

simple announcement that this city owes to its inhabitants complete preservation against the power of any private parties to control our water supply. The Council might as well entertain a proposition from some grasping syndicate to buy the air above and around us and dole it out through a meter at so much per cubic foot.

THE IAMS CASE.

The case of the soldier Iams is one that should receive the most thorough and impartial investigation, and wherever malice or undue severity have appeared in connection with the punishment inflicted upon him those who so transgressed should themselves be made to feel the heavy hand of the law. The offense with which the soldier was charged was not a heinous one, viewed in its proper light, but serious enough to demand some kind of correction; he expressed gratification over the attempted murder of Mr. Frick, the millionaire manager of Carnegie's Homestead iron and steel works; and while this evinced a "will most incorrect to heaven" and a mind more or less depraved, it was not *per se* a crime. Perhaps hundreds of thousands of people, through perverted notions regarding the wealthy and the force of vicious surroundings, did the same thing that Iams did; and while their language cannot be too strongly condemned nor themselves receive any too much watching at the hands of officers of the law, they have committed no crime because there is no law against it. In the case of the soldier, he doubtless violated a rule of military discipline and should have been severely reprimanded, perhaps fined, and even cashiered, but there was and is nothing in any civilized military code or any regulation authorizing barbarous and brutal punishment. Hanging up by the thumbs is at the best a relic of less favored times and more unsettled conditions; it should not be tolerated in any case now; and when to this is added the infliction of shaving the head as a special mark of disgrace, and perhaps other annoyances we know not of, it would seem to be high time that the civil authorities interfered. Let the punishment fit the crime as nearly as possible in all cases.

THE SENSITIVE GERMAN.

Patriotism which breaks out at the mouth may be gratifying to the one who so indulges, but it is often annoying to others and when those annoyed can make the source of their displeasure pay for his work they generally do it. Joseph Eugene Lenolne, a French journalist, can testify to the truthfulness of the foregoing by reason of a recent experience he underwent. Taking a stroll beyond the border but on what is still claimed as French soil—Alsace-Lorraine—the man of letters had the temerity to let his love for La belle France find expression in tones so loud and terms so objectionable (to the German), that he was arrested, tried and fined twenty marks, equivalent to about five dollars of our money. The punishment was not severe, but considering the nature

of the offense it was high enough, any way to restrain the editor from any further hurraing for France in that neck of timber.

THE FRENCH IN DAHOMEY.

The war which is now being waged by the French in Dahomey, and which probably will result in the entire subjugation of that country, is supposed to be worth to France a good deal more than it costs. Dahomey is a kingdom of western Africa on the coast of Guinea, with boundaries to the east not well defined. It is described as extremely fertile and well cultivated, especially around the towns and villages, yielding sometimes as many as four crops a year and never less than two. The French own three ports on the coast and derive quite a revenue from them, the mercantile transactions in 1891 amounting to thirteen million francs. It is thought that the complete subjugation of the country would be worth to the French republic between thirty and forty million francs a year. That the French have no right whatever—except the right of gunpowder—to annex the country would of course not enter as a factor into the calculations of politicians.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

During the session of the late Legislature of this Territory, it was at times and by different persons asked to enact a measure establishing the Australian system of voting. This was not done, as our readers know, and whether we have escaped a condition that would be unwelcome if tried, or missed one that would have been productive of great beneficial results, it is bootless to discuss now. It is enough to speak of the law itself and seek to become familiar with its provisions and *modus operandi*, so that if we want it by the time the next Legislature convenes, we may be in a position to ask for it understandingly and with some degree of authority.

That the operation of the system is very beneficial in a moral sense cannot be denied, since it is impossible for any person to know how another has voted; a voter may be bribed or coerced by threats of loss of employment or otherwise into acceding to another's demand as to how he shall vote; but as all ballots are prepared in a close room into which no one but the person preparing his ballot is allowed to enter, and he comes out with it in a sealed envelope and hands it to the election judge, the secret of how he voted belongs to himself. We have one feature of that system in vogue now, but the one who seeks to coerce may supply his victims with ballots and see that they cast them, or he may demand and obtain an inspection of the tickets which they have obtained for themselves, none of which could take place under the Australian system; so that in this respect it is much safer and therefore entitled to greater consideration than any other so far put in operation.

But it has its drawbacks, and one of these, as shown by its application in the state of Kentucky, is the greatly increased expense. A recent issue of

the *Courier-Journal* of Louisville says the total cost to the people of that state for the election on the 8th prox. will be not less than \$50,000, and may run ahead of that amount, and that, too, when one item has been considerably reduced, that of officers' pay; they formerly received \$3 a day and under the new law they will get but \$2. The printing expense will be very great. A rough estimate places it at \$10 for each precinct in the state, where, under the old system, it was about \$3. Now it is necessary to provide ballot books with the name of the precinct printed on the outside and a blank form for the returns on the inside. Stencil stamps and stencil pads must be provided, also cards of instruction, envelopes for spoiled ballots and duplicate returns. The ballots will generally be as large as a half-grown newspaper, and, as the size will vary in different counties, according to the number of local candidates, it is impossible to make a close estimate as to what they will cost. About half a million ballots will be required for the entire state. The printing for the counties is ordered by the county court clerks, and most of it for the coming election is being done in Louisville. The estimate of \$10 as the cost of printing for each precinct of the 1400, in round numbers, in the state, will not be very wide of the mark. Another expense not above named is for election booths, or the retiring rooms previously spoken of, in which the voters prepare their ballots. Of course this item will only figure in the first election, as they can be used thereafter without additional expense except now and then for repairs, which will be trifling. The total cost of the election in each precinct is put at \$36.50, which multiplied by 1400, the number of precincts in the state, would make a grand total of \$51,100. Rather expensive, but cheaper than detecting and prosecuting frauds at the polls one would think.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT.

The annual report of Governor Thomas on affairs in the Territory is given in full in the *DESERET NEWS* of October 26th. It is, as will be observed by even a glance, a very comprehensive document, dealing largely in statistics and being tabulated to an unusual degree. The showing as a whole is a very gratifying one, and evinces commendable energy, research and analysis on the part of the Executive. The Governor's suggestions regarding the moral, social and political aspect of the Territory are not as lengthy as has formerly been the case, and there is apparent throughout the lines a disposition to state things fairly and truthfully, while of course something of the old animus remains. On the whole, it will compare favorably with any similar document of recent years, is greatly superior to any that has gone on from Utah within that period, and the Governor is entitled to the praise which such a showing merits. More detailed comment is reserved for a later day.

Only one more week of the campaign. The fates be praised!