

some scheme that would be acceptable to Congress and to the nation at large. The proposition is, that a convention be held in Salt Lake City, on Sept. 15 next, for the purpose of discussing in detail the best methods of reclaiming arid lands. The convention will be composed of 30 delegates from each State and Territory interested.

There are in the United States 50,000,000 acres of arid lands, which, it is claimed, can be irrigated at very small expense. Various schemes are proposed for the purpose, but among those seriously considered is a vast national irrigation plan. The Agricultural Department at Washington is absolutely antagonistic to this, as the following extract from a letter written by Secretary Rusk will show:

"The work of this department is not directed to building up 'a national irrigation scheme.' I am utterly opposed to the government undertaking any grand scheme for the construction of extensive irrigation works, the cost of which shall be defrayed out of the national treasury, thus imposing a burden upon the taxpayers of the United States for the benefit of a particular section or class. This was clearly stated by Mr. Willits, the assistant secretary of agriculture, speaking for myself and for this department before the committee of the Senate last winter.

"The irrigation inquiry work undertaken and performed by this department has been, and is, sedulously confined to the collection and dissemination of information relative to the condition of our irrigable lands, and the methods by which irrigation can be applied to the best advantage. In this I am simply carrying out the behests of Congress as expressed in the act making a small appropriation for this purpose."

The people of the Eastern States would not take kindly to a national irrigation scheme. They would not consent to be taxed for the purpose of reclaiming arid lands, the products of which would compete with their own. And furthermore, it would be monstrous to have the National Treasury perform the work, and then give the lands away under homestead law. Besides, there is no money available for this purpose.

The most feasible plan, and that most likely to be favorably accepted on all sides, would be the cession of the arid lands to the States and Territories within whose bounds they are. Congress could prescribe certain conditions by which reclamation could be carried on, and the people as a whole be benefited. For instance, provision should be made so that speculators, syndicates or political bosses should not obtain control of large blocks of lands, or monopolize the water supply. Even the rights of the different States to this supply should be protected. It would be manifestly unfair if north Dakota could monopolize all the summer water of the Upper Missouri.

The swamp lands were given by the

General Government to many of the States, and there is no reason why the same disposition should not be made of the arid lands. Each State should be given those within its limits, subject to certain general regulations, providing against a subsequent transfer to merely speculative companies, or individuals. The State could proceed according to its facilities, and as the lands were brought within the water domain, they could be sold by public sale, and the proceeds devoted to whatever purpose the wisdom of the Legislature might decree. This seems to be the most equitable as well as the most popular plan. Careful provision being also made that no State should receive more than its due portion of the general water supply.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REVIEW.

HENRY CLEWS in his report for the week ending June 13, 1891, takes a very hopeful view of the financial situation in the United States. He says that the events during the week at home were of a favorable character, and the situation abroad showed signs of improvement. Gold shipments from New York declined, and the Bank of England increased its proportion of reserve to liabilities from forty-four to forty-six per cent. The bank now holds \$25,000,000 more gold than it held at the present time in 1890. The favorable progress of the Baring liquidation also exerted a good effect; and, altogether, the outlook at the world's financial centre is certainly much brighter than in March or April. Paris and Berlin are still, however, in straitened circumstances.

Our future depends on the situation at home. Europeans may dispose of American securities, but that can not depreciate their intrinsic values. If Americans are the best securities on which to realize in times of depression, they must necessarily be the best to buy when the change for the better sets in. Happily, the crop situation is in our favor, as frequently pointed out, and as the season advances evidences of improvement seem to multiply. The certainty of an abundant harvest at home and a deficient one abroad increases each day. Our crop bureau states that the increase in winter wheat acreage is 11.5 per cent. and in spring wheat 3.4 per cent., while the condition of both stands at the high average of 96.6 per cent. and 92.6 per cent. respectively.

Mr. Clews further says:

"Money continues easy and promises to so continue until the crop movement; the present quietness of trade tending to increase supplies. More attention has been given to Secretary Foster's action

in extending the 4½ per cent. bonds than the question deserves. I do not believe he will attempt any step that means contraction of the currency, for that would be less popular than success in extending these bonds at 1½ per cent. Everyone understands, also, that such a low rate of interest is possible only because of the advantages of holding these bonds other than their safety and high credit of the Government. Western banks, who hold the bulk of outstanding 4½s, may be willing to accept a lower rate of interest than Eastern banks, the higher rates of the West rendering circulation more profitable in that section than here; but, as just said, more importance has been attached to this element than it deserves. The treasury is, upon Secretary Foster's statements, able to meet all obligations, and the monetary outlook is clear until the fall. When the crop movement begins, then caution will be necessary. It is likely that, through sales of produce and possible securities, we shall regain much of the gold recently spared. The bank reserves are in good shape, and it need not be forgotten that each year the West shows itself less and less dependent on the East for its supplies of money, and the coming fall may prove no exception. We do not look for any radical or immediate change in the stock market, but the present position of affairs certainly justifies taking a more hopeful opinion regarding the future; and good stocks at present prices ought to yield a profit to buyers with reasonable expectations."

DON'T BE UNREASONABLE.

WE have published several accounts of political meetings in which the speakers handled their party opponents without gloves. We learn that some of our readers take exceptions to these strictures and very unreasonably blame the DESERET NEWS for the opinions expressed by the politicians.

We hope such critics are not numerous. It does not follow, because we give place to the views of Republicans that we are attacking the Democrats, not that in reporting the arguments of the Democrats we are assailing the Republicans. A report of a meeting is very different to an editorial article.

The views of the DESERET NEWS are to be found in its editorial columns. As to the two parties now endeavoring to make converts from the broken ranks of the late People's party we intend to be equally fair. There is a great field before them both. We wish them success, in so far as they instruct the people in political science, the issues of the day and the principles of either or both parties. Therefore we will give place in the DESERET NEWS to fair reports of the meetings held by either party. And we hope we shall not be under the necessity of expunging much from the remarks of the speakers because of personalities or intentional misrepresentation of their opponents.

But whatever we publish as the utterances of political campaigners should not and must not be taken for the opinions of the DESERET NEWS,