

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE OGDEN CANYON HORROR.

The coroner's jury in the frightful explosion fatality which occurred in Ogden canyon on Wednesday, the 8th, has held an investigation and returned a verdict to the effect that while the tragedy resulted from a premature discharge of powder, the jurors exonerate any and all persons from any criminal neglect or intent. This sustains the view which has generally prevailed since the terrible accident occurred, for nearly all who knew anything about the matter were utterly unwilling to believe that any element of criminal negligence had entered into the awful affair. With some knowledge of the men and methods employed on the work in question, the NEWS was unwilling to believe that anything more than possibly one or a few persons' acts of omission or commission could be open to censure. Even this latter possibility is now not warranted; the event is terrible enough as it stands without adding in the least to its darkness.

This is by far the worst thing of the kind yet recorded in Utah. Five men blown into eternity and five more seriously injured that some of them may die, is an awful tale to tell and one whose horrors for a time at least must grow rather than diminish. Sounds of lamentation will be heard, and for these words of regret are no palliation. Of course generous and as nearly as possible adequate action will be taken; the sufferers must have the best care and attention that can possibly be procured, and the dependencies of the dead and wounded not be overlooked or uncared for. Neither will this be much solace to those who linger and those who mourn, but it is the best that can be done now and should not be restricted or held back in the slightest. It is a subject calling forth the utmost sadness not only from those near at hand, but from all others to whom the ghastly news shall come.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

In another column will be found a letter from a correspondent in Sevier county, criticising some details in the French or metric system of weights and measures. We are always pleased to give every side of a question that is up for public discussion, and this metric system is just now of great prominence by reason of the favor it has found in the Utah Constitution and Legislature and also in the national Congress. It is true that last Wednesday's treatment of the case by the House of Representatives in Washington, upon the favorable report of the committee on coinage, weights and measures, was somewhat disturbing; but this, we would fain believe, was due more to a misunderstanding than to real hostility. At any rate, the movement for the adoption of a rational, intelligible, accurate and universal system of weights and measures, such as the metric system is, is growing

with sure rapidity, and the establishment of the innovation is but a matter of very brief time. As indicating the interest that is taken in the subject, Hon. Spencer Clawson of this city invites our attention to the fact that the Dry Goods Economist, the leading journal of its kind in America, devotes a whole page of its issue of April 4 to the advocacy of, struggle for, and favorable comments upon, the measure now pending in Congress; and in this connection it makes the following allusion to the work of a Utah champion:

In the Senate an energetic campaign in favor of the passage of the Hurley bill is being made by Senator Cannon, the junior member of that body, who enjoys the distinction of having been selected by the Governor of the newest State in the Union to push this progressive and enlightened legislation. Mr. Cannon finds that in the finance committee the bill has found many friends, and it is a significant fact that Senator Aldrich, one of the leading members of the committee, has for several years been engaged in gathering a library devoted to the metric system, which is now one of the most complete in the country. In this work he has been ably assisted by Mr. Durfee, the secretary of the committee, who has made a special study of the history of the adoption of the system in various foreign countries.

ORDINATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD.

The following letter comes from Croydon, Morgan county:

To the Editor:

The NEWS being the authorized organ of the Church, I have thought proper to submit the following items for your kind consideration, hoping that you may deem them of sufficient importance to justify you in publishing the desired information in the NEWS:

First—Is it proper, when ordaining a person to an office in the Aaronic Priesthood, to say in the ceremony, "I ordain (or confer upon) you to the Aaronic Priesthood and ordain you to the office of Teacher," or "Priest," as the case may be? Would it not be better to say, "I ordain you a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood?"

Second—In ordaining a person to the office of a Seventy, is it right to say, "I confer upon you the Melchisedek Priesthood and Apostleship, and ordain you a Seventy?"

Third—Will you please publish what is considered a proper ceremony in ordaining the following—a Teacher, Elder and Seventy?

Many young Elders are at a loss to know just what constitutes a proper ordination, and an answer to the above will be much appreciated by

A YOUNG ELDER.

In response to the foregoing inquiries we will suggest, as we have had occasion to do on several other occasions when commenting upon this matter, that there is no set form of words to be used in ordination, but there is a definite rule or principle to be guided by. The essential features are that the person or persons performing the ordination do so: 1—By virtue of the authority they possess to make the ordination; 2—In the name of the Lord; and 3—By ordaining to the office intended. This done, and the

work is complete. For instance, the person performing the ceremony may say, "I ordain you a Seventy in the holy Melchisedek Priesthood," etc., or "I ordain you a Seventy," etc., leaving out the last five words in the first quotation, and the effect would be complete. A Seventy is not ordained to the Melchisedek Priesthood "and Apostleship." One of that office may be commonly designated as "an apostle of the Seventy," as is the custom with many, but when it comes to ordination to "the Apostleship in the Melchisedek Priesthood," that relates to another and higher office. From what appears in our correspondent's questions, and those of others that have been submitted from time to time, there must be numerous cases where many more words than are necessary are used in ordinations.

For the benefit of the inquirer and others in like frame of mind, we will call attention to the proceedings of an Elders' conference held in the Salt Lake Stake of Zion January 19, 1895, which were duly published in the NEWS. Several questions of special interest to those holding the Priesthood were asked and answered, among them this:

In ordaining brethren should we say: "Receive ye all the power of the Melchisedek Priesthood," or simply say: "We ordain you an Elder?" Does he receive a fulness of authority and Priesthood when ordained an Elder?

To this the following reply was made by the presidency of the Stake:

In ordaining Elders say after this manner: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the authority of the holy Priesthood vested in me (or us), I (or we) ordain you an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and seal upon you every key, power, right and privilege pertaining to this high and holy calling. Amen." If you have the proper authority, such a man is ordained an Elder. Never mind considering the question as to whether he is more than an Elder. Let him magnify this calling or office, and there is ample scope for the exercise of all his talents and ability, and if he will faithfully perform his duty he will thus qualify himself to act in other offices of the Priesthood to which he may hereafter be called and ordained.

The advice here given is applicable to all the ordinations our correspondent refers to, and covers the ground thoroughly.

We have a further word of counsel at this time: It would be a very proper thing for those who have questions of this character to ask to follow the example given at the Elders' conference referred to—submit them to the presidency of the Stake in which the inquirers reside, and receive the reply of that presidency after it has considered fully the matter and, if occasion has required, has obtained instruction from superior officers. No such inquiry may expect to be met with a snub; if it is a proper question it will be answered, and if it is improper that information will be conveyed. There have been submitted to the NEWS many questions that belonged only in quorum or in private discussions, and these we have been compelled to ignore, because their sacred character was such that a public discussion thereon would be unseemly—there are some things that belong