

vegetables were slightly injured by frosts, and the growth of crops retarded by a general lowness of temperature.

In Juab County apricots and early peaches were somewhat injured, but grain is reported doing well. In Sanpete County frosts prevailed, but no damage is reported.

Fruit blossoms, especially apples were injured in Sevier County by frosts on the 24th and 26th. High wind injured wheat and oats on the 25th and 26th, and frosts on the 26th and 27th injured fruits. In Parowan, Garfield and other southern counties high winds and light frosts prevailed during the closing week of April but no serious damage is reported.

### A PRACTICAL PROPOSITION.

A COMMUNICATION from Mr. W. H. Rowe which appears in this issue of the DESERET NEWS, urges a movement that, if carried out as proposed, will prove a great benefit to the Territory. We have frequently descanted upon the necessity of a revival interest in home industries. Mr. Rowe's proposition for a manufacturers convention is practical, timely and likely to be very profitable.

Something ought to be done at once to bring the matter into definite shape. "What is everybody's business is no body's business." Energetic men interested in home manufacturers ought to organize a committee to formulate the affair. General remarks about its utility and propriety will not bring it into bodily shape.

Delegates ought to be sent from every part of the Territory to this convention and they should be practical business men who can both see the force of a sound proposition and give suggestions as to the needs and capabilities of their own districts and the feasibility of plans to meet them. This will not be done unless some active person or persons will lead out and take measures to clothe the ideas that have been presented in material form. Who will step forward and start the movement?

### THE UTAH PUBLIC BUILDINGS BILL.

THERE is some prospect of a Congressional appropriation for a public building in Utah. The House committee have agreed to report in favor of \$300,000. The amount asked for was \$500,000 but it was thought that in view of the economical disposition of the House, this sum was all that could be expected to prevail.

If President Harrison should entertain the same views as controlled his official action at the last session, there will be no hope for any appropriation for Utah at present. But he may have modified his opinions on this subject, and it may be that Salt Lake City will get the Federal building. The amount, though not what was desired, is not to be sneezed at, and its expenditure would revive business and accomplish much good.

It ought to be understood that to Delegate Caine's untiring efforts what success attends this project is largely due. He labored faithfully at the last

session and has done the same at the present, and any insinuations to the contrary are as false as they are ungenerous and unjust. Ex-Governor West has ably seconded the Delegate's efforts and is entitled to his meed of praise.

The bill, if it passes the House, will have to be watched with as much care and persistency in the Senate, and we are sure that Utah can fully trust our Delegate to see that her interests are not neglected in either House of Congress.

### REFORM IN NEW YORK.

DR. PARKHURST'S crusade against vice in New York City was not entirely unproductive of beneficial results. It is true, he was subjected to much caustic criticism both by the press and his brethren of the cloth, but he has the satisfaction of seeing that his work was not in vain.

For one thing the police force of Gotham has been reorganized. The famous Inspector Byrnes is now General Superintendent. His first official act was the transfer of captains of precincts. He next paid attention to subordinate officers, changing many detectives and specials back to street patrol duty. A new code of instructions was also issued for the regulation of disreputable resorts.

One of Dr. Parkhurst's charges against the police was that immunity for evil doers was purchased from the officers. The charge has not been sustained so far as the regular city police are concerned. But two officers of Gerry's society for the prevention of cruelty to children have been arrested for blackmailing. Judging from the details in the New York papers they were detected right in the performance of their nefarious resorts.

It appears that they made a practice of collecting a regular monthly stipend from houses of illfame and other resorts, guaranteeing them in return protection. The disclosures so far speak horribly for the philanthropic, charitable and religious societies. The comic aspect of the affair is, that even some of the officers employed by Dr. Parkhurst to make the exposure are likely to be implicated.

New York reform cannot be effected without reform in the public service. It has to be commenced in the administration of civil affairs and while corruption exists in the places which are now being exposed to the public gaze it will be sure to prevail in unofficial circles. It is not to be expected that a cosmopolitan and seaport city like New York will be a model of social purity, but it is overflowing with vice and sin because the very heart of society there is tainted and too many of those entrusted with the duty of correcting evils are themselves sunk in pollution to the very lips.

The masons and carpenters of Copenhagen are striking for higher wages.

THE Children's Aid Society of London has collected a company of fifty poor lads, whose ages range from thirteen to seventeen, and sent them to Winnipeg to grow up with the country.

### "A WORD FOR THE MORMONS."

THE Helena, Montana, *Independent* has a strong editorial on the rumpus kicked up over Professor Eliot's so-called "bad break" in saying a few kind and encouraging words to the "Mormons," and that paper proceeds to draw contrasts between the Latter-day Saints and the Puritans, which are not at all flattering to the latter. We clip a few of the *Independent's* remarks, and would reproduce the whole article but for fear of offending some folks who are over touchy on this question. It says:

"The Mormons being a smaller body numerically, every small-trv editor and demagogic politician has felt free to throw his stone at them; they have been villified for a social peculiarity which practically prevails all over the world; and when an impartial traveler like President Eliot speaks of them without cursing them, he is called to account as a traitor to Christian civilization, says the San Francisco *Argonaut*. It will be a good time to curse the Mormons when some of our new Western States have brought irrigation and high agriculture to the perfection which they have attained in Utah. In the meantime it may, perhaps, be becoming in the descendants of the witch-burners, and Western advocates of lynch law, to rave less furthly over the delusions of the followers of Brigham Young. The doctrines of the Latter-day Saints are not so shocking as those of the Anabaptists were; there has never been a holy inquisition in the temple of Mormon; and, on the whole, there is nothing in the Book of Mormon so revolting as the teachings of which Pascal convicted the Jesuits. This is a world in which error springs up like a weed. The way to deal with it is not to make laws against it, and to put men in jail for adhering to the dictates of their conscience, but to wait patiently until the light of reason penetrates the dark places and dissipates the fogs of delusion. \* \* \* But the most revolting feature of the crusade against the Mormons is its sham and its hypocrisy. The United States, at its wit's end to repress polygamy, finally passed a bill which was generally known as the "illegal cohabitation act." This, as its name shows, was designed to prohibit the illicit relations of the sexes, under pain of felony. Every honest man knows that such a law could not prevail in the States of the Union without a perfect cyclone of scandal. \* \* \* A law which would do excellently for Utah would not do at all for the District of Columbia. It might not do for New York, Chicago, Boston or Baltimore. It might even cause trouble in San Francisco.

### TRANSPORTATION BY WATER IN THE UNITED STATES.

CENSUS bulletin 179 is devoted to transportation by water in the United States. It is the first attempt to present complete statistics on this subject, in all its branches, except that of canals.

At the beginning of 1890 the transportation fleet of the United States, with the exception of canal craft, numbered 25,540 vessels of all kinds, whose gross tonnage was 7,600,000 tons, and whose estimated commercial value stood at \$215,000,000. In this report the fleet of nearly 7000 fishing vessels is not included, inasmuch as