

diverted to some members of the insect kingdom, and the subject is really interesting, as is any subject letting in light that the mind did not previously have and showing us, in short, once more that we do not "know it all" by a great deal, and are not likely to, at least not in this probation.

A writer in the *Magazine of Natural History* asks the question, "Do ants talk?" and then goes on to say: "One day saw a drove of the small black ants moving, perhaps, to better quarters. The distance was some 150 yards. Almost all which came from the old home carried some of the household goods. Some had eggs, some had what may have answered for their bacon or meat, some had one thing and some another. I sat and watched them closely for over an hour. I noticed that every time two met in the way they would hold their heads close together as if greeting one another, and no matter how often the meeting took place this same thing occurred, as though a short chat was necessary."

To prove more about it the writer then killed one who was on his way. Others being eye witnesses to the murder went with speed, and with every ant they met this talking took place as before. But instead of a pleasant greeting it was sad news they had to communicate. "He knows" it was sad news, for every ant that these parties met hastily turned back and fled on another course, as much as to say, "For the king's sake and for your safety do not go there, for I have seen a monster, just behind, that is able to destroy us all at one blow. I saw him kill one of our family. I do not know how many more are killed." So the news spread, and it was true. How was the news communicated, if not by speech?

It looks as though the idea we were all born with, that animals may understand spoken language but cannot use it, may have to be abandoned; it is a good thing for that portion of our race which is willing to admit its liability to err that it occasionally seeks a knowledge of its errors in order that it may turn from them.

## TAXATION AND DEBT OF NEVADA.

A correspondent writing from Sugar House wants to know the amount of Nevada's indebtedness and the rate of taxation in that state. The bonded debt is as follows:

	Amount of Principal	Annual Interest & Charge	Average Rate of Interest	Interest Charge per Cent.
State.....	182,000	7,280	4.00	0.16
County.....	650,322	64,538	8.25	1.19
Municipal (4000 or more inhabitants).....				
Municipal (less than 4000 inhabitants).....				
School district.....	15,890	1,008	0.59	0.02
Total.....	857,622	82,826	7.33	1.37

The rate of taxation in 1890—the latest advice at hand, but not changed much if any since—was, for state purposes, 90 cents on \$100, or at the rate of 9 mills. Utah for territorial, etc., purposes the same year, assessed and collected \$3 50, or at the rate of 3.5 mills—a little more than one-third of its neighbor's imposition.

## CALIFORNIA'S GREAT UNDERTAKING.

It is the duty of the Pacific coast press to lend as much encouragement as it can to the California midwinter fair, now that it is an assured "go" and under the most favorable circumstances is a risky proceeding on the part of its managers. This is not so much because of the time of year, winter not being as severe a season in that latitude as in most other parts of the country; but principally because it follows so closely upon the heels of the greater and grander show at Chicago. A good many Californians will have seen the latter exhibition by the time the former is opened; and while there will be governed in their judgment and expressions by patriotic considerations, the contrast must under the most favorable circumstances be so striking that it will have its effect.

We learn from the *Chronicle* that in every part of the state the work of appointing commissioners to represent their respective localities in the great work is going steadily along. These commissioners will arrange for and take care of the various county exhibits, and no doubt their labors will be rewarded by such a showing as has never been made before in California. But, it is asked, should it not occur to the interior by this time that they should do something more for the midwinter fair than to promise it moral support and to provide exhibits to put in to the exposition when the proper time comes? Should the state at large not reflect that the burden of making ready for the fair is a heavy one, and that San Francisco ought not to expect to carry it alone, inasmuch as the fair will benefit the country and the city alike? We should think so; and attention is called to the fact that the bigger and more attractive the fair is made the greater will be the advantage to the state as a whole.

It is also believed that if the plans are carried out on the scale now spoken of the fair will have thousands of visitors from outside the state of California, and "visitors of the class that California needs—men with some means who want to establish themselves there and who will not stay in San Francisco, but will spread themselves out over the length and breadth of the state." From which point of view the *Chronicle* shows again that the exposition is entitled to ask for and receive subscriptions from the country and not let everything devolve upon the city. The article spoken of concludes as follows:

From this point of view it is plain that the midwinter exposition is entitled to ask and receive contributions of money from the country as well as from this city. We are willing to pull the laboring oar, but we ought not to be expected to pull the boat alone, while others enjoy the result of our labors. All the money in California is not in San Francisco, though the assertion is sometimes made that it is. The people of every county in California should contribute to the midwinter fair fund in proportion to their means, thereby assuring an exposition unsurpassed except twice on the American continent, and attracting to this state thousands of visitors and sightseers, every one of whom will, necessarily, be of some benefit to the whole state of

California and to everybody within its borders.

Utah will undoubtedly be represented abundantly at the California fair; and next year we expect to have an attraction here that will bring a goodly number of our neighbors from the Golden state into our midst for a season.

## LET US BE CALM.

Utah's conservative course through the financial crisis that has been sweeping over the country has excited universal praise on every hand. Her prudent example has been lauded from platform and public prints and recommended to her more fiery and less substantial neighbors. Her utterances have carried with them the stamp of earnestness and have been adorned with the prestige of respectability. It behooves the Territory and its people, whether in official positions or in the common ranks, to do nothing or say nothing that shall render vulnerable any part of this high vantage ground. Having done nothing to forfeit the right to a respectful hearing, we shall find friends everywhere ready to investigate our claims and aid us in bringing them to popular notice. Utah's record through all the years has been one of such uniform integrity and stability that her power to do good in such emergencies as this is almost boundless. Surely she would not have it prostituted to the base uses of blatant demagogues and enthusiasts whose folly borders closely on crime and whose raving is not altogether free from the taint of lunacy.

## THE SILVER CONVENTION.

The right of the people peacefully to assemble and petition for a redress of grievances is so sacredly upheld in this country that sometimes out of the widespread franchise grow anarchy and dangers of various kinds. Imagine a gathering of the wild and reckless spirits which abound in every community—men who toil not neither do they spin, but live somehow—whereat the government and all its institutions are denounced; men of wealth, standing and enterprise are branded as robbers, thieves and oppressors; public officials are hanged in effigy; those who do not subscribe to the mob's maniacal doctrines are hooted at and assailed if they happen to come near enough; with howls of delight and groans of denunciation, ribald language and coarse buffoonery, all making night hideous and all protected by that much-abused shield of popular rights quoted above. It is done very often.

We have now in mind that meeting which convened in Chicago today. At the present writing it is not known what is doing or to be done, but it is known that in range of opinion and shades of character it comes very near running the entire social gamut. From the lowest note in the scale to near the highest if not actually the highest, the ward heeler and the venerated statesman, the shrieker of the country press and the metropolitan moulder of conservative