

garrison. Some years ago, when the wires, loaded with heavy electric charges, began to go up everywhere, I predicted that there would be danger of the firemen receiving deadly shocks by the electricity running down the streams of water which might cross the wires. The insurance people laughed at the idea. But I tried it on a cat, and the cat and I found my theory to be true. That is to say, I did, and the cat found it out if there is another world for cats. He never knew anything about it in this world.

"In each fort I would put an alternating machine of 20,000 volts capacity. One wire would be grounded. A man would govern a stream of water of about 400 pounds pressure to the square inch, with which 20,000 volts of alternating current would be connected. The man would simply move this stream of water back and forth with his hand, playing on the enemy as they advanced and mowing them down with absolute precision.

"Every man touched by the water would complete the circuit, get the full force of the alternating current and never know what happened to him. The men trying to take the fort by assault, though they might come by tens of thousands against a handful, would be cut to the ground beyond any hope of escape. Foreign soldiers undertaking to whip America could walk around such a fort as mine, but they never could go through it. It would not be necessary to deal out absolute death unless the operator felt like it. He could modify the current gently so as simply to stun everybody, then walk outside his fort, pick up the stunned generals and others worth keeping for ransom or exchange, make prisoners also of the others, if convenient, or if not convenient turn on the full force of the current, play the hose on them once more and send them to the happy hunting grounds for good."

COINAGE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

THE Hon. William M. Springer, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, has an article entitled "An International Monetary Conference" in the *North American Review* for March. Judging from the action of the Democratic caucus on the silver question in Washington yesterday, Mr. Springer's article would seem to foreshadow the attitude of his party toward that issue. He is in favor of postponing all legislative consideration of free-coinage until the next Congress, not on account of antagonism to the measure, but simply because, in his opinion, there is no possibility of such a bill becoming law in the present Congress. He admits that it would pass the House, might pass the Senate, but would never receive the assent of the President, and there is not strength enough in either House to pass it over a veto. Viewing it in this light, the hope of free-coinage of silver becoming a law must be deferred until December 1893, when the next Congress meets.

Mr. Springer makes an argument in favor of an international monetary congress to be held in Chicago in 1893. He holds that there is nothing lacking now to make the civilized world one vast commercial family but uniformity in coinage, weights and measures. Steam, electricity, the printing press and universal intelligence have already done much in a cosmopolitan sense, and have established inter-

national relations of mutual interest and profit. In view of all this it seems strange that attempts are not being made to secure international uniformity of coinage, weights and measures, and also agreement as to the relation which should be maintained between gold and silver. But the time is near at hand when the exigencies of commerce will demand of the nations uniformity in these matters.

A most appropriate time and place for the holding of this congress would be in Chicago in 1893, during the World's Columbian Exposition. The products of all civilized nations will be there exhibited. The value, weight and measure of these products will be expressed in different terms. In this respect the Exposition will be somewhat of a commercial Babel. This fact impresses itself on the progressive minds of the nations, and the necessity for international uniformity will be clearly demonstrated.

The government of the United States should provide properly for the assembling of such a congress, and the President ought to be authorized to invite all nations with which diplomatic relations are maintained to send representatives.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE Chamber of Commerce in this city has become a valuable institution, and bids fair to be of much greater benefit to the city than in the past. We say this because gradually all sectional and sectarian influences have been banished from it, until, today, it is as free from them as is any other institution of the kind in the country. Business men can now meet and combine for business interests without any allusion to "Mormon" or "Gentile," Democrat or Republican, old settler or new-comer. And efforts can be made for the commercial and industrial interests of the city, which formerly were either impossible or unlikely to effect anything.

The transportation question is one of immense import to this city, and in securing the services of an experienced and competent agent, who is also the secretary of the institution, a good stroke of policy has been made.

The attention of all our active business men is directed to the Chamber, and we believe it will be found to their individual interest, as well as to the general welfare, if that institution shall secure their universal support. To be a member of it is in itself a certificate of commercial standing. We desire to see it flourish and command the influence it should exercise throughout the commercial world.

IMPORTANT BILL ON WATER RIGHTS

A VERY important bill is now pending in the Legislative Council. Its object is to protect, in their lawful rights, the owners of the use of water for agricultural, manufacturing or domestic use. At present the claims to these rights are in a very unsatisfactory condition.

A measure was passed some years ago which would have brought order

out of the chaos existing, if it had not been that the courts pronounced it invalid. The defect was, we believe, in clothing the County Courts, as Water Commissioners, with powers that the District Courts decided to be judicial and in excess of their lawful authority.

The bill under consideration requires every person, company or corporation claiming water rights to file a statement under oath with the Recorder of the county, setting forth that claim with a full description of the source of supply, etc., and the amount of water claimed. This is to be done on or before September 1st, 1892. The Recorder may charge half the fee for recording deeds, for filing and indexing the statement.

Any person or company hereafter desiring to appropriate water and build or extend any ditch or canal for that purpose must make a similar filing and comply with other specified provisions for the purpose.

The right to unappropriated waters in any natural source of supply is given to any person or company desiring to build reservoirs and make necessary canals and ditches for irrigating domestic or other beneficial purposes. But existing vested rights are guarded and maintained.

The measurement of water used for beneficial purposes is hereafter to be in terms of cubic inches per second or in miner's inches; the miner's inch to be one fiftieth of one cubic foot per second; one cubic foot per second is to be the duty for irrigation of one hundred acres of land.

A new office is created, that of Territorial Engineer of Irrigation and Forestry, with very extensive powers, to be appointed by the Governor and Legislative Council. We will not enumerate all these powers but specify one which needs particular attention. He is to verify the statements spoken of and approve the same if found substantially correct; also to make or cause to be made the measurements and calculations of the discharge of streams from which water is taken for beneficial uses.

There are many good points aimed at in this bill. The purpose in view is praiseworthy. There ought to be some definite manner of establishing beyond question the rights of every claimant to the use of the public waters, also to establish the system of measurement. But we are not sure that this bill is just what is wanted. A Territorial Engineer would no doubt be a valuable officer. But the powers conferred upon him by this bill seem to us altogether too great to be imposed upon one man. For instance:

All the claims for water rights in this Territory are to be passed upon by him before they can be recorded! How can he determine their validity? If the County Courts could not legally do this, how can one appointed executive officer do it. And if he were legally competent would any one man be physically or mentally competent for this gigantic labor?

Think of the work, too, of making or causing to be made all the measurements and calculations of discharge of streams from which water is taken in this Territory, to say nothing of other powers and duties which we do not take time