

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

UTAH SHOULD DO SOMETHING.

As the San Juan country has been receiving considerable notice of late, owing to the Indian trouble, there is connected with that region one feature which should receive attention from the people of Utah, as it is of special interest to them, regardless of creed or politics. San Juan county is part of the home of the ancient cliff dwellers, and as such is the repository of many relics of that people, whose history is enshroued in mystery to so many, yet possesses an intense fascination for all who give it even a small measure of attention.

Now that there is a probability of a large increase of population in that county by an influx of settlers, some active steps should be taken, to be effective in the near future, to preserve the antiquities now so easily obtainable. It is true that many and valuable relics have been borne away, some destroyed, and most of them far beyond the reach of the people of Utah. But even yet there is opportunity to secure to this Territory a vast permanent collection that would be of inestimable value to the present and to coming generations. There are buildings of considerable size, which have been discovered recently, which are sure to yield rich reward to the explorer, and will be turned to their own benefit by outside parties unless some steps are taken to make them available for home instruction and use. Then there are yet unexplored some regions that may yield important returns. On this subject we are reminded of a recommendation made to the Territorial Legislature three years ago by Gov. A. L. Thomas, in which he said:

In southeastern Utah can be found many cliff dwellers in an excellent state of preservation. Some have been discovered within a few miles of Bluff City, which contains many rare and interesting relics. My object in calling your attention to the matter is to suggest the propriety of making a collection of these relics of a vanished race, for preservation by the Territory. I am informed that these cliff dwellers are rapidly being despoiled of their relics for the use of eastern museums, and in some instances for museums in foreign lands. In 1890 two persons made a collection of over 2,500 pieces which are now being exhibited in the East.

Nothing was done at that time, for reasons which seemed satisfactory to the legislators. Time has passed on, and the opportunity of a valuable collection to the Territory is prospectively passing away. It would be a discredit to the new State of Utah if, in future years, one of her notable attractions shall not be an extensive museum containing American antiquities and relics of the cliff dwellers in the form of an aggregation of specimens not to be surpassed on the continent. There should be some movement among our public spirited men, looking to the preservation and collection of these antiquities, preparatory at least to securing State aid at an opportune

time to do active service ere it is too late. Our public educational institutions ought to have such interest in this subject as will arouse a public sentiment that will not fail of success in accomplishing the desired purpose.

COMPROMISE REACHED.

It is a source of gratification to the people of Salt Lake and Utah counties to realize that, in the long standing and vexatious suits regarding the waters of the Utah Lake as they are removed from Jordan river by various irrigating canals, a final compromise has been reached as to the precise point to be known as low water mark. The stipulation on this particular item of controversy is found in another part of this issue of the NEWS, as is also an agreement on some other features of the case, including the reference of certain matters to a board of arbitration composed of a leading citizen from each of three counties, Utah, Weber and Salt Lake. The remaining question at issue, as to whether the canal companies are authorized to keep certain planks in the river without instruction or permission from the Utah Lake commission, may require legal adjudication; but if this is not a necessity it is hoped that this point of dispute will be settled as the others have been.

The issues which were connected with the controversy were of grave importance to both counties. It has been necessary for the canal taking water from the Jordan for irrigating lands in Salt Lake county to get the full benefit of the stream so far as their rights extended. If this was prevented, naught but injury could result, not only to the county, but to the general welfare of the Territory. At the same time it was necessary to draw the line at a place where a burden of injury should not be thrown on to the people of Utah county, whose rights were as sacred as those of persons beyond the county boundaries. The location of this line has been the occasion of dispute, there having been extreme views taken on both sides, as well as a goodly portion of desire for fairness among the parties directly interested. Many of the chief points in dispute in the original controversy were the subjects of the most important arbitration hearing that has ever taken place in Utah, the decision of whose board has been the basis for every satisfactory settlement subsequently reached.

In the present proceeding those who have evinced a desire to have the matter amicably settled; and to attain this end have been willing to make any reasonable sacrifice of interests claimed, are entitled to warm commendation for the conciliatory spirit manifested. No matter what might have been the result of an enforced adjudication by the courts, there could not have been that satisfied feeling which will come now to both parties. One would have felt aggrieved if its claim had not been

allowed, and the natural gloating of a victor in a bitter contest would not have been conducive to the welfare of either, or to the feeling of brotherhood and union that should exist in this community. The ill-feeling would have been communicated to others, to the destruction of that unanimity of purpose that is essential to the success of our commonwealth in the destiny before her. Now, however, the unpleasant features have been eliminated, and in mutual good feeling all can press forward for the general welfare. Even where there may be some who believe they have not got all they could have secured in a fight to a finish, the consciousness that they have manifested unselfishness and generosity to cement the fraternal bond is the institution of a good cause that will produce effects in harmony with its own nature.

The compromise has come at a good time. Any regret now that it was not reached before are unwise, because unavailing. The agreement has been reached, and is a cause of congratulation. Now let all smaller connecting issues follow the general lead, that every vestige of discord may disappear. And if there are other instances of friction in other parts of the Territory, there is in this case a suggestion that the parties get together in amicable arrangement, that with one accord all may combine and dwell in peace together, enhancing and protecting the interests of the whole.

MUHAMMEDAN PRAYER.

At this time when the Turkish government is freely charged with fostering fanaticism among its Mohammedan subjects and its friends exert themselves to refute such charges, alleging that the reports from Armenia exaggerate or pervert the truth, the following prayer daily repeated at Mohammedan institutes of learning is of interest. It is translated for and published by the Philadelphia Record:

I seek refuge with Allah from Satan, the accursed. In the name of Allah the Compassionate, the Merciful! O Lord of all Creatures! O Allah! Destroy the infidels and polytheists, thine enemies, the enemies of the religion! O Allah! Make their children orphans, and defile their abodes, and cause their feet to slip, and give them, and their families, and their households, and their women, and their children, and their relatives by marriage, and their brothers, and their friends, and their possessions, and their race, and their wealth and their lands, as booty to the moslems, O Lord of all Creatures!

It is evident that as long as sentiments so inhuman, so cruel, find expression in the devotional exercises of the people, it is idle for the sultan to protest his desire to see all his subjects "dwell in equality under his mild and equitable rule;" if he believes in Islam, he believes that the Christians are polytheists and enemies of religion, and, in accordance with the prayer quoted, he must believe that not only their possessions, but also their women and children are the lawful "booty" of the Moslems. Further, as long as such ideas are held by the people, no reforms are possible, because to be effective they would have to commence with the very foundations of Is-