

societies organizing and a great demand for speaking and for literature. Among those actively counseling and industriously promoting this movement I found such men as Judge Henderson at Ogden and Judge Judd at Salt Lake, two of Mr. Cleveland's appointees as members of the Territorial Supreme Court, and Mr. McNutt, late Gentile candidate for Mayor of Ogden; and of the Mormons Mr. Calne, the very intelligent delegate in Congress, and the Richards brothers, leading lawyers of those two cities respectively. Utah is a growing and prosperous Territory that has already outstripped in population and wealth most of the new States recently admitted into the Union, and I am sure that American citizens everywhere ought to rejoice in the abandonment of polygamy and in the prosperous future that seems to await that growing section, and to encourage the formation of national parties there when assured by trustworthy and discreet men of both sides, on the spot, that the old fight is ended and that its past controversies and bitterness may be buried."

THE SIBERIAN RAILROAD.

THE published intention of the Russian government to construct a railroad through Siberia seems to be genuine. According to the reports the work has already begun. The road will probably cost \$200,000,000 before it is finished.

If such an amount as this were expended for such a purpose by any other country in the world, there would be no question as to the motive for so vast an expense. It would be for the development of commerce, and the advancement of civilization generally, in every case. But the government of Russia is not engaged in that line of business. When that nation projects an expensive undertaking, commerce and civilization are the last things to be looked for in the purpose or immediate results of the movement. The cause and the effect, the beginning and end, so far as the Russian Government can control them, are sure to be military, pure and simple. Fortification and abject discipline are all there is in it.

This trans-Siberian railroad is therefore only another of the Czar's mighty endeavors to make his tyranny perpetual. There will be commerce for the road, of course, but there is no calculation that such will pay the running expenses. The government is to pay annually a million or more to keep the road up after it is built. But the Czar no doubt feels, and probably with good reason, that the defense which the enterprise will give to the eastern border of his realm, now almost at the mercy of his enemies, will amply repay him for the sacrifice he is making.

This is from the Czar's standpoint. The real effect of the enterprise may be very different from what he anticipates. While the facilities which it will afford for the transportation of

troops will strengthen immeasurably his control over Eastern Siberia, it is liable at the same time to develop an internal power more dangerous to his government than a foreign invader.

The motive and the might of modern progress are the locomotive and the electric wire. They make the world as one family, so far as knowledge of each other is concerned. While helping the tyrant to be more tyrannical they also help the strikers for freedom to organize, consolidate and discipline their strength for his overthrow. While the power which these modern civilizers may give to the ruler when under his control, is immense, the possible power they place within reach of the people is immeasurable.

The odds for the Czar in his new enterprise will undoubtedly be great, but results eventually are sure to turn to the favor of the people.

"ONLY A CORPORATION."

KING Petroleum has got his shackles on Germany, but if we must take Mr. Gaede's word for it the bans are "strictly legal" and Germany can't do anything about it; because, says Mr. Gaede, "there is apparently no ring, only a regular corporation."

From the look of things, and the wisdom that should come of years of experience with the Standard Oil company, we presume this is so. The monster is an American product and has reached its majority in the arms of the Republic. But its indulgent parent is now wearing its manacles, and if there is any relief for the apparently helpless victim we do not know of it. For as Mr. Gaede pertinently remarks, "There is apparently no ring, only a corporation."

According to the signs of the times, this corporation-monster is to possess the world, body and soul, if it does not already do so. If relief is to come it must be when greed shall invent something more grasping and comprehensive in the line of money-getting, and they shall fall to fighting each other. For human governments to make the struggle seems a vain and profitless endeavor.

CHICAGO'S PROTEST AGAINST TIGHTS

CHICAGO has been struck with another of her periodical spells of prudery. A crusade has set in there against tightness. The *Inter-Ocean*, speaking of a certain exhibit which was made in the Auditorium, the McVicker's and other leading theatres, of Chicago, declares the ballet girls would have been less indecent had they appeared in utter nudity. The particu-

lar tights that caused the rumpus were not described, but they must have been pretty bad. A style of female stage attire that would shock a Chicago audience would have to be tough indeed. Chicago papers, be it said, are laboring under great disadvantage in presenting her claims to the consideration of modesty. People who read Chicago's indignation on this occasion are sure to bring to mind the action of its courts when a few years ago a photographic broker exposed in his window certain obscene pictures for advertising purposes. The readiness with which those guardians of the public found that the vulgar and mercenary wretch who made the display was innocently pursuing the elevating profession of art study from nature, and was therefore entitled to the protection and encouragement of the court, was a shock to a great many people there. But the art show went on just the same. Probably the offensive ballet will do likewise; probably the protest of the papers is not at heart a protest at all, but is paid for at advertising rates by the manager of the obnoxious company. He could very well afford to do that.

But while the country may properly smile at this attempt at sanctimony by the Chicago papers, there is small comfort in the joke. It is too thoroughly conscious of the fact that the outcry is a just one, and applies not only to the playhouses of Chicago but to nearly every theatre in this country.

It is true that the American stage is being disgraced by the lax manner in which mercenary managers are permitted to pander to the lower tastes of the people in the matter of stage costumes. The impudence and indecency with which a certain class of actors encroach upon established customs in their bids for patronage is a peculiarity of the drama of the period. But after all if there was not a demand for that kind of thing the supply would soon cease. The fault lies primarily in a perverted public taste, and secondly in the willingness of performers and playhouse proprietors to pander to it for revenue.

WORTHY OF SUPPORT.

WE have received the following communication from the Deseret Hospital, a most worthy institution which ought to be placed on a permanent and solid basis. It is in need of public support, and should be endowed. But in the absence of such encouragement, contributions of all kinds will be thankfully received by the officers and workers in the institution. We can