

years. Of course the landowners were also compensated by the Government. The land laws of Russia, strange to say, are among the best existing in any country in Europe. In fact, every farmer in Russia, is a land and house owner. But tradesmen, laborers, and wageworkers in general, generally are the most wretched on earth.

THE ARIZONA FLOOD.

A LETTER received by S. H. Kimball, from Mesa, Arizona, dated February 20th, states that there had been a steady rain for several days and the Salt River was higher than ever was known before. It was all around the Crismon House and the inmates had to move out. The water was running through the streets of Lehi, formerly (Jonesville) and was up to the flour mill at Tempe, was all around Winchester Miller's house and had taken the railroad bridge all away and was doing lots of damage generally.

Lehi is probably the "Mormon" settlement on the south of Salt River that the dispatches say has been destroyed.

A MALICIOUS MISREPRESENTATION.

THE following appeared in a Washington special, of March 6th, to the Salt Lake Tribune:

"The Salt Lake Public Building bill died, with fifty other public building bills, a monument to the dilatoriness and inefficiency of John T. Caine."

That sentence embodies a wilful and malicious untruth. The efforts of Delegate Caine to procure the passage of the bill for an appropriation for a public building in this city were given publicity only a short time since. He labored energetically with the Congressional committee which had the matter in hand. In answer to his earnest pleadings the chairman informed him that the committee could not properly report the Salt Lake bill for passage, in view of the denials to so many other and larger cities. Mr. Caine then presented reasons why this city should be preferred to many others, such as her rapidly growing population and the immense resources of the surrounding country.

But even aside from the fact of the labors of Mr. Caine before the committee, the dispatch itself exhibits the injustice of the imputation thrown upon him. The Utah bill simply shared the same fate as "fifty other public building bills." The logic of the telegram, followed legitimately, would imply that the half hundred other measures were defeated by the same cause—"the dilatoriness and inefficiency" of the various Congressmen who represented the proposed beneficiaries of the bills.

The defeat of all those measures simply exemplifies the argument with which Mr. Caine was met when he urged a favorable report upon the one relating to Salt Lake.

SIGNIFICENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT.

DEVELOPMENTS in the political domains of many foreign countries are of a startling character. On the 4th inst. a convention assembled at Sydney, Australia, for the purpose of framing a constitution preliminary to forming a federation of the British Colonies in the South Pacific. From what source the inspiration for this work has emanated is not quite clear. Sir Henry Parkes is reported at the head of the new development. And it is to be inferred that he has the sanction of the statesmen of the mother country. A federation of the Australian Colonies might mean, or might not mean, independence of England. It means, at all events, better protection against foreign powers.

There is a possibility, that England may yet be involved in trouble with some European powers, and an unprotected Australia would offer a tempting field for the invader. Under the new federation, a system of coast defense can be inaugurated. A navy can be established, and a native militia organized. With these safeguards, England might look for help from her colonies, rather than be their helpless protector in case of war with Russia, Germany or some other power.

In Canada politics are assuming a shape that means a great deal. There a strong party exists, which favors annexation to the United States. The question of race as well as religion enters largely into the domestic affairs of Canada. Annexation to this country would bring with it these troublesome issues. Would that be a desirable introduction? We have already such a variety of races that fusion to some observers appears impossible. The questions of race, religion and even of language have also come to the front during the past few years. Will it be prudent to invite more of this kind by annexing Canada.

The news from Mexico shows that the best of harmony does not prevail between United States citizens and people of that country. Some time ago there was talk of annexing Mexico, but the Mexicans would not hear of it. The political pot is boiling.

Just prior to its decision the late Congress enacted a law extending the time of payment for public lands in cases of failures of crops.

ANCIENT AMERICAN RELICS.

The following is from a Crittenden, Arizona, letter which appeared some time ago in the Philadelphia Times.

While removing earth for the foundation of a new hotel to be erected by Harmon & Brooks of this city, there was discovered what seems to be the tomb of a king, though of what people it would doubtless puzzle an antiquarian to say. The workmen had penetrated at some eight feet below the surface of the ground, what they took to be a stone of soft, friable nature, but which was evidently masonry of superior workmanship, when they reached the tomb itself. This was composed of large square blocks of stone, which was identified as red or rose granite, and cemented together with such skill as to at first cause the whole, measuring 12x15 feet, to appear as a solid mass. The opening of this, while very difficult, as the use of power was prohibited by Mr. Hendrickson, who as a learned archaeologist, was placed in charge of the exhumation by the authorities, was accomplished by night, when the interest and curiosity of the party was so great that the work was continued by lamp-light till dawn.

"The tomb when opened was found to contain a gigantic image of a man lying at full length and made of clay mixed with a sort of preparation which gives it a bright blue color and a slight elasticity, the whole appearing to have been subject to great heat. The image represents the naked figure, except for a very tight girdle about the waist, a pair of close-fitting sandals, and a crown on the head shaped very much like a bishop's mitre, but topped with the head of a hawk or eagle.

"The features are roughly moulded, are of an imperious cast, and of a man in middle age, with a prominent nose and a very large mouth, but with cheekbones so low as to preclude all idea that the original could have been an Indian. The hands, which are as small as a woman's, and bear on the backs the head of the bird, as on the crown, are crossed on the breast and hold an image about three inches long of a squatting figure, probably that of a god. The feet are also crossed, the right presenting the peculiarity of possessing a sixth toe, which the sandal is cut to bring into prominence, as if the owner had prided himself on it. The hair on the image is dressed in thick curls on both sides of the head, reaching to the shoulders, and brought down to the brows over the forehead.

Careful examination of this clay figure revealed that it was merely the elaborated coffin of the real body, and could be opened from the back. This was done with all possible care, so as not to disturb the remains within, but a few handfuls of dust, dark brown and almost impalpable powder, is all that was left of the body. The crown, however, together with the girdle, the image of the god, and a large battle-ax with a blade of sharp glass or obsidian and a handle of petrified wood were found in the coffin.

The crown is of thick red gold, carved with minute but well-executed drawings representing battle scenes, triumphal marches, and other pictures, the meaning of which is somewhat misty, but in all the principal figure is that of a man with six toes on his right foot. The workmanship of the whole crown is very fine, and the bird's head on top is a masterpiece worthy of Cellini. It holds in its mouth a magnificent chalcuites, or green diamond, valued by the Aztecs, which shows some attempts at lapidification.

"The girdle found is composed of plates of gold arranged like scales and very thin, so as to give with every movement of the wearer's body. On each of these plates, which is in shape of half