

so often characterizes extremists on financial or other propositions. Utah may be counted on for conservatism and constancy in seeking the accomplishment of any purpose.

A WORD IN SEASON.

Some few weeks ago the NEWS called attention to the fact that parties were peddling ranges from wagons over large sections of Utah, and that many were purchasing; although it was shown that one firm at least could and does sell a better range for from fifteen to twenty dollars less, the difference being that the peddler sells on a year's time on what is called an ironclad note. Considering that the people had not yet overcome the effect of hard times and past indebtedness, this was deemed a very unwise thing, and the press, being the friend of the people, simply pointed out the facts and the possible result. Attention was also called to the fact that these peddlers are transients, most likely have no license, and certainly pay no taxes out of their exorbitant profits, while regular dealers do both; and one local house was noted as contributing in this way not less than twenty five thousand dollars annually for public use and improvements in this Territory.

Advertisements in local outside papers have given the quasi-endorsement of Bladep and prominent men; which also serve to mislead and really increase these foolish buyers, and feather the nest of the seller. Few there are who pay cash on these transactions, and in some instances which have come to our notice, the stove of the buyer has been bought and taken away, but the note given was signed for full amount, and is undoubtedly ready hypothecated, and the whole amount may possibly be claimed.

Our reason for anticipating such a thing is suggested by what has just come hand in the Cincinnati Tribune. Representatives of the same stove have been operating quite extensively in different parts of the state of Ohio; as to these charges of forgery and swindling are freely made, and not less than \$40,000 is said to be involved, which the courts will have to adjudicate for those who have the moral courage to resist collection. One method was to put a range in a house on six months' trial, then to take a note (or promise to do) on ten years' time, payable by installments; but in signing the note a six months' agreement was deftly substituted for the long time one, and when due, suit was commenced for the amount specified. In other instances where the buyer was told that he could pay at his leisure, he was required to sign what was said to be a simple receipt for the stove; but these receipts have now developed into ironclad mortgages for seventy dollars and interest, and there is much indignation over the efforts which are being made to foreclose on the deal.

Now there may be nothing of this in the Utah method, but we have heard it said that sales were only made to the owners of land, and it may be that some have signed for more than they intended, and if so, there is trouble ahead, for time rolls around quickly where there is any monetary

obligation, and it would be no surprise if quite a few should wish that they had never bought a range.

The St. Louis Stove and Hardware Reporter also warns the public against this alleged swindle, and claims that farmers are being humbugged in purchasing at forty and fifty per cent beyond the regular price asked by any legitimate dealer. That paper allows, as we do, that a farmer or any one else has "the right to buy whatever he chooses, and to pay for it just as much as he can afford or wish." But no leading man in any settlement in Utah is justified in signing for trade or present, the number sold in his ward, or in giving a public recommendation, which smacks altogether too much of the quack medicine order with which many of our papers are nauseatingly filled.

It is also a striking thing that the peddlers here and the peddlers in Ohio represent and push the same article. The idea appears to be to almost simultaneously cover a great stretch of country, getting in their necessary work before the knowledge of their operations could become so familiar as to create suspicion. It is a pity at least that the Mormon section of our population are not better posted, and that storekeepers (if public men have nothing to say) allow unlicensed men to do this kind of business without protest and the stirring up of local authorities who should suppress so glaring an injustice.

Probably too much has been said already on this topic, yet it seems to be justified, considering the poverty and credulity of many of the buyers, and it but shows that even adversity and difficulty will not learn everybody to keep out of or resist temptation, presented with all the staid and persuasive of the archenemy himself.

HOW TO FIGHT MONOPOLIES.

One of the signs of the time is the movement on the part of the American Flint Glass Workers' union to enter upon a competition with those who control that particular industry. Having accumulated the necessary funds the workmen themselves propose to open extensive plants to be operated on the co-operative plan. If they succeed it is reasonable to suppose that other labor unions will follow the example, and the labor question, with all its intricacies, would consequently assume a different aspect from that which it now presents.

The conviction has gained ground that one of the chief causes of labor troubles is the existence of combinations for the purpose of controlling everything. These powerful organizations have been able to influence legislation and juries and judges and in a general way use the spirit of the institutions of this country. Strikes, lock-outs, bloodshed have followed the efforts of laborers to maintain their position in the unequal struggle, and it is but too apparent that each lawless act on the part of the sympathizers with the workingmen has served to bring disgrace and defeat to their cause. If, then, there is a possibility to remove the cause of the evil by peaceful means—as there necessarily must be—it should be attempted. Co-operation on the part of the people for the manu-

facture and distribution of the products of labor has been tried and found effective, and if generally put into practice would result in independence on the part of workmen. Legislation against trusts and monopolies is well as far as it goes, but laws can be evaded in various ways; a union of workmen, not for the purpose of waging war upon organized capital, but with the object in view of simply ignoring the existence of such a factor, whenever its hostility to laborers is demonstrated, would be more powerful than any code of laws that might be framed on the subject and certainly more effective than any attempt to gain by force what friendly negotiations fail to procure. By means of "co-operation of laborers in this spirit labor will be dignified and its representatives elevated, and there will be no just grounds for characterizing their methods as those of a mob.

Co-operation has been urged upon the people by some of the wisest and best men the country ever had. If, at last, that method shall be adopted with a desire to do right by everybody, the great labor problem will be solved. With monopoly crushed out of existence, most of the laborers would be in a position to make an honest living, and strikes with all their attendant evils would be a thing of the past.

WIT MAKES THE SPARKS FLY.

No regular newspaper reader can be altogether ignorant concerning the wordy duel lately fought between the brilliant French author, Paul Bourget, and the witty American, Mark Twain; the *coup de grace* from each combatant appears to be conceded to be in the former's jocular remark that he supposes "he can never get entirely dull to an American, because whenever he can't strike up any other way to put in his time, he can always get away with a few years trying to find who his grandfather was;" to which Twain, with some humor but much brutality, retorts that he reckons "a Frenchman's got his little standby for a dull time too; because when all other interests fail, he can turn in and see if he can't find out who his father was."

Max O'Reil, the witty French writer, lecturer and raconteur, has now entered the lists, with lance in rest and sharpened quill, to defend the motives of his countryman and to measure weapons of sarcasm with the Irish Yankee. The March number of the *North American Review* contains his challenge, or rather his defense. It bristles with irony, and is trenchant, if not weighty. We pass by the wit and anecdote that bubble all through it, and quote a passage or two that deserve really serious consideration. In one place he says:

"What would France teach us?" he [Mark Twain] exclaims again. "Morals? No, we cannot rob the poor to enrich ourselves." Now, shall I tell Mark Twain that the proportion of illegitimate children to legitimate ones is nine per cent in Paris, twelve per cent in New York, fifteen per cent in Chicago, and more than that in San Francisco? Oh, I don't like to mention those things, but if Mark Twain wants them, here they are; and the French have an excuse for liaisons that does not exist in America, where marrying and un-marrying are