

river, for instance, rises in Utah, flows north into Wyoming, turns west into Utah again, then back into Wyoming, crosses into Idaho, and finally comes back again to the state of its origin, emptying its waters into the Great Salt Lake. The possible complications concerning water rights in this river are dizzying. Indeed, the Interior Department is at present wrestling with a bitter contest between Idaho and Utah with respect to the division of the waters of this river. The governor and people of Idaho want the department to compel the Utah people to stop developing their irrigation works, as they are ruining and undoing all Idaho has done in years of work. Again, there are some six million acres of land in Idaho that depend wholly on water rising in Wyoming. In order to develop this land it is necessary that the people should have full control of the water supply and irrigation works in Wyoming. Most of the agriculture of Nevada depends wholly on waters caught in California, and if California starts in to utilize these waters within her own boundaries there would be more trouble. These are but sample instances, says the article. And this is but the beginning of the era of irrigation.

The remedy proposed is to wipe out completely the present state and territorial lines, and re-divide the arid and sub humid West and Southwest into states with boundaries in accord with the natural contour of the country, and with special reference to the requirements of irrigation. Of course it is impossible to include the largest rivers each in one irrigation district, or in one state. But with the exception of the Missouri, Rio Grande, Colorado, Columbia and Shoshone, and of two smaller rivers, no stream in all the irrigation country would, under the proposed partition shown in the accompanying map, flow from one political division into another. Each river would have its entire course through the arid region of the United States confined within the limits of one state or territory.

The plan would put a very different look on the map of the United States. The New York *Sun* points out that it would also make great changes in the political affairs of the nation. The scheme would give twenty-six states and territories in place of the eighteen that now constitute the western half of the country, thus securing to the West its equal influence with the East in national affairs, to which its equal population will give it full title in the not distant future. There would then be fifty-seven states and territories in the Union. The average population of the new political divisions would be about three hundred and eighty thousand, and the average size seventy-three thousand five hundred square miles. The boundaries are drawn almost wholly upon natural lines, and the areas of the proposed states are tolerably uniform. Practically all of the proposed divisions would be entitled to statehood. For all the rest the map tells the story. But the scheme has not yet received the endorsement of the west itself.

AN AMAZING INCREASE.

Passing by one of our large public schools the other day, when the children were coming out for noon recess, a peculiar feeling seemed to suggest

looking on for a few moments. An inquiry elicited the information that some eight hundred pupils were there enrolled, and mental arithmetic began to figure out the probable school attendance of this city, and then that of the Territory.

This young element seemed full of animation; their general appearance betokened home care; quite a proportion were very good looking; and hardly a sickly one was seen in the romping crowd. The majority speedily fell into one game or another and while there was wonderful diversity and evidences of individual temperament, the listless boy or girl seemed to have been eliminated, at least for a time.

There was every appearance of general health, and any prediction other than that these would all reach mature life would have been promptly rejected. Children of the kindergarten grade were absent. Looking into the future without any attempt at speculation on individual destiny so to speak, it was a very ready conclusion that in ten years two-thirds of all that number would be married and some increase, and that the other third would have passed the threshold of manhood and womanhood with a not distant probability of following their predecessors into the marriage relation.

These probabilities are equal all through the Territory, and there need be no question as to Utah's increase with all the predilection of arithmetical progression; for it is safe to conclude that every school house at this consummation will be just as full as now; and other buildings erected in the interval will be equally crowded, and that generation (if it may be called such) will be crying just as anxiously as ours, "Give us room that we may dwell!"

The prophet, the political economist, the philosopher, each from their several points of observation, are doubtless more or less concerned as well as confronted by the possibilities of this great intermountain increase; the first sees in it the realization of things said and predicted in the ages past; the second perchance concludes that intelligent constraint of human function must become a political necessity; and the philosopher looking far ahead asks as to probabilities of maintenance, whether the land will be made more productive, new industries created, or what will be the condition of society, whether as to the creation or distribution of the products of labor.

In a little while all the available land in Utah will have been taken up, and if the reservoir system is adopted and now valueless will be utilized. Most likely also less water and more cultivation will allow of the use of now neglected land, and compel that in use to be vastly more prolific. Utah people hardly realize as yet the wonderful fecundity of soil, when manipulated with the intent of seeing what it can really produce. One author wrote a book called "Ten Acres Enough," another took half that amount; but many experimentalists have surprised the slipshod farmer by getting rich on even less than that.

No matter if cultivation should prove force become high in Utah, land, after all, is exceedingly limited; while much of a change has taken place since the days of the pioneer, this is yet in the

arid belt, and irrigation is as essential today as it was when the ancient canals of Utah were built and many of her valleys had a teeming population.

It is an old and trite saying that agriculture is the basis of all stable prosperity. But every man and all his sons, and sons' sons, cannot rely directly on this as a profession. No argument can come from conceding that every man should own a piece of land, for that is beyond question; not such a piece, however, as boomers have made their limit, for it was not originally intended that this should be the rule, that being of man's invention. A wiser wisdom seems to have decreed that mankind should "spread over the face of all the land," to the extinction of cities, which are mainly centers of evil (with all their good), or like warty excrescences morally upon the body politic.

Given the land "with ample room and verge enough," many industries are needed to meet a self-sustaining community's desires. Bread, meat, clothing, should be home produced; butter, eggs, chickens, pork and cheese belong to every day use; and a well regulated community should, for these staples, be independent of the world. Sugar, fruits, vegetables are outside any market save the home one, and thanks to the indefatigable labors of Commissioner Mueser and the liberality of the government, the fish supply will likely increase with the needs of the population, after awhile.

In most of these directions Utah is almost a full success. She could do more and better as to clothing. She could sustain another or two sugar factories and it would be possible to stop the importation of oleomargarine, chickens, eggs and pork. She ought to raise her own fruit and vegetables and probably ship some. But even all these will fall as to employing this ever increasing population.

Iron in all its multitudinous products should be a Utah industry. All ordinary crockery, stoneware and glass should be home produced. Furniture should come from the skill of Utah artisans, the lumber being imported. The nursery and seed business should be local; silk raising should flourish. A good paper mill should utilize our waste or original material until there was enough. Brick, rock, marble, onyx, plaster, cement and asphalt should be as common as native salt. The growing of canals, the founding of tanneries and shoe making, should go hand in hand until import and export come to more of an equilibrium. Coal, coke, copper, silver and all mining products should be increased by extension of experiment and output of product. Railroads should develop the waste places and equalize the conveniences and finances of sections now remote from each other.

It is evident that the marvelous increase of Utah's population will tax the attention of thinking men and women more closely from year to year; because provision must come from the more experienced. Boys and girls cannot plan for themselves. That faculty is exercised mainly after years of life and contact with the necessities thereof. Responsibility is not assumed suddenly, although it may in time become burdensome and exhaustive.

This statement has been presented