

spring be late, as anticipated, the floods will only be delayed, to be all the more overwhelming when the sun shall enter his protest against the mountain fastnesses longer holding their masses of moisture. When the torrents do begin to pour from the elevated recesses of surrounding ranges, they will be in such volume that they will be hard to control.

Prevention is better than cure. Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable. Surplus and other canals should be put in shape and if necessary, others should be constructed. There can be no doubt that during the approaching season the water question will be on. But its phase will be the antithesis of what it has been in the past. Heretofore scarcity has been the rule. Next summer superabundance will be the situation. Unless time is grasped by the forelock on this subject, purchasers on some of the lower additions with high sounding names may probably be under the necessity of hunting their locations with the aid of boats.

We observed some time since that the city council had decided to complete the Parley's canal—which at present has no terminal outlet—along the original route, where it will empty into City Creek. This is a commendable move. It will practically solve the water question on the northeast bench, for which there will be no lack of moisture during the coming summer. That section of the city is bound to become one of the most desirable for residences as soon as there shall be a sufficient water supply. We have not learned, however, of the work of construction on the canal having been begun. It was to be executed providing certain conditions were complied with. We are not precisely familiar with their nature, but presume they consist of concession on the part of realty owners of the right of way for the conduit. As the canal will undoubtedly cause a large increase in the value of land crossed by it, we should imagine that no owner would be so foolish as to stand in the way of his own interest by demanding compensation for what would be to him a pecuniary benefit.

The present administration are pledged to provide an adequate supply of water to all parts of the city, and if they fail to largely redeem this promise, they will be unable to put out the plea of scarcity, for no past season has exceeded the present one in promise of abundance.

THE PAVING BILL.

ONE of the most important bills introduced in the Assembly during its present session was that which aimed to create a system under which the streets of cities could be paved and the expense of the improvement be divided into ten annual payments. In brief, the bill provided for the division, by the city council, of the city, into paving districts, each district to issue bonds for defraying the cost of paving the streets in it. The bonds would bear a low rate of interest, and the credit of the city would be pledged for their liquidation.

The municipal government would virtually become an endorser for each paving district, though the bonds were made a lien upon the property in the district. The bill was passed by the Council and at the session of the House held March 10th was put upon its passage. Speaking to the question of its passage, Hammond said he regarded the bill as an excellent measure in many respects, but was doubtful of the constitutionality of that feature which pledged the credit of the city to an amount on which no limit was placed. On this account he could not vote for the measure.

Reid elaborated upon the point suggested by Hammond, in an argument to show that the bill was unconstitutional, in that it sought to accomplish by indirection that which a city council was, by the laws of Congress, prohibited from doing directly. An act of Congress made it unlawful for a city council in a Territory to incur liabilities greater in amount than four per cent of the taxable property in the city. Under this bill debts for paving streets might be incurred to an amount far greater than that, and the fact that such obligations were a lien upon the property directly benefited did not alter the further fact that the city's credit was pledged for the payment of the bonds. He showed that the genius of the law of Congress was to enforce economy on the part of city governments, and protect property owners against the accumulation of heavy indebtedness. Any attempt to issue bonds in violation of this intent would make them uncollectable, for the reason that they would be contracts made in violation of law.

Several of the "Liberal" members spoke in favor of the bill. Mr. Allen suggested that it would be a good law for the city to act under up to the limit of its indebtedness

fixed by congressional law. Mr. Ferry endorsed this view, and urged that, with the increase in values, that limit would be greatly extended, and any attempt to pass it, provided the point on the constitutionality of the measure had been well taken, could be defeated by injunction or mandamus. The vote on the bill was 8 ayes and 10 noes, showing that the "Liberal" members had support from the other side. Mr. Pierce changed his vote so as to entitle him to move for a reconsideration.

If an amendment can be applied that will meet the point of unconstitutionality, and it is not apparent why this cannot be done—it would be well for the vote by which the bill was passed by the House to be reconsidered. The time has arrived, in this city at least, when the work of paving streets must be carried forward. The method of doing this provided by the present law is open to many objections, while the plan provided in the bill appears to be a good one.

The amendment required to meet the objections that were made to the bill is one to prohibit the creation of paving districts, or the paving of streets in them, so rapidly as to cause the total liabilities of the city to exceed the four per cent limit. Thus as municipal indebtedness is decreased in other directions it may be increased to pave streets. One paving district after another could be formed and improved, and the work might be prosecuted gradually but steadily, keeping pace all the time according to the city's financial condition.

The increase in values in this city, and perhaps one or two others in this Territory, will result in a corresponding increase in the indebtedness which may be contracted, and would thus open the way for doing a great deal in the line of street paving, even if the limit fixed by Congress were to be rigidly observed. The bill provides an excellent system under which to operate practically, and, with the defect above spoken of cured, would doubtless prove a beneficent law.

MELANCHOLY SPECTACLE OF OFFICIAL INFLATION.

ONE of those episodes that are supposed to "make the angels weep" occurred in the session of the City Council of March 11th. One of the members of that body aired his egotism and made his ignorance conspicuous.