

the strongest reasons must be presented for such a step. The Territory is now heavily burdened; Salt Lake City is almost hopelessly plunged into debt; the city school district has all it can carry. Are the taxpayers in a humor to place the county in a similar situation, and increase their already grievous load? There will be some serious cogitations before an affirmative reply is given, mortgaging everything that can be offered as a security for borrowed money.

JOURNALISTIC OBLIVIOUSNESS.

Occasionally, when people who reside among the civilization of the western hemisphere are permitted to read translations from native newspapers of the Orient, they encounter fantastic tales and remarkably inaccurate descriptions of life among members of the Caucasian race. These accounts are set down to the meager information possessed by the writers; but such dense ignorance as characterizes the publications by Asiatic writers may not be reasonably looked for in a newspaper with general circulation in the vast metropolis of London, yet direct proof of its existence is given in the following editorial which appears in a recent issue of the London *Echo*:

The signs of the times indicate that before the sun rises on January 1, 1900, the great American nation will groan and writhe in an agony of revolution, and the streets of all her great cities will be slippery with blood—a hundred drops of blood for each gain that flashes on the necks of rich and pampered women, and ten drops of blood for each tear that has washed the face of the poor. Politics is so rotten that it stinks. Everybody knows and no one cares. America is no longer a republic. It is a plutocracy. The President is merely the creation of bank directors, railroad kings and coal barons; and it is the same with the governors of the states. The poor whine about their poverty and gnaw their crusts of bread, but can always be relied upon to vote for the rich, and nine-tenths of them would shoulder their muskets and lay down their lives in defense of the right of the rich to rob them. A nation such as this, in which one million plutocrats tyrannize over sixty millions of slaves, will be either overthrown by a foreign foe or die of gangrene. The various labor organizations neither think together, vote together, nor work together, and they have no money to buy votes, lawyers and judges. Soldier police shoot down laboring people and are cheered on in their bloody work by monopolies and the clergy. But the day will soon come when there will be a horrible dance to death, lighted up by burning houses and the music of cries and groans and dynamite bombs. Rich idlers amuse themselves at Newport and Tuxedo; poor workers toil ceaselessly in the darkness of the mine and the din of the mill. Young men and women dawdle over iced-champagne and opera parties; old men and women pick ro ten food out of the garbage cans; lap dogs are driven through Central Park to take the air; children die of overwork in filthy garrets. Piety in the White House is enjoying the fruits of bribery—infidelity in the tenement houses enduring the punishment of uprightiness. These are the signs of the times in America today—signs that point to calamity too dreadful to imagine, but which nothing can avert.

That this country has plenty of

abuses, a few of which are referred to in the article quoted, no one will deny. But as descriptive of conditions in America, the *Echo's* statement as a whole is so inaccurate as to be utterly unworthy of belief in any essential particular. Some of its references to slaves and poverty would fit to a nicety the situation to be found within a few minutes' walk of its office of publication, and perhaps it is a knowledge of this that enabled the London writer to draw his fanciful picture of America. The *Echo* has made bad reading of history if it fancies there is any liability of the United States being "overthrown by a foreign foe;" such an attempt would be a very disastrous experience for the foreigner who tries it. Further, when internal dissensions of serious and widespread character assail the American Republic they will arise from causes not suggested and evidently not thought of in this connection by our English contemporary, which probably has reached its conclusions by reading some of the extremely partisan, and consequently unreliable, papers published in this country.

FARMERS' CONVENTION.

A convention of the farmers of Salt Lake county is announced for the 14th and 15th of this month, at Mill Creek. A program of exercises is being arranged, which is to include addresses on special topics connected with the farming industry, with direct and practical references to improvements that may be inaugurated in methods of cultivation and marketing of crops.

If the purpose of the meeting as at present outlined should be carried out, there is good reason to hope that it will prove of extensive benefit to the agriculturists of this section. Every man engaged in farming knows that there is a broad field for disseminating information among and infusing new vigor into many who follow that avocation in life. There are some farmers who crop their land almost to its full extent; whose animals are well housed and fed; whose machinery is not left exposed to the weather, to rust and decay; who plant the best varieties of potatoes, corn and other products, and who consequently secure the most satisfactory prices and have little to place in the unnecessary waste column of their accounts. At the same time there are a good many who fall short in one or more of these particulars, largely because they have not been educated up to the necessity or means of doing otherwise.

In the coming convention, it is to be hoped that these and other timely subjects will receive earnest attention in practical discussion, that the anticipations of the promoters of the meeting may be fully realized, and a foundation be laid for future conventions that will prove of value to the farming class. While the meeting may not cause much stir, or appear a very large affair, yet if it receives the support of those it is intended to benefit, its success will be sure to lead to developments in other departments of industry that must result in great good to the people of this region. The prac-

tical, successful farmers of Salt Lake county ought to have a good deal to say that will be of general interest and for the public welfare.

LIBERTY DAWNING IN RUSSIA.

A pleasing incident in connection with the young czar of Russia is related by a London paper. The story goes that the emperor after receiving the list of officers for promotion, which list gives the age, religion, etc., of the officers, drew his pen through the column marked religion, saying that that was a matter of no concern to him.

If this is true, the czar has advanced his vast empire one great step towards religious freedom. History teaches that political liberty is the natural and logical consequence of independence in matters of religion, because as people realize their responsibility in matters of eternal import, they are not apt to submit to serfdom in temporal things. The czar, therefore, has commenced admirably by declaring religion separated from a wholly secular affair. If this road is further pursued, it will ultimately lead the Russians to all the liberty they are capable of appreciating.

It will undoubtedly take a long time before the ignorant masses of Russia will understand the motives of their "little father" and share his sentiments, and the czar will probably make for himself numerous enemies among the bigoted classes that hate innovations and look upon advancement as apostasy from Russian traditions. Yet, reforms from above have advantages. Rulers, to a large degree, give the tone to a people. Thousands are willing to imitate them and change their opinions to suit the wind at court. If, therefore, the czar undertakes to steer his ship of state out of the fog of semi-barbarism in which it has been sailing for so long time, he will be able to do so and succeed where all others would fail.

Peter the First undoubtedly contemplated to make of his beloved Russia a power of first rank in all respects. Hitherto his successors have given more attention to militarism than to other qualifications. If Nicholas inaugurates a policy calculated to lay a firm foundation for constitutional liberty, he is but in harmony with his great ancestor. His pen stroke through the religious column of the promotion lists may be regarded as the most significant act of a Russian ruler since the edict emancipating the serfs of the country.

DOWN IN ARIZONA.

Our southern neighbor is making pressing demands for statehood, and a compliance therewith should not be long delayed; for Arizona is destined to occupy a foremost position in the Great West. Her development scarcely has got under way, yet the probabilities of the future are of a magnificent character in their relation to the prosperity of her inhabitants. By the hand of industry her erstwhile desert wastes are being made to blossom as the rose, and her vast resources are