

creased price a long transportation makes unavoidable. And while the people eat bread for which the money is sent East, our own farmers are compelled to sell their products at a price which barely covers the cost of raising them.

Utah flour is good enough for Utah people, and they should demand that article in preference to any other. It is poor policy to impoverish the laborers of the soil. To cripple the farmers is to dry up the very life blood of the body of state and cannot but be fraught with disaster. The question of establishing and maintaining manufactories and home industries of every kind has from the beginning been paramount to the people of this region. It is so today as much as ever. And now the facilities for carrying out this policy is greater than they ever were. Let the people then awake to their own interests and agree, as they did in the valley north of us, to consume Utah products first, even if it were a fact that imported goods in some instances are of a grade higher quality.

#### JUDGE BARTCH'S DECISION.

The decision of Judge Bartch in the legal dispute as to the powers of the Utah Commission in the Constitutional election canvass has been as prompt and comprehensive as the most eager could desire. The opinion is an elaborate review of the law relating to the conduct of elections and the canvass of votes, and as such should be read with close interest by every citizen. A further and special interest is added by reason of its definition of the powers and procedure of the Utah Commission, in view of the previous practices of that board. Altogether the subject as viewed and expounded by Judge Bartch is of grave importance, and his reasoning and conclusions are entitled to calm, unprejudiced consideration. The document is, under existing circumstances, worthy of careful perusal in its entirety.

#### GUBERNATORIAL SUGGESTIONS.

Several western state legislatures began their sessions this week, and in four of them the messages from their governors have important recommendations upon topics of special interest to Utah. These states are Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming. In Nebraska, the executive suggests legislation in regard to irrigation, and a bill has been introduced into the legislature dealing with the subject. In Colorado, Governor McIntire advises the construction of reservoirs and an extensive system of storage of water for irrigation.

Governor Richards, of Wyoming, enters into an extended discussion of irrigation matters. He urges the state to accept from the government the donation of one million acres of arid land, provided for in the Carey law, and to arrange for the reclamation and control of the land. He advises the legislators to at once frame a statute which will give sufficient security to capital to warrant its investment in the construction of irrigat-

ing canals, while it insures to the settler an abundance of water at reasonable rates and easy payments, with a certainty of eventually owning the water by as good title as he will have to the land.

Commenting further upon this topic, he takes up the report of the state engineer relative to the unused land and wasted water in Wyoming, and says that even to one well acquainted with the state's immense possibilities of irrigation and reclamation of desert land, the showing is surprising. The fact that there has not been the agricultural growth of the state during the past two years that its people had reason to expect and the further fact that not less than \$1,000,000 per year are sent out of Wyoming, never to return, in payment for farm products that should be grown at home, taken in connection with this vast wealth of land and water lying idle side by side, awaiting only the magic touch of labor and capital intelligently combined to be coined into wealth, places the agricultural resources before the people, as Governor Richards suggests, as of more importance than any other interest within the state. Says he: "What we need is more farmers. To get them we ourselves must take the preliminary steps toward providing them with homes and the facilities for earning a livelihood." This provision, he urges, can be made ample through an effective irrigation system, and in no other way known to be available.

Upon this same important subject, Governor McConnell, of Idaho, makes some valuable suggestions. He summarizes the difficulties to be met with in his state, points out the importance of immediate action, indicates many of the benefits to be derived from a good irrigation system, calls attention to the necessity of legal regulations for the division of water and to give relief to settlers who are subject to excessive charges by corporations which own large ditches, and makes other timely recommendations as follows:

The plan of providing for the dividing of counties into irrigation districts and allowing each district to regulate its own water rates, and if needs be, construct its own ditches and reservoirs, seems to be the most promising. I recommend that a joint committee be appointed to prepare a bill. The committee may include those members who have prepared measures, if any there are, and they should be relieved as nearly as possible from other committee duty until ready to report their work, for I repeat that no other legislation is needed worse, and none can be more important.

All the suggestions made upon this absorbing topic go to emphasize the wisdom of Utah's pioneer leaders and settlers in making agriculture the basis of their industrial structure in establishing themselves in this region. It is the branch of industry which primarily provides people with homes and the means of insuring a livelihood. In gazing upon Utah's stability and prosperity, the leaders of thought in surrounding states are recognizing this fact, and now propose to make good use of the knowledge it brings to them. The people of this Territory directly connected with irrigation and agriculture should be on the alert to further develop progressive ideas relating thereto, and when our neighbors have

caught up to the present example shown them, should have more of something good in this line for them to pattern after.

The message of each of the governors referred to breathes a spirit of liberality and progressiveness not always so generally characteristic of such documents, and indicates the existence of a firm purpose for a just, stable and prosperous government administration in the great West. In this connection may be named Governor McConnell's recommendation regarding Idaho's election law. He recites the fact that the last legislature of the state amended and greatly modified the objectionable test oath. Of this provision the governor now says:

I think that the section so amended should have stricken out those clauses which relate to bigamy or plural marriage. The law as first enacted was aimed at what is known as the Church of the Latter-day Saints, but experience and a better acquaintance with the members of that society has demonstrated that they are among our law-abiding citizens. An analysis of our prison record will prove this to be the case. The provision is a useless incumbrance to our election law and should be stricken out.

While there may be some inferior matters to criticize in the messages of the governors herein mentioned, yet taken altogether, if the sentiments expressed are indicative of the gubernatorial policy that will be pursued in those four states during 1895 and 1896, the inhabitants thereof certainly should be greatly benefitted and improved thereby, and should take long strides toward better conditions than even they enjoy at present.

#### TRAINING THE INDIANS.

The January number of *The Forum* contains an article on the "Proper Training and the Future of the Indians," from the pen of Major J. W. Powell. As Major Powell has spent nearly half his life in association in one form or another with the aborigines, his treatment of such a subject is entitled at least to respectful consideration. As to his experiences, he recounts that he has seen most of the tribes of the United States; has wandered with the natives in the woods, ridden with them across the plains, climbed with them over mountains, visited their homes, slept in their camps and studied their languages, habits, customs and mythology; for twenty-five years has had associated with him on exploring expeditions and in the work of the bureau of ethnology a number of men who, like himself, have been making a life-study of the North American Indians; his investigations have extended from the Eskimo of the Arctic circle to the Maya of the tropics; and he has seen thousands of Indians pass from the state of savagery to a half-civilized condition, and a smaller number into practical civilization.

From the last sentence it may be inferred that Major Powell is a believer in the theory that the education of the Indian can be productive of good. He has seen it worked to a successful demonstration. He does not believe that "the only good Indian is a dead