

## EDITORIALS.

## AGRICULTURE AND THE FAIR.

AGRICULTURE is acknowledged to be the most important of all industries. It is the basis of all safe and certain material prosperity. The productions of agriculture are necessities, while the productions of all other industries are conveniences, comforts, luxuries. The products of agriculture people must have or must cease to exist. The products of other industries people can live without, though they would be very averse to such a primitive condition of existence. The highest life consists in a judicious blending of all useful industries, whether that usefulness be immediate and direct, or remote and indirect. Hence, in the establishment and arrangement of the annual Fair, agriculture holds the first place, and is properly supplemented by other arts, and by manufactures and mining matters. In the earlier history of the Territory, agriculture was the almost sole employment of the people, and necessarily so, or they could not have sustained themselves. As long as they desire to be self-sustaining, and to have the prosperity of the Territory on a safe and steady basis, they will continue to give agriculture a large and prominent place in the industries of the Territory, bestow upon it a liberal amount of capital, thought, enterprise and energy, and make available the researches of chemistry and the inventions of mechanical ingenuity, so far as they can be profitably applied.

The capabilities of the soil, and of the varying kinds of soil, are but imperfectly understood, and the improvements which enlightened industry can make in the varied productions of the soil are not much better known. We hear of and see extraordinary crops of grass, hay, grain, roots, and fruits, and we hear of and see extraordinary specimens of the various kinds of domestic animals—horses, cattle, sheep, swine, etc. But what is the proportion of such crops and such animals to the whole? Not enough to very greatly influence the average. Why are they not more common? Because the same means are not employed to produce them more commonly. There are certain causes which produce these admirable effects, and it is the business and to the advantage of the farmer to search diligently after these causes, that the superior effects may follow more commonly than they do. What man has done, man may do, is true in a very large degree. If one man raises a hundred bushels of wheat or corn to the acre, as a rule another man can do the same, with the same knowledge, industry and tact. And so of other crops—barley, oats, hay, potatoes, beets, cabbage, onions, fruits of various kinds, etc.

While this country has made great progress in mechanics and various other manufactures, the usual progress in agricultural matters has been in a backward direction. A rich and virgin soil has been found by the successive families or companies of the westward advancing population, but by the almost universal skinning process that soil has been rapidly robbed of its fertility and the crops have as surely diminished year by year. Few are the farms throughout the whole of the United States on which the soil is as productive now as when first taken up and cultivated, and fewer still on which the soil has increased in productiveness. In many cases the crops have woefully decreased. This should not be. It is the proper duty of man to multiply, and replenish the earth, not rob it and leave it comparatively sterile.

Ninety years ago, in New York State, farmers were accustomed to reap thirty or forty bushels of wheat to the acre, where the production now does not average more than a third of that amount. The average for the whole State now is twelve bushels to the acre, and the average for the United States is twelve and a half bushels to the acre. This is by no means creditable.

On the other hand let us adduce instances of a different kind of cultivation. During the last three quarters of a century the average crop production in England has increased fifty per cent., and the average wheat crop to the acre is now thirty bushels. During the same time Scotland has increased her average crop production sixty per

cent., and the average production of wheat is now twenty-eight bushels per acre. In England, in a series of carefully conducted experiments, one crop of 108, and another crop of 162, bushels of wheat to the acre were raised.

This shows what has been done by intelligent farmers. But much more than the best recorded average is possible to skill, capital and industrial energy. The annual average money value of English crops is £3 10s. per acre, but the value of the crops grown by Mr. Mechi, on his Tiptree Farm, originally but indifferent and unproductive soil, is £11 15s. per acre.

In the State of New York, when the annual average of the wheat crop was twelve bushels an acre, William Hotchkiss, of Niagara county, on six acres, raised 381 bushels, or 63½ to the acre, and the same season Thomas Powell, of the same county, on seven acres, raised 489 bushels, or nearly 70 to the acre.

In 1870 the average of the corn crop in the United States was 28 bushels to the acre; the highest average for the State was 39.6 bushels in Vermont. In 1860 a crop of 263 bushels, weighed early in October, obtained the premium at the State Fair in Indiana; a crop of 132½ bushels, raised by Wm. Rabb, obtaining the second premium. In 1824 a crop of 118 bushels was raised by C. Van Horn, of Romulus, Seneca county, N. Y. In 1860, D. H. Bronson, of Guthrieville, Pa., raised a crop of 127 bushels to the acre. In South Carolina, it is said, 200 bushels to the acre have been raised.

