

ceived a message that his father was dying and he was on his way to the deathbed. He was met, however, at the place referred to and turned back and had to make a long detour, thereby losing over an hour of time particularly valuable under the circumstances. Others have been treated in a similar way, it is said, and there is considerable indignation on account of the matter.

Only the most weighty considerations could justify anyone in changing the course of a public road, when the change is not made for the obvious benefit of the public; but with regard to the Pioneer road, it should be remembered that it is an old landmark that should be preserved as far as possible. The general public has an interest in this overshadowing that of any private party or parties.

AMERICAN RULE SATISFACTORY.

It is urged as an argument against incorporating the Spanish colonies, especially the Philippine Islands, in the United States, that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to furnish the people of those regions a suitable form of government in accordance with American principles. The islanders, it is said, are too far removed to take an intelligent part in national affairs even were they educated. It is scarcely possible that a population of half-savage natives and mestizos is capable of self-government or that if they had it these people would not be an easy prey of the first corruptionist who wanted to buy votes. The question in the event of annexation, therefore, would be, What one of the many forms of colonial government shall be used?

Great Britain, it is further argued, would be the country to turn to for an object lesson in this regard, and that country has found it necessary to try various schemes. In Australia, for instance, where the population is intelligent, it has followed its favorite principle that the longest tether holds the most willing captive; hence Australian government is as independent, self-sufficient and self-maintaining as any. In India, on the other hand, the variation of political forms is almost ludicrous. A few provinces enjoy considerable independence; the petty principalities are held in a sort of vassalage; some of the states pay obedience direct to the viceroy, irrespective of intermediate powers, and others are virtually administered by some civil-service employee whose position is somewhere between that of a patriarch and a policeman, and who allows the native ruler to "rule" or checks him up roundly according to his individual views of the matter.

Those who believe in annexation have, naturally, so far not undertaken to discuss the question of the form of government to be established in the various regions involved. They believe in the efficiency of American statesmanship to solve satisfactorily every question as it arises. They cannot admit that the broad principles upon which the American government rests are less potent as a factor in civilization than the principles from which monarchical systems have sprung.

The fact is that the science of government is much less intricate than some people would have us believe. Where government is applied only for selfish purposes, as a means of keeping the masses in subjection under the few, or for the purpose of benefitting a small class of people at the expense

of the many, there is sure to be friction and dissatisfaction, and various schemes must be resorted to in order to keep down the always active opposition against tyranny. Spain has been kept constantly poor, trying to hold her colonies in subjection. But the case is different when government is established for the benefit of the governed, as it is sure to be where American principles are applied. Even savages will soon regard with affection a rule which they by experience learn to look upon as for their own interest. They will not rebel against it but rather assist in maintaining it. It is this fact that inspires confidence in an intelligent effort to redeem man from a state of savagery. It may be difficult to find the right means and men for a work that must be done, but difficulties cannot be regarded as a valid reason for shirking a responsibility manifestly placed upon this government by the recent events.

CHINESE EMPEROR ASSASSINATED.

It is always a difficult matter to obtain official news of the important internal affairs of the Chinese empire. The wall constructed many centuries ago typified and typifies the mental and governmental status of the nation. The rulers and to a large extent the people of the "celestial" land want as little intercourse with the world at large as possible, and while of later years the wall of exclusiveness has been measurably overcome, it is by no means obliterated. Hence we are in the dark as to the means by which the emperor was killed, if killed indeed he was—whether it was a case of suicide, as first reported, or regicide, as the account now says.

Things are in a very unsettled condition over there. Americans and Englishmen are being treated with violence and indignities amounting to physical injuries have been practiced upon them. This betokens a rising tide, which may result in sweeping the queen dowager from the throne and destroying the government altogether. Certainly the premonitory symptoms of dismemberment are plain enough, but how and from whence are not so clear. The dowager's rule is not beginning well, but very much the reverse, and if she ordered, consented to or had knowledge of the taking off of the boy sovereign she will undoubtedly be made to feel that her enclosure may keep somethings in and others out, but assassination of the ruler is not one of them. She will be made to realize that though "crowns got by blood must be with blood maintained," hers cannot be maintained at all. Civilization is so near at hand and becoming so irresistible that if the Chinese cannot control China differently from the manner in which things have been going lately, there will be a general interference and a complete overturning.

THE MAINE MEMORIAL.

As a result of the Maine Memorial services held in the various places of worship of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the committee in charge of the matter has been able to remit to the national committee \$4,500. Sums are still coming in, and the final account will be rendered later.

The subjoined letter of acknowledgment has been received from the secretary of the national committee:

"Room 80, 154 Nassau St.,
New York, Sept. 26th, 1898.

"Hon. Lorenzo Snow, President of the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah:
"Dear Sir—Please accept the sincere thanks of the National Monument committee for the more than generous contribution to the memorial to the martyrs of the battleship Maine and the dead soldier heroes of Cuba and Manila battlefields. Since the holding of your services, the scope of the monument has been broadened to commemorate the dead soldier as well as the dead sailor heroes, and it is intended to make it a memorial that will do justice to the heroism they showed in defending the nation's honor. One hundred thousand dollars has already been raised, and the generous contribution of your Church will assist greatly in the start for the second one hundred thousand.

"It is the desire of the committee to first raise the necessary funds, which we hope to have by January 1st, 1899, and then decide on the location, the design of the memorial and other detail. As nearly every state in the Union is represented on the committee, the matter of site and design will have a full and thorough discussion.

"Will you please convey to the members of your committee, Messrs. Heber J. Grant and B. H. Roberts, the sincere thanks of the monument committee for their endeavors in behalf of the monument fund. We feel deeply the loss of your honorable President, Wilford Woodruff, who so kindly assisted in bringing about the memorial services held in your Church.

"Such patriotism as has been displayed by the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, receives the warmest appreciation from the members of the monument committee.

"Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) PAUL LATZKE,
"Sec'y Natl. Monument Committee."

THE WORLD'S WHEAT SUPPLY.

At the annual meeting of the British association, Sir William Crookes, the president, in his address startled his hearers by the announcement that there is a possibility, not very remote, of the wheat supply of the world becoming insufficient for the population. At the present average of 12.7 bushels per acre and with the present increase of the population, the limit will be obtained, according to Sir Crookes's calculations, in 1931. After that year with the whole area capable of bearing wheat under cultivation, shortage in the crop anywhere would result in scarcity of food and probably famine.

Having demonstrated this, the speaker proceeded to point out that the resources of science are not exhausted. It is possible, he said, to raise the average yield from 12.7 bushels per acre to 20 bushels, or more. This can be done by the aid of nitrate of soda, a judicious application of which has shown that the fertility of the soil can be more than trebled. The nitrate fields, however, are exhaustible and science has, therefore, undertaken to solve the problem of extracting the nitrogen in the atmosphere and reducing it to nitrate of soda. It is believed that this can be done with the aid of the electricity generated at Niagara. That, at least, is the message brought from the world of science to humanity by Sir William Crookes.

The forecast of a possible shortage in the world's supply of wheat, and that before the passing away, perhaps, of the present generation, should be of intense interest, and not least so to the inhabitants of these valleys. Scientists are by no means infallible, and their calculations sometimes overlook essential facts and are therefore mis-