

ence, among them members of the Legislature which was responsible for placing the proposed amendments before the people; but supposing the correspondents to be right and those who differ wrong, it still remains that the position of this paper is not overthrown. It held and holds that the effect of adopting amendments to a great charter which is less than three years old is too mischievous a precedent to obtain in any commonwealth, unless the matters concerning which amendments are sought are crying evils which obviously ought not to be permitted to exist—such a condition of things as it is altogether improbable a body of intelligent, upright men in convention assembled would foist upon the people. To seek to amend because of any other ground of objection is simply to cultivate individual whims and confer a premium upon the exploiting of technical defects. This engaged in at an early period of the Constitution's promulgation simply lets down the bars, invites all hands to enter, and the plain result must be that the fabric of our fundamental laws would soon be a thing of shreds and patches, a document for daws to peck at, a contrivance for cheap politicians and shallow demagogues to play withal.

Except as herein stated, it is repeated that the Constitution should be let alone. The exception does not exist, and our critic does not show that it does except by means of a most palpable ipse dixit, wherein he pronounces the present arrangement relating to school finances a "death-dealing blow to the schools outside of Salt Lake City and Ogden." As the system has been in vogue nearly three years and the schools, so far from being dead are very much alive and even apparently flourishing, it would seem that the death-dealing qualities of the blow are so moderate in force and tardy in execution that we might with propriety claim that the schools would manage to survive for, say, two years longer anyway. If this be the case, and there is nothing in the other propositions calling loudly for immediate action, the position first taken by the "News" is thoroughly maintained without reference to subsidiary conclusions, regarding which we are not now discussing but claiming that even they are neither erroneous nor misleading. What is wanted is to preserve the fabric of our commonwealth without teaching the people to resort to quackery for every little ailment. Let the idea be instilled into every mind and heart that a State Constitution, being the foundation and limitation of all our means of asserting right and repelling wrong, is too sacred and important a document to be treated at every opportunity as though it were the merest make-shift—a thing huddled hastily together without consideration, with the expectation that stability and correctness would be conferred upon it by others than its makers. Even if it were in this situation—which it is not—it would be the better plan not to advertise the grievous fact quite so extensively as putting five great patches on it so early in its career would be, so long as we can get along with it at all, as we seem to have done so far without loss of life, liberty or honor.

#### THE GOLD PRODUCT.

The advocates of the gold standard of finance occasionally bolster up their position by referring to the steadily increasing production of gold throughout the world, claiming, in some cases, that the additions to the stock of the yellow metal keep full pace with the increase of business and trade and the conse-

quent demands of the commercial world. Of course there is another side to this, but as it is not the purpose of the "News" to espouse either, no other mention of the dissent need be made. That the discoveries of new gold deposits go steadily along cannot be gainsaid; also is it the case that each year sees a large augmentation of the available gold supply, the full extent of which is ascertained to a nicety.

The director of the mint has just published his report, in which it is shown that the United States' production of gold last year increased by \$4,275,000 over that of 1896. The South African mines showed an increase of \$13,854,192, and those of Australasia made a gain of \$10,502,249 over the previous year. The total product for 1897 was for the United States \$57,363,000, for South Africa \$58,306,600, for Australasia \$55,684,200, and for the whole world \$237,504,800, or about \$35,000,000 more than in the previous year and about double the yield of 1890. The prospect is presented that this year will show a much greater production than even that of last year, which is encouraging as far as it goes.

The report shows that twenty-five states and territories have gold mines, the product of a few of them being, however, altogether trifling, while Colorado heads the list with an output of \$19,104,200; California is a close second—\$14,618,300. It is a curious fact that one of the youngest states of the Union should have displaced the original Golconda of the country and promises to lead every other place of corresponding area in the matter of the yield of gold; also that it should be the banner silver state. Colorado, it will be remembered, gave Bryan the pleasant little reminder of something like 135,000 majority.