These figures are from an address by Hon. J. Stanton Gould, of Hudson, N. Y., before the Connecticut Board of Agriculture at New Haven, May 29, 1872, and they serve to show the possibilities within the reach of careful and intelligent farmers. Agricultural fairs show what is being done, and they thus incite cultivators to renewed efforts in the direction of improved cultivation and superior crops.

## SOME LESSONS OF THE TIME.

THE chief local event of the week is the Fair of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, opened to-day, but not in full display before to-morrow. A walk through the various departments of the Fair should show to the careful observer the condition of the Territory in the various departments of industry and skill, materially, and to the annual observer the progress made from year to year in the industrial pursuits of the people and in the material progress of the Territory. In the various subdivisions of the department of agriculture, the most important of all, the display this year should show an advance on the exhibitions of former years. Progress should be the fact, and perfection of production the aim. Increase in the quantity and quality of the crops is the evidence of good farming, decrease the evidence of bad farming, generally speaking. Our farmers this year ought to be able to produce wheat, corn, oats, barley, potatoes, beets, carrots, turnips, etc., superior to what they have produced in former years, because they have had more experience. They ought to know better what varieties of the different crops to raise, better how to treat their soil so as to produce superior crops, better how to treat their growing crops so as to develop their fullest capabilities of production. As a help to this kind of knowledge these annual fairs are exceedingly valuable. They show one farmer what another has done, and to some farmers the sight may be a revelation of a surprising nature. If such farmers have any ambition the evidence of another farmer's superior crops must prove a strong stimulus to renewed energy, enterprise, and emulation.

In the department of live stock, it must do a farmer's or grazier's eyes good to see the highly improved animals of the various classes which usually are brought together on occasions of this kind, the massive Durham, the compact and nimble Devon, or the still lighter Jersey or Ayrshire cattle; then there are the large Cotswold, the heavy Leicester, the neat and compact Southdown, and the curly Marino sheep; the various improved breeds of swine and horses; and, which are most profitable of all to farmers generally, the grades, of all grades of excellence, produced by the union of good blooded with the

common or native stock. To see these various superior specimens of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, must give a powerful impulse to intelligent stock raisers to procure the best strains they can, with which to improve their own.

We have not space to illustrate further in the various departments, but similar remarks might be made concerning the manufactures, textile, earthen, metallic, and wooden, the fine arts, and mining, each of which has its own importance and interest. But a walk through the Fair will reveal much to be learned by most people in the various specialties with which each person is most intimately connected.

## Z. C. M. I.

MR. M. L. Dunlap, of the Chicago Tribune, writing from Salt Lake, says—

"The Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution" is a grand success, and is just what our farmers and Grangers in the farmers' movement have been seeking for without finding. It is a corporation that has done much good for Utah. It sells goods at retail at ten per cent. advance over cost of purchase, freights, rents and all possible costs and charges. This estimate is made so as to leave the ten per cent. net to the stockholders. Thus far the capital has been turned three times a year, and the dividends have been thirty per cent. per annum. While goods have been sold at less than the old prices, yet the profits on the stocks have been large. Goods are all sold at the one uniform price, without regard to stockholders, Mormon or Gentile. There is the great central store, with all its varied departments at retail and wholesale with branches in each Ward, and at all needed points in the Territory. Mr. Clawson, the manager, estimates that this institution has saved the people not less than \$3,000,000 since its organization. There are many stores besides this, but this is the great regulator that keeps prices within bounds. It matters not how short the supply may be of any particular line of goods, no change is made in the price. Agricultural implements, or anything specially desired, are ordered, and the one profit charged for their purchase and handling. The whole thing is a cash system, the buying being for cash, and the selling for cash. Our farmers may learn from this a valuable lesson. If a farmer has grain to ship, it is attended to, and a small commission charged. Without making any fuss over it, the farmers of Utah have in this co-operative movement all that the most sanguine Patron of Husbandry can claim as a matter of reform. They purchase their goods at a fixed per cent., and have all the needful machinery to dispose of their farm products to the best possible advantage.

