

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*Written for this Paper.*

## THE TRANS-MISS. CONGRESS.

The great interests involved in the action of the august body designated with the title as above, deserves a few lines from one of its members who was honored by being called upon to represent Utah for a few days in the capacity of an M. C. None of us, however, have had to buy a new hat; we have, many of us, entered a new school; we have come to learn that we cannot live isolated from our fellow men, but that we must be in touch with the great movements affecting the inter-mountain region.

Utah, I am proud to say, made a very creditable presentation of the brawn and brain of its insular position. Our delegation numbered forty gentlemen and one lady—excepting Missouri, the best attended delegation present.

It should be known that members of this congress meet their own expenses, unless in a few instances it is borne by the city sending a delegate, and that at the call of the governor of each state and territory a number of men are ready to serve their country in the peaceful warfare of promoting the best interests of the great West. Being a commercial and not a political organization the prominent objects sought are: The remonetization of silver; irrigation of arid and other lands; the disposition of Indian and public lands; the Nicaragua canal; a national bankrupt law; the improvement of western rivers and harbors; anti-option legislation; mining laws; admission of territories to statehood, and various other subjects pertaining to the material prosperity of the people. It is hoped that the deliberations of the body will have weight with the national Congress and point to their actual needs and claim that legislation that will help to develop the varied interests that need encouragement. This is simply the mission of a great organization that will keep on growing in weight and influence annually, until its conclusions and resolutions shall claim the proper recognition. It will prove a great suggestive auxiliary to our lawmakers, one that cannot be pooh-poohed or laughed down.

The members who left on the Pullman car Elkhorn via the Union Pacific were treated with every courtesy all along the line. On each side of the car huge streamers announced the fact that members of the congress were aboard, the significant motto of "Silver 16 to 1" being prominent. This is one of the war cries of the present movement, one which, when the object is attained, will enable our citizens to purchase what they need with hard money instead of buying an egg's worth of coal oil or three eggs' worth of nails, as I have seen done in our country settlements.

At Denver many delegates from Colorado boarded our train, notably Governor Waite, Miss Pi oche Cruzins, Col. Fisk and others, so that we had a very pleasant time. Dry weather prevails everywhere; through the drought stricken plains of western Kansas the

dust was very bad. The importance of the conservation of our water supplies grows more necessary every year, and the interest awakened in irrigation is more decided.

At Kansas City the Chicago and Alton railroad put on a special train for the delegates and at this point we were joined by President Cannon, he having stopped off at Hutchison, where highest honors were showered upon him. On the train were gentlemen representing the Merchants' Exchange of St. Louis, who had come to tender us the freedom of their facilities for making our stay a pleasant one. At the station other members of the same organization were ready to escort us to the different hotels. The Planters' house got the lion's share.

St. Louis boasts the finest railway depot in the world. It was built at a cost of \$6,000,500; it was at night time like a fairy palace, but we could not stop to take in all its attractions.

The Utah delegates were all emblazoned with badges, with the words "Utah Delegate" in bold type, so that the city began to know that some one from the mountains had arrived. Public interest, however, was not awakened much in our movements, the attendance of the public being very small the first day. The Utah delegation occupied the front seats in the assembly. The congress is being held in the Entertainment Hall of the great exposition building. Banners indicate the locality of the representatives from the different States. Among those from Utah are President George Q. Cannon, Delegate-elect Frank J. Cannon, C. C. Goodwin, Judge Dusenberry, W. H. Rowe, W. H. Culmer, several presidents of Stakes and other prominent citizens, making a fine presentation of the brawn and brain of our insular Territory, this M. C. excepted. The absence of any sectional feeling is one of the most gratifying features of the gathering. The old time unpopularity of Utah and her people is nowhere made manifest—nothing but kindness and courtesy is experienced everywhere. On the other hand, whenever the visit of our Tabernacle choir is referred to, nothing but words of commendation are heard; the hallelujah of praise their visit produced is very flattering, and numbers point with pride to the part they played in catering to the pleasure afforded the members. The Merchants' Exchange, through its members, offers us the freedom of the theaters and the proprietors of public institutions invite us to come and see them—our badges being the ticket of admission.

Tomorrow, Thanksgiving Day, we are to have a free carriage ride and luncheon at the park and if we take in the visit to the Anheuser Busch brewery, a mammoth establishment, you may not get another letter. Invitations are pouring in from all sides, the only trouble is that we cannot accept them—if we should it would stop the needed legislation. Some of us could sit out a theatrical entertainment better than the hearing of a long speech.

Now, as to the Congress and the details of conducting the same I do not

intend to tire out my readers—the Associated Press will do that; but I must say it is a very interesting school of experience that enables a man to preside with dignity and ability over the deliberations of men of brains, and I am proud that it is a part of the education of our youth in Utah. The gentleman, Mr. Harry G. Whitmore, is a splendid type of a chairman; he has a fine presence, a sonorous voice, a decided manner and executive ability which always carries a man to the top. By acclamation on the second day the duty of presiding on the next year fell upon President George Q. Cannon, and when Mr. Whitmore relinquished his responsibility and handed the gavel over to his successor it was one of the most pleasing experiences of our visit to witness the elegant manner in which it was done and hear the graceful compliments paid to the retiring president by our worthy representative who shall preside over the destiny of the organization until its next annual session.

"Peace on earth, good will to man"—the day has arrived when the Pioneers of Utah, the "cradle of irrigation," the standard bearers of progress in the great American desert, receive proper recognition at the hands of the nation—I must say that I felt proud to see our worthy president take the reins of government in so able a manner and that the choice was unanimous.

There is enough business laid out for this congress to last them for as many months as they have days allotted them for the transaction of the various subjects offered for consideration. There were resolutions concerning the forest fires in Minnesota, the interests of Alaska, the harbor of San Pedro in California, and the rivers and harbors of Texas. Nearly every section had some resolution to offer, and it is safe to say that they will land in the waste basket. Already the fourth and last day of congress is near, when all will be laid aside for another year. Silver is receiving its full consideration, and this is only one of the many subjects. Irrigation comes next, and as to the other subjects, we shall have to hand them over to the national Congress to wrestle over—we have not the time.

I feel it my duty as an M. C. to say that no man should be elected President of the U. S. until he has crossed the continent and seen the place where he can select the best material from to run the nation with. The country is growing so big, the population increasing so fast, that unless a man knows how big America is he had better keep out of the presidential chair. The West has got big enough now to have its say as to what shall be done by the nation, and I believe that this congress movement will open the eyes as to her needs.

I had a resolution to offer but modesty forbade me; it was that every resident of the states and territories embraced in the congress make it their special business to plant one tree during the year and as many more as possible; and furthermore, that if the residents of the drought-stricken regions of Kansas and Nebraska need help from Utah, let them say so to any member of our delegation. I promise them it shall not go unheeded.

Where the next session of the con-