

culated to disarm the hostility of the laboring classes on the Pacific coast to the annexation of the islands.

There is a world of sadness in the statement which shows the rate at which the native population is being decimated; and undeniably the statistics covering the last thirty-two years justify the prediction that in three decades more there will be no longer even a remnant of that happy, peaceful and moral race—moral until corrupted by the civilization of the white man. But causes are at work that will, in part at least, counteract the destructive influences that have been operating to sweep the race from the earth. Several thousand native Hawaiians have been converted to the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints, and its influence is proving a saving and redeeming power, temporally as well as spiritually.

Under the example and instructions of the Mormon missionaries, and the discipline of the Mormon Church, the natives are being induced to avoid the practices that have hitherto proven so destructive to life among them; and there is every reason to believe that the result will be an increase rather than a decrease in the numbers of births, and a heavy reduction of mortality, among the native converts to Mormonism. The native Hawaiian race is not destined to be totally obliterated from the face of the earth.

FRANCE AND RUSSIA.

Signor Crispi, the ex-premier of Italy, believes that the alliance between France and Russia has been entered into for the purpose of war. In an article published in the Nineteenth Century he characterizes the compact as unnatural and a menace to Europe.

The reasons given for this view are several. The alliance cannot have been entered into for the purpose of procuring victory for a political principle, since neither Russia nor France desires any change in their present form of government; nor can the purpose be the liberation of the various nationalities, since any movement in this direction would lead to the dismemberment of the Russian empire. The only reasonable conclusion is that the two countries have agreed to make war when the time is considered opportune. And this supposition is strengthened by the fact that the text of the agreement is kept secret. There would be no need of secrecy were the object of the compact to secure the peace of Europe.

This view of the French-Russian alliance presupposes that France is still longing for the day when she can retake the lost provinces and demand back with interest the milliards that found their way to German coffers. But is it likely that Russia can be counted upon for the realization of such hopes and aspirations, supposing that the French government's ambition still goes in that direction? France is no longer in a position, as during the time of the first Napoleon, to invite the northern ally to help himself to half of Europe, and there is no apparent reason why the czar should assist the republic to obtain territorial extension, without some equivalent, which it is evidently not in the power of France to give. Russia has her own policy, her own interests, and, what is more, she controls the means whereby to gain her own objects, to a greater degree than any other European power.

The most France could hope for from Russia in the event of a renewed struggle with Germany would be neutrality. But she would probably have to fight her own battles, and it will

take a long time before she feels equal to such an undertaking. Germany is growing stronger every year and France is hardly keeping pace with her rival.

WHISKY INSTEAD OF FOOD.

The stories from Alaska tell of a terrible condition of affairs. There seems to be no doubt that famine is already prevalent at Dawson City, and the gold-seekers are reduced to the necessity of hunting for means of subsistence instead of digging for the fabulous riches. Trouble is predicted. The men are cursing the people who came without sufficient supplies, and they are cursing the transportation companies that did not make better provisions for the thousands they carried into the gold district.

One of the saddest features of the stories from the far north is to the effect that one steamer, loaded with food, came up the Yukon in September, and, finding that she was unable to proceed with her full cargo beyond Fort Yukon, left most of the flour there and brought the whisky to Dawson. The utter heartlessness of this transaction is almost demoniacal. It was all along expected that there would be a scarcity of provisions at the city; thousands were rushing there without supplies for the winter. Common human feelings would have suggested to leave the liquor behind and send the bread on to its destination.

It is probable, when this winter's experiences at Dawson City shall be made known to the world, that it will be seen that much of the misery there was caused by an abundance of intoxicants. At present we can only contemplate with horror the possibility of hundreds dying during the cold, dark winter season, the victims of the avarice of men who sold whisky instead of food.

THE WARM SPRINGS LEASE VETO.

Mayor Glendinning's message to the City Council in which he vetoes the ordinance passed at the last session of that body, granting a new lease on the Warm Springs property to Messrs. Barnes & Byrne, for more than eight years, at the rate of \$50 per month, is undeniably a strong document. It gives dates, facts and figures in a dignified and business-like manner, and leads up to a conclusion difficult to overcome, namely, that justice has not been done to the city in the matter of the lease at its different stages, and particularly in the proposed renewal.

The Council seems to have acted upon this matter too hastily and without considering some of its important elements. They seem not to have taken into account concessions heretofore made to the lessees, nor the profits that have, or may have, been made by them in the past, nor the cost of the improvements they have made on the property. As the Mayor states, those improvements ought, under previous covenants between the lessees and the city, to represent a value of \$30,000. Has this sum been expended in permanent improvements on the property by the lessees?

As a matter of cold law, the present lease of course can be enforced. But the lessees complain that the property does not yield a revenue justifying the rent it calls for, and the effect of their plea is to shift the whole matter from a basis of law to one of business ethics and equity. In order to deal with the matter properly, on the latter basis, all its elements, past as well as present, ought to be considered; but the Council does not appear to have taken pains to do this, and consequently the

Mayor has been able to make a showing that reflects discreditably on that body, and exposes it to a well founded charge of having dealt recklessly with financial interests of the city involving considerable sums.

There is one fact which affords the lessees of the Warm Springs a strong argument for leniency on the part of the city: The latter gave the Natatorium a franchise to bring warm mineral water into the heart of the city, subsequent to the execution of the lease with Barnes & Byrne, thereby making it possible for an institution to exist in the business center which draws much of the former patronage of the Warm Springs, and makes them much less productive of revenue than they would be without such severe competition. The Mayor does not mention this phase of the matter, but it is just and proper that it should be taken into account in a readjustment with Messrs. Barnes & Byrne.

But the liberality of the Council was excessive. The cut it made in the rental was too heavy and too sweeping. It would have been right enough to have shown reasonable leniency towards the lessees, but the Council did more than this. It gave them, as the Mayor clearly shows, the use of and the revenues from the baths, free of charge, for a period of more than eight years. No reason for such munificent generosity has been shown, or even hinted at, for none exists.

Good taste and a proper appreciation of the courtesies of official life would suggest that it does not look well for a body like a city council, in its expiring moments, to forestall action by and handicap the succeeding administration by entering irrevocably into long and important contracts. The custom is for such matters to go over until the officers who are to have most to do with them, or who are most to be affected by them, assume authority. A strong element of the next City Council was elected on a platform of justice and economy; and we believe nearly if not all the successful candidates, on whatsoever platform elected, can be depended upon to be not only fair to individuals but to the interests of the community as a whole. Is there any necessity for trying to rush things of an important character at this late stage of the present administration's existence?

MR. WILLIAMS IN UTAH.

A recent issue of the Ida County Pioneer, published at Ida Grove, Iowa, by Mr. Geo. T. Williams, contains an article by that gentleman on Utah and the wonders of the "promised land." Mr. Williams recently visited this city and gives his readers his impressions while here. Throughout the article he manifests a desire to be fair in dealing with Mormonism and Mormons, but in one particular at least he has been misled and is consequently misinforming his readers, and as the item is of importance, the error should be corrected.

Mr. Williams says:

"Brigham Young is credited with having been visited by several visions that assumed a revelatory form and one of them was to the effect that during the time of the dedicatory services in the temple a premature birth should occur within its sacred walls. The revelation was fulfilled and the child, now four years of age, is believed by many Mormons to be the second Christ."

It is not true that "many Mormons," or any Mormons, believe the child to be "the second" Christ. The Mormons know only the one Christ, the