

purposes and in the spirit of humility will feel better able to fulfil his duties; his views will be clearer, his knowledge more extended, and his faith strengthened. The glory of the Almighty shone through the features of Moses, when he had communicated with his Maker on the mountain, and in the same way the Divine presence promised where God's people gather together in the sacred name will be reflected in the thoughts and feelings and words and acts of the faithful Saints who come before Him in solemn assemblies.

The Saints at this time have special reasons for thanksgivings and joy. The world is in commotion, as are the elements. War and rumors of war and fears for the future hold the hearts of men in breathless suspense. Visitations are sweeping over the surface of the earth. The minds of the human race seem in many instances to become darkened in relation to the eternal principles of right and wrong, and social fabrics shake on account of the upheaval that seems to be going on. But amid all these things the people of God are secure in their peaceful homes of the valleys. Guided by the Divine light they need not grope in the dark. Past experiences have taught them that the Rock of Ages is still immovable and that, building on that foundation, their work is everlasting. With joy they look back upon their past experiences and with hope and faith they can meet the future, realizing that the time draws near for the great reunion of all the redeemed of the Lord.

Z. C. M. I. REPORT.

The report made at the fifty-first semi-annual meeting of the stockholders of Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution, by President Woodruff, contains matter which calls for thoughtful consideration on the part of all the people of Utah; it is the first place of hopefulness for the future of our Territory, immediate as well as distant, from a business point of view, and second of suggestions where marked improvement can be made in advancing those interests which insure prosperity at home. From its position as the leading business establishment in the Rocky Mountain region, the attitude in which Z. C. M. I. finds itself is a sure index of the foremost movements in mercantile matters.

President Woodruff's report opens with the welcome announcement that there has been a perceptible change in the general tone of affairs for the better, and that the outlook is quite encouraging; there is a gradual advance in the condition of trade today that is more healthy than any spasmodic revival could be, because of its promise of permanence. The business man, says the report, cares little about the tariff law being a compromise measure, so long as it removes uncertainty from the commercial situation. It is pointed out that the direct effects of the new tariff measure have not been felt here yet, and a suggestion is made of the advantages that would accrue if tariff agitation were removed from politics. Coming to the income tax provision of that law, attention is called to the effect it will have on the institution, which

will be to call for taxes annually to the amount of about \$2,000.

The effect of the July labor strikes on business is noted, when by the failure of the railways to deliver freight the stock of staple goods ran low; the customers of the institution were kept supplied with these, however, including sugar, though for a time in diminished quantities. In this connection there is pointed out the fact, no doubt highly appreciated by the people, that during the comparative scarcity of staples, no advantage was taken of the situation to advance prices on a single article.

Turning to the condition of crops, it is suggested that while prices for farm products are low, yet the increased yield this season probably will make up for any loss. The institution has disposed of, at Idaho Falls, 800,000 pounds of wheat and 1,200,000 pounds of oats at a fair figure. The demand for potatoes is large, and hundreds of carloads have been shipped East. The dried fruit market is in about the same condition as last year, and the Utah fruit is of better flavor than that brought in from elsewhere. The report states, however, that the Utah dried fruit cannot compete in the market until improved methods of preparing it are adopted, drying it by the evaporating process and packing it in 25 and 50 lb. boxes.

Regarding the financial status of the institution, the report shows that Z. C. M. I. does not owe a dollar that is past due; during the past half year the sales have increased while the expenses have not been so heavy, and there is now a large cash balance in the bank. In the home departments the sales for the half year aggregated \$878,517.08. The clothing factory has been run on full time during the whole half year, except a few days when it was closed down for repair; its product is giving satisfaction, and is disposed of as soon as manufactured. The shoe factory is doing equally as well.

After announcing that on September 14th the directors declared a dividend of 4 per cent for the half year, the report concludes by expressing the conviction that the turning point in the business depression has been passed; that trade henceforward will be more satisfactory and of larger volume; and that there now appears no good reason why the institution should not make a most satisfactory showing at the end of the next half year.

Though briefly summed up in the foregoing synopsis of President Woodruff's report, the business situation is so clearly outlined as to call for no comment further than an expression of congratulation at its present firm condition and the bright outlook for a prosperous advance. Regarding the handling of this season's farm crop, however, there may be some items of detail that will prove of benefit to the people. There will be noted the heavy sales of wheat and oats at Idaho Falls, which are steadily increasing. A very large proportion of these grains is being utilized for feeding stock—pigs, cattle and sheep—the owners having become convinced that they can follow this plan with more profit than the old method under existing circumstances. As to potatoes, large quantities are being shipped east from Idaho Falls, and all that can be

obtained at Logan are being sold at a fair remunerative figure. In the factory work, the showing of which is so gratifying, it may be further stated that the shoe department, with its full force of hands, is some 15,000 pairs behind in orders, and will require a month to catch up. This condition is one of the results of the healthy revival this year on behalf of home industries, and indicates how the people are taking the work to heart.

It is a matter of regret that the dried fruit business in this Territory is in such a position as to compel the plain statement of facts made in the report on this subject. It is earnestly hoped that the portrayal of the actual condition of affairs will be the means of bringing a change for the better among those directly interested. With fruit the quality of which cannot be excelled, and the cost of growing which is comparatively small, it is a matter of deep chagrin that when dried it gets to market in such an inferior condition as to cause really poorer fruit to be given the preference. Without making further complaint of the past, however, it may be pointed out that here is an opportunity for profitable investment in the heretofore neglected industry. The necessary apparatus is inexpensive, while the market for a good product is very large.

Taking the report as a whole, it is full of good cheer and encouragement for the people in such times as these, and shows that there are the best of reasons for unshaken confidence in the solidarity of Utah institutions in their march to progress.

THE NUMBERLESS WORLDS.

Upon one occasion the Lord said to Abraham, "Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them." He also said, "So shall thy seed be;" and in promising an inheritance to the patriarch He stated further, "I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered." By these comparisons the Lord illustrates the multiplicity of His creations as seen in the heavenly planets, and the impossibility of mortal beings making a calculation of their number; for Abraham's seed were to be countless as the dust of the earth or the stars in the firmament. In the October *North American Review* Sir Edwin Arnold, who, besides his fame as a poet, holds an eminent position as a scientist, contributes an article dealing with astronomy, in which he presents some interesting facts and suggestions regarding the vastness of the number of worlds which science has demonstrated as existing in the universe as brought within the range of vision by aid of the telescope.

Sir Edwin points out that Galileo, in his *Sidereal Messenger*, made a map of eighty new stars which he had discovered in the constellations of Orion's Belt and the Sword; and that since then astronomer after astronomer has added various groups and galaxies to the two or three thousand conspicuous stars of the first six magnitudes which always can be seen with the naked eye. It is curious and not complimentary to the good sense of mankind,