

ABOUT HOME INDUSTRY.

SOUTHERN UTAH,
March 22, 1897.

I am pleased that sufficient interest is taken in home industry talk to draw out suggestions on other departments of this important subject. I thank the writer from the "city of homes" for the kind reminder and additional information as set forth in your issue of the 18th. One is as important as the other, the spiritual or intellectual as the temporal or financial.

As I travel through our fair State and witness the increasing crowds of unemployed, consider the number of our boys who are forced to go to the mining camps, the railroad and other away-from-home places, where not much good is learned, and comparing our boys under these conditions to the daughters of Zion, who are at home under the kind influence of mothers, in Sunday schools, M. I. associations, and other enjoyable organizations, and by the way, cultivating the mind by a perusal of good literature, while the boys away from home are reading trashy reading matter, if perchance they read at all—I say, contrast the girls under home influence to the boys situated as they are and I am sure that you will agree with me that we should have industries established at the mouth of every doe of our canyons, that our boys may be kept at work in the various vocations of life.

Again thanking my friend for his reminders of home literature, I will adopt it in my home talks and endeavor to encourage both the publication and patronage of all good wholesome home work.

While on this line of thought I am reminded of the tendency of our people to run after imported entertainments. At the same time there is in almost every settlement an array of talent not outdone by those who carry away so many hundreds of dollars which the poor people can ill afford to spare. Are we dependent on the world to bring to us information? I think not. Look at our missionary system, the greatest gleaming factor in the world. From a thousand to twelve hundred bright boys in all the civilized world, gathering information on all subjects, which, if encouraged, could be drawn out in the form of literature and lectures, and thereby bring the world at our feet. We don't half appreciate our talents. I find on many occasions bright Elders, on returning home, are quietly laid on the shelf and their gleanings practically buried. At the same time we will go wild over a circus, a quack medicine show, or a slide theatrical troop, because it comes from abroad, "an idle brain is the devil's workshop." We may anticipate a stultification in mental as financial development in our great commonwealth if we do not utilize our material and resources. I think I am a close observer when travelling; indeed, observation is my school. Idleness seems more apparent here than any place I chance to go.

While conversing with an aged Iowa farmer sojourning in one of our beautiful cities for the benefit of his health, he conceded to us the best climate in the world, but had no word of praise for our industry, push or energy. Possibly it was because,

he, like myself, observed on the sunny side of a prominent building in that city, scores of men idling away their time. We were informed that this was not an occurrence of an occasional warm day, just for a little recreation, but a regular thing, and in this particular town the number had increased at times to two hundred. Is all this idleness? I hope not—would rather believe some had no work to perform.

As this gentlemen and others might observe, fences needed repairs, corrals and barnyards need cleaning out, and indeed a thousand things done by way of preparation for a busy harvesting season.

If those unemployed would but engage in literary research or do something by way of development, it could be excused. This condition of idleness is not confined to the one city mentioned but is the appalling condition of the majority of our settlements.

The indisposition on the part of our people to encourage home industries is becoming more apparent every day, and it looks as though they were really apostatizing from that patriotism so praiseworthy among our people in former times. Our old-timers well knew the wise course of President Young wherein he taught and practiced the principle of employing people instead of letting them in idleness. Reader, this great man was always agitating some public improvement, and even at the time when there was no capital on which to work, rather than allow the people to be fed the bread of idleness, the old dirt wall, a remnant of which is now visible, on Capitol hill, was thrown up. Those good old-time leaders would rather hire a man to dig a hole in the ground and then fill it up again than allow people to remain in idleness; for they well knew the uneasiness and disregard that would grow out of such a condition. Why did not our people run into California after gold in those balmy days of '49? We were close at hand. Because Brigham Young, backed of course, by strong supporters, said, No, let us build on an agricultural foundation, the gold diggers will come to us for supplies, and we will be better off than they. Is this not true, and has not the home policy always been the best.

Between the cotton fields of St. George and the grain producing districts of Cache, the Indian lands of Utah and the desert west of the great Salt Lake, we have one of the greatest countries on earth. A climate unexcelled, soil in which anything will grow, mountains of wood and precious stones and sparkling with the choicest metals, and a good people. Yes, I believe that within these mountains reside one of the best peoples in the world. But notwithstanding our good qualities in most respects, we are becoming so indifferent in others that I am afraid that if we do not awaken to a realization of the good opportunities with which we are surrounded, people from other lands in looking on from the distance and seeing our advantages, will creep in and before we are aware of the situation, we will be paying tribute to them.

We think we are already crowded. I do not believe we have begun to people these valleys yet. There will

be towns where now the wild rabbit springs from brush to brush; there will be cities where small towns stand and small cities will become large, and larger cities great. Who will accomplish this work? O ye inhabitants of Zion, it is your destiny. Can we not grasp the situation, and get together and become united on this great work of ours? Reservoir the waters as they flow to waste down the mountain sides, reduce to cultivation the thousands of acres of unused land, utilize the facilities of our great country, fill our cities with smoke stacks, the signals of home industries, make employment for thousands of the now idle and unhappy people, create a market for the product of the field, produce that which we eat, make that which we wear and use. Let us not only utilize the great God-given resources of this the promised land, but encourage home literature, home talent, assist in cultivating the minds of sons and daughters, training the inhabitants of Zion in those grand self-sustaining principles so nobly taught us by our faithful leaders.

HOME INDUSTRY.

AN OPINION GIVEN.

Attorney General Bishop has transmitted an opinion to County Attorney Samuel L. Page, of Marysvale, on the questions of can county commissioners levy a tax of five mills on each dollar of assessed valuation in county, for county purposes, and levy an additional property tax for the care of the sick, etc.? And can a board of county commissioners in addition to the above, levy a poll tax for the purpose of providing for the poor?

In answer to the first query Mr. Bishop says there is no authority to law for making a special levy in any amount for the purpose mentioned.

Answering the second question the attorney general says that poll tax money must be used in the improvement of highways as required by law.

Following is the opinion in full:

Samuel L. Page, County Attorney,
Marysvale, Utah:

Dear Sir:—I have your favor of March 15th, to which you submit the following questions:

1. "Can board of county commissioners levy tax of five mills on each dollar of assessed valuation in county for 'county purposes' as per section 91 of the 'revenue act,' and in addition thereto levy any property tax, for the care, maintenance, etc., of the indigent sick, etc., and if so in what amount may such tax be levied?"

2. "If not, can a board of county commissioners, in addition to the levying the tax of five mills above mentioned, levy a poll tax for the purpose of providing for said poor, etc. And if so how and when shall such poll tax be levied by the board of county commissioners and what amount may be so levied."

"Answering your first question permit me to say, that under the provisions of section 91 of the revenue act, the board of county commissioners are authorized to levy a tax, not to exceed five mills on the dollar of assessed valuation of property in the county for 'county purposes.'

"The Legislature has specified in-