#### FOR THE BOYS AT MANILA.

For the information of friends who intend sending Christmas boxes to the boys at Manila the subjoined dates of the departure and arrival of Philippine steamers are published:

Philippine steamers arrive in San Francisco: Nov. 8th, Nov. 22nd, Dec. 6th, Dec. 16th, Dec. 27th, Jan. 6th, Jan. 13th.

Steamers leave San Francisco for Manila via Hongkong on the following dates:

Leave San Francisco.	Arrive Hongkong.
October 20 .....	November 18
October 29 .....	November 27
November 10 .....	December 9
November 19 .....	December 18
November 29 .....	December 28
December 15 .....	January 13
December 24 .....	January 22

Such articles as these would no doubt be most acceptable to the boys:

Canned meat, tongue, chicken, turkey, beef, sardines, bottled pickles, catsup, condensed milk, cheese, needles, thread, buttons, darning cotton, socks, colored handkerchiefs, combs, castile soap, stationery.

#### THE SABBATH QUESTION.

The Sacramento Bee copies a paragraph from the "News" on the desecration of the Sabbath, and comments as follows:

"Opinions may differ as to what is necessary to the improvement, elevation and advancement of mankind in his weekly day of leisure. Some may think that attending church is the proper thing. Others may think that the proper thing is to spend the day at home in one's library. Others may wish to visit the parks and places of

recreation. It is no man's business to question the right of any individual to settle this matter for himself."

The view here expressed involves a great principle. It may be perfectly true that it is no "man's" business what other people do on the day of rest, but does it follow that the manner in which Sunday is to be spent is a matter left to each individual to determine for himself, or herself? We think not. It has been determined by the Divine author of the moral code. It is not optional with man to conform or not to God's commandments. Of course, man is a free agent and can disobey, but not without serious consequences.

The Latter-day Saints understand that in this dispensation, as of old, it is their duty and privilege to keep the Sabbath in accordance with God's laws. Shortly after the revelation on gathering was given, another on the Sabbath followed. It is most instructive. It states that those who have come up to this land with an eye single to the glory of the Almighty are blessed. It promises them rewards of a temporal and spiritual nature—the good things of the earth, commandments and revelations, and crowns in the eternal mansions. And then it outlines their duties. They are commanded to love God and serve Him, and to love their neighbors. They are commanded not to steal, not to be impure, not to kill, but to be thankful to the Lord in all things, and to keep the Sabbath day holy. This is called the Lord's day and to keep it as such is incumbent upon the people of God. Else, why is it given as part of the law against dishonesty, impurity and shedding of blood? It is a day set apart for rest from worldly pursuits and amusements in order that the Saints may appear in the house of prayer and partake of the Sacrament. Modern Christians have much to learn on this point from the ancient covenant people and from the word of God to His people in this age.

#### THE OUTLOOK PROMISING.

The kaleidoscopic work of the peace commission at Paris is nowhere more closely noted than in Utah. The manner in which the volunteers from all parts have been treated is not stimulating to the patriotic purpose; the fact that a war has had a sequel more terrible than itself, that out of nearly 3,000 men slain less than ten per cent were killed by the enemy, has a dampening effect upon all classes here and elsewhere. Then the situation at Manila is by no means reassuring, not because of the fear of trouble or loss of life, which may come to pass, but because at this distance and judging by all the accounts put together, it looks as if sufficient consideration for the soldiers' welfare were not the rule. By this time there should be no lack of proper food and clothing—shelter they have and it is good—and the best of attendance when sick; indeed, with everything working as it should work, regarding men who have surrendered everything but life to the country and are ready to surrender it if necessary, there should be fewer complaints, as we are well assured there would be if there were less cause for them.

Upon those who are scanning the news reports with so much interest, there is something in our dispatches today that will bestow at least a crumb of comfort. It seems that the deliberations are to be hastened and that no serious disagreements are occurring or have occurred. It seems to be tacitly understood that Spain is to give up the Philippines, and it is intimated that Spain will consent if some sort of concession be made in consideration of her