

position and had two crews drowned. After thirty hours' effort a boy who had been lashed to the rigging was taken off, but the rest of the crew of nearly fifty had been all washed away.

The recital of such experiences does not have the effect of causing the ordinary landsman to envy those who "go down to the sea in ships;" but it brings a feeling of satisfaction to residents of this inter-mountain country that they are at an altitude that relieves them from many such inconveniences and have the mountain peaks, bare and rugged though they be, to protect them from the fierceness of the hurricane.

### INDIANS TO BE HANGED.

It is not often that Indians meet with the full penalty of the white man's law for murder through passing through a trial in regular courts. Occasions where they have done so have increased, however, in late years. Two more red men are to be added to the list in Westminster, B. C., early in 1894. They are known as Peter and Jack, and the trial which resulted in their conviction lasted six days. Their defense was conducted with skill and ability, but failed to secure for them immunity from punishment.

The murder for which they were arrested occurred October 27, 1892, the victim being Albert Edward Pittendrigh. It was a deliberately planned affair. Three years previously Pittendrigh had charge of a gang of men on Harrison river, B. C., stripping salmon eggs for the hatchery. Most of the men employed were Indians, one of them being Peter. He was saucy one day, and Pittendrigh angrily seized him and cuffed him in the river.

As is characteristic of the Indian race, Peter determined to be revenged on his assailant. While Pittendrigh was out in a boat a few days later he was fired upon twice from a clump of bushes on the river bank. Fortunately for him the bullets went wide of their mark. Nothing of an unusual nature occurred during the next two years, and the matter was forgotten. On the 27th of October, 1892, Pittendrigh made a short cut, as was his wont when going that way, over a vacant piece of property, when he was waylaid and shot by Peter and Jack. He had paid with his life for his harshness to the savage. The two Indians endeavored to fix the murder on Peter's wife, but the proof against them was too strong for the success of their scheme, so they were convicted and are to be hanged on January 15 next.

If Indians guilty of offenses were to be requited by the enforcement of law to expiate their crime, rather than that reckless white men should be permitted to inflict punishment outside of legal forms, there would be much less trouble with the aborigines than there is now. Indian outbreaks have diminished of late years because legal methods have been somewhat better observed by the white men. It has not been through increasing the Indians' respect for law but by lessening the white man's disregard for it in their presence. The Indians have as much regard for the inevitable as their

palefaced brothers and are equally appreciative of the fact of regular enforcement of discipline toward them for either right or wrong doing.

### BREED, OR ENVIRONMENT.

An interesting question has lately arisen in view of the fact that merino sheep sent from Vermont to the Australian exposition at Melbourne have taken prizes for their wool, thus apparently disposing of the assertion, theory, argument, or what-not, that America is not suited to the production of the wool peculiar to Australia—and hence removing from the arena of debate an issue that has cost acres and oceans of tariff-reform and high-protection talk. Those who took the negative of the above-named proposition have been in much glee over this seemingly incontestable argument in favor of the protection of the home product, while those who restated the duty on Australian wools on the ground that this country could not produce the same grade at any price, and that protection was consequently only another name for exclusion, were in a state of corresponding consternation. But a wonderfully ingenious if not wholly satisfactory explanation all round is vouchsafed by a trade journal which pretends to know what it is talking about. This paper points out that the victorious Vermont sheep were shorn of their fleeces before leaving their native state, and that after "lying in quarantine three months in the port of Sydney they were again shorn and dipped to prevent any chance of their infecting Australian flocks with scab, which might possibly have been brought from this country. Thus, the prize-winning animals when judged had not a pound of wool grown in the United States on their backs."

Disappointing as this dictum may be to the high protectionists, they will perhaps be able to console themselves somewhat in the reflection that the average citizen welcomes the new problem with joy and gladness. Whether it is the sheep that grows the fleece, or the climate in which he grows it, that is responsible for the grade and texture of the wool, disputants still may differ and some for themselves decide. But the puzzle will prove an agreeable change and can scarcely be more trying than the old familiar one as to the maternity of the chick—whether the honor goes to the hen that lays the egg or to the hen that hatches it.

### JAPAN AND THE SEALING QUESTION

The Japanese do not propose to be left in the rear in the march of progress. Though geographically located where decadence in civilization is popularly supposed to have full sway, the government and people of that land have made wonderful strides in keeping pace with Western civilization in its development of material interests. They now propose to be on an equal footing with the nations of Europe and America by having an international conference in which they will play a prominent part

and which they intend shall be held in their thriving city of Tokio.

It may be wondered what special topic can be made the subject of an international conference in the land of the Mikado, but one has been found in the much discussed sealing question. The 'Tobo Kyokai (Oriental Association), which numbers among its members some of the most influential personages in Japan, has taken the matter up and made a step that may be noteworthy in the history of diplomacy. It has presented to the minister president of state, through Count Soyeyima, its presiding officer, a memorial urging upon the government the importance of opening communication with the United States, Great Britain and Russia with a view of holding a conference in Tokio on the subject of regulating seal fisheries in the North Pacific.

The memorial refers to the importance of adopting measures for the protection of the seal fishery along the islands on the west coast of the North Pacific, and sets forth that to accomplish this it is necessary to extend the usual three-mile limit of territorial waters. Japan is specially interested in this question since the settlement of the Anglo-American difficulty and the holding of the Anglo-Russian convention through which the north islands have become the principal center of sealing operations.

Japan recognizes that the arrangements now in force are of a temporary nature and that Russia is particularly dissatisfied with existing conditions. This fact is taken as evidence that Russia would engage in the proposed conference. It is also stated that the American government is not content with the present outlook of the seal interests and would gladly enter into an international arrangement that would permanently improve its condition. This step would bring England in of necessity, and thus the four governments most concerned would be in consultation and might evolve an agreement satisfactory to all. On the seal question, as well as others, Japan is anxious to conclude equal treaties with the great powers and to take position on the same plane as is occupied by them.

### A FEATURE OF THE PERIOD.

A contemporary, in speaking of the labors of the ways and means committee now engaged in preparing a revision of the tariff schedule, remarks that "the worst feature of tariff change is the uncertainty of its period of incubation." The ugliest feature of every national election is never in the terms of the platform, though they seem ugly enough sometimes from a partisan standpoint; nor in the bad record of the candidate for honors, which likewise has its spells of looking unamiable. It is the period of uncertainty which takes possession of the country, that gives to every election some of the effects of a pestilence. With the defeated party there is always a species of nightmare in the contemplated ruin that is to come when the winning party shall carry into effect the program of its campaign. With the winners the nightmare comes from the long days