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IN ADVANCE.

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TO CLOSE OR NOT TO CLOSE.

Perhaps it would have been as well if the arrangement between the United States and the state of Illinois had been more explicit and a little better understood all around. The spectacle which is now presented to the people of the world of the two sovereignties being at loggerheads over a matter which to many seems to admit of no controversy, and to others appears too trifling to justify a squabble of any kind, is decidedly humiliating to the patriotic mind and not in the least edifying to anybody.

The question at issue is whether the government or the state is paramount in its control of the World's Exposition. The former has decreed that the gates and all places within the gates shall be closed on Sunday, while the latter, holding the home control to be the direct and therefore superior one, insists on the Sabbath day being only an imaginary designation of time and like all other days to be considered but as a convenient aid to checking up business. The state authorities have therefore appeared from the order of the circuit court closing the Fair.

The act of Congress bringing the show into existence and furnishing the wherewith to set it in motion ought, it seems to us, to settle the matter. The government became thereby the author and custodian of the enterprise, not of course to the exclusion of the local authorities but jointly with them and entitled to prevail in all disputed matters. At least one of the directors who favored Sunday opening was shrewd enough to see this point and admit its force, for he proposed to refund to the government the money it had advanced to start the enterprise, in order that the state might properly assume complete control and open and close whenever it saw fit. It would seem that some such course was a prerequisite to ousting the Federal authority, and it is not certain that even then the end sought could be accomplished.

Many things plausible and seemingly proper have been urged in behalf of the Sunday opening, but it is plain to be seen that the other side have made out a very strong case. Laying aside the question that appeals most strongly to the Christian mind in this Christian land, that looks upon all forms of systematic diversion on the Sabbath day as a desecration to some extent, and viewing the whole matter as a question of law pure and simple, it still bears the appearance of a strong case for the closers. The government's control is constitutional with the enterprise itself and the desire of certain stockholders in the corporation as against that of the controlling power can

amount, it would seem, to no more than ineffectual opposition unless they can either buy it out or buy it off—neither plan seeming altogether practicable just now. It is urged, and not without reason, that to shut off labor, by letting the machinery rest and permit the people to pass through and view the works and grounds cannot be essentially harmful at any time, and it may be that some such compromise plan will be adopted; certainly the gates were open yesterday, and whether they will be hereafter or not we expect to know some time this week.

BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

We note with much pleasure the establishment in New York of a bureau of irrigation information whose object, well set forth in the prospectus recently issued, can scarcely fail to be of benefit to that immense section of our public domain known as the arid region. The chief aim will be to encourage, promote and organize land settlement in connection with irrigation enterprise. To do this it is essential to educate the whole country into the importance and significance of the economic development now under way. How important that is may be seen by the fact that within five years, and without special notoriety, at least \$50,000,000 has been invested in irrigation work for reclamation purposes. The great need of organizing land settlement can be illustrated by the further fact, as stated by so eminent an authority as the bureau's consulting expert and counsel, Col. Richard J. Hinton, that the area cultivated by irrigation is less than 9,000,000 acres, while the area under works and ready for occupancy at the close of 1892 was not less than 26,000,000 acres. Settlement has, therefore, not kept pace with investment. The purpose of the bureau will be to organize the means of lessening the difference between these two forces.

It is also proposed to begin at once the publication of *The Irrigation Market*, which periodical will present each month a complete list of new enterprises and the progress of those under way, give details of projects before the investing market and offer a summary of settlement and colony information. Other objects of the bureau are: to maintain offices in New York and Chicago, with agencies in Boston, Philadelphia and Washington; a library of reference being provided in New York, where also will be kept files of Western journals and all available data; to devote itself especially to the encouragement and organization of land settlement, with an ample staff of resident correspondents, agents, engineers, experts, real estate men, etc., in all sections of the West; to disseminate general articles, special reports, etc., through the agricultural, horticultural, financial, religious, fraternal, city and county press, and to reach the more important literary periodicals by articles carefully prepared, over the signatures of well-known writers; to keep a record of investors and others interested in irrigation securities, etc.; also of all canal companies seeking capital in the Eastern and European

markets; a record of land values, market quotations, production, settlement, etc., answer all inquiries for information, cost of labor, supplies, etc., and from investors to give such particulars as are required in relation to irrigation enterprises and investments, etc., etc.

The offices of the bureau are at 61 Broadway, New York, and Charles S. King, the well known newspaper man of Ogden, and later of Tulsa city, where he was connected with the *Irrigation Age* and is still its eastern representative, is secretary and office manager. As above stated Col. R. J. Hinton, the eminent Washington engineer, explorer and scientist, is consulting irrigation expert. The project has entered upon a vast field, but with good management it ought to fulfill every expectation of its promoters and of those who, being residents of and interested in the arid section, wish it well.

THAT "COINCIDENCE."

The paragrapher and the Associated Press agent are constantly on the alert for a juicy, readable, and if possible a startling item of news, gossip or rumor; and having to keep up a certain measure of quantity as well as degree of quality they are doubtless put to some straits sometimes and in the absence of actual happenings resort to that inexhaustible field, the imagination, at the same time deriving as much of aid and comfort from comment and suggestion regarding things that have occurred or that are likely to occur as they can reasonably work in as wool for the warp of otherwise unmixt invention. It is doubtless a more trying performance at times than the outsider knows or has any conception of.

With all this understood and for the purpose of discussion of the subject received as so much by way of defense, we are still at a loss to comprehend why the sagacious and industrious mind that prepared the report of the awful tragedy at Ford's theater, Washington, last week was able to discover a "remarkable coincidence" in that event and Edwin Booth's funeral occurring at the same time. About the same time, also, the injunction restraining the World's Fair managers from opening the gates of the great show on Sunday was promulgated; cannot a tie be established there too? And then the declaration of some of the papers that the "superstitious will attribute something beyond the ordinary as the cause of two such events coming together" is as nearly ludicrous as anything having so serious a foundation can well be.

Surely the imagination which is enabled to trace a coincidence to the trace of sad happenings of Friday last because the subject of one of them was a brother of the man who many years ago caused a national calamity where the other one occurred, is too active for general use. His conclusion in this case savors somewhat of the plots of some of our more recent dramatic ventures—the important elements of relationship and consistency are wanting. It evinces a similar bent of mind to that of the good old lady who refused to