

of money gained and a wonderful lot more of business transacted in the course of a year. Let us hope the scheme will not, like many others we have had in this State for several long years, have its only existence on paper. Push it through!

On the heels of this announcement comes another almost as gratifying and quite as promising of success. It is that the Oregon Short Line will be extended from Milford to Stateline this year. The work is in strong and willing hands—A. W. McCune, David Eccles, R. C. Lund, and C. W. Nibley, a combination that could scarcely be improved upon. The extension will serve the treble purpose of making money for its projectors, stimulating to a great extent the development and commercial status of the district and its surroundings, and being a practical beginning to the long talked-of line to Los Angeles. The latter consideration is the one that appeals most strongly to the great body of our people, because of the manifold and well distributed benefits certain to follow; but either is something we can all afford to and undoubtedly will feel pleased over.

All the while the Deep Creek railway continues its Rip Van Winkle siesta. Why this should be the case is a question which is all the more vexed by reason of the inability of anybody to answer it. The country is so nearly level for the whole distance that the grading would be a nominal expense, while the topography is such that curving would only be necessary in a few places and the degree of curvature at these quite moderate, thus making the track-building an easy thing to accomplish. A narrow gauge would do to begin with, perhaps for several years, and it could be completed and trains running within three months from the time work commenced in good earnest. The amounts that such a road would earn from the beginning are known in advance to be so great that the stock of the enterprise would never get much below par, and might in a comparatively short time be expected to go above it.

The Deep Creek mineral deposits are wonderful in their vastness and mean richness, insuring to the railway company full trains as often as they could run them for a long time, and the natural wealth of which but the merest moiety is now available would then pour out upon the world of finance in a steady, voluminous stream. It would enrich those who have properties there—the great majority being Utah men—make endless money for the railway and be the means of bringing about a new era of prosperity in our midst. Why it is that so splendid, so certain and so great a speculation is so long kept in abeyance through the inaction and irresolution of men of capital is one of the mysteries. Why not take the subject up and set the project on foot in a practical, determined way?

EVENTS IN CHINA.

If there was some time ago in impression that England was constantly receding before the aggressive policy of Russia in China, this impression must be modified some. Not long since it was announced that Russia had warned China that if a certain railway concession were given to an Englishman, the czar would perhaps occupy the province of Chih-li, where the Chinese capital is situated. But the English concession was not revoked; yet Russia did not carry out the threat. The reason for this is the simple fact that Great Britain informed the Tsung-li-Yamen that she would support China against any power permitting an act of aggression there "because China had

granted a British subject permission to aid or build railroads or other public works." Russia finding herself confronted with England at once saw fit to change her policy of threats to one of diplomacy.

This evidently indicates that the bear is not yet fully prepared for an attack on the lion, but it also suggests that the complications in China may take such a turn that diplomacy is inadequate. Li Hung Chang is again in power and he is believed to be willing to sell out English interests at any time to the czar. Events in China will bear close watching, especially in view of a possible Anglo-American entente.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.

From a special to the New Orleans Times-Democrat of Aug. 1, it seems that the Yazoo county, Miss., people have prevented Mormon Elders from holding a conference near Mechanicsburg, threatening bloodshed if the conference were held. Elder Ben Rich gives to the correspondent of the Times-Democrat a graphic description of the proceedings of the people. He says in part:

"As we were riding out through the country to Mechanicsburg I noticed men all along the road, some of them having guns, and was told by the driver that they intended to break up our conference, and had been gathering their forces for two or three days. I asked him who were the men engaged and he mentioned Mr. —, a Baptist minister, and two or three deacons of that church. As we neared the place appointed for our conference, I suppose there must have been 200 men with shotguns and rifles. I asked them to step out of the road and let me pass, which they did, but when I passed through their ranks and reached one of the houses where a But in doing so I desired it distinctly understood that I regarded the mob as a set of cowards, who were unwilling to allow to others the religious liberty which they themselves enjoyed. "I told the mob that a great many Federal officials had come from that county to Utah, and with whom I had a personal acquaintance, naming Hon. Frank Dyer, United States marshal, appointed under Grover Cleveland; E. W. Exum, chief deputy under two United States marshals, and Judge A. G. Norrell. All of these had come from Yazoo county, and I felt confident that if their former respected fellow-citizens were present they would die in their tracks before they would see us run out of the county in such an unlawful manner. But it was a lawless crowd, who refused to listen to reason, and we finally consented to leave, with the distinct understanding that two of our Elders who were sick should be left behind and be protected. We simply bowed in submission to brute force, for such it was.

"We have come here to the capital of the state to continue our conference. There are thirty-three of our Elders who came with me from Utah and Idaho, and we have the names of thirty or forty of the mob. Whether we shall institute proceedings will be determined in the future.

"All we want is the right due to an American citizen under the Constitution of this country. The good people of Mississippi should be as anxious to give that, even to a Mormon, as they are willing to send their sons to fight for the same principle with the Cubans."

The religious press of the country should, it seems to us, feel called upon to enter a vigorous protest, in their

own interest, against the spectacle of ministers and deacons directing an armed mob against peaceful ministers of the Gospel. It is well known that the spiritual and intellectual resources of many denominational standard bearers are inadequate, even when strengthened by slander and obvious perversions of truth, but powder and lead can impossibly be considered part of any theological system. The churches need to be reminded of the ringing declaration once made in a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, that though the victims of persecution sometimes have been wrong, the persecutors always are wrong. But will they protest, or will they rather choose by silence to give sanction to the brutal lawlessness that so often has put a martyr crown upon the brow of Latter-day Saints?

WAR HATH ITS DIVERSIONS.

If war were not so serious a matter, the one through which the United States is passing would possess some features in common with opera bouffe, dissolving views and other like diversions which relieve without greatly instructing the mind. General Miles's invasion of Porto Rico comes so near winning for itself a name similar to the "Merry War" that that farcical production involuntarily enters the mind when the other performance is mentioned. It is a triumphal tour; sure enough, minus the deep-throated diapason of the engines of destruction and the death and misery inseparable from real war, and plus such cordial and demonstrative measures of welcome as would be provocative of suspicion were not the opportunity for treachery altogether nil. But it is not specially the expedition of General Miles that this article was designed to discuss.

The fantastic tricks and bombastic language of the two great insurgents Garcia and Aguinaldo have at times been the occasion of no little concern to those who by training and experience are prone to looking upon leaders of men as meaning at least a liberal proportion of what they say. Both have been allies and not allies of the American forces, and now both are allies again, apparently so loyal that it is almost a ground of self-reproach to think that they were ever distrusted at all. Relating to General Garcia, the Associated Press is authority for the statement that the change in him is most astonishing and significant. It shows that while he has been known as an uncompromising foe to annexation, this was not strange. As one of the most important leaders of the insurgents, we are told, he would naturally prefer as the fruition of his labors and risks, the establishment of an independent government to the merging with a larger country. In the Cuban republic the rewards of all military heroes would be more glittering than a state of a Union with only a small voice in national and international affairs. Within the last few days, however, Garcia has expressed his opinion that the welfare of Cuba depended on her joining the sisterhood of the United States. Partly on account of his attitude and partly on account of the same reasons which led to his conversion, many of his officers now side with him. This is good news and gives birth to the hope and belief that it has come to stay.

Of like tenor and effect is the latest "hop" of the Filipino chief. He doesn't want to "lock horns" with the United States at all, couldn't be induced to think of such a thing. He will act in full harmony with our representatives over there and only asks a few light concessions essential to the maintenance