

sons voted for, with a pertinent designation of the office to be filled."

Under this statement in the law, it is clear that the board of education has a broad discretion, and is not bound by the advice from the attorney general's office. And under existing circumstances, when unnecessary expense is to be avoided with special care, it is quite probable that the board will have one or at the most two voting places in each municipal ward in this city, as that number will be ample to suit the convenience and wishes of the voters.

LEGISLATIVE CARELESSNESS.

The state of Idaho finds itself in a deplorable iness in respect to the validity of its laws. Owing to the fact that a large number of acts on the statute book were not passed by the legislature in the manner prescribed by the state constitution, they are alleged to be void, or at least voidable by the courts. In thus disregarding the state charter, the legislature inflicted upon the commonwealth a wrong of the gravest character, resulting in the destruction of confidence in the entire statute book of the state, and the opening of a vast floodgate of litigation.

But we need not go as far from home as Idaho to find evidence of gross legislative carelessness. Yesterday our own State Supreme court handed down a decision in which is clearly shown an astonishing degree of neglect and slovenliness on the part of Utah's lawmakers in the framing of some of the most important statutes of the State. The case is that of Randolph Konold vs the Rio Grande Western Railway company, and was an action for damages on account of personal injuries caused by the explosion of an engine. The accident occurred in Emery county, there being several provisions of law which, prima facie, justified the bringing of the action in Weber county instead of the county in which its cause arose.

It becomes necessary for the court to declare several sections of law invalid on the ground that they conflict with the State constitution which provides: "All civil and criminal business arising in any county must be tried in such county, unless a change of venue be taken, in such cases as may be provided by law." The court holds that this clause of our State charter means just what it says, and nothing more nor less; and that all laws passed by the legislature authorizing actions to be brought elsewhere than in the counties in which their causes arose, are void.

The decision is one of great importance, as it vitally affects the initiatory proceedings by which justice is sought in all the district courts of the State. It also affects many actions now pending in the courts. The remedy for such misfortunes as this decision involves lies in the selection by the people, to be legislators, of sensible and intelligent men, who will give their time and abilities to perfecting the laws rather than to some political scheme.

ONE CAUSE OF CRIME.

There are certainly before the public at present enough horrors to satisfy even the most corrupt craving for the sensational. In San Francisco the Durrant drama is drawing to a close; in Chicago the Luetgert horror is about to be unveiled again in all its barbarous features, and in New York the Guldensuppe murder is now being investigated and its details published

from one end of the country to the other.

The confession of Mrs. Nash reveals a depth of depravity to which one would think it almost impossible for human beings to sink. By her own admission, she apparently had two paramours and, after a quarrel between the two, aided one in murdering the other. It was a cool, deliberate crime, all the plans being laid beforehand with fiendish ingenuity. Nor have there so far been clear signs of remorse, the "confession" being obtained by means best known to the New York prison officials and the prosecuting attorney.

It may not be very profitable to speculate on the probable causes of the apparent increase in brutal crimes among the children of men. They are many and complex, and undoubtedly are in proportion to the neglect of listening to the humanizing teachings of religion. They may be traced to influences at work in the very homes of many people, where the tendencies to evil, instead of being checked and eradicated are developed, most often on account of ignorance on the part of parents or guardians.

One observation, however, is pertinent, and that is this: that perhaps no deviation from the paths of rectitude so frequently leads to bloodshed as does the sexual transgression. Drunken quarrels and gambling often have ended in murder, but oftener still has the violation of the laws of purity had for its sequence the taking of human life. The history of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, whose curiosity prompted her to associate with "the daughters of the land" seems to teach that bloodshed is a natural consequence of defilement.

This is very natural. Transgression of all law deadens the conscience, but this is particularly true with regard to sexual transgression. Sometimes it arouses the demons of jealousy, under the influence of which men and women seem unable to command their own will power for anything but evil. If these facts are duly considered it will appear that if the tide of brutal crimes is to be stopped, one of the first steps to be taken is the consideration of how to establish absolute purity among the people, particularly the young. Without this the flood will become uncontrollable.

DURRANT'S NEW LEASE OF LIFE.

Thursday at noon it seemed to all human appearances that today, Friday, would be the last on earth of Durrant, the San Francisco murderer. It will be remembered that on Monday last, Nov. 8, the Supreme Court of the United States dismissed Durrant's appeal. Five or six days, and in the ordinary course of business perhaps even a longer time, would be required in which to transmit by mail, from Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, official notice of the action taken. But the prosecuting officers and the superior court in San Francisco did not wait for the mails. On the strength of advices received by wire, Durrant was, on Wednesday, Nov. 10, taken before the superior court, Judge Bahrs presiding, and an order was made fixing the time for his execution on Friday, Nov. 12, between sunrise and noon.

This proceeding was not a re-sentencing of the defendant, but merely the making of an order specifying when and where the previous sentence should be executed; and it was had without official notice from Washington of the action of the United States Supreme Court there; at least so Durrant's attorneys claimed. At the time of the proceedings before Judge Bahrs

objection was made to them on behalf of Durrant, but all objections raised by his counsel were overruled, and the warden of San Quentin prison made preparations to hang the prisoner.

Durrant's attorneys sought relief from the United States circuit court by habeas corpus, but the writ was refused, as was also permission to appeal again to the United States Supreme Court from the refusal. But while some of Durrant's attorneys were engaged in this effort in San Francisco, one of them, Deuprey, hastened to Sacramento, made a showing before the state supreme court there and succeeded in obtaining a writ of probable cause, the effect of which was to stay the execution.

One section of the criminal code of California provides that where a stay of execution has been caused by an appeal, the defendant shall be re-sentenced, and that the time for execution shall not be fixed at less than sixty days. Another section provides that when, for any cause, an execution has not taken place at the time fixed in the sentence, the defendant shall be brought before the court and an order made fixing the time of execution, within the discretion of the court. The attorneys for Durrant claim that the former and not the latter section of the criminal code ought to have governed in his case.

The execution is stayed until the state supreme court shall formally hear and dispose of the points in controversy, which are purely technical, and at the present time signify only a little longer lease of life for Durrant. At the present juncture there is no reason to suppose that he will finally escape with his life. Taking his case all through, it is a remarkable illustration of the delays in the execution of the law which may be effected by the determined efforts of shrewd and skillful lawyers. The fact that many people hold that there is a reasonable doubt as to Durrant's guilt may possibly have been one element that has operated to secure delay in his taking off.

OF INTEREST TO OFFICE SEEKERS.

One of the corner stones upon which was founded the non-partisan movement that succeeded in electing John Clark to be the next Mayor of this city, was the proposition that citizens who lead out in the management of a municipal campaign, and the candidates whose election they seek to secure, ought to be absolutely unpolluted in regard to the distribution of public patronage. The idea is that, where promises to award positions or other favors are not made in advance of an election, one of the chief incentives to corruption in municipal politics will be removed; with the result that far greater purity and efficiency will characterize the management of the city's affairs than can possibly be attained under the spoils, bargain and healer system.

Since John Clark's election became an assured fact, members of the Citizens' Reform committee, who headed and directed the Reform movement, and placed its ticket before the people, have been importuned by applicants for positions or employment under the next city administration. A few days ago the committee met and as an answer to all such applicants, reached the mutual understanding that no member of the committee would, under any circumstances, nor in the interest of any person, seek to use any influence whatever with Mayor-elect Clark for the purpose of controlling any appointment he is authorized by law to make.

At the opening of the campaign the