

the sincere hope that it may be received in the proper spirit and acted upon with hearty energy.

### ON THE WRONG TRACK.

A morning cotemporary which affects to oppose the non-partisan movement looking to the better government of the city, goes out of its way to make labored but fruitless attacks upon the NEWS because of the latter's position in the premises. As is customary with those who oppose for the sake of opposing and with the hope that an enlarged following may be had thereby, no arguments are employed, the impression made upon the mind by reading the equilibria being that the writer didn't care very much whether he convinced anyone or not. There is a certain class of people who only wish to know how a certain other class stand on any public question in order to be able to take the opposite course with certainty and precision, and the cotemporary's position or lack of position on the matter spoken of suggests something of this kind. It is ever so much easier to be a negation than to take a steadfastly affirmative stand and adhere to it with consistency and courage.

Notwithstanding all this, there is no excuse whatever for the most peevish dissident retorting to falsehood to bolster up his contrariness. The statement, for instance, that the movement spoken of is in the interest of the Republican party is not true, as anyone capable of reasoning at all can see at glance. The list of names published as the primal promoters of the non-partisan plan contains certainly as many of Democrats as of Republicans, and these are mainly known to be such Democrats as would under no circumstances uphold or encourage partisan Republicanism at the polls or elsewhere. Besides, these Democrats are not obscure men in the community by any means; in most cases if not in all they are prominent by reason not only of the conspicuous positions which they hold or have held, but also because they are large property owners and correspondingly, heavy taxpayers. They would almost to a man drop the thing where it is were there even a suggestion that a Republican ticket was to be nominated as a result of joint action, or even if a Republican as such were to be named for a position. It is an impeachment of several gentlemen's integrity, intelligence and independence to attribute to them any such disingenuousness as is done by the cotemporary, and yet the president, vice president and several of the stockholders of its own company are prominent in the movement, and thus come in for their share of the aspersions sent out through the instrumentality of their own misused property!

Let us endeavor to be fair in this matter, as nearly so as people who are apt to divide and contend against each other on public questions can be. We have here a city whose growth, expansion and prosperity are held in check by a state of affairs most deplorable. More than one-half of the revenue that should go to improve

ments and to constitute a sinking fund as against outstanding indebtedness, bringing it gradually to extinction, goes to the payment of interest on the debts, whereby they are not diminished in the least but continued and given promise of perpetuity. To keep this up and meet the regular requirements of the city besides, these being added to with tolerable steadiness even if we are not growing very fast, means naturally a steady and endless increase of taxation which has already reached abnormal and almost intolerable proportions. There can be but one outcome in the absence of radical reform—bankruptcy and ruin. Does the most zealous partisan court such a condition? Do any but those who have nothing at stake look upon it with indifference? Oh, no, will be the answer to the first question, supplemented with the "argument" that the indebtedness was incurred by a non-partisan administration and a partisan administration can (therefore!) bring the city out of its perplexing predicament. Both the answer and the supplemental statement lack candor, fairness and force; both dodge the question entirely and constitute a gross and stupid non sequitur.

Let us turn backward a few years and imagine a condition of things which once existed as again prevailing. Some hostile Indians, through the negligence of the duly constituted authorities of a town, have laid siege to and are endeavoring to enter it for the purpose of pillage and destruction. A meeting of citizens is called to devise means for the common defense, and plans are suggested for adoption looking to common action. At once a local paper opposed to the town government antagonizes the movement and calls for its own party and it alone to come to the front and beat back the enemy. "The other side caused this trouble," it says, "or at least it came upon us by their mismanagement, and now let the rescue be by others." This would be very sensible, of course, just as sensible as any other proposition to meet and overcome a common peril by excluding the assistance of the brains, the brawn and the courageous public-spiritedness of one-half of the population. Be assured that the peril which now confronts us, while not necessarily so fatal as the hypothetical one cited, is yet a great and strictly a common one. It will require the patriotism, the judgment, the carefulness, the steadfastness and the money of the Democrats, the Republicans, the Populists and all within our midst to meet and successfully cope with it. No element of usefulness or proper gain can be eliminated from the contest and leave us any assurance of permanent success. Let us all stand in, let partisanship go for once, and redeem our fair city from the thralldom which grasps and the ignominy which threatens her!

THERE is much opposition among canal owners west of the Jordan to the scheme for enlarging the Utah and Jordan canal to generate electric power. The opposition says the scheme, if carried out, will cause new trouble in Utah county by backing up the lake, or will require the canal bed to be so lowered as to deprive of irri-

gating water thousands of acres of land. It is also urged that the peril to railway and other property by carrying the whole river on a sidehill canal is too great to be allowed in the public interest. The plan should be looked into carefully, from both sides, before inaugurating any changes.

ONE of the saddest occurrences of recent date in the State is the burning to death, at Pinto, Washington county, on Sunday afternoon, of the little sons of Charles C. Knell, aged respectively two and a half and six years. The little ones were sent to the barn to feed chickens, but when the barn was discovered shortly after to be on fire, it did not seem to occur to any one that the children were inside. They were found there later, however, clasped in death. The grief-stricken family have the deep sympathy of the people in their terrible bereavement.

NO ONE is more vigorous in condemning the Senators for taxing those engaged in placer mining in Klondike than our good friends the Californians. Yet it transpires that in the early days of the industry in the Golden State, the legislature enacted a law imposing a tax of \$20 a month upon all aliens who obtained the privilege of digging in the mines. The Kanooks thus appear to have precedent enough—precedent, too, which the Americans least of all can find fault with.

THE TAX levy of Butte City, Montana, is to be made on Wednesday evening. It is expected to reach 12 mills, or 5 1-3 mills higher than the Salt Lake City rate, exclusive of the 1-3 mill library levy. But the proportionate assessment in Butte is lower, and here the tax rate is 20 1/2 mills exclusive of the city tax.

FIFTY-TWO PER CENT of the city's revenue this year goes to pay interest on borrowed money. That means that the responsibility for more than half the taxes rests with those who incurred the indebtedness. The taxpayers may now figure out whether or not the game was worth the powder.

THE WOMAN'S excursion to the Yukon gold fields is likely to find considerable difference between a theoretical descent in travel from a Pullman car to roughing it in Alaska, and the actual experience.

CONGRESS ADJOURNED some weeks ago, but the esteemed Congressional Record still comes to hand with daily regularity. Its contents consist chiefly of speeches smuggled in under the "leave to print" procedure.

SOME of the money-grabbers at least will prefer remaining at home and running for office to tramping in the Klondike this winter.

THE ANARCHIST who wanted Premier Canovas noted in oil and flayed should not complain at having to take his own medicine.