully tendered the consolatory

information that already the predicted results are becoming apparent—the metric system is gaining ground everywhere, with a prospect of being universally adopted within the near future. It may be of interest to such representatives, as it surely will be to the educational fraternity and to progressive business men and thinking persons generally, to know that a British parliamentary committee has lately recommended that the system be made compulsory throughout Great Britain within two years. The advantages of this exact decimal system of weights and measurements over the arbitrary and in many respects ridiculous scale now in vogue are so apparent that no one will attempt to gainsay them. The objection heretofore has been that the change from the old and obsolete to the new and sensible would be attended with expense, trouble and confusion. But the same objection could have been urged with equal force against any innovation or reform that was ever instituted and against any new achievement in art, science, industry or any branch of knowledge whatever. If the world owes nothing else to the French revolution, it is at least indebted to it for this splendid accomplishment in scientific progress; and what should now be ardently desired and worked for at the hands of the national Congress is that the law of forty years ago, which legalized the metric system in this country, should be amended so as to render compulsory, at as early a date as possible, the introduction and universal use of that simple, logical and in all respects superior system.

EDUCATION AND POLITICS.

THE NEWS had great hopes that the first party conventions held under the new order of things here would unite in a determination to divorce educational officials from party politics and so fix the rule for all future nominations for such places. We know that the people of the Territory would not only accept but would applaud such a policy. If there are any who would not do so they either belong to a class of persons who care nothing for any party or any state—aside from the spoils of office, or else they are cruelly ignorant of the question. If we are to have a capable system of education in the State it must come through a strictly non-partisan policy in the naming of the school officials. A school system is not something to be overhrown or removed to the fashion of every new political bias that comes into vogue. When we find ourselves supporting a system of that kind we can with profit holden the whole institution and return to private tuition. States that have permitted their schools to be regulated in any degree by party affiliation are unanimous in their disapproval of the experiment.

Of course there may be times when the utter incapability of the incumbent makes it a matter of public necessity that he be supplanted by a worthier man; but even in so improbable a case as this, we should still urge a policy of non-interference by any partisan convention unless acting in response to some well articulated voice from the educa-