

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### STAFF OF LIFE.

The summer and the fishing season are upon us all at once. The transition, in the case of the former, from temperate with wintry tendencies to a tropical if not a torrid temperature was accomplished in a very short time and was not altogether welcomed by the Waltonites hereabout. It is a source of real comfort to the agricultural districts, however, and what gratifies them now must eventually be gratifying to all of us. The soil has been thoroughly moistened and so kept until by its stimulating effects all kinds of grain have been fairly shooting upward and gaining vitality at a rate rarely equaled in this part of the world if anywhere. The crops of all kinds were never more promising, indeed never quite so much so, and without some wholly unlooked for visitation, this season's yield in all the things that go to sustain life will be a more bounteous one by far than that of any of its predecessors.

A gentleman who lives in Rexburg, Idaho, was here on business a few days ago, and he reports a similar condition of things, only on a greatly enlarged scale, in his neighborhood. He stated that he raised last year ten thousand bushels of wheat and expected to exceed that considerably this year, perhaps double it. This seems stupendous, but is strictly within the limits of probability. Idaho is the greatest wheat and potato raising district in the world so far as known, this relating not only to quantity but to quality as well. At the last Territorial fair held in this city, Fremont county, Idaho, (in which Rexburg is located) took the first prize in nearly every sample of wheat. It is known that one season, a few years ago, the phenomenal and previously unheard-of yield of 130 bushels of wheat from a single acre took place at Rexburg, and the whole crop averaged over sixty bushels. Utah cannot do so well as that, nor can Idaho in all its parts, but we can and do raise large crops under reasonably favorable conditions, and there is a ready market for it at good prices in any part of the world.

Some of our farmers, it is stated, have already sold their crops at eighty cents a bushel, getting half of it down, the rest on delivery. This is a kind of "dealing in futures" which is largely resorted to in the stock exchanges, but is not common among the agricultural fraternity. It is not necessarily gambling by any means, although the risk which each party runs does, to some extent, set one against the other with the expectation if not the hope on the part of each that he will "win out" on the "turn," and the other party to the transaction thereby necessarily be a loser—at least not receive as much as he would have done but for the venture. In the cases cited, and gauging the situation by present appearances and indications, it looks decidedly as if the farmer had the better of the "deal." Wheat has already taken a decided "tumble" in the Chicago pits, and those who bought on a plan similar to that spoken of—otherwise known as "shorts"—are confronted with a great shrinkage in the price of that article, while they must pay the price at which they took up all the visible supply; that is, expecting to make a "squeeze" whereby consumers of wheat—meaning everybody, of course, except those with a good supply on hand—would have to pay considerably advanced prices, the

difference going into the pockets of the speculators. That this is nearer gambling than the other case spoken of, if not the simon-pure article itself, is not denied even by those who engage in it.

Properly considered, wheat is the most valuable thing that comes to us from the generous hand of Providence. Without anything else to eat, the human family could subsist, and even do well upon it. Gold is a very desirable thing to have, but with it alone, starvation and a tormenting death would be our portion. Wheat is too legitimate an article to be the means of effecting hocus-pocus transactions in the great trade centers, but it is brought to even such base uses. Once in a while it turns upon its defamers, as in the case cited, and at such times its resentment is a thing long to be remembered.

### OUR BOYS ARE GONE.

The Utah battery boys are now well out upon the broad breast of the Pacific ocean. Before the sea blushed red in yesterday's sunset they had passed out of sight of their native land—for how long? No more the merry-makings with friends, no more the genial visitations of sympathetic men and women bearing the comforts and adornments of this existence; no more, for a long time at least, the letters from the loved ones at home, the newspapers with tidings from scenes rendered dear to every heart by long and happy associations. The soldier's life has begun in earnest; now for the rigid routine, the inflexible discipline, the continual discomforts, the sickness induced by changes of temperature and the home-sickness which must prevail more or less in any temperature, then the camp, the labors and watches, the attention, the indifferent food, and perhaps sooner or later the combat. May they each and all pass through every detail with safety and return to us flushed with the manly pride of victory won, without disfigurement and with a grateful nation's never-ending benisons upon them!

### THE WAR IN CUBA.

Advices from Cuba indicate that the warfare to be waged there, at least to commence with, will be of the guerilla order. The Spaniards, it is said, sink through the tropical undergrowth as noiselessly as shadows, some almost nude and concealed behind palm leaves. They will hide behind brush and when discovered will rush from their positions to some other sheltered place. Such were their tactics on June 14 when attacked and routed by the marines at Guantanamo. And similar tactics will undoubtedly be pursued whenever encountered outside the fortified cities.

Spaniards are known to take naturally to this kind of semi-barbarous warfare. The Carlist rebellion was chiefly fought from ambush on both sides and as a result it was protracted beyond all reasonable limits. The war in Cuba is another instance. There has not been a single battle worthy of the name. The Spaniards have laid in wait and planned assassinations and the Cubans have dynamited railroads and assailed inferior squads of the enemy and thereafter taken to the woods. Had either of the belligerent parties compelled the other to an open battle, the war would probably have been ended long ago.

The report says the American ma-

rines behaved with commendable bravery in the encounter with the invisible foe, which kept up an incessant fusillade. Guerilla warfare is always trying to a regular army, but fortunately most of the American officers are familiar with the tactics of the Indians. They know exactly what to do, and with the discipline our men have, and their superior marksmanship, they cannot fail to drive the enemy from bush to bush and either into the open field or the fortified cities, from which there will be no escape but surrender. More men will probably be needed, though, if the war is to be ended within a reasonable period of time.

The announcement that the Cuban insurgents have joined the American marines and also occupied one of the suburbs of Santiago, causes much gratification. In engagements of the kind anticipated they should be particularly valuable. When properly equipped and under efficient officers, they should be able to do some effective fighting.

### A DISPASSIONATE REVIEW.

The war is still in a somewhat quiescent situation, broken a very little at times by reports of Sampson's fitful pounding of masonry and earthworks in the neighborhood of Santiago harbor; also at times by rehashes of desultory fighting accounts which have already appeared a few times. All the while the expense does not dwindle an iota; on the contrary it steadily increases, and by this time must reach if it does not exceed the enormous sum of \$10,000,000 a week. This is, to the ordinary mind, an incalculable sum, the expenditure of which is not mitigated by events accomplished, or perhaps there might be less complaint regarding it. As those who make such complaints are largely those who have paid, are paying or expecting to pay the money which is being poured out in such startling volume, there can be no valid objection to these having a hearing on their own terms.

It is as well, however, to take some things into consideration. When the first Napoleon was asked what were the three chief requisites for carrying on a great war, he replied, "The first is money, the second is money, and the third is money." We of the United States, even those who have not passed the meridian of life, have been presented with an object lesson much nearer home than the war now on hand, showing the correctness of the great Corsican's conclusions. The rebellion lasted nearly four years, and the country came out nearly \$4,000,000,000 in debt in addition to the steady and heavy expenditures which were made of the government's largely increased revenues. So far, the present war has not reached such a vastness of expenditure, but if it should be continued as long as six months the rate above given will doubtless be largely increased because of the immense area being covered by our military operations, the contest almost semi-circling the globe from its extreme eastern to its farthest western limit, and threatening to extend still further by crossing the Atlantic and taking in Spain. To maintain armies, temporary governments, and meet in proper manner the various expensive contingencies always arising, at such distances from home, is considerably more costly than would be the same scale of operations conducted near by. And the money must be ready when it is required. As the government operates no mines, railways, factories or other money-making institutions of that class, and has no income but what in one way or another it draws from the people, it is their duty to respond as promptly and look as pleasantly as