

labor among men, by legislation and education. But human nature as it is, does not seem prepared for a practical, forceful application of an improved theory at the best. Certain it is that poverty appears more prolific than where wealth prevails. If suspension of reproduction is an evidence of nature's intention, the well-to-do, the cultured, the educated so to speak, are limited in increase, and so, in humanity at least, "the survival of the fittest" appears to be rather a questionable conclusion. Whether statesmanship will ever grapple with this problem, or whether to solve it humanity will try to wash it out in anarchy and blood, time can only determine. But when the unemployed are numbered by hundreds of thousands, and life depends upon labor which cannot be reached, surely the temptation to appropriate at least the necessities which are everywhere in visible abundance is one which may become irresistible, and in the taking or protection thereof much destruction may take place of that which is most valuable because beyond reproduction.

However, the intent was not to extend observation on these phases of intense competition, but to call attention to a local condition, which materially affects our interests as a business community. We need not recapitulate the fact of financial strain to which the last few months bear witness, or to the conclusion, unwelcome though it may be, that recuperation is not as rapid as some would desire. We note that pressure has been and is upon the entire community. Naturally hopeful, most have become more or less indebted one to another, and every one has wanted to collect, and every one who had anything—in view of responsibility—wanted to sell. The merchant, the farmer, the stockman, and the laborer, in making honorable effort, have become competitors in their respective lines. Advertisements in the papers of our leading cities call attention to enforced sacrifice of goods and commodities. Here and there one has failed, and assignees for realization have paid little attention to cost or value. Legitimate business has become more or less paralyzed, buyers bewildered, and every one almost somewhat restless, uncertain and confused.

It has been a query in far more pretentious cities and communities than ours as to whether distributors or storekeepers were not very much in excess of necessity, and whether in multiplication they do not demoralize and destroy each other. To secure patronage is there not an undue cutting of prices, and to increase trade is there not a disposition to give more for produce than it will bring in any market? And does not this excess of stores lead to a looseness in the giving of credit? Men keep stores to sell goods, and they indulge in rivalry at times which creates ill feeling and may be depreciation of an opponent, or as may be thought, an enemy. In fact, instances are not far to seek where class-feeling, partisanship, disunion, are the fruits of increasing business and ill-natured competition.

To say that selfishness and personal success are seen in this, is only to say that human nature unrenovated is pretty much the same. It is given to

but few to pay no attention to a competitor or to allow the price at which he sells to become a worry and an anxiety. Yet the wise man never allows a customer to realize that he has a competitor, or to indulge in feelings of bitterness because of an assumed rivalry in his neighborhood or town. Neither is it at present possible to keep persons out of any line of business, or, if so engaged, to interfere with their methods save they become involved. Then creditors have their redress in law, while weak rivals rejoice at a failure which may insure to their individual good!

Immunity was promised, nay assured, to many places for years, because by practicing the principle of co-operation one store was enough for most settlements. As they enlarged, branches were easily arranged. The people owned both and might have enjoyed the profits or benefits as they preferred to elect. But having receded from this, unregulated competition makes all such investment subject to unusual risk, and more or less disaster. For because of loose competition, indebtedness has gone beyond all reasonable bounds, even for an honest people. Denied in one place, a customer has been welcomed in another, or got credit in several as the case might be; and none seemed aware of danger until, with unexpected pressure, collapse came almost as a matter of course.

Is there a remedy, or have circumstances brought education enough to make business men renounce the practice of unrestricted accommodation? Or has the great public—the consumer—realized that economy and retrenchment are better than debt? Or will competition be curtailed in trade and manufactures, as it appears to be in the wholesale trade, or as it appears to be in professional life, where exorbitant fees (or profits) are paid without compunction, consideration, rivalry or competition?

Is not manufacturing a more laudable, necessary and profitable pursuit for us and ours? One meaning labor, the utilization of raw material, the cultivation of independence, and the supply of markets used by those less thoughtful? Would not this be better than simple distribution possibly can be, although all countries may be ransacked, and our store-shelves groan with the accumulated products of a teeming world? What say you?

WORKING A COAL MINE.

There are three main systems in working stratified mines: The pillar and stall, square work and long wall; all of which can be subjected to modifications suited to the general state and condition of the measure. In opening a mine the agent should make a careful examination of the seam, so far as it has been proved; the angle of inclination; the state of the overlying measures, and the methods that should be adopted to work the mine.

As aforesaid, the Almy coal is a very combustible measure, and requires great care and attention to keep it in good working order.

We have both No. 7 and No. 4 shut down for fire, and No. 1 and No. 3 because they cost a little more a ton for working than the company cared to pay. So from all appearance it would

seem that they will remain shut down for some time to come. No. 7 can be reopened on the south side at a light cost but we cannot say that for No. 4: To reopen No. 4 and do it in the most permanent way would cost about two hundred thousand dollars at least.

From the large number of fires we have had in the coal measure of this valley, it seems to me as if the pillar and stall method, the principle upon which these mines are worked, is not suited to the conditions of the measures in this district. We cannot consider that the system of working a mine is right where only one-third or one-half and in some cases only one-fifth of the coal is got from the openings of the mine. This fact in itself is sufficient to convince every intelligent person that there is something wrong in this matter. Under present existing circumstances the question is, What can be done to change this state of affairs? I answer, Work the mines on the square block principle, and clean out not only one-third or one-half, but the whole quantity of coal within the measure; by the square work system you can do this, but by the pillar and stall principle you cannot do it in this valley.

Objections to this method can and will most likely be made, on the ground that the company would have too long to wait for a return on the capital invested in the mine. I am aware, Mr. Editor, that this is a fast-living age. The craving anxiety of business firms to become millionaires is too prominent for steady, safe working. That a fair return upon the capital invested in mines should be expected and obtained within a reasonable time, no person would question; but to expect the dollar at every stroke of the pick to fall into our hands, is far too aerial a theory to be realized. The writer is fully cognizant of the fact that office mine-engineers can do much with the pen and paper in the office, but in the mine, as a rule, they are at sea and the general voice is that their absence is worth more than their presence with the everlasting gong on their lips, "cut down the expense, cut down the expense." Ah, until your destroy both life and property, and then as a reward shoulder the responsibility.

In opening a mine in this valley on the square block principle with good management and with the measure free from large faults, the production can, and ought to be, 500 tons per day—in twelve months from the start.

R. R. H.

RED CANNON, Uinta, Co., Wyo.,
January 17th, 1894.

DEATH OF SISTER SMOOT.

Provo, Utah, Jan. 20.—Sister Annie K. Smoot, wife of the President of Utah Stake, Elder A. O. Smoot, and president of the Utah Stake Primary associations, died at 10 o'clock this morning after many weeks of suffering and illness. She was sixty years of age. She joined the Church in the early fifties in Norway, and emigrated shortly after. When she joined the Church she was turned out of doors by her parents and persecuted by former friends and neighbors. She was always a faithful and consistent Latter-day Saint.