

the same as any other business enterprise. This has been done with the lines now running into the city, and in all probability the same policy will be pursued with regard to other roads that may seek ingress here. But the public welfare is sufficiently subserved by steam railways outside of the boundary indicated by present tracks, and there would have to be some new and unlooked for conditions to justify an encroachment upon streets in the interior of the city. An advance upon those streets farther than present limits would be only to give an advantage to the railway corporation, to the injury of that portion of the public directly affected.

The statement frequently made that a new railway line enhances property values along its route, when specially applied to the close vicinity of the track, is fallacious except as to the immediate neighborhood of the station which might be used for business purposes. For residences, and in every other way, property close to the track is greatly depreciated in value. People learn to hear the nuisance, of necessity, but, as with the toothache, they never get to like it. The thundering of trains, screeching of locomotive whistles, etc., are unmitigated nuisances in the vicinity of a dwelling; while every mother is more or less in constant dread, not only of regular trains, but of the deadly switch-engine which comes along without the warning of a published schedule.

But all this does not say that the proposed new line, if it comes at all, shall not come to Pioneer square. That portion of the subject is entirely apart from this discussion. If the square by the location of the depot, it can be easily reached by the line coming in from the south over the practically abandoned right of way on Fourth West street, and purchasing a right of way eastward through one block, right into the square. This would not make matters any worse for residents than they now are, and would be just as good for the railway. If there should be an insistence on coming by a route farther east, then every street should be held sacred by the municipality. The railway company could purchase a right of way through the blocks, and by an elevated track leave all the streets unimpeded. But no streets nearer the center of town should be surrendered to railways, unless there should arise some special emergency, which does not seem likely, to fully justify it.

#### WATER AND CROPS.

It is quite probable that the discussion of the relation of water to crops will receive another opportunity of simplification in Utah the coming season. Last year there was an abundance of water for irrigation; there has been a large supply for a number of years. This winter there has been a smaller quantity of snow than usual, and such storms as have come were not in the season to deposit large quantities of the "needful" in its mountain storehouse. The hillsides which at this time of the year usually are wrapt in a mantle of white, now are in great

measure denuded of their wintry covering.

This means that in 1895 there are some sections of Utah, at least, that will not have a superabundance of water for irrigation purposes. It is not to be inferred from this statement, however, that there is any prospect of drought; for that would be the reverse of what is true. But there is an urgent necessity for preparation to utilize the water supply to its best advantage. While we probably have sufficient for agricultural requirements as they exist at present, there is not going to be any water to waste when the hot season comes on. Therefore measures should be taken by those who have the control and distribution of water in their keeping to handle these matters carefully, equitably and economically. It will be a year when water-masters must be systematic and prudent in their operations, or dissatisfaction and injury will result.

The important relation of water to crops in this section of country has been fully recognized in theory in the elaborate discussion of irrigation problems that has been going on of late. Utah agriculturists have given it practical application in many a "dry season." While 1895 may not be as dry as some previous years, yet it gives promise of ample opportunity for the tiller of the soil to exercise his ingenuity in apportioning his water supply according to the needs of his field so that there shall be no waste, and his growing crop shall not fall short of their usual standard of excellence in yield and quality.

The general conditions that exist give assurance of a larger acreage being planted this year than ever before, in almost all kinds of farm products. In connection with the water supply as referred to, this will make strict adherence to proper irrigation rules still more imperative, and at the same time afford a means of acquiring more accurate information, for statistical purposes, as to the precise need for water, both in time and quantity, of various crops in this climate and soil. And in this connection it would prove most valuable if some of our agriculturists would make notes and keep figures of their procedure and experience for the benefit of the cause of irrigation generally. They will have to meet the question of how to distribute a somewhat limited water supply to the best advantage; and as they will, as in times past, give a satisfactory answer in their practice, it would be a kind act to preserve and have compiled, for the good of others, the detail of their operations.

On this occasion of reference to an important branch of agricultural science, it may be well to reiterate the declaration of a principle well understood and stoutly maintained in word and deed by the great majority of Utah's population, i.e., that in this section agriculture, properly conducted, is a basic pillar for the prosperity of the state. Upon this topic, and other closely connected therewith, the January number of *The Irrigation Age* contains some suggestions that are well worth remembering. In an article on the "Significance of the Utah Revival," that paper says:

Another and most interesting phase of

the year's progress is the revival of interest in Utah. The world is constantly referred to this Territory as the classic land of American irrigation. Hence it seems a little strange to talk about an irrigation revival here. Nevertheless, there was much need of it. Utah is in the very heart of the mining region. Public opinion has seen nothing worth talking about except silver. One prominent journal has even gone so far as to say that a great civilization has never rested on agriculture, but always on mines. The revival of irrigation interest in Utah is an evidence of sanity. There is no question but what mining is an important industry in Utah. Neither is there any question but what agriculture is a far more important one. Mining makes a few people rich. They generally spend their riches a long distance from the place where they acquired them. Agriculture makes many prosperous. Those many are married to the soil. It is their soil and they love it. Now, the revival in Utah means that public opinion in that locality is recognizing irrigation as the basis of its present, and the hope of its future, greatness. The large delegation sent to the congress at Denver was one evidence of the revival, and the wide circulation of literature in the interest of getting capital and settlers was another. It was a most pleasing thing to behold the Utah delegation at the Transmississippi congress at St. Louis proudly distributing a large and beautiful pamphlet describing the glories of their soil and climate, of their industrial institutions, erected on the broad foundation of irrigation. The significance of this fact is that the people of the mountain state are beginning to appreciate what a tremendous advantage they have in being able to make homes for the millions. If other states will follow Utah perhaps it will turn out that the transcendent gain for irrigation thought in 1894 was this revival. There is some excuse for the eastern man who is indifferent about irrigation, but absolutely none for the western man who is equally so.

#### NEW FORAGE PLANT.

Considerable is being said and written about a new forage plant which is being brought to the attention of American farmers. It is called Sacaline—or in more common form, Giant Knotgrass. Everybody hereabouts knows what the common knotgrass is, and the nuisance it has become to farmers and gardeners, without presenting any specially good qualities as a forage plant. Therefore those who have had experience with *polygnum cuspidatum*, as the dwarf variety is scientifically named, will not want anything to do with *polygnum sachalinense*, as the larger plant is termed. The friends of the latter, however, allege that there is no kinship between the two so far as bad qualities is concerned.

Sacaline was discovered on the island of Saghalin, situated in the Sea of Okhotsk, between Japan and Siberia, about thirty years ago. It was introduced as a decorative plant into Russia, and then to France, but its forage qualities were not noticed until quite recently. It has a vigorous growth both below and above the ground. The roots branch on all sides, penetrating hard soils and giving origin to new shoots which further increase the size of the clumps, as with the common knotgrass. The stems are numerous and closely set; they vegetate early, and reach a height of ten to fourteen feet.