Z. C. M. I. is a co-operative institution, sustained by the people. It does a very large business in most kinds of merchandise, and it can be truly termed the great regulator of prices of general merchandise in the Territory. Its business is sought to be conducted in an honorable manner. It does not sell "below cost" nor deal in bargains at "ruinous prices," neither does it aim to make a thousand per cent. nor even "shent per shent" on its capital. On this account, as might naturally be expected, it is not without enemies, but they belong almost, if not quite, exclusively to the speculative and unprincipled classes, upon whose unworthy adventures it acts as a salutary check. True, it may be that the manner in which it is conducted is not perfectly satisfactory to everybody, but this is not a strange matter, for it is the case with every other institution and business under the sun, even with the conducting of a newspaper, and results simply from the impossibility of pleasing everybody, which is tritely proverbial, and therefore no cause for wonder, nor scarcely for remark.

We have invariably supported Z. C. M. I., because, whether absolutely faultless or not, it is one of the most beneficial institutions in the Territory, and therefore is worthy of the support of every citizen, and it does receive the support, directly or indirectly, of most of them.

We have never entered into any special defence of Z. C. M. I., nor are we now defending it, because we have not considered that it has needed any defence, nor do we now consider that it needs any—it stands on its merits, which are many and great. But this much we have repeatedly said privately, and we have no objections to saying it in public—that a thoroughly co-operative institution, with a basis like that on which Z. C. M. I. is founded, conducted with anything like prudence, and possessing the confidence of the public, may bid defiance to all panics and crises, as well as to the most malicious efforts of its most vicious and unscrupulous enemies, some of which it is sure to have.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS.

It is a thing for heartfelt congratulation that the community hereabout is enduring the financial strain so well, and passing through the "crisis," which so seriously affects communities in the East, with so little derangement of business. Greenbacks are tight enough, but that is no more than everybody expected, and what, though in a much less degree, everybody has been complaining of for the last two or three months. The various banks are doing quite creditably. The First National, it is generally understood, is expected to resume business in a few days, a large amount of currency being on the way here from the East for its relief. Ever desirous of commending that which is really commendable, we may with propriety speak in terms of approbation of the manner in which Warren Hussey, Esq., on the unfortunate occasion of the suspension of the First National, threw himself into the breach, and endeavored to reassure the public and inspire it with confidence by asserting in his "Card" the actual ample solvency of the bank, and that he would hold himself personally responsible for its indebtedness. It is to be hoped that his expectations of the bank's resuming business again as usual within a very brief period will be fully justified.

## RANK VILLAINY.

THAT there are some, it is to be hoped they are very few, persons in the community who are capable of any degree of villainy, no matter how extreme, there can be no doubt, after the grave crimes of various kinds which have been committed in different parts of the Territory of late. Among the rest is that of incendiarism or arson, which has broken out in more than one place the present year, the destruction of Mr. Chlarsen's large dwelling-house yesterday morning being the last and most noticeable. That this was the work of an incendiary, there seems to be no room to doubt, and every right-minded citizen would be glad to hear of his capture and the administration of speedy and strict justice in his case. To such a villain no sympathy can be extended—he deserves none. It was a fortunate incident in this catastrophe that no life was lost, but no thanks to the guilty cause of the fire for that. For aught that he cared, all that was mortal of the whole family might have been, ere this, like their house, nothing but ashes. It may have been that the incendiary designed such a consummation, which nevertheless was happily prevented.

The man who is guilty of arson deserves not to be spared, but to be hunted down like a beast of prey, for it is not his fault, but probably to his sorrow and regret, if life as well as property is not destroyed by his crime. On this account the person guilty of arson, in many instances, is as great a criminal as the murderer, and deserves equally severe, yes, even equally extreme, punishment at the hands of the law.

CITY PAPERS AND COUNTRY PAPERS.—The Carmel, N. Y., Monitor thus speaks its feelings concerning some late postal legislation and big papers and little papers—

There are sufficient and substantial reasons for the re-enactment of the repealed free exchange and free home circulation laws. This repeal is a positive advance in a tendency—already obvious and for various reasons, bad—towards an extinction of local newspapers to make room for large, monopolizing city newspapers. Accordingly, anybody who has observed the opinions of the press on the repeal, will recollect that, the larger and more powerful, the more decided did it approve the repeal. It has long been an established policy of the great city papers to set forth the duty of the local papers to scrape together their local news, and leave great affairs to great men. It is natural that a city newspaper manager should covet a large circulation and great influence. It is his very obvious policy to make the country papers mere local reporters for him. The only thing he would like better would be to discontinue them entirely, add their circulation to his, and substitute a local correspondent or occasional reporter for the local editor.

