

them without a note of warning, and they will want to look into it thoroughly before they decide. However, it is quite likely that as in other things before Congress, the wishes of the majority of the people of Utah will out a very small figure in this national legislation.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

In his last message to Congress President Harrison said: "I deem it to be a matter of the highest concern to the United States that this canal (Nicaragua), connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and giving to us a short water communication between our ports upon those two great seas, should be speedily constructed, and and at the smallest practicable limit of cost." Three hundred years ago a Spanish engineer named Antonio Galvas proposed a scheme for uniting the two oceans, but the Bishop of Madrid entered his veto. In those days the good bishop was even more potent than the King, and when the Galvas project was unfolded, his Grace in holy horror, shrunk at the idea of infringing on the works of the Creator. Of course the King immediately succumbed to the counsel of his prelate, and the Atlantic and Pacific have been left since to lie apart.

During the present century several prominent engineers have given this matter considerable study. Captain Eads conceived the scheme of a ship railway, which at the time was considered practicable. The financial support necessary, however, did not materialize, and the Eads project dropped into forgetfulness.

The idea of DeLesseps was a magnificent one. His sea-level canal at the Isthmus of Panama attracted world-wide attention. His genius and fame as an engineer was such that he easily obtained hundreds of millions of dollars to carry out the work. But the whole scheme collapsed, and nothing now remains of the De Lesseps project but neglected graves, irregular excavation, wrecks of machinery and the memory of wrecked fortunes.

The Nicaragua scheme, which President Harrison so emphatically commends in his message, and for the construction of which he favors United States support, is now the prevailing plan for wedding the oceans. This idea first originated in 1823, when the governments of Nicaragua and the United States entered into negotiation for the purpose of constructing the canal. The matter dropped for some cause or other. In 1826 it was taken up again, but funds could not be raised to undertake the work. In 1838 the

Nicaraguan government made some contracts with Belgians to build a canal, but they, too, failed. In 1850, the late Cornelius Vanderbilt obtained some concessions, but nothing came of them. General Grant revived the idea again in 1869. Surveys were made in 1872-73. In 1884 measures were taken to enter into a treaty with Nicaragua. The treaty was not ratified by the United States Senate, and it was finally withdrawn.

The Nicaragua Canal Company was next organized under the laws of Colorado. It obtained some concessions from Nicaragua and work was commenced. It disclaimed any purpose of asking aid from the United States government. But organization under a State law did not give it prestige enough, and in the Fiftieth Congress a bill was introduced and passed incorporating the Maritime Canal Company. Owing to the exertions of Mr. Holman of Indiana the bill was so amended that the United States government could not be held for any debts directly or indirectly contracted by the company. However, the Maritime Canal Company was organized with Warner Miller of New York as president, and the Colorado organization passed out of existence. In the Fifty-first Congress an attempt was made to obtain government guarantee for \$100,000,000 of canal construction bonds. The guaranteeing of these lands has now become a Republican party measure. The President recommends it, so did Secretary Noble in his report, and in Congress it is likely to become a party issue.

OVERWORK AND WORRY.

THE sudden death of Senator Plumb a short time ago has started the usual strain of moralizing about overwork, worry and anxiety among public men. But the celebration of Mr. Gladstone's eighty-second birthday on December 29th last occasions little comment. His life has been a busy one, but the supposed effects of overwork have not yet made their mark upon him. The Grand Old Man is now sojourning at Biarritz, on the Bay of Biscay, preparing for a parliamentary campaign in which giants will be the warriors. Several others of the European public men have also arrived at a ripe old age. In France, Germany, Italy, and in England there are at present numbers of men verging on to eighty still engaged in active public life, and discharging very onerous duties.

The sudden taking off of the Kansas Senator recalls the sad fate of many other American public men. Dan Manning, Secretary of the Treasury

under Cleveland, died it is said from overwork. The same fate befell Secretary Folger only a short year ago. Zach Chandler also dropped off somewhat mysteriously. He was found dead in his bed one morning in Chicago while doing campaign work for Garfield. The doctors said it was apoplexy or heart disease. Matt Carpenter, of Wisconsin, is another instance. Senator Beck, of Kentucky, died of paralysis of the heart in the Potomac depot at Washington. Henry Ward Beecher, Simon Cameron, Tom Corwin, of Ohio, and Ex-Senator Pendleton, Minister to Germany, all died either from brain trouble or paralysis. Charles Sumner, Horace Greely, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay were more or less victims of worry and disappointed ambition.

It is said that overwork and disappointment had much to do with carrying off President Arthur, Chief Justice Chase and Senator Thomas Benton. Three distinguished public men died by their own hands. They were Preston King of New York, Senator Rush of Texas and Senator Jim Lane of Kansas. It is matter of dispute whether Edwin M. Stanton committed suicide or not. Vice-President Wilson died of apoplexy in 1875. Sam Randall, General Logan, General Hancock, Judge Jesse Black and other distinguished men all dropped off quietly and suddenly, their end accelerated more or less by anxiety, work and worry.

The real cause in most of these cases was no doubt worry rather than work. That kills more people than is supposed. Worry, anxiety, care, and inattention to the demands of the body for proper rest and food, accompanied by over taxation of the mental or physical functions are very often the causes of sudden collapse, and were it not for the worry, the work would not kill.

THE POPULAR LOCAL TOPIC.

THE bill to give the people of Utah the right to elect their local officers is naturally causing a great deal of discussion. This is all right. Everybody should get at the intent and purport of the bill, and if they find defects in it, or discover that its object is wrong and that its passage would work any injury to the Territory, they should show up the evil intelligently so that others may see with them and join in endeavors to defeat it.

But violent general denunciations of the scheme, assaults upon the men who are credited with its preparation, attempts to make it appear as of "Mormon" origin, and all the rant and roaring that certain "Liberals" indulge in