

they can give it their time and attention. The present season ought to witness an awakening from the comparative lethargy that existed in many associations last season. Then officers were overworked, but there was insufficient uniformity and union in many places. The detail work should be in the hands of those who can give so important a duty the necessary time and attention; then combined, enthusiastic effort in behalf of the Mutual Improvement associations would be a great boon to the youth.

RUSSIA AND FRANCE.

The chief topic of interest in Europe is, of course, the visit of the czar to France. The republic has spared no means at its command to make the reception as grand, impressive and cordial as possible. But what is of more interest to the other countries of Europe is the attitude of Russia's ruler toward France, and the manner in which he receives the attentions bestowed upon him by the people and its representatives is being closely watched. France has on every possible occasion given the world to understand that an intimate alliance exists between the two countries. Russia's policy in Asia has not borne this allegation out to any marked degree. Will the czar now let a word fall, that may be interpreted as a confirmation of the existence of a formal alliance with France? That is the point of chief interest to the outer world.

So far no very definite clue has been given. The speeches published are merely phrases of courtesy. The czar felt touched at the cordial welcome, and hoped the president would interpret his good wishes to France. Yet when this little bit of oratory is compared to the monosyllables uttered at Vienna, or the almost ironical remark in reply to the German emperor's efforts that he—the czar—would maintain the same feelings to Germany that had animated his father, it is impossible but to find in it an indication that France and Russia are friends. If in other government circles the hope has been entertained that the two countries were drawing apart, it is clearly an illusion. How far the agreement extends, is, however, a matter of surmise. It may be an alliance to counterbalance the three middle powers of Europe and Great Britain, or it may be only an agreement to entertain friendly feelings mutually.

THE WHEAT MARKET.

The recent rise in the wheat market comes as a boon to those who have the grain to sell, and who have been compelled heretofore to dispose of it at ruinously low prices. Of course the figure now is not all that the grain raiser may reasonably desire, but it is more than has been known for some years past at this season. The cause of the increase is in an enlarged foreign demand and in a lowering of railway rates by which to get the grain to the seaboard.

Those who have wheat and are in

position to make it necessary to convert it into cash, of course must abide by that necessity. But holders of stored wheat who are disposing off in the anticipation that next season they can fill their granaries from the new crop at a low price, ought not to be in a hurry about it. It is the judgment of experienced persons that the rise in the market is only at its commencement, and that indications are very strong that 1897 and the years immediately succeeding will see wheat at a higher market value than it has been for several years. According to these authorities, a good supply of the grain is an excellent investment in the present prospect.

UTAH, DO LIKEWISE.

The associated improvement clubs of California are displaying unusual activity in the line of supporting the local industries of the state. At a large meeting of the clubs in San Francisco Thursday evening the sentiment prevailed that notwithstanding the general depression that existed throughout the nation, Californians were responsible for the chief portion of that they experienced at home, since if they were loyal to the resources of their own state and recognized the benefits that must accrue from a care for home industries they would be almost exempt from such depression. The meeting also passed the following:

Resolved, That the members of this association pledge themselves to encourage all California industries, and, whenever in manufactured goods of any description the qualities and prices are equal, pledge themselves to give California manufactured goods the preference, and that when buying will always insist upon being shown California manufactured goods.

This idea and expression is as applicable to Utah as to California; and the people of this State could note with profit the action of the Golden State improvement clubs, and go and do likewise. There may be no need of holding meetings and passing resolutions; an effective way would be for each citizen to make the resolve in his or her own mind and carry it out. When Utah products are presented at equal prices for an equal quality with an outside product, the former should have the preference every time. That is good business sense as well as commendable local patriotism.

ARE WE GROWING CARELESS?

In view of the increasing prevalence of typhoid fever, the question is being asked as to whether or not people are growing more careless than formerly. There has been a great increase in boards of health, and almost contemporaneous therewith an increase in sickness. This may be partly due to the fact that many health departments in municipalities are due more to political schemes for the creation of offices than to a desire to subserve the interests of the people, and that politics rather than health rules has dominated in those offices. At the same time it may be noted that

people do not pay as much attention to health boards and regulations as when these were brought into existence. The reason for this lack of attention is clear—the health departments have not made their influence felt by consistent rules and the uniform enforcement thereof. Too often "fads" have been urged, as Salt Lake has experienced, and as a result the steadier class of people come to look on so-called health officers with a degree of contempt.

This city ought to profit by the experience of others in the matter of typhoid fever, and not be under the necessity of going through the mill itself to learn the importance of uniformity and effectiveness in the matter of sanitation. Other places have suffered much more than we have—Denver, for instance, at the present time; and Chicago also. In the last named city there have been 7,966 deaths from typhoid fever in the last ten years—an average of nearly 800 a year in a city where health officers constitute an army, yet where healthful conditions did not interfere to prevent an enormous loss of life. In this city, with its broad, open streets, clear atmosphere, and roomy surroundings, there ought to be no epidemic of the disease.

Physicians have come to the unanimous conclusion that typhoid is a filth disease. It does not necessarily follow that those who are filthy are those who suffer most. On the other hand, persons of delicate organization, who are scrupulously clean in their persons and surroundings, often are the victims of a neighbor's uncleanness or of the neglect of a public official. In this city there is plenty of the latter as a cause. For instance, a short time ago the City Council ordered the weeds cut down where they grew rank in the streets. It was well known that this growth was a menace to health, and to remove this was the Council's purpose. In some streets the weeds were cut; in others they were not. The municipal order was carried out in a most careless manner. Then the weeds, both cut and standing, were left to decay, to breed the typhoid microbe, and to carry disease and death to the homes of citizens. If the health department had been awake to its duty it would have made an effort to have vast quantities of decaying vegetation gathered and burned. This is one instance of carelessness of health restrictions. There have been others equally as bad on the part of individual citizens, and the people are reaping the reward in sickness.

There is yet time to remedy conditions for the future, so that a month hence may not be as serious as now seems possible if not probable. These piles of decaying vegetation and other filth should be moved. Each household should be given a warning, and if that is not heeded, then further steps should be taken. But no need exists for harsh or arbitrary action. There is dirt and dirt. Some kinds of fresh dust and waste that come from improvements in progress are not injurious when removed within a reasonable time. But no rubbish piles ought to be allowed to remain month in and month out; and especially should they be removed now before