

us the necessary aid and "we will open rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys," and make the west the "crowning land" of our country.

But, gentlemen, in my earnestness that something of good may come of this Congress, I have wandered from my purpose, which was but to cordially welcome you, in the name of all the people of Utah, to extend to you such hospitalities as we can offer and to express the hope that the conclusions you reach, may attain to a dignity and wisdom which will command the national attention.

A round of applause followed the close of Governor Thomas' address.

Mayor Scott, of Salt Lake, was then introduced and delivered the following address of welcome:

MAYOR SCOTT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen—Our Governor has welcomed you in behalf of the whole Territory, and in the interest of that great belt of our country known as the arid region.

I am pleased to add the special welcome of Salt Lake City, and to assure you our citizens are gratified that your convention is held in their city.

No place in the United States can have a deeper interest in your deliberations and in the subjects you will discuss. In the parts of the country where the rainfall is timely and abundant, the people cannot appreciate the controlling importance of the subject of irrigation. Here, the experience of the people has taught them its importance, and they have learned the beneficial result that may be attained by it. Here, the old settlers can show some of the first irrigation ditches made in Utah. You can see our city and valley, and the contrast between the lands under irrigation and lands equally as good, which have not been irrigated; and this contrast will show how dependent our prosperity in the way of agriculture is upon the diversion of our waters from their natural channels, and their distribution over lands otherwise too arid for successful tillage.

Irrigation is almost as vital to successful agriculture in these intermountain regions as the circulation of the blood to the living organization.

With these object lessons before your eyes, you will scarcely need my assurances of welcome, or doubt that the citizens of Salt Lake City will appreciate your discussions, and follow them with the deepest interest; or that the sympathies of the whole community will attend your efforts to devise methods for utilizing our waters to the utmost, and thus enlarging the tillable area of the country and promoting the prosperity of its people.

I can only repeat the welcome of our city and leave you to consider the important subject before your convention, from which, we, in common with the people of the whole arid zone, hope to derive great benefits; and we hope you may find our city an agreeable place for your deliberations, and carry away with you, when your labors are over, only pleasant recollections of your visit here.

The mayor's speech was received with a hearty cheer. Mr. Fred Simon, president of the Chamber of Commerce, was then introduced and addressed the assembly.

[The News had the promise of a copy of Mr. Simon's address, which was read from manuscript, but by some accident, when it was too late for remedy, the copy did not come to hand.]

Mr. Simon's address was a happy termination of the speeches of welcome.

Col. Donnellan was elected temporary chairman and Mr. Gillespie secretary.

A brisk debate followed over the question appointing a committee on resolutions under the temporary organization. The member from Nevada, who was the most earnest in the debate, evidently had something on his mind that he wanted to spring as early as possible, and took this method of clearing the way for it. A member from California objected to the innovation and the resolution committee had to wait for permanent organization. In the meantime the roll was called for nominations to the committees on credentials and permanent organization and order of business, and a recess was taken for five minutes.

As the assembly rose, Mr. Gillespie rose with it and read the following self-explanatory letter:

Gov. A. L. Thomas, Chairman Utah Delegation:

Dear Sir.—The fruit shippers of Brigham and Willard cities of Box Elder county have sent down samples of fruit raised on dry, gravelly soil by irrigation; also fifty cases of peaches, which they invite the members of the Irrigation Congress to freely sample. Respectfully,
J. S. PETERS.

It required no roll call to determine that the fruit sampling was the next in the order of business.

At twenty minutes to 2 o'clock the assembly was called to order and several more Territories were given representation on the temporary committees.

A California member moved that upon adjournment the several delegations meet before the platform for organization.

It was carried with the amendment that they meet before the peach stand.

Before adjournment Brigham and Willard were given a vote of thanks for their contribution to the congress.

The congress then adjourned till 3:30.

The committee on interior irrigation have made the following report to the congress, which was circulated among the delegates in printed form this morning:

To the Delegates to the Irrigation Congress, in convention assembled:

Gentlemen—You are gathered together here today from all the territory embraced in the arid region, and as an intelligent body of men are here representing your each particular section for the purpose of determining the most feasible as well as the cheapest method of watering, by irrigation or otherwise, the vast area that is not now cultivated, owing to the fact that the waters in the arid belt are not utilized to their fullest extent. Many questions that heretofore have remained unanswered will be brought before you as a body, and with you will rest the difficulty in discovering the solution of the problem that has kept our beautiful country from occupying a front place in the ranks as an agricultural territory in these United States. Among the questions of many that will be brought to your notice, the following, which occur

to the undersigned committee, will no doubt receive attention at your hands:

1. How much area is there now in the arid belt that is not cultivated; that owing to its elevation above streams that could be diverted for irrigation purposes cannot be used?

2. What is the area that could be irrigated if the waters of the various streams not now diverted for this purpose were utilized?

3. What expanse of territory is being irrigated now?

4. What is the total valley acreage in the arid belt?

5. How much water would there be needed to irrigate this broad area, and how much water in inches is there that could be utilized if the waters of all the springs, rivers and lakes, as well as the snow and rainfall, if same were properly cared for by storage, or otherwise?

6. Do you believe in the storage system, as proposed by the Congress of the United States? If not, where are its weakest points?

7. Do you believe that explosives fired at a high elevation will precipitate moisture?

The foregoing are a few of the many interrogatories that will no doubt be brought to your notice. In determining these questions, you must not lose sight of the fact that in this vast region represented by you in convention there are springs whose remedial effects are incalculable, the waters of which are sought for various purposes aside from the irrigation of lands and value. The most remarkable group of springs of them all, as you are no doubt aware, are the Soda Springs in the State of Idaho, from whence comes that most delicious and palatable of all natural mineral waters—the Idanha. This water will be served you free during this convention, and you must be the judges of its purity, taste, effect and the other essentials which go to make it the name it has so fairly won—The Empress of Table Waters. It is bottled just as it flows from the famous Soda Springs in Idaho, and is for sale by all first-class grocers, druggists and bars throughout this vast country. It is a perfect diluent with all wines, liquors and cordials, and without question makes the finest lemonade in the world.

Analysis cards, printed matter and other information that you may desire in regard to this water will be cheerfully furnished by calling at the office of the Natural Mineral Water company, 61 and 65 Hooper building, Salt Lake City, they being the sole bottlers of same.

We trust that your stay in our beautiful city will be enjoyed by you all, and that your labors, while being arduous, will be pleasant as well, and to those who make this, their first visit, with the others who have been here before, we sincerely hope that they will come again, and come often, as our latch-string is out to all who wish to pull it.

Thanking you for your attention, we are,
Respectfully,

W. J. McINTYRE,
W. H. REMINGTON,
HIRAM JOHNSON,
B. K. BLOCK,
F. J. KESSEL,

Committee on Interior Irrigation.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Sept. 15, 1891.

Following are the committee organizations: On credentials, Judge Dusenberry of Provo, chairman; Mr. D. N. Winger of New Mexico, secretary.

On order of business: Judge C. W. Irish of Nevada, chairman; M. W. F. Perkins of the San Francisco Examiner, secretary.

On permanent organization: Judge V. H. Grinstead of Kansas, chairman; Col. O. J. Hollister, secretary.