

tion within two or three days' travel of all the watering places, and the poor brutes can be driven to water only two or three times a week. If a snow storm does not come the sheep will perish of thirst if driven onto the desert, and if they are not soon removed to where there is feed they will die of starvation.

Hourly all day long the people of this city congratulate each other on the fine weather we are having, but, as was remarked to a gentleman who was visiting the district above referred to a day or two ago, "a snow storm would be diamonds to the sheep men just now." This is a world of compensations, and if this fine weather continues much longer the farmers may well begin to wonder about next season's crops, and the workingman may well ask himself what the price of flour will be next year.

Man has not learned to control the weather, but he has learned to provide for his family and animals against its vicissitudes, at least to some extent; and it is his duty to do this as far as in his power lies. A supply of provender for man and beast is a good thing to have within easy access.

#### OUR STAR IN THE ASCENDANT.

The editorial in our issue of yesterday (Nov. 27th) under the caption, "The Pioneers Recognized," was in type before the special telegram arrived which announced the election, for the ensuing year, of Hon. George Q. Cannon as president of the Trans-mississippi congress, but the temper of that body in respect to this Territory had been sufficiently shown to indicate a willingness on its part to honor the community that first established civilization in this intermountain region. In making a choice for its president, the congress has signalized this willingness by the most effective means it could have adopted. A perfect type and representative of the early Utah pioneers is found in the person of the gentleman who has been chosen for this high position, and the congress could not well have paid to Utah a higher compliment than it has bestowed in electing him.

Utah accepts, with hearty appreciation, this token of the respect and good will of the states and territories of the Union lying west of the Father of Waters. Our people comprehend the significance of the honor done to them in the person of one whom they hold in exalted esteem, and they accept that honor in the spirit in which it is intended, and with feelings and desires of cordial fraternity; and their hope is, now that their commonwealth is about to don the robes of sovereignty, that they may forever retain the confidence of their fellow citizens in all the states.

Aside from any feelings of exuberance or exultation in which the citizens of this Territory may feel inclined to indulge, on account of the rapidity with which our Territory is forging ahead in the estimation of the nation at large, and of our nearer neighbors especially, it will be both proper and profitable to inquire into the causes that are producing this development. Chief among those causes, as will be found on close investigation, is the

conservatism of our people. They have been patient and persistent. They have steadily adhered to a purpose and program which they deliberately determined upon when they first settled in these valleys. They have built slowly but solidly, and since the storms of the greatest financial panic known to history, and of one of the most remarkable political campaigns of modern times, swept over the continent, the strength of their superstructure, socially, financially and politically, has been shown.

In the early days of Utah's settlement, her founders dug irrigating ditches instead of digging gold. In those times they were charged with being foolish and fanatical for toiling as they did, while others were gathering untold riches in gold and silver from the neighboring mining regions. But the construction of irrigating ditches went on notwithstanding these taunts, and the result is a system of agriculture, developed and perfected, that makes the Utah yeomanry the most independent in the world. In respect to substantial welfare, the average miner and prospector are immeasurably behind them. Later the real estate "boomers" sought to dissuade our people from further adherence to their conservatism in respect to buying, selling and improving land. The "boomer" made considerable headway in a few of our leading towns, but the bulk of our people remained comparatively uninfluenced by him, and to this fact is largely due their financial strength and welfare today. Those who yielded to the "boom" spirit are the ones who are now suffering.

Our conservatism in respect to political issues is bringing its compensation. While a wave of public sentiment was sweeping over the country which was intensely denunciatory of the capitalist class, and peremptory in its demands for legislation against them, our last Assembly was in session. Several bills intended to vitally change existing financial laws, and more or less responsive to this radical sentiment, were introduced, but they were voted down. The consequence is that money, in unlimited sum, and at lower rates than were ever before known here, is willingly tendered to Utah borrowers. Our people have given proof that neither they, nor the men whom they choose for legislators, are at enmity with the capitalist, nor disposed to go off at a tangent under the influence of a financial panic; hence capital is seeking investment here.

It may be asked, what has all this to do with the election of a citizen of Utah as president of the Trans-mississippi congress? That body of men is made up of individuals carefully selected because they represent the intelligence and public opinion of the localities from which they hail. They come from all the states and territories west of the Mississippi, and from all the prominent towns and cities therein. Their choice of a Usonian for the highest honor in their power to confer, is an endorsement of the community represented by that man, including the policy of that community relative to those matters of public interest which come within the

purview of the Congress. This action by that body signifies its approval of the agricultural, financial and industrial policy of the people of Utah, and means that our conservatism and persistence in following the lines we have pursued are winning for us an enviable position in the esteem of our countrymen everywhere, and that our star is in the ascendant.

#### ELECTION BLUNDERS.

In the discharge of its duties in making the official count of the late general election, the canvassing board has found it necessary to go to Ogden to investigate the action of the judges of election there. The reason for this movement is that the election returns from Weber county, as shown by an examination of the poll lists and tally sheets, were in such a deplorable condition so far as inaccuracies and discrepancies were concerned, as to make them in some respects unreliable, and to require a recount of the ballots, in order that the expressed wish of the voters might be definitely ascertained. The cause of complaint is hardly such as might arise from the hurry of a count or through judges being somewhat tired with a long day's toil, but is rather suggestive of gross incompetency or carelessness, that, while it may have no criminal intent, is in its nature a menace to the sanctity of the ballot box.

So far as the returns of the late election are concerned, it may be stated that to the extent to which the canvass has been completed up to the present, there is abundance of material to show considerable incompetency on the part of many of those who were named as judges. Most of this, however, has been of a nature which did not prevent the ascertainment of the correct result, upon the exercise of considerable patience and ingenuity on the part of the canvassing board; though the absence of tally sheets, errors in footings, improper filling out of blanks, etc., have been so frequent as to cause great annoyance and sometimes serious puzzling to know just what to do that no wrong may be committed. Generally the blunders committed have been clearly unintentional so far as a desire to change the result is concerned. With the case of some of the Weber precincts, however, there may be doubt in some minds on this point. So grave were some of the errors discovered, and so apparently inexcusable, that inquiry as to how they could occur brought the response that "the judges must have been full;" and with regard to one precinct it was stated that the judges were too drunk to make the count, which was completed by the spectators permitted to witness it, and who required the judges to certify to its correctness.

The blunders complained of demand the adoption of some plan to effect a reform in the selection and conduct of judges of election. The suggestion that men placed in such an important position have the opportunity of becoming inebriated while performing the functions of their office is too serious a matter to be passed by lightly. The instances referred to in this election are by no means the first or only