

Written for this Paper

THE OLD STORY REPEATED.

The story of union was presented to the Saints on the sixth of April, eighteen hundred and thirty. Prominent historic evidences of its value and power have been multiplied since that, to say nothing of the myriad circumstances where it has been felt without so much as mention.

Your correspondent's views of a week ago indicated a direction where a few years ago it was as beneficent in its operations as a Godlike principle could be, save as continuance would have increased and enlarged its potency, while now it appears to be well nigh forgotten.

In 1868 when President Young inaugurated that movement which culminated in Z. C. M. I., it was under the decided idea that "the people of Utah possessed within themselves brain enough to do their own business." Desultory individuals had exhibited considerable ability, but it can fairly be said that the bulk of our mercantile business was done by outsiders, and even much of our export depended upon those who, bringing goods here, exchanged the same for flour, oats, fruit, hides, stock, butter, eggs, and whatever was then comeatable for exchange.

But Z. C. M. I. was the parent of all succeeding organizations conducted by home ability; and while some enterprises seemed to fail, yet the worst was educational, and the people in all directions were beginning to exhibit an increase of that spirit of self-reliance, which might today have controlled all the imports and exports, for the majority at least, although both have assumed mammoth proportions within the last few years, and owing to causes tribute has been and is now being paid to many firms, dealers and branches which at the time alluded to were nearly unknown!

The preaching and partial practice of what was designated the New Order came indirectly from Z. C. M. I. or from its first success; and as a factor, was the general panic of that period which had never been rivalled in the history of the country. The time seemed opportune for such union among the Saints as had been predicted, and as a consequence cherished in the hearts of the people; a condition when stewardship would take the place of individual or personal pursuit, an order of society indicated by the name "Zion" which was to have "no poor in all her borders!" What further developments might have come, had not the brave and heroic leader been summoned to the other side may not be known; but measurable stagnation after that was inevitable, and it was near two years after this event when President Taylor called for delegates from the several Stakes and there was formed the General—or Central—Board of Trade, which was to be advisory of the Stake auxiliary boards to be every where organized, for the purposes indicated in the articles of association and succeeding circulars.

The documents make good and suggestive reading today. The intent was to encourage and establish manufactures, to regulate the sale of produce, to become a series of

working and executive business organizations, harmoniously seeking the temporal salvation of the entire Mormon people. It seems inseparable from history, that whenever any beneficial project was afoot for the benefit of the people of Zion, all the malignity of the opposition has been evoked to frustrate and prevent success, and instances in great number could be given as evidences of this fact. In this special instance, when unanimity was growing, when prices of produce were being held up, and the masses were prospering exceedingly, and promise was beyond all past experience, that infamous raid was commenced which compelled almost every leading citizen into exile or into privacy, the organizations meanwhile struggling along in a decapitated condition, until finally they succumbed to compulsory inaction.

Nevertheless, it had been demonstrated that something—nay, much—could be done. The brains were there, the situation was grasped, executive ability was developed, there was progress without a boom; trade without competition; a market found for all surplus, and confidence grew in its natural soil as one of the products of business capacity. If here and there one stood aloof, they had evidences that unity was not only more potent, but it was more profitable than can individual effort be, save in rare and exceptional cases, and so such became not only converted but united as well.

President Taylor's death came at an unexpected time, when governmental clemency seemed to be deferred, but the boom came also, and like the ram in the hicket, which it was, all its advocates craved the release of Isaac and the withdrawal of that pressure which bound in chains that Utah which they wanted as a grand bonanza. The monetary temptation had its weight with many, the Church was also crippled by confiscation, and to drift for the moment seemed to be alone possible or advisable! Then unexpectedly came the founding of the sugar industry, the building of Saltair, the completion of the Temple, and the amalgamation of stranger elements in the furtherance of business prosperity, which finally declared the essential necessity of the old, old theory of home manufacture, even if Utah was to be quickened by the Gentile's adoption of that anthem which had been sung for years long past by all authority, and repeated in every home, and had been the ambition once of almost every heart!

These things were all phenomenal in their way, have had their influence, and now the people are confronted by some things, probably overlooked under the excitement of the past. It has been seen how easy in the fulfillment of prophecy changes can be wrought out, how comparative isolation could be more than temporary, how increased self-reliance would benefit the people; and how in turmoil some may look yet to Utah for bread, clothing and supplies; that in fact this may yet be the Egypt for the hungry and the destitute and disconsolate from afar.

Can anything be suggested which would be more like temporal salvation to the people of Utah than the old in-

spirational movements and organizations? Our prominent and enterprising citizens are in the main at home again. They have not lost their past experience; produce of all kinds may possibly be abundant; competition as to sales may become abnormal; strangers may seek to buy or control our breadstuff as they are controlling our export of stock and wool, and the times seem remarkably propitious for the resurrection of "boards of trade," with all the objects prominent in circulars and articles to which allusion has been made. Unity in buying and selling, unity in controlling and disposing of surplus, unity in creating and using home made goods, unity in importing, guarding in transit, distributing at home, exchanging and handling, are more imperative now than ever; and there is no more sense in giving the profits of our stock, our wool, our wheat, our fruit, or anything else which comes from labor, to strangers than there was twenty-five years ago, when Z. C. M. I. was established, or fifteen years ago, when boards of trade were generally organized to guide our temporal interests, and secure to the individual producer more than he could possibly secure for himself!

Dollars count now; if not all important, they affect our ability to sustain our families, to pay our taxes, to sustain enterprise, to fill our special duties which everybody understands; and if ever there was virtue in organization, surely it has not been exhausted; if ever there was wisdom in counsel it is needed now; if ever unity was an indispensable of progress, prosperity and success, it is none the less so today, and the Saints—the people of Utah—need all the proven aids of the past, and they may possibly need some as yet unthought of, when new experiences which are inevitable may come upon them.

Shall we say, now, for boards of trade? now, for united exportation and importation? now, for unity temporal and spiritual? now, for standing by each other and creating home industries and using home manufactures? It is an old story, the old sermon, but it has never been gainsaid, and it will never be obsolete, and all the future depends upon this unity! That which has wrought wonders in the past and glorified persistent effort can do so today; that which was good for the fathers and leaders who have passed away, for us who testified of their work and our own, will be good for the generations after us, though they be multiplied as snowflakes in winter, or as the stars in heaven!

Jake Olmstead, better known in Denver as "Big Jake," one of the owners of the "Hub" saloon on Seventeenth street, has just died after an illness of a few days. Jake was known as the biggest man in Denver, weighing about 350 pounds, his tall and mammoth proportions attracting attention everywhere and making him well known to all who ever saw him. Mr. Olmstead was a cowboy up to a few years ago when he located in Denver, in the saloon business, and up to that time was a comparatively thin man for his height. As a cowboy he was known all over the cattle country. He was born in Indiana.