

and to secure converts to, the good cause. His zeal has been undaunted, his energy tireless, his labors unceasing; and when the State of Utah shall have fully adopted the reform and put it in successful operation—having thus pioneered the way for what we believe to be the speedy and irresistible triumph of the system in other commonwealths, as the people of Utah have already done in many previous instances of advancement—the News will be again on hand to speak of the noble work Mr. Coray has done, and to claim for him the credit that is and will be his due.

TO CONTEST FOR RIGHTS.

The dispatches from Oakland, California, state that the Sunday evening's attempt of the Salvation army to preach on the streets in that city resulted in the arrest of those of the army engaged in the work. From the reading of the telegraphic account it might be supposed that the Salvationists were proceeding in a defiant manner, and therefore are not entitled to any sympathy in their effort to exercise the right of free speech. This, however, is not the case, as may be learned in a brief review of the facts. Oakland has an ordinance which says that street preaching without the consent of the mayor shall be deemed an obstruction. In view of this, the Salvationists for some time have refrained from their usual custom, as they did not have the required permit. They have sought diligently to secure the mayor's consent, but have failed, not because their meetings would afford any actual obstruction to travel, but because the mayor chose arbitrarily to refuse such permission, saying he would give it to no one. On Friday evening the final interview took place between Ensign Wood, of the army, and Mayor Davis, at which the latter shut off all opportunity for further discussion by flatly refusing the request of the army for a permit to engage in street preaching for the next six months. This placed the army in a situation where it either had to give up its claim to the right to engage in such services or had to make a fight against the constitutionality of an ordinance permitting the arbitrary exercise of such power. The police department was notified that the latter course had been decided upon, so the fight was declared on, and the arrest of the army preachers on Sunday evening was expected by them.

It will be seen that the contest is not simply against an ordinance which may regulate street preaching within reasonable limits; it is against a measure which makes it possible for an official to proceed in an autocratic manner to prevent gatherings of the people which not only may not be inimical to the public welfare but may serve a useful purpose in reducing lawlessness by encouraging people to a better life. Perhaps the mayor of Oakland does not see it that way, but his efforts to prevent the ordinary street gatherings that are so common in countries where the people enjoy an ordinary degree of personal liberty, are highly inconsistent with the prin-

ciples of popular government. Whether it be to preach peculiar religious doctrines or to promulgate political principles, if these are not condemned by law as derogatory to the public good, people ought to be permitted to engage therein, so long as the rights and business of the public are not interfered with. No law or ordinance should be permitted to stand which gives an official power to prohibit peaceful assemblages of the people in public places. In their efforts to have the Oakland ordinance modified so that street preaching within reasonable limits may be established as a right which belongs to the people in politics, in religion, in science, or in any other branch of discussion, the Salvationists ought to have general sympathy. In that respect they are struggling for a principle of freedom.

IRRIGATION AS A SCIENCE.

Some days since we made reference to the proposed labors of the national board of experts appointed by the government to inquire into the matter of the scientific irrigation of arid lands. The personnel of the board may be recalled here, with the special lines to which each will devote himself. Professor Mark W. Harrington, chairman, has special charge, as chief of the weather bureau under the agricultural department, of the collection of information respecting rainfall, its distribution and resultant details of aridity and climatic conditions; F. H. Newell, secretary, supervises the hydrographic work of the United States geological survey, measures the output of streams and ascertains the water supply of given regions; Professor Charles D. Walcott, director of the geological survey, who will investigate the extent to which the arid lands can be redeemed by irrigation and will select the reservoir sites and direct the other surveying operations; Daniel M. Browning, commissioner of Indian affairs, whose duty is to introduce methods of agriculture among certain Indian tribes; Charles W. Irish, chief of the office of irrigation inquiry of the department of agriculture, who will continue the collection of information as to the best modes of agriculture by irrigation and the best methods of constructing reservoirs and ditches; Edward A. Bowers, assistant commissioner of the general land office, who is to give decisions respecting rights of way for canals and reservoirs on the public lands; Milton Whitney, chief of the division of agricultural soils of the department of agriculture, is to investigate the relations between soils and water; Henry Gannett, chief topographer of the geological survey, to make topographic surveys for reservoir sites under the direction of Professor Walcott; B. E. Fernow, chief of the forestry division of the department of agriculture, who is to collect information as to the relation of forests to moisture and to the protection of crops; and B. T. Galloway, chief of the division of vegetable physiology in the department of agriculture, whose duty it is to prosecute new and original inquiries into the reasons why certain plants require more water than others.

The approximate results of irrigation in the United States, the direct outcome of the system instituted in Utah in 1847, may be seen in the reclamation of desert land in various states and territories, figured up as follows:

	Acres.
Arizona.....	880,000
California.....	6,200,000
Colorado.....	5,600,000
Idaho.....	1,600,000
Kansas (west 97th mer.).....	1,200,000
Montana.....	1,800,000
Nebraska (west 97th mer.).....	270,000
Nevada.....	200,000
New Mexico.....	1,000,000
North Dakota.....	100,000
Oregon.....	200,000
South Dakota.....	140,000
Texas (northwest).....	470,000
Utah.....	1,000,000
Washington.....	240,000
Wyoming.....	4,000,000
Total.....	25,200,000

The science of irrigation is an old one, used in Asia, Europe and Africa before Columbus came to America, and developed to a high condition in the prehistoric days of this continent, when its soil was cultivated by the civilized people from whom the American Indians are descended. In the latter time, however, it seems designed to surpass all past achievements in the development of the arid West. In Utah and other mountain regions it comes through mountain streams and the sources that may be tapped by artesian wells, etc.; in the plains of Kansas and Nebraska it is being accomplished by raising the under-currents of "sheet" water to the surface; all are combining for an accomplishment besides which even the great results thus far attained will become insignificant. Much has been said and written of the wonders of electricity and kindred elements; and among them the value of water as a sustainer and promoter of life is being comprehended as never before so far as the history of man gives us information.

WORTH A COOL MILLION.

The conclusion of an unusually dry April is marked by copious rains of great soaking power and covering a wide extent of territory. They have been long wanted and are much needed; and the amount of good that will result from their final coming can hardly be estimated in figures—we probably do not overstate its value—all things considered—in the above caption.

During the last fortnight many an agriculturist in this vicinity has looked solemnly at his thin and unpromising crop and then at the brazen sky. Early recourse has had to be had to the irrigating streams, but with unsatisfactory results. However excellent and effective artificial watering may be and is to crops already started and on the way to maturity, experience proves that the gentle rains of heaven are necessary to the successful germination of the seed and the initiatory processes of growth. And now when these could not be much longer dispensed with without serious injury, behold the windows from above are opened, and the thirsty earth and dusty vegetation are supplied an