

LIVING ISSUES.

But now, on the march of progress, we are brought face to face with several public questions of vital interest to our future welfare as a people. And I trust there will be a readiness on the part of all of us to deal with the great questions that affect the interests of our country, in an intelligent, fair and honest spirit on all suitable occasions. I hope that in this new country selfishness will not suffocate public spirit, that the indifference of good citizens will not allow robbers to get hold of the public treasury—that personal greed will not sear the public conscience, and that party spirit will not trample all patriotism beneath its feet. If honest men will not steer the ship rogues will take the helm.

OUR INDIAN POLICY.

The Indian is still in the land. We must not ignore his claims upon us. He must be conciliated, fed, and civilized. We must carry out our peace policy with the Indians at all costs. We cannot afford to kindle the fires of an Indian war among the pioneer settlers of this western country. In a money point of view it would be too expensive. In a moral point of view it would be thoroughly demoralizing. We must bear with his intractableness. We go among the Indians as missionaries rather than warriors. We seek their civilization not their extermination. And if in the third generation from the present we see the wild hunters of the plains transformed into cultivators of the soil we may consider our policy preeminently successful. But then we must take care that the Indian Department does not become an engine of political jobbery and corruption. We should see that the sums expended on this object go to the Indian, and that they are not absorbed by the official or his friends. We must try to prevent the Indian Department from becoming a den of thieves.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Our attitude in regard to the liquor traffic is of the utmost importance to the future prosperity of this great Northwest. It seems, certainly, to be a step backward and downward from the prohibitory law of the N. W. T. to the license law of eastern countries. It is admitted on all hands by thoughtful people that the traffic is like a cancer preying upon the vitals of the body politic. But the great obstacle to its removal in older countries is the hold it has on all the energies of public life. Men who

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