

rainfall has also been deficient in Colorado, Nebraska, Montana and the Pacific states, as well as in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Michigan. The detailed reports from the places mentioned below show the seriousness of the deficiency:

In the section around Eastport, Me., the rainfall has been 9.70 inches below the average. In the section around Northfield, Vt., 2.01 inches; around Boston, 7.62 inches; Rhode Island, 7.68; Amherst, from 3.59 to 11; Central New York, 7.06; New York City, 7.42; Central Pennsylvania, 15.84; Eastern Pennsylvania, 7.07; Southern New Jersey, 8.20; Washington, 5.67; Lynnhburg, Va., 4.99; Cape Henry, Va., 6.70; North Carolina, from 5.10 to 9.75; Florida, 9.19; Mississippi, 10.11; Texas, 11.47; Tennessee, 10.65; Indiana, 10.02; Ohio, 9.94; West Virginia, 9.44; Western New York, 7.23; Michigan, 8.31 to 10; Iowa, 7.4 to 7.8; Illinois, 7.34, and Kansas, 10.46.

The conclusion drawn is that the earth at present is suffering from some unusual condition which has the effect of diminishing its usual water supply. Flammarton some time ago suggested, we believe, that the approach of Faye's comet might have that effect, but as he is an alarmist of a pronounced type, his predictions do not carry much weight. The cause of it all is important enough, but it is not nearly so pressing as is the problem, in case a change does not speedily come, as to what the dried-up states are going to do about it.

NEW FLYING MACHINE.

Contrivances for sailing in the air at will have claimed the attention lately of those interested in aeronautics. Not long ago accounts were given in the papers of the experiments of Herr Lillenthal, of Berlin, and now Mr. Percy S. Pilcher, lecturer on marine engineering at Glasgow university, has produced a two-winged creation by means of which he has been able to soar on high like a bird. He has risen to an altitude of twenty feet, hovered like a kite for a while and then descended to the spot he left. At other times he has been sailing before the breeze for considerable distances.

In the Scientific American, October 19th, the latest flying machine is described and illustrated. Mr. Pilcher's machines are light structures of wood and steel supporting a vast spread of wing and braced with piano wire. The wings themselves, which are made of balsa-wood—a sort of muslin originally manufactured in India—have an area of 150 square feet; and each machine possesses a vertical and horizontal rudder of circular shape, the one cutting the other at right angles. The former, which is rigid, serves to keep the machine's head to the wind, while the latter arrests an inclination to pitch sideways—a common vice in all like inventions.

The great difficulty with winged aeronauts is the uncertain quality of the wind, for a steady, unvarying breeze is never to be calculated upon. Indeed, the sudden, unexpected side puff often brought disaster in its train to Mr. Pilcher until he hit upon a means of circumventing it. He now draws his wings in with a bend, which renders a flying machine safer and more

stable. Speaking generally, these experiments in flying or soaring are being made with a view to master the art of aerial balance and safe landing. Then, when the golden era dawns, when a screw propeller or flapping wings are introduced, and a power discovered to work them, gentlemen like Messrs. Lillenthal and Pilcher will spring gaily aloft to emulate the carrier or tumbler pigeon, and put a riddle round the earth in a morning. Mr. Pilcher, on a pair of wings with a sail area of no less than 300 feet, pursues his experiments at Cardross, in Dumbartonshire, before numerous admirers.

WAGES IN MANY COUNTRIES.

A comprehensive statement showing the rates of wages paid for different classes of labor in various foreign countries as well as the United States is made in the issue of consular reports by the state department at Washington for September, this year. According to these statistics the rates of wages in the United States, in the same branches of industry, run from two to four times higher than those of the most progressive nations of Europe, and are only approached by those of the vigorous and progressive English colonies in Australia and the most enterprising portions of Canada.

A feature of this report—or rather compilation of a series of reports—which will be of special interest to the American laborer, is a statement of the hours of labor which prevail in different countries. In New Zealand and Victoria (Australia) eight hours constitute a day's work; in the United States, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador and Venezuela the ten-hour rule prevails; in Belgium the labor-day varies from nine to twelve and one-half hours—ten hours being most general; in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Colombia the range is from ten to twelve hours, the minimum being most common in most of them, while in Russia, with the same range, the maximum generally prevails. In China, outside of the seaport towns, where English rules prevail, the customary working hours among the natives are "from daylight to dark," with an hour for the noon-day meal and a few minutes in the forenoon and afternoon for tea and refreshments. The rule in Persia is from sunrise to sunset, with intermissions similar to those in China, and generally speaking no labor on Friday.

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS.

We have been permitted to read a letter written by Elder George Spencer, now laboring as a missionary in Holland, to his mother in this city, in which there are some suggestions as to the way immigrating Saints are received here that may stir profitable reflections in the minds of those comfortably situated at the gathering place of the Church. Elder Spencer points out that the reception of immigrating Saints in Utah is a proceeding the effects of which are felt in foreign lands even more keenly than is realized by many here. In the case of the missionaries, at least, they are specially

noticeable. If the one who has "gathered to Zion" he warmly welcomed and made to feel thoroughly at home, the news is borne back to former friends and acquaintances with the result that the Elders are received more kindly than before, the number of their friends is increased, the Saints in the locality are made to feel cheerful and are encouraged to greater diligence, and in general the way is opened up and brightened for spreading the Gospel. On the other hand, if the immigrant, because of a chilly reception and untoward circumstances, becomes discouraged and dissatisfied, the letters often written to the former place of abode under such a condition arouse bitterness and hostility frequently of a serious nature. In this consideration alone there is occasion for great care on the part of those interested in carrying the message of salvation to the world, to say nothing of the obligation resting upon the Saints to continue on behalf of those who immigrate hither the saving process which has been instituted through those who have gone out on missions.

In calling attention to the subject, Elder Spencer tells of the high expectations with which many leave their homes together with the body of the Church, and he reiterates that which is commonly observed in missionary experience, that "it is a very difficult task to put a damper on their feelings by showing them that all is not gold that glitters," and that all their trials are not past. "After the fever of emigrating has taken possession of them," he continues, "there is no stopping them—they are all expectation and ardor. Many have performed their duties faithfully and well, and many times have stunted themselves to give the missionaries to eat. Of course, being filled with love themselves, they cannot imagine it is otherwise with the Saints in Zion." Then if they are not well received on arrival in Utah, Elder Spencer points out how their recital of that fact hurts others, and how their experience sometimes deprives them of their own strength and faith in the Gospel. Here Brother Spencer suggests, "We may say we haven't any use for such Saints in Utah, and it is better that they never emigrate. While there is some truth in the remark, our mission is to save, and we cannot afford to let chances of doing so go by even in such cases as these. I believe many of the Saints at home can take the words of the Savior to heart where He says, 'It must needs be that offences come, but woe unto those by whom they come,' for I know that when I was at home I wasn't particularly anxious to go out of my way to any great extent to soften the load of a Dutchman, a Dane, or a Swede, or others who are in a strange land, and unable to speak the language. For one I have learned a lesson in these things which I hope will never be forgotten."

In connection with this subject it may be suggested that an increased display of kindness toward immigrating Saints would not be amiss in many localities. This is no proposition that we should catch up newcomers and "carry them about and sing to them," as it were, but that we should show to them every courtesy and consideration