

to this there are vestibule buffers at each end for the safety in collision, besides an anti-telescoping device for the same purpose.

Of course the adoption of these cars will not remove every element of danger from the attacks of desperate men, but it will lessen them materially; and an improvement which promises so much in the way both of protection of public property and of protection of life is worthy of full commendation.

COUNTRY, NOT PARTY.

One of the strangest developments of American politics is the completeness and the rapidity with which men and parties and policies are swept out of power, and opponents in party and policy are elevated to the control of governmental affairs. That these convulsions are the result of mature deliberation no one will pretend to say; they are so frequent that the mind of the masses is completely absorbed from intelligent action in effecting the change. An appeal to passion or personal advantage is generally more effective than an appeal to patriotism, and within the past ten years discontent has perhaps been more potent than either. The Democratic avalanche of three years ago, and the Republican landslide of one year ago and this year ago, are less attributable to any other than the latter cause; the party in power gets the blame for all the ills that affect the body politic, and without knowing how or whence the remedy is to come, the people proceed to vote for a change under the common impression that any change must be for the better.

Where such is the motive there is almost inevitable disappointment in the results attained, as they necessarily are an imperfect notion as to the application of the proposed cure. If the country suffers a period of depression under a revenue tariff policy, many are apt to think that relief will surely and swiftly come from a high protective tariff policy. Yet no man ever taxed himself rich, nor, on the other hand, did any man ever deserve well of the world or its posterity by wasting his own opportunities, abandoning his own market and scattering broadcast among capillaries that which belongs and is necessary to himself. When times are bad and money is scarce, the great cure is held by shallow thinkers to be the manufacture of more money—greenbacks, silver, or what not, so that everybody may have plenty. Yet money is of less use in direct ratio with its purchasing power, and a wagonload of cheap money is less valuable and a great deal more troublesome than a much smaller quantity of good money; while on the other hand, the nation the community that has not money enough—even of the so-called good variety—for the transaction of its legitimate business is necessarily cramped and unsuccessful in accomplishing what its resources and destiny would otherwise have made easy.

We might go on and enumerate issues, each of which from time to time is deemed all important and which ever and anon is made to strut its brief before

the public gaze; yet when put to practice it fails to come anywhere near accomplishing the benefits promised for it. But such argument is hardly necessary. We maintain, therefore, that the enactment of a high tariff law by the incoming Congress, if such a thing were possible, would not immediately restore full prosperity unless the latter were already at hand; just as we contend that the passage of the revenue tariff law two years ago was not responsible for the industrial depression which has since been prevalent, but which in its incipient stages had even before that time made its appearance. We also maintain that the enactment of a free coinage law, if that were possible, would not permanently solve the money stringency and make everybody happy again. These are only incidents in a country's history; each doubtless has its effect, and this is more or less far-reaching. But the United States of America is no longer a "one-idea" nation, and its weal or woe cannot be materially affected by any one issue, especially where the two leading parties, with their very slight differences in political creed, are so nearly balanced in power. What the country has needed, and what it has lately had with a vengeance, has been a day of settlement. Neither party's policy could have postponed that day very long—for the time had come for it; and on the other hand neither party's policy could have long postponed the recovery—the resources and energies of the Republic are too great to be restrained by the politician and his hobbies.

Pursuing this argument to its proper conclusion, we come to the view that parties are given only probationary power; and the nation will be better off, and its legislation will be easier, when they fully realize the fact. Neither of them is the sole savior of its interests or the sole champion of its welfare; and neither has either the inclination or the power—at least not while patriotism is as plentiful as at the present time—to bring upon it irretrievable destruction.

WORK FOR CONGRESS.

When the Fifty-fourth Congress assembles on Monday, Dec. 2, a great many familiar faces will be missing. Owing to the late political upheaval in the country, among others Bland, of Missouri; Bourke Cochran, of New York; Bryan, of Nebraska; Holman, of Indiana; Breckinridge, of Kentucky; and Springer, of Illinois. The change is greater in the House than in the Senate, but even in the latter body some of the old-timers will be absent. Among the new-comers are ex-Governor Knute Nelson, of Minnesota, and ex-Senator Warren, of Wyoming, who takes the place of Carey.

There is an impression that the present session will be unable to accomplish much by way of legislation, notwithstanding the fact that there are several important questions that need immediate attention. But some of them are urgent.

Chief among these is the matter of providing revenue sufficient to meet the expenditures of the government, and thus restore the equilibrium,

which the compromise tariff failed to do. It is confidently expected that Republicans and Democrats will find a way to agree on a measure by which the desired result can be obtained.

The financial problem is one that would seem to demand speedy attention. It is supposed that the proposition will again be brought up to pass a law authorizing the issue of bonds to maintain the gold reserve. But beyond that there is no intimation of any measure for the adjustment of the financial condition.

Cuba is undoubtedly to have a hearing at no distant date. The insurgents will ask for recognition as belligerents, and this is sure to cause much debate.

The Nicaragua canal is another pending issue. The commission, it seems, after some investigation has come to the conclusion that more investigation is needed before work can be decided on, while others are of the opinion that work should be commenced at once.

The Berlin question will still furnish occupation for our legislators. The agreement with England to pay \$425,000 to sealers war, as will be remembered, rejected by the last House, and some other settlement must be made.

Then there are propositions affecting the organization of the army and the navy and others regarding the post-office department.

There is work enough even without the necessity of disentangling the complications arising on account of the political complexion of the Senate.

ABSURDITIES OF SCIENCE.

A very curious discussion has been started in the New Science Review by Prof. Arthur E. Bostwick, who argues for the possibility of more dimensions in space than three, and endeavors to give scientific reasons for his belief.

The subject is by no means new. It is probably as old as philosophy. Certain it is that Euler, Kant, Gauss, Riemann among others, seriously considered this purely speculative proposition and freely admitted that the three dimensions known to human minds may not be all that are known to beings of a possibly superior order. There may be other dimensions than length, breadth and thickness in space, though entirely beyond our imagination. Spiritualists have sometimes made use of these philosophical speculations in order to account for the alleged appearance and disappearance of persons or objects.

Their argument runs somewhat like this: The material world appears to us as a number of objects placed side by side in three dimensions in space. The question is now whether in the geometry of space there are contradictions that cannot be reconciled to this conception, contradictions analogous to those that would exist in a three-dimensional universe, were our conceptions limited to two dimensions—length and breadth. Suppose this to be the case and that the problem were to ascertain whether two triangles were equal. This could be easily demonstrated only by lifting one of them up and placing it on the other. But since this process would necessitate giving the object a movement in