

Written for this Paper.

### WILL IT PAY?

With the advent of spring and sunshine there are indications everywhere of hilarity and renewed activity; there is a general cleaning up in many places, and men are seen going to and fro with early garden and other tools; and so trade is quickened, business men smile, and the indications are for renewed local good feeling, and in some way a better show for general prosperity.

Men who have a little means will want to do something to make some change. Some improvement, or an addition may be needed—one long thought of perchance, but deferred because hope was moulting and dejected, and none could see very far beyond the mists and fog of hard times, as they were justly called.

There has been a good deal of hard and serious thinking done during the just past winter, and where large families are, the burthen has been felt as never before. In fairly prosperous times probably the weight of responsibility rested upon the head of the house; the boys and girls were at school or doing next to nothing for their own subsistence; but this last year many a man has wished that his labor could be supplemented by the labor of his family, if only as a relief for the moment. In looking around for employment, however, the fact has been forced home, that opportunities were altogether too few to be of any avail, where so many were "catching on" to the same idea. And from this thinking has been evolved many needed, and some old but long dormant, conclusions in regard to providing work for this part of our population, that they may be adding to the general wealth, instead of being a tax upon the health, strength, thought and resources of their parents. What little labor was to be had here, much also of that which was provided, and still more of the sums collected in the name of charity, have been mainly absorbed by strangers, allured here in response to a clamor as unwise as unfortunate. For, leaving out this, there might have been employment and remuneration for the native born and for those coming to Utah with the intent of remaining. The experience will eventually be in good no doubt. We shall cease crying for an invasion of labor, and we shall make some effort to employ our own. And for this no half-way nor half-hearted measures will answer. If only to preserve the morale of our youth, if only to deliver them from the necessity of wandering; if we intend them to marry and shoulder their share of responsibility in Church or State, they must have opportunities of subsistence, chance for work and livelihood, such as they really cannot inaugurate for themselves.

From manufacturing mainly, will this salvation come; for land is limited and that now in cultivation provides a surplus beyond the needs of the home non-producer, unless more diversified crops can be the rule of the farm. If we can extend the sugar business, if beans and peas and roots can be more abundantly raised so that we can cease importing, send out our stock in finer condition, and foster that which will support a family all

round. We experimented years ago with hemp. From it rope was made and kindred things. We suddenly stopped short, or all our grain, potato and fruit sacks might long since have been made from this, unless our southern counties had gone in for raising jute which is easily done and would have been better. Then we tried flax which is indigenous to these valleys. Good thread was made, although linseed oil was the first intent; and what was made of this had no adulteration, so was far different from that now imported. This product being from the seed, the fiber still remained, and long ere this had others worked upon the foundation so ardently and persistently laid by the Pioneers, all our ordinary towels, sheeting, and table cloths might have been "the workmanship of our own hands." Many efforts at the same time were made for the production of castor oil, which for medicine, lubricant and other purposes is in steady demand, and these are far more likely to succeed today. We essayed to make white lead, but our unfamiliarity with its chemistry or lack of other thing prevented, as it prevented the making of gunpowder, and as a fact sugar, which failed mainly from the same inability to cope with the elements drawn by the beets from a soil whose constituents were unknown then to the producers or farmers at large.

It is to be regretted also that our efforts at glass-making were not more persistent, that is so far as preserve jars, beer bottles, flasks and prescription vials are concerned. To be sure no such mammoth works were possible as Pittsburg would demand; but on a small scale there was a little business which requires annually thirty car loads of the first article, and some say near twenty of the other. Then a vast amount of old material could have been used which now has to be buried and wasted. Surely this business could be resurrected and extended if a different management was supplied.

Many a close-by farmer who is advanced in years might make, if he had suitable land, quite a few dollars from rhubarb, asparagus and mushroom cultivation, with wine of the former and ketchup of the latter from surplus, by making a specialty of one or all in the season thereof. Then with small fruits to follow, such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries and other varieties, occupation would be sure during a large proportion of the summer. The basket-making industry could be extended much, if some one would put out a good willow patch and prepare intelligently the material, both peeled and otherwise; while the raising of garden seeds, from peas to cabbage, could not only supply the home demand, but careful attention to production would find a market among all the great seedsmen of the East, and probably in many respects this would be a benefit for eastern reproduction.

It was to the writer a very gratifying thing to see in a late Coalville paper that a determined effort was to be made for scouring the wool product of that section prior to shipment. Years ago we had pointed out the absurdity of paying freight on fifty to sixty per cent of waste, besides paying eastern persons to do that for us for which we had both labor and facilities at home.

Attention was also called to the fact that it was possible from the by-products of this scouring, such as grease, to pay all expenses. The latter idea does not appear to enter into the Coalville project, but to scour and cleanse the important product is secondary in value only to manufacturing that wool, and using it at home, or exporting when there is a surplus of the article or goods so produced.

It was a sad loss to the community when the paper mill went up in smoke. Now we have to waste or destroy most of our rags, as it would hardly pay to ship them East. We can only hope that in the not far distant future some enterprising company will resurrect so desirable a manufacture, and extend it into domain not fully explored by the old company. The spirit which originated this industry, with many others, should be a continuous illustration of the far-seeing economy and enterprise of those of our leaders who in early days aimed for independence by the utilization of home resources.

It is curious to observe an essential difference between that spirit and the spirit of today. There was little if any query then as to whether any enterprise would pay. The community wanted sugar—"let us try to make it." Iron was deemed important—labor and means were forthcoming. Woolen machinery was needed—it was soon on hand. A grist mill—before you knew it almost it was built. A tannery would be good—the tannery came. If education was a blessing—the foundations of the University were laid in hopeful poverty; and it was "the tyranny of the Priesthood," as the editor of the *Chronicle* calls it, which now enables him to hold a position and sneeringly point out to the students and the taxpayers who support him what there is today. When co-operative merchandising was desirable, it was established. When the shoe factory was a necessity, it sprang into being. And when the Temple was as important from a religious standpoint, as those named (with many others) were from a secular and industrial one, they were formed with hardly a thought of "will it pay." "Necessity (so to speak) knew no law." Duty, and faith, and family, and Utah were the inspiration of the master minds, and their spirit was contagious; for every one was at work. If there was a need, whether that need was ink, rooms, wool rolls, hats, shoes, nails, platols, cotton yarn, soap, furniture, paper, cloth, leather, pottery, whips, gloves, silk, books, straw goods, baskets, oils, plows, with a thousand other things—they were created; to say nothing of fruit, flowers, and improved stock of all kinds that could be of value to the community or their posterity.

So that we need not flatter ourselves because of our energy, our enterprise, or our originality. The fathers, the leaders, have "been there" before us, and their expenditure in unselfish ways, under the spirit of patriotism and love to man, for sugar, iron, cloth, etc., dwarfs all our efforts, when we take into account the poverty, the lack of money, the crude tools, the want of experience, and the distance from supplies or help. It was the grand spirit; sacrifice and toil were the handmaids of endeavor and enterprise, and to need anything, to believe that it was