

individuals who have kindly given time and thought in their preparation, and manifest the deep interest felt in matters pertaining to the growth and development of the country. From the originals on file in your office copies of reports from 175 precincts have been received, covering the most important part of Utah. A careful study and compilation of these figures is being made and estimates obtained of the area not reported upon. When this is completed the results will be published at the earliest opportunity in connection with the hydrographic work of this survey.

Very respectfully sir,
C. E. DUTTON, Capt. etc.,
Chief Engineer.

WATER COMPANIES.

A FEW days ago we answered a number of questions relative to the organization of irrigation districts and companies, propounded by a correspondent from Fountain Green. Since then we have received a communication from Zoram Christensen, of that place, putting further queries upon the same subject. Replies to several of his questions are given directly or by implication in our former article. In answer to others we will state: There were laws in the Territory providing for the organization of private corporations before the act was passed under which irrigation districts are created. No matter how few the persons are who object to joining or taking stock in a private company or corporation, there is no legal way of coercing them. Should the water owners of an irrigation district succeed in having the same dissolved, such matters as the organizing of one or more new companies, to be incorporated or otherwise, conflicts among claimants to the same stream, etc., would have to be met as best they might be. They are matters that ought to be considered before a move to dissolve an irrigation district is made. The difference between the powers of the trustees of an irrigation district, and the directors of a private corporation, cannot be stated in detail in a newspaper article. It can only be described in a general way. The Territorial law prescribes the powers of the former, which cannot be increased except by act of the Legislature. The articles of agreement, or charter, adopted by the private corporation at its organization, prescribes the powers of its trustees. It may give them much greater power, and usually does, than the trustees of an irrigation district are permitted to exercise. For example, the latter must obtain a two-thirds vote of the property holders interested before they can cause a canal, etc., to be

constructed, and must report the location and estimated cost of the same to the county court, advertise, etc., before calling a meeting to take a vote. The trustees or directors of a private corporation would, on the other hand, have power, under the usual forms of such charters, to lay out and construct the canal, etc., without any such formalities, or cumbersome procedure.

In treating this subject we have only dealt with general principles and have not attempted to meet the details of any given case. The latter could be done only by an attorney having all the facts and circumstances before him.

FAITH CURE MARTYRS.

A SHORT time since the NEWS treated editorially on the subject of punishing faith cure believers for refusing to administer medicine to their children, or other persons beneath their charge. The New York Sun has the following facts and comments upon a case of this kind:

Four believers in the faith cure, or members of the sect calling themselves New Evangelists, have been sentenced in Brooklyn to pay fines varying from \$100 to \$500, or to stand committed one day for each dollar of the fine. They had refused to give medicine prescribed by physicians for children suffering from diphtheria and scarlet fever. The penalties were imposed under the section of the Penal Code which reads:

Section 288. A person who wilfully omits, without lawful excuse, to perform a duty by law imposed upon him to furnish food, clothing, shelter, or medical attendance to a minor, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The accused undoubtedly violated this provision of the law, and they made no effort to escape apprehension and punishment. Both Larsen and Jansen, the fathers of the sick children, called in physicians in order to comply with a regulation of the Brooklyn board of health, but they openly and stubbornly refused to administer the medicines ordered, on the ground of religious scruples. The two others of the convicted were women of the sect who acted as volunteer nurses. They are all sincere, conscientious, peaceable, and generally law-abiding people, in that respect standing above the average of the community; but they believe that in leaving their sick in the hands of God alone they obey a divine command which no human law can annul. Therefore, so far as the present members of the sect are concerned, such punishments as were inflicted on these four will be of no avail. They look on fines and im-

prisonment as trials sent by God to strengthen their faith. If they can give up their children to death because they believe it to be the divine will, mere temporal penalties inflicted on themselves will, of course, be without effect to change their faith and their practice. But Dr. Bierwirth, a physician to the Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, thinks that "a few severe punishments will frighten off new comers and prevent an increase in their number." We very much question whether that will be the case. The experience of the past is such that fanatics, if you may so call them, are rather multiplied by what they regard as persecution of the world. It affords them an opportunity to manifest before society the strength and sincerity of their convictions, and doubtless, therefore, all these four convicted are now rejoicing that they were chosen of God to be witnesses to the faith. * * *

There are other people besides the New Evangelists who do not believe in doctors or drugs. They throw the doctor's stuff out of the window, preferring to leave the cure to nature. Even now many homœopaths regard the medicines administered by the regular schools as little better than rank poison, and those who trust the old school of medicine look with pity on their neighbors who rely upon homœopathic doctors. There are also minor sects in medicine which distrust both the one and the other.

A SENSIBLE VIEW.

THE Swedish *Herald* (Svenska Harolden) has in this week's issue the following editorial on the People's political work:

"The election is near at hand, and we may therefore expect to see the People's ticket published within a few days. No one knows yet who the gentlemen are that will be on the ticket, but we can assure our readers of this; they will be men who have the confidence of the people, are respected in the community, and capable of performing what will be required of them when elected. We believe, or at least hope, that a Scandinavian will be on the ticket—one who has the respect of his countrymen and others; but we do not care whether he is a Swede, a Dane, or a Norwegian. Of course people frequently differ from each other in estimating a man's ability, but under all circumstances all should be contented with the result of the convention.

Monday, January 24th, primaries were held in all the school districts of the city and delegates were elected to the convention. This convention will meet in a few days and prepare a ticket, and those whom this convention, by a majority of votes, place on the ticket are the People's choice by