The metropolitan papers, in their big-brotherly character, can kindly advise the provincial papers to confine their matter to merely local news, and leave more comprehensive matters alone, but the provincial papers are sufficiently perverse to act upon their own judgment, leaving the metropolitan papers the exercise of similar discretion.

As to the free postage on exchanges and free home circulation laws, we believe they were a great help to hundreds of country newspapers, and were rather a gain than a loss to the country generally. But Congress can do as it pleases about continuing their repeal or re-enacting them. We expect to live and prosper either way.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.—Between the believers in what is termed "Mormonism" and those who oppose it, there is an irrepressible conflict. Why the opponents of "Mormonism" will continue this conflict and persistently push it to the point of irrepressibility, is somewhat of a mystery. It must arise from the inveterate perversity of human nature, be due to the overpowering amount of the "Old Adam" element in many human creatures, which may be illustrated by the following characteristic anecdote:

"I have come," said a Scotch farmer to a neighbor laird, who was just dying, "I have come to settle about that bit of land." "Settle it," cried the old wrangler, "how will you settle it? Your father couldn't settle it, and your grandfather couldn't settle it, and the 'fifteen' couldn't settle it, and how will you settle it?" "Oh," said the rival claimant, "I'll let you have it altogether." "But I'll not tak it," cried the stout old litigant, and he turned his face resolutely to the wall."

A COUNT ON MULES.—Ernest, Count of Erbach-Erbach, writing from St. Louis, to his favorite German newspaper, in fatherland, manifests his animal likings in the following gushing style—

I have a great sympathy for these mules. They have such long ears, are so stupid, so full of amiability, and so gluttonous. My chief delight is in the mules; I visit them every day. They are very tricky and malicious. They kick and bite each other incessantly. Not one of them but begrudges the other every grain of oats, every mouthful of water. Whenever one of them feels annoyed, it kicks till it has removed the annoyance. A jolly fellow played a joke on them by scattering some oats on their backs. All the others hurried up to lick the oats off, in which effort they often pulled off some of the hair. Then there resulted a kicking, biting and putting back of the ears! I tell you it was delicious! All of these mules have their tails cut off, and only a little bush of hair hangs at the end of their tails. They are often very original and made me laugh in spite of myself. My greatest desire is to make such a mule drunk, but I don't know exactly how to manage it.

Thereupon the Democrat of that city politely suggests that it might be suggested to the Count that if he would take sufficient whisky internally, and look into a mirror, he would be gratified by beholding, if not a drunken mule, at least a drunken sas.

ARTESIAN WELLS.—According to the Colorado papers, there are several artesian wells at Denver, the deepest of which is down 600 feet. This well is located about fifty feet from the old well. In sinking the first well a great deal of mud was met with, making progress difficult and expensive. In sinking the new well there was no mud, the last 425 feet being through slate. The old well struck a fair vein of water at the depth of 251 feet. At 350 feet the new well struck water, rising, however, but four feet in 36 hours. Afterward another vein of water was struck, which rose 150 feet.

There are three or four artesian wells, or something of that kind, in this vicinity. Their respective depths are—who knows? The depth of water in each is—who can tell?

[Special to the DESERET NEWS.]

## TERRITORIAL DISPATCHES.

PER DESERET TELEGRAPH LINE.

SPANISH FORK, 8.—Tabby, Chief of the Utahs, with a number of his sub-chiefs, are here from the reservation, looking and feeling well. They propose visiting Salt Lake City in a few days and then returning to the reserve at Uintah.

—One of the most remarkable cases of "back pay" occurred recently in New York. One of the "old school" subscribers of a newspaper was thirty-one years in arrears for his paper. Last week he called upon the editors of the paper and paid up "like a man," and remarking that he might not be around again very soon, he paid his subscription ten years ahead, and another for his mother for twelve years ahead.