

## OPPOSED TO "OVERTURNS."

When it was suggested in our Legislature February 28th by our prominent leaders in irrigation, that "practicable legal enactments, instead of overturning, should confirm and crystallize rules and usages which have existed since the settlement of the State," to us it proved that eminent Utah leaders in irrigation matters were on their post against the "overturns" proposed.

But now, dear Editor, undoubtedly many of your readers would like to know who proposed those overturns? We out here very much desire that the public should be acquainted with those members of the Legislature who undertook to lead the van in unwholesome irrigation enactments.

A majority of your readers may not have got all the experience gained in irrigation since its introduction in Utah; for the benefit of those, permit us to give a few hints, with particular regards to the proposed irrigation overturns made in our Legislature on February 28 last. For instance, in Gunnison irrigation district is located

1—Two rivers, Sevier and Sanpitch, of more than 160 miles extent;

2—Four creeks, Six, Nine and Twelve Mile Creek, altogether having an extension of about 90 miles.

3—Several reservoirs covering about 1,000 acres.

Those rivers and creeks provide irrigation water for and being in contact with more than

4—Twenty-seven cities, towns and smaller settlements in Wayne, Sevier and Sanpete counties. Within Gunnison irrigation district proper (incorporated many years ago) there are three (and will likely be more) incorporated canal companies; with

5—Eight main canals (three of which are yet under construction) together having an extension of about ninety miles; and these are located under the same.

6—One hundred and twenty sections of arable land; of which now about

7—Twenty-five thousand acres are claimed by bona fide settlers.

With such combinations and manifold contacts, with far off and near by participants in the same streams, we have for these many years not discovered any particular need of additional irrigation enactments. But under all circumstances, by the application of common law, justice and equity we have been able to adjust matters in controversy.

Is it therefore not within reason that we would like to know what has caused projected overturns to come up in our State Legislature?

We would respectfully suggest, as a reform in legislative domineering, and as an insurance against excessive legislation, that legislators hereafter patiently and with proper consideration wait, as representatives in fact, until their constituents call on them for certain enactments, filed on the legislative docket; and that a sitting of the Legislature be ordered by the Governor and chairman of the Senate whenever, in their judgment, enough proposed enactments has been filed to justify a sitting of that body.

And may we expect that the DESERT NEWS according to its illustrious history, and unequalled success, will be the people's champion and watchman

against unwholesome overturns, through legislative excesses in any kind of legislation prejudicial to the welfare of the people?

We presume that when understood those who caused overturns in irrigation enactments to be proposed in the Legislature were either misguided or fiends of excessive legislation, to say the least.

Whoever in the humble opinion of the people it shall be concluded that additional irrigation laws are needed, or any other kind of laws, the people will take the liberty to let their representatives know about it, in a proper way. And if from other parts of Utah we shall hear of necessary legislation in regard to irrigation, which, as a local necessity we have not discovered, we shall be pleased to recognize its merits. But if we should discover any suspicious colors, we will take the liberty to point it out to the public.

Very respectfully,  
IRRIGATION COMMISSIONER.

## THE WEEK'S TRADE.

The past week has been one of "masterly inactivity" on the stock exchange of the world, and dealings have been almost entirely in the hands of professional operators.

The public on both sides of the Atlantic are disinclined to make ventures in speculative business while international questions are pending which might at any time involve the country in complications resulting in a semi-panic as was the case over the Venezuelan affair recently.

The uncertainty of what Congress may do on the many public questions now pending is causing a halting in share investment which is rather abnormal when taken in connection with the large amount of idle money at financial centers and in the face of generally favorable reports from the railroads. This uncertainty is diverting money into gilt edge bonds at higher figures than have ruled for the last decade. English bonds made the highest of all records during the past week and all other bonds of an unquestionable character are being advanced because of the large amount of money which is seeking this class of investments. While the share market has been generally strong it has not been active for railroads, though some of the industrial stocks have at times been erratic with gains and losses about equally divided at the close. Railroad earnings for February have generally been favorable and under ordinary circumstances, and taken in connection with the demand for bonds should have advanced and with no international questions pending no doubt would have done so, but investment buying even for the most favored trunk lines has been lacking.

One other incident has had a powerful influence on the market for this class of securities; the Baltimore and Ohio system which went into the hands of a receiver a few days ago, has shaken the confidence of many people, and they cannot tell what is safe. This great system was for many years in fact during the life of the Elder Garrett regarded as being beyond all possibility of danger. No word of dis-

trust was ever uttered concerning its securities. Panics might come and go and Wall Street be shaken as by an earthquake, but the shares of the B. & O. were so strongly held that it made little difference in their value on the stock exchanges. Rich men invested in the shares of this company and advised them to their dependants in the full assurance that no financial horror could come, in fact their investments were absolutely safe as long as anything remained in the country unshaken. While the Elder Garrett lived this proved true, but the son who succeeded had been brought up under different circumstances and trained in a different school. He thought more of being a successful dude than a competent railroad manager and his handling of this great property has brought ruin to many homes.

While the father was building up this system of railroads he was generally supposed to never own at the same time two suits of clothes which would make him presentable; the son boasted of a hundred or so pair of pantaloons properly stowed away for use at any time, but in an emergency they did not entitle him to credit at the bank which had always been accorded to the father. Then again although not generally guilty of imbibing to excess, he is said to have made one little after dinner speech at a club in New York while the exhilarating influence of wine was doing its work, which cost the B. & O. eight millions of dollars and was the little acorn which made the mighty oak and bore fruit last week when the system collapsed and made paupers of many in this country as well as in Europe.

Wheat has suffered a serious decline, and has verified our predictions of a few weeks ago. The decline from the top price has been six cents, and the position is weak at the close. There are many causes which have brought about this result. Europe which was supposed to require from exporting countries much larger quantities than last year, has not been a free buyer while stocks have been pressed for sale by Russia and other countries upon a lower basis than was anticipated, the result has been light exports from this country. The government report published on the 10th inst. showing the amount of reserves in farmers' hands was also very disappointing to holders. A year ago the amount of these reserves was 75,000,000 bushels while this year they are placed by the same authority at 123,000,000 bushels, and goes to show that the damage by frost and drouth to last season's crop was very much over estimated and that the crop harvested in 1895 was much nearer the 500,000,000 bushel mark than 425,000,000 at which it was placed. In addition to these large reserves also the present growing crop is in generally good condition and indications now seem to point to still lower prices.

Wool has been dull and lower for some grades with no prospects for any improvement in sight.

General business has been of the usual quite nature and not up to the anticipations of the jobbers generally—manufactured products in many lines