

corn, peas, barley, rye, oats, flaxseed and buck-wheat upon condition that they are originally shipped for and carried to Montreal or some port east of Montreal for export, and that, if trans-shipped at intermediate points, such transshipment is made in the Dominion of Canada, but allows no such nor any other rebate on said products, when shipped to a port of the United States or when carried to Montreal for export if transhipped within the United States, and

"Whereas, The Government of the Dominion of Canada by said system of rebate and otherwise, discriminates against the citizens of the United States in the use of said Welland canal in violation of the provisions of article 27 of the treaty of Washington, concluded May 8, 1871.

"Whereas, Said Welland canal is connected with the navigation of the great lakes, and I am satisfied that the passage through it of cargoes in transit to ports of the United States is made difficult and burdensome by said discriminating system of rebate and otherwise, and is reciprocally unjust and unreasonable.

"Now, therefore, I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power to that end conferred upon me by said act of Congress, approved July 26th, 1892, do hereby direct that from and after September 1st, 1892, until further notice, a toll of 20 cents per ton be levied, collected and paid on all freight of whatever kind or description passing through the St. Mary's Falls Canal in transit to any port of the Dominion of Canada, whether carried in vessels of the United States or of other nations, and to that extent I do hereby suspend from and after said date the right of free passage through said St. Mary's Falls Canal of any and all cargoes or portions of cargoes in transit to Canadian ports.

In testimony whereof, &c.

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

By the President,
JOHN W. FUSTER, Secretary of State.

AN INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.

THERE is a great discrepancy between the valuations placed by the County Assessor upon city property and those made by the City Assessor. We believe this is pretty general. We know that, in a great many instances, property is valued by the City Assessor at least one third more than the amount named by the County Assessor. This refers to improvements and personal property as well as to real estate.

A great many objections have been formally made to the city assessment and they are chiefly on that ground. They have been referred to the Assessor. It is hardly probable that he will make any changes, unless it can be shown that he has made an error in regard to area, or the actual owner of property, or something of that kind. It seems to us that the City Council ought to look into the fact of the general discrepancy we have mentioned. We notice that the County Court of Weber County has reduced the valuation of property fifteen per cent. below the figures at which it was assessed. If the taxpayers' petition had been referred to the Assessor it is not very likely they would have received any relief.

The City Assessor is said to be a very competent officer. We do not dispute that. But he is working on a percentage—a vicious and improper system—and is under constant temptation to keep up the valuations of property. Apart from that, it is not

probable that if he has placed property generally at too high a figure he will condemn his own work by making a general reduction. The Council ought to take the matter up on its general merits.

The City Attorney has expressed the opinion in the case of some of the bankers, that as they did not supply a sworn statement of their property as the law provides, they cannot now claim any reduction of the figures at which it is placed by the Assessor. Of course that is according to the letter of the law. But will it hold good in a competent court? If the Assessor has placed a fictitious value on a piece of property, it being to his personal benefit to make it as high as possible, is there no remedy for the wrong? We believe there is, notwithstanding the failure of the owner to fill up a blank supplied by the Assessor, which the taxpayer may or may not have received.

Only that which is fair and reasonable and for the general welfare should prevail in the matter of taxation. Property ought to bear its just burdens. There will always be objections to assessments while selfishness exists in the human breast and society continues in its present conditions. But excess ought not to be permitted and injustice ought not to prevail, whether it be for the personal benefit of an officer, or for the expected needs of a government. The City Council as a Board of Equalization is expected to do what is right whatever the result may be.

A BIGGER BID.

It seems that the Idaho Democracy has taken a step which is meant to be a bigger bid for the "Mormon" vote in that State than that made by the Republicans. Whether it will prove to be so really will remain to be seen. The committee on resolutions, appointed by the Boise convention, are reported as having agreed on the annexed as a plank in the platform of the party:

"We denounce the hypocrisy of the Republican party in dealing with the Mormon question; and

"Whereas, The test oath embodied in the Constitution of the State of Idaho in relation to the elective franchise is sufficiently far-reaching to protect the rights of the State and insure the rights of electors; and

"Whereas, The Republican legislature of the last session, having in view the perpetual disfranchisement of the large class of people known as Mormons, added to the constitutional provision an *ex post facto* condition and this long after the Mormons, through their President and people, in the most solemn manner, had abandoned all their objectionable teachings and practices; and

Whereas, The action of the Mormon people in these respects has been accepted by the National Democracy in good faith; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we brand the provision in the election law passed by the Republicans of the last legislature as unconstitutional and radically *ex post facto*; that we demand its absolute and unconditional repeal, and that we favor an immediate test case in the proper courts for the determination of the constitutionality of said law in order that this prescribed class of citizens may exercise the right of franchise at the coming elections."

That is very good—on paper. It will

in all probably be accepted by the convention, or something substantially the same will be adopted. But will anything be done to protect the "Mormon" citizens who are practically disfranchised by the legislation referred to, if any of them attempt to vote at the fall election?

There will be great difficulty in obtaining a final decision in any case that may be brought before the courts. We believe, however, that both parties admit the unconstitutionality of the State legislation on the subject. The State Constitution has a provision which has passed muster as not violating the Constitution of the United States in its letter, while it is open to grave objections in the light of the spirit of that instrument. But the *ex post facto* character of the law passed by the State Legislature will, no doubt, render it void when tested in the courts, and if we mistake not members of both parties aided in its passage.

We hope our friends in the North will be sure they are right before they attempt to go ahead in November. The Democratic party of Idaho may now be very anxious to remove their disabilities, but it is not forgotten in Idaho that both parties worked to create those disabilities, and that whatever has been done by the Democracy in later times, the "Mormon" voters who pleased themselves in jeopardy for that party did not at the time receive that support which they had a right to expect from it. This will naturally make them cautious now, and if not it ought to do so. They should run no risks, but walk on firm ground to the polls or else not go there at all.

We shall be pleased to see something practical in reference to the rights of "Mormon" citizens in Idaho, no matter from which political party it may come. Resolutions are all very well to begin with, but deeds are what will count. It may be that a demand for registration may furnish the test case that is needed, but it is quite doubtful whether that can be fully and finally determined in time to be of avail at the next election. If it can be done, it will be very interesting to see who will oppose the application, and who will try to prevent the case coming to an issue in time to be of any good for either party this year. And if the way is cleared for them at the polls, it will be quite as interesting to see how either party will view the certain fact that the "Mormons" will not rush in a body to support either the Democrats or the Republicans.

A SORRY SITUATION.

If justice gets its due a notorious and red-handed villain, known as Talt Hall, will drop into eternity at the end of a rope, at Wise Court House, near Stone Gap, Va. The list of murders committed by this wretch is said to foot up to the number of ninety-nine. This statement of his bloody record may possibly be exaggerated, but he must have been a great slaughterer to have warranted such an enormous credit of victims. Society surely has no use for such an inhuman monster. Hall is under sentence of death and ought to hang tomorrow, between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock.