

its an instance in point. If we understand the nature of the enactment, it is for the purpose of preventing that which the Bothwell men are seeking to bring about. That statute is intended to protect the people from the designs of land and water sharks, who have created as much class trouble in the country as any other section of the population, having contributed largely, by the grasping and exclusive character of their schemes, to the manufacture of anarchists. The people are willing to trust to the laws and the government combined, in the distribution of the natural resources of the country, but they cannot safely confide in greedy monopolists who have but one end in view—their own enrichment. Further, the people justly question the right of the government to place them at the mercy of private corporations by turning over to them its own prerogatives in relation to the distribution and ownership of land and water.

It is probable, however, that the Bothwell people may meet with a few thorns in their path. It appears likely that the government has already set apart Bear Lake as a national reservoir. As evidence of this, a short time since a settler in Bear Lake Valley made application through the Idaho land office for a patent to a tract of land in that section. The applicant received a notification from the Registrar at Blackfoot to the effect that information had been received from the Secretary of the Interior at Washington that no government titles would be issued for land within a distance of two miles from Bear Lake, that body of water having been reserved as a national reservoir in conformity to the law in relation to the reclamation of arid lands. The tract in question appeared to the department to be within the specified distance from the lake.

It is not improbable, however, that the Bothwell capitalists imagine that they can retain their hold by establishing a personal claim, by the act of filing, prior to that of the government. If so, they may be egregiously mistaken, even although their filings may have been done prior to the act of the department in setting the lake apart according to the genius and letter of a beneficent law. The statute itself notified all parties whomsoever to keep their hands off. The personal claim had no existence at the time of the passage of the act.

The scheme in question is against the spirit of other laws, as well as the special one regarding the reclamation of arid lands. In fact it is against the genius of republicanism, being a species of centralization of natural resources under the color of law. A statute in point is what is known as the Timber Act, made with a view to the priority of right of each Territory to its own resources, that they may be used for its own development. Hence the exportation over its borders of timber cut in any one of them is forbidden. Were it otherwise, outside capitalists could step into any Territory, cut down its forests, ship its timber to distant parts and ultimately produce the impoverishing condition that would be induced by the people being forced to import an indispensable product that was once plentiful within their own domain. If this principle has force in relation to timber, how much more potency does it have regarding water, which is second only in importance to air. Water is therefore a vital resource of a Territory, much more so than timber; consequently the right of one Territory to step into another, either by the act of outside interested parties or otherwise, and convey into its own domain a valuable resource needed by the people residing in the country where the source of supply is, and where the water is needed, is open to serious question. Much as Utah may require water, and much as we desire to see her supply ample for every purpose, the rightfulness of taking it from the people of another Territory is by no means clear.

But even should the water be thus conveyed by a private corporation from Idaho to Utah, the benefits that would accrue to this Territory would be largely mixed with evil. The initial tax of six dollars an acre upon all land receiving benefits from the scheme would be a heavy drain to begin with. The annual stipend of one dollar and fifty cents an acre, crickets or no crickets, would not only be an exhaustive tribute to a foreign power, but would endanger the proprietorship of the lands going into the hands of the moneyed monopoly. The proposition for those unable to pay the initial six dollars per acre to the corporation to deed to it a proportion of land is in the same land-grabbing direction. Hence the danger of the establishment of a power inimical to the well-being of the commonwealth, for in all countries the

owners of the soil are the rulers. In a republic that ownership and consequent power ought to be in the people.

THE CONVENTION.

THE municipal convention is doing good work. It may not be rushing things as rapidly as some "Liberal" meddlers desire, but, we are happy to say, it is not being run in their interest. Some of "our friends the enemy" appear to be in a hurry about the platform and resolutions, to frame which a committee was appointed last Friday evening, and they seem to be worried over the executive session which has since taken up the time of the convention. Well, we will explain:

When the committee was appointed, no one, so far as we can learn, had anything in mind or on paper formulated to help in the construction of the desired document. An executive session was desired, that every delegate might have the opportunity to make suggestions and express the opinions of the citizens in the different parts of the municipality, so that the committee might have "pointers" to guide them in their work. The chief benefit of an executive session for this purpose, is in the freedom it affords to the delegates, through the absence of formalities and strict rules that govern the open convention, and the fact that a man's words are not watched for reportorial purposes and the comments that might be made by unfriendly critics.

The work has been going on encouragingly. Various living issues have been freely ventilated. And time will no doubt be saved through this discussion before the construction of the platform, which can be made to embody the various planks presented by delegates from different sections of the city. The convention adjourned til next Thursday evening, to give the committee time to work and prepare such a document as will probably be acceptable to the convention and the party.

The delegates are men whose time is occupied in other pursuits, and they are not able to devote their working hours to politics. They are not gentlemen of elegant leisure, but are all workers in some vocation, and therefore cannot proceed as rapidly as if they had nothing else to do than formulate the instrument expected from their hands.

There is no doubt that the con-