

America to acquire information relating to this important matter.

The irrigation congress to be held in Los Angeles next month will doubtless attract considerable attention to the subject abroad as well as in our own nation. Russia, which is frequently regarded as being tardy in such matters, is the first to be on the ground in the present instance. The czar's domain contains vast tracts of land which cannot be utilized for farming by the ordinary methods now in vogue in Europe, for the reason that there is not sufficient moisture distributed through the soil. The steppes of Russia are very similar to this section of country and are regarded as deserts. There is a great field, therefore, in the land of the Muscovite to subdue and bring under cultivation, by means of a thorough system of irrigation, great stretches of country that are now unproductive. Realizing these facts, the czar has sent a special commissioner to examine into and report on the irrigation system of the West.

The officer selected is Constantin Comodinsky, one of the most prominent engineers of Russia. He was a delegate to the international congress of engineers, lately in session at the World's Fair. As representative of the czar, he will attend the Los Angeles congress, and will then make a thorough investigation of irrigation methods in the western part of the United States. It is given out that the czar has decided already to build extensive reservoirs and resort to irrigation to prevent crop failures through drouth in some of the farming districts. For this work, if the commissioner's report is satisfactory, it is probable that American engineers will be engaged.

Commissioner Comodinsky is likely, in his investigations, to devote the greater part of his attention to California, as he goes direct there from the Fair to attend the irrigation congress. Should he extend his inquiry into Utah, however, he will doubtless discover much of additional value in the home of the irrigation methods of which California's systems are an outgrowth. It would be a good idea for Utah's delegates to the Los Angeles congress to take advantage of the opportunity and invite the commissioner and other representatives of foreign governments who want to know something about irrigating farms to visit this Territory, where they would not be slow in learning that in the particular line of reclaiming arid lands, as well as in other matters relating to the development of the country's resources and the material welfare of the people, Utah takes the foremost position among the states and territories of the West.

ANOTHER NATURALIZATION QUESTION.

ONEIDA, Ida., Sept. 18th, 1893.—If it does not put you to too much trouble I would like to ask you one question—Is a person a citizen of the United States who came here under the age of five and has been in the United States over thirty years but whose father never came to this country? This is for my benefit and many others.

A SUBSCRIBER.

It is no trouble at all. We assume from the tenor of the question that the

person spoken of has not been naturalized and our correspondent desires to know whether the continued residence for so long a time constitutes citizenship. It does not, but this can be obtained in very short order. Both papers can be taken out at the same time without previous notice or other preliminary on the applicant's arrival at the age of twenty-one years. The same is true of any alien who was fifteen years old or less when he came to the country; but over that age up to and inclusive of the age of eighteen (but not over) he must have lived here long enough after attaining his majority to make the whole period not less than five years. Those who came here after the age of eighteen must proceed as in the case of other aliens by taking out both papers—the first after having been in the country not less than three years continuously, and the last not less than two years later and after not less than one year's continuous residence in the state or territory in which the application is made.

JAPAN'S GREAT FLOOD.

The prefecture of Gifu, in Japan, seems to have been selected by fate as a scene for some of the most awful disasters of recent times. Beginning with the terrible earthquake of 1889, when thousands of lives were lost and extreme suffering inflicted on many of the survivors, there has been a recurrence of earthquakes, floods and hurricanes that is phenomenal.

The latest catastrophe of which intelligence has reached this country from unfortunate Gifu occurred during the last week in August, about the same time as the great disaster on the southeastern coast of the United States. The dispatches made but brief mention of the visitation which had come upon Japan. In the absence of details which were not then available, the general statement was made that a great flood had caused the loss of thousands of lives and a vast amount of property; that no such destruction had been wrought by inundations in Japan during the preceding half century.

A report has been made by the governor of Gifu, giving some further information. It says that details are yet wanting in the most severely affected districts, but according to rough estimates made as the inundations subsided the total number of burials of embankments is over 800, and the number of districts invaded by floods is thirteen. As to the houses washed away, the amount of property damaged, or the loss of human and animal life, no estimate can be given. In the district of Korikami the river rose twenty-eight feet above its usual level. The town of Yamata was completely submerged. Hundreds of inhabitants sought refuge in a temple called Jionji, but a hill at the back of the building gave way and more than 100 persons lost their lives in the landslide.

The report gives some particulars of the condition in the neighboring prefecture of Wakayama, which suffered much less than Gifu. Embankments collapsed in 518 places; 110 bridges were swept away; 52,742 yards

of roadway were washed out; 450 houses were carried off, 3521 submerged and 4854 others damaged; there were 34 landslips and 26 persons killed. The quantity and depth of water was not nearly so great as in Gifu.

The list of events of an appalling nature that have occurred during the first nine months of the present year, in all parts of the world, indicates that 1893 will easily take place in the front rank as a period of disaster.

NEITHER SENSE NOR GOSPEL.

There is no small indignation in local business circles as well as those social and religious, over reports which have come from Iowa concerning a lecture delivered in that state about ten days ago by Rev. W. B. Mabry of this city, formerly a "M. E. preaching Elder" in Volga City, Iowa. In a special dispatch from that town to a Dubuque paper, a brief synopsis of the lecture is given. It appears that the audience "densely packed the M. E. church" and they were "instructively entertained and amused" by the speaker's remarks on "the past, present and future of Mormonism," "illustrated with a powerful stereopticon." The dispatch continues:

The Dr. is here in behalf of the thousands of people in Salt Lake City, who have been thrown out of employment in these halcyon democratic days, for the wage earner. He estimates that fully five thousand people are to be fed and cared for generally there during the next six months or more, by charity. Mormonism was well reviewed, its present regarded as problematical and its future as very uncertain.

Our people responded at the speaker's request, with a collection most generous, after this interesting portrayal of Mormon customs, doctrine and democratic sunshine.

Now the Dr. is not there in the interest of the thousands of Salt Lake's unemployed nor of any other number of Salt Lake's people. He, his little lecture and his strong stereopticon, are there solely in the interest of W. B. Mabry, and he is trying to gather a few dollars for himself during his vacation (presumably without pay) from his pulpit in this city. That he should attempt to put money in his purse against a rainy day or to clear off debts is a proceeding beyond criticism and clearly within his prerogative. But he must do this without indulging in any romances, and must avoid all false pretenses. The facts are, as every man knows who reads the papers, or has traveled the least bit, can testify, that Salt Lake has fewer unemployed men and less distress than any town of its size in the country. Indeed, there is no suffering at all for the necessities of life and there need be none. It seems to us that some one can appropriately call the Rev. Mr. Mabry down in his statements, either by notifying him that his utterances are condemned at home, or by wiring prominent Iowa citizens who might otherwise be misled by him, that some of his statements seem to need a heavy discount. As to his remarks on Mormonism, the News will take pleasure in attending to them as soon as it can learn what he has actually been saying.