

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

PREST. WOODRUFF'S BIRTHDAY.

Before this is seen by readers of the WEEKLY, the venerated President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, will have entered upon the ninetieth year of his life on earth, he having been born on March 1st, 1807. The NEWS, in cordially congratulating the chosen leader of the Saints on this occasion, voices the sentiments not only of those who look up to him as the interpreter of divine counsels to mankind, but also of thousands of others who have learned to know him as a man on whose character there is no stain, a patriotic citizen and a warm-hearted friend. All rejoice to see him in his advanced age enjoy remarkable health and vigor of mind. They feel that the presence among them of one who has witnessed the various scenes of the noble struggle of the Church from the beginning, as well as the development of this mountain region from a small settlement to the present condition, and who has contributed so much to the success of both Church and State, is an inestimable blessing to them. They wish and pray that President Woodruff may continue to enjoy health and strength, and that his useful days among the people may be prolonged until with an ancient servant of the Lord he can say: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Lord, according to Thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all nations."

To the younger members of the Church, as well as to the world at large, the never doubtful testimony of President Woodruff as to the truth of the Gospel should be of great importance. After a life spent in contemplation of the wonderful work, and after having tested its worth in nearly every emergency of human existence, he proclaims its divinity with as much fervor as in early youth when he first perceived its truth. Testimonies from such a source cannot be assailed on the ground of misdirected, youthful enthusiasm, and they are surer than the laborious deductions of theoretical philosophers. Like Paul of old, "who had labored and suffered more than all," but who, after all his varied experiences, shortly before his departure charged his younger brother and disciple, Timothy, to remain faithful to the Gospel, so the testimony of President Woodruff and other veterans in the great and noble cause of mess today to the younger generation. It is the fruit of a well-spent life. It is strong and precious. May it long sound in the assemblies of the Saints and bear fruits for ages to come!

THE CAUSE OF SILVER.

There was for a time some little speculation, not altogether free from apprehension in certain circles, as to the attitude of Senator Carter of Montana on the silver question. Coming

from a constituency which, while not so largely engaged in argentiferous production as most of its neighbors further south, and having shortly after his election spoken of the great issue in language which, to put it mildly, was non-committal, there was much reason for any apprehension that existed, especially when we consider the very narrow margin by which the latest free coinage measure went through the Senate and the killing frost to which it was subjected in the House of Representatives. But there remains no longer room for solicitude, doubt or question regarding the senator from Montana; in a ringing speech from his seat in the body to which he belongs he yesterday scattered equivocation to the winds and placed himself squarely in line with the free silver forces. The solid delegation in Congress of three new, one middle-aged and one of the older states are thus found to be emphatically on that side of the question, and there, with the incidental assistance which they have received and will continue to receive elsewhere, constitute what even the enemies to silver must admit is a powerful nucleus.

The question as to what alignment the champions of the white metal will make in the impending Presidential and Congressional campaign is a deeply interesting one. It is observable that these have no following worth naming in the East or New England, and are by no means solid elsewhere save it be in the states previously referred to—Utah, Colorado, Montana, Idaho and Nevada—with the possible addition of Mississippi and South Carolina. But their strength all told is that of a mighty host, an unified and organized they would certainly either win outright or hold such a balance of power that its inevitable workings must mean practical away. But will they do all this? There's the rub.

Arrayed against the silver forces is an army as strong numerically as, perhaps stronger than, that of their opponents, with the additional advantages of organization, greater experience, equal determination, the support of the administration, the moral assistance of the powers abroad and unlimited cash on call. That the former are apparently undismayed in the presence of such immense odds is regal enough, one would think, to enlist the approval of civilized mankind everywhere and challenge the admiration of everybody at home and abroad. And so it might but for the difficulties spoken of. There is too much bickering, too little decision as to the salient features of the campaign, and, worst of all, too evident a disposition to enlist in the ranks every kind of malcontent and agitator that comes along. Of course a vote is a vote and one counts as much as any other; but the movement looking to silver restoration is one that, all things considered, should require no apologies to be made for it; there are great minds and patriotic people in abundance working in its behalf and most of these, while not over-nice as to where the necessary physical support for a win-

ning comes from, are not likely to fancy the coupling of their names and purposes with those of marauders and incendiaries. Let the silver cause take such high ground that even its enemies will be constrained to give it respect.

THE IRRIGATION OUTLOOK.

The winter now passing away has witnessed the deposit in the mountains surrounding Great Salt Lake valley of a moderate supply of snow from which will be supplied the water for summer use in this locality; and for a time it was supposed that other parts of the State would be equally favored for irrigation purposes. Unfortunately, this has not been the case, and consequently a lack of water is anticipated, north and south; this unfortunate condition reaches up into the valleys of Idaho, where the interests of the people are so closely blended with those of this State as virtually to make them one. The situation is causing some misgivings as to the future, and is awakening serious thought as to what must be done to avoid the possibility of drought and crop failures in this section of country, which is rapidly increasing in population and is steadily growing in need of protective measures for its water supply.

To the last issue of the Iron County Record are some suggestions on the subject, which, while they have been repeated again and again by leading men and journals in this community, are timely on the present occasion. The Record says that, judging from the sombre countenances of farmers in that locality, and the scarcity of snow in the mountains, the prospects for crops, the coming season are not very encouraging just now. It says that all are well aware that, unless there is a great change in the climatic conditions here, and in fact all over the State, we will experience one of the driest summers known for many years. The fall of snow has been not only light in the extreme, but the present warm weather is actually thawing what little snow there is in the canyon, and bringing it down now when it cannot possibly be utilized under our present circumstances, but is merely allowed to pass by and waste itself on the lowlands and in the lakes.

The Record then says that, should the coming season turn out as the present conditions indicate it is likely to do—one almost unprecedented in the history of Utah since its earliest settlement in point of drought—it hopes that at least it will work a benefit among us in one way by opening the eyes of the people to the fact that with proper reservoir facilities this water which is now passing over the creek beds to no purpose whatever, could be stored and kept to mature crops in the summer, when the creeks bring down little more than enough water for culinary and city purposes. There are many excellent reservoir sites, and lots of able-bodied young men who are spending their time idly, because they have nothing to do; and the labor of these unemployed men could be utilized in a direction to make the people measur-