

cane and beets elsewhere, the nearness of market for the home product offers an advantage to the local manufacturer over the foreign producer.

These facts already have attracted the attention of foreign capitalists familiar with the sugar industry, and several projects have been set on foot for the investment of money in this business in the West. One of these is the proposition just laid before W. H. Mills, land commissioner for the Central Pacific lands, by a wealthy German who has made a specialty of sugar beet culture in his native land. He proposes to take 10,000 acres of land near Lake Yosemite, California, put the entire acreage into beets, and locate a sugar factory there, to be run by water power from the lake. Half a million dollars is to be put in the factory alone, and it is to have a capacity of 120,000,000 pounds of sugar each season—thirty times as much as was made at the Lehi factory last year—making it the largest producer in the United States. There is to be half a million dollars in addition to this as a working capital, and it is expected that this amount of stock will be taken by Americans.

In this Territory there is considerable effort being put forth to establish a sugar factory at Richfield or some suitable point in Sevier county. There is no question of there being room in Utah for another factory such as that at Lehi, so far as the quantity of sugar consumed here is concerned; there may be room for two more factories to supply the local market, though that is doubtful, as the capacity of the Lehi works could be largely increased, and so could that of a second factory, if built, and these could supply the home demand for years to come.

But the investment of such a large amount of money as is necessary to the operation of an enterprise of this kind requires that all the conditions surrounding the industry should be carefully considered. There are several important features connected with this matter. Although the Lehi factory has been very successful under the circumstances, it has been so only through the most careful and economical management. It should be also remembered that success under the circumstances referred to—in a year of financial depression like 1893—means the making of hotbeds meet in current expenses with little to spare for wear on plant—a result that would be hardly satisfactory in a season of general business prosperity. It might be suggested in this connection that while the Lehi factory is on the road to prosperity through the energy of its promoters and the encouragement received from the people, as a financial investment it is not yet out of the woods. Had it not been that there were good transportation facilities to the Lehi works and that a large section of the country close by was such that it became tributary through the ability of the farmers to get their beets to market cheaply and thus secure for themselves good returns—the necessary element to induce them to raise sugar beets—the factory would have proved a failure.

At some time in the future, a new sugar factory might be successfully conducted, say in Davis

county, close to this city or Ogden, or in some similar location near centers of business and population, where the soil is suitable to sugar beet culture and the farms are so situated that it is only a short distance to the railways, and where the haul on these is short and competition sufficiently close to bring the cost of transportation to a low figure. These conditions certainly do not exist at present in the Sevier valley. They may do so some time, but the probability of its being in the near future is hardly sufficient to warrant the outlay of much capital on the prospect. The News has no inclination to discourage the people on the Sevier in the matter of home industries; our sincere desire is to do the opposite. In this situation we would feel that we were derelict in our duty were we to fail to point out the fact that an attempt to establish a sugar factory on the Sevier at the present time would probably result in failure, loss of confidence in the promoters of the scheme, and consequent discouragement in and injury to the cause of home industry. The good people of that ambitious county can do much better by coming forward and buying some of the stock of the Lehi factory, which is still in need of aid.

Among the attributes that can be observed in communities is one frequently and markedly exhibited by the actions of a flock of sheep—when one jumps in a certain direction there is a general inclination to go the same way. This feature is one that under many circumstances deserves encouragement, as it indicates a unanimity that is valuable and commendable. But it does not do to become intemperate in this respect, nor when there seems to be a success made in any particular line of business or manufacture, for people to rush into that branch till it is overdone and made a failure all around. Instances of this kind, of which there have been a number in Utah, should serve as warnings for the future. There are plenty of home industries which can be yet successfully started in Utah, and which could be inaugurated under present conditions, with ample support from the start. Some of these are eminently suited to the Sevier valley and the situation of its people. We suggest in all kindness that the present movement for a new sugar factory be promptly dropped.

BOREAS IN A RAGE.

The dispatches for the past few days have brought reports of disasters on land and sea caused by the worst storm on record in years. And the details are probably not all in. At Chicago, the wind last Monday swept down with the violence of a hurricane carrying pedestrians off their feet, overturning carriages and hurling immense waves against the shores of the lake. Business was paralyzed and traffic all but suspended. Similar reports come from Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio, Wisconsin, Texas, Kentucky, New York and several other states. Everywhere the dense clouds of snow hurled by a piercing wind impeded or suspended the traffic, and resulted in loss of life and property.

The most appalling reports come

from Oklahoma, where many persons froze to death. The condition of the settlers, some of whom live in tents and are short of provisions, may be imagined. In several places whole families have been found huddled together and dead. The sufferings of one, Herman Stone, became too intense. His provisions had given out. The fire in the stove was extinguished. One member of the family froze to death and the remainder were slowly being wrapped in the icy mantle of the grim visitor. It was too much to bear. The distracted husband precipitated the end by killing his family first and then plunging the blood-stained steel into his own throat. "God have mercy on us," was the prayer with which he had finished a note found in his hut and conveying to the world the intelligence of his awful condition before death.

The dispatches from Europe also tell of damage to property and numerous wrecks, particularly in the English channel. The gale swept the British Islands, Holland and various parts of the German empire.

Compared to the severity of the weather as reported from all these places, the slight taste of winter experienced in this region is a mild zephyr. Well may the people living in these valleys with gratitude contemplate the providence that led their noble fathers to select these mountain fastnesses for an abode, and by their skill, diligence and perseverance make them what they are today. It has been, and still is, the firm belief of this people that vast multitudes will yet look to this intermountain region as the most desirable spot on God's earth. And as time goes on this belief is seen to have a firm, rational foundation. When all the facts are known; when people realize the possibilities of these valleys—the fertility of the soil, the wealth of the mountains, the mildness of the climate, the purity of the air and, more than all, the sterling qualities of the people, all of which is already being lauded abroad by thousands of visitors, many will wend their way to these mountains to share with us the blessings of peace and health and comfort.

TWO INTERESTING industrial items from the February number of the *Irrigation Market*, New York:

The Arid West is increasing in the possibilities of wealth making. "Canalgre" or sour dock weed, a product of aridity, is in active demand for the tannic acid its roots produce. Like all indigenous arid region plants, it runs to roots. Tannic acid is an article of commerce and manufactures; it is of more value on the world's balance sheet than all the products of iron ore.

President William Palmer of the Rio Grande Western road says that 80,000 acres of Utah land laid down in sugar beet would, in proceeds, with the proper mills to handle, bring as much as the silver product of Utah last year, which amounted to 7,700,000 ounces.

ROBERT LINCOLN thinks the next candidate of the Republicans for the Presidency will be ex-Speaker Reed, ex-President Harrison or ex-Representative McKinley. A good many Republicans are inclined to add to these three possibilities a fourth—ex-Minister Lincoln himself.