

in and make exactions, while the natural gambling spirit of the native is aroused to induce him to pledge the profits of his grain crop in order to satisfy his love of taking risks. Still another reason is that the raising of stock is being rapidly abandoned so that the land is robbed of its natural fertilizer. Yet another reason is, that the great belts of forest that used to prevent the winds of the steppe from devastating the black soil country have been cut away, so that the wind often destroys the crops and mixes sand with the soil, so that a year's work goes for nothing." All these causes work against the Russian agriculturist, and there is, Major Law thinks, nothing to prevent the repetition of the Russian famine at any season.

The aid that is supplied to the Russians now and hereafter should, it would seem, be as much a draft upon science as upon material resources; of course so large and populous an area of country cannot remain continuously a dependency of the earth at large, and unless some better systems than those at present in vogue are discovered and applied, some such condition or widespread starvation are threatened, and the latter will not, as things stand, be very distant in the future either. Something should be done, but what to do and how to do it is the question; there is no lack of willingness, it would seem, anywhere.

DIFFERENCES THERE MUST NEEDS BE

The reasons advanced by some of the political writers and speakers in Utah and the adjacent states why all the Mormons ought to be Democrats might with equal propriety be urged in support of the proposition that all the American people ought to be Democrats. The only reasonable arguments cited in the one case would be just as potent and applicable in the other. The appeal to passion or prejudice or revenge is not worthy the name of argument in either case, and is, and ought to be, left out of consideration altogether.

While the Democratic heart very naturally desires that every other heart in the whole broad land shall be Democratic also, and may think there are abundant reasons why it should be so, it happens that the Republican heart is quite as ardent in the wish that all other hearts should be Republican and believes it has just as good grounds for its desire. The result of these very proper yet quite antagonistic aspirations is that there are millions of Republicans and millions of Democrats, neither party claiming anything like universality in the nation, and each so conscious of the strength of the other that at every election the utmost efforts are put forth to obtain or retain the advantage in governmental concerns.

The zealous partisan on either side, no matter how positive his notion as to what ought to be, finds himself therefore confronted by the stern condition that his is only one side of the political controversy, the other being championed with such ability that it, too, has a host of defenders. This being the case in the country at large, why should it not be the case with the Mormons? Is it any less

an insult to the intelligence of the Mormons to say they ought all to be Democrats than it is an insult to the intelligence of the American people to say they all ought to be Democrats also? Is there, indeed, anything less dogmatic in the claim that all Mormons should be Democrats than in the claim that they should all be Republicans?

Speaking to its readers as "Mormons," the News wishes to say that as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints their duty is to live their religion and keep the commandments of God. Politically they may have their preferences for this or the other party, and these they may entertain and follow without violating those commands. In the enjoyment of these and all other prerogatives of freemen they will of course be on their guard against the tricks of the demagogue and the sallow counsel of the sophist. In the line of political advice this is about all the News feels called upon to offer.

IRISH HOME RULE.

An exchange sententiously remarks that home rule for Ireland being now in the hands of the Irish themselves, it remains to be seen whether or not history will repeat itself. By this, we suppose, is meant an insinuation that the alleged Milesian characteristic of being unable to agree will operate to defeat the home rulers even when they have victory within their grasp; but it is ungenerous and illogical. Supposing the Irishmen in Parliament unite perfectly with their English and Scotch partisans and get a bill providing for an Irish legislature through the House of Commons, would that settle the matter? Not at all. The measure would then go to the House of Lords which is known to be hostile, to any such plan as giving the Emerald Isle a separate law-making body, no matter in what form it might come before the Lords nor how unobjectionable in details. The bill being killed in the upper house, the blame for its failure would rest there of course, and not upon the sons of Erin in the lower chamber. We might as well be fair in dealing with this subject, and there is no fairness in saying that the people named have everything in their own hands.

IMPORTANT TO SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

J. B. Walden, Esq., of this city, very kindly places at the disposal of the News the following correspondence, which is self-explanatory and which is gladly published because of the importance of the subject to school trustees throughout the Territory:

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 3, 1892.
Hon. Judge Boreman, Ogden, Utah:

My dear Sir—For the purpose of ascertaining the authority that school boards in the different districts throughout the Territory of Utah have, in the issuance of bonds, I call your attention to Article XIV. of the laws passed by the Legislature of 1892. Under this act, is any school district authorized to issue \$3000 of bonds, or are they restricted to a 2 per cent valuation upon the property in said district?

The law as it reads appears somewhat ambiguous, and those desiring to buy this class of bonds, are necessarily hampered in bidding for, and also in securing a legal issue. Section 92 and Section 93 seem somewhat conflicting. Was it the intent of the Legislature to allow any school district to build a \$3,000 school house, and issue bonds accordingly, or was it their intent that each of them should be limited to a 2 per cent valuation?

Will you please give me a ruling upon this proposition, and if it does not come within your jurisdiction, kindly refer it to the proper source?

Yours very truly,
(Signed) J. B. WALDEN.

In answer to this query Judge Boreman, in his capacity of Territorial superintendent of district schools, writes as follows:

OGDEN, Utah, October 10, 1892.

J. B. Walden, Esq., Salt Lake City, Utah: Dear Sir—Yours of the 3rd inst. was duly received, but I was called out of the Territory for a few days and thus answering was delayed.

Under the sections (92 and 93) of the school law referred to by you, no school district containing less than five hundred inhabitants can issue bonds to a greater amount than three thousand dollars for any one school house; but where the district contains more than five hundred inhabitants, a greater amount of bonds can be issued, but in no district shall the amount exceed two per centum of the assessed valuation of the district. Section 92 would seem to indicate that the two per centum of valuation was confined to districts having over five hundred inhabitants, but section 93 makes it apply to all districts, whether having more or less than five hundred inhabitants. It seems to be the intent of the law that in every case before bonds can issue (Section 93) the sworn statement of the trustees must show "that the amount of the bonds proposed to be issued does not exceed two per centum," etc. This requirement is not confined to districts of more than five hundred inhabitants.

I am, very truly, yours,
JACOB S. BOREMAN.

THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL COUNCIL.

The triennial council of the Protestant Episcopal Church of North America, now in session in Baltimore, is considered one of the most important held by that denomination in this country. The convention numbers five hundred members and is divided into the House of Bishops and House of Deputies. The former consists of sixty-seven members and the latter has four clergymen and four laymen from each diocese. According to the rules of the church any change in the laws must be made by a convention and then be published throughout the local branches and finally be adopted by a subsequent convention. Three points of great importance are before the present assembly: The revision of the ritual and the hymn book, and the discussion of church union.

AN EASTERN paper wants to see Bismarck at the World's Fair. It says if he will come over he will be given a reception that will keep the Emperor awake nights. That ought to be inducement enough, surely.