

## OPPOSITION TO IRRIGATION:

THE Springfield (Massachusetts) *Republican* of Sept. 18th has an editorial relating to the Irrigation Congress recently held in this city. It deprecates the advisability of bringing so much more land into cultivation in competition with the farming lands now under the plow. It says that the great increase in crops, sure to follow increased acreage, will materially increase prices of agricultural products. Last year, owing to the abundance of cereals, farmers could not obtain living prices for their produce.

This fact, the *Republican* says, is forgotten in the anxiety to boom certain States and Territories, and to attract immigration to the "arid belt." Should the irrigation project be decided on as practicable, the general government will be expected to perform most of the work. It will be asked to locate water supplies, survey reservoirs and canals, and prepare all the engineering specifications. The *Republican* contends that public opinion will oppose these demands. Its great dread is that the water supplies may fall into the hands of corporate ownership, owing to the immensity of the labor to be performed.

In a general way the *Republican* is against the whole irrigation scheme as outlined by the Salt Lake Congress a few days ago. It is opposed especially to the ceding of the arid lands by the Federal Government to the States and Territories in which they are located. The article closes with the following paragraph:

"The objections to the plans are that it will be a wide departure from precedent, and that it is relinquishing to these States a sovereignty properly belonging to the nation, and others equally obvious; but the real objection lies against the irrigation of these lands at all, which only means an increase of products of which our present supply, taking one year with another, is larger than there has been a market for, at prices satisfactory to the farmer."

Such arguments in opposition to irrigation seem to us puerile and senseless. As to the alleged departure from precedent, were not swamp lands ceded in the manner outlined by the Irrigation Congress pertaining to arid lands? And as to increasing our farm products, surely no political economist can look upon that as an evil. Farmers may not secure large prices, but they will have, at all events, a sufficiency of food and raiment. Where these are, prosperity and plenty in a material sense can scarcely be lacking. On the *Republican's* theory, farming in the United States ought at once to be greatly restricted, and no more land should be placed under cultivation.

## MR. BLAINE'S INTENTIONS.

THE "enterprising journalist" of this country has fallen into a great many absurd habits in the pursuit of ways that are original and interesting in the publication of news, and the most utterly absurd of them all is the lately invented method of finding out and informing the public who is or is not going to run for President.

In obtaining any other species of information, unless it be that in which some heinous crime is involved, the greatest of journalists is satisfied with getting his facts from the person best able to give them correctly. But with Presidential matters, there seems to be some mysterious objection to this common place method. If there is any object in knowing whether a certain politician has presidential aspirations, the fashion is to go for information to almost anybody in preference to the man most interested.

After the publication of about a dozen different opinions said to be absolutely authentic, most of them confirming the belief that Mr. Blaine was going to be a Republican candidate at the next national convention, now comes the *Mail and Express* with the wonderful news that somebody who knew had said that Mr. Blaine would not upon any conditions accept the nomination but on the other hand was into the Harrison campaign neck and ears, and moreover after the first of the new year he was going to say so himself. In order to make its authority particular among the many contradicting statements this enterprising organ further declares that the mystical individual who told it all this, "has charge of the Northwest for President," and of course would know all about it.

The alleged "charge d' affairs of the North West for President" is a title we have never before been informed of, but presuming that one of our western "bosses" has created for himself this exalted function, will any man of common sense who respects James G. Blaine believe him a voluntary party to any such proceeding as this "boss" of the Northwest ascribes to him? If Mr. Blaine has fully made up his mind to deny himself the Republican nomination, and all for his love of Benjamin Harrison, it is probable that his plan of telling it would not be through a *sub rosa* conversation with some political "boss" or other, with the tacit understanding that the latter would tell it *sub rosa* to the *Mail and Express*, which in its turn would take the general public into the great secret.

If Mr. Blaine has anything for the

public on the subject of his nomination we are of the impression that they can get it by the asking, and will not have to wait "till after the first of the new year" for his answer. The fact that all this information about his private intentions is handed out second-hand gives rise to the suspicion that it is political rubbish and nothing more. However, it may be that America's greatest politician has decided not to run again for a post which would require greater physical power than he finds remaining in his somewhat weakened constitution, but when he makes up his mind to announce it, he will do it in no indirect or underhand manner.

## THE CHINESE MAY COME.

THE Chinese question is coming to the front in a new form. Notwithstanding the stringent exclusion laws relating to the "Celestial," yet he is found plenty in every city in the United States. The Treasury Department at Washington, some months ago, undertook to investigate the matter. It was an open secret that Canada furnished the vast majority of the Chinese immigrants to this country. Acting Secretary Spaulding made a trip along the northwestern frontier, in order to familiarize himself with the situation, and, if possible, to ascertain to what extent the immigration business prevailed. A large force of detectives was also employed on Canadian soil, so as to give information of the approach of groups of Chinamen to the United States.

It was finally established beyond all doubt that Canada was being used as a doorway to the United States for the entrance of countless "Celestials." The exclusion act provides that a Chinaman found in the United States, unless under certain conditions, must be returned to the country "from which he came." Returning Chinamen to Canada proved fruitless, for they managed to come back again. In order to prevent successfully the admission of these people, Attorney-General Miller, a few weeks ago, gave an opinion to the effect that when a Chinaman came to this country by way of Canada, he could not claim that it was the country "from which he came." In accordance with this opinion steps were taken to send Chinamen back to their own country, but they protested, hired lawyers, and took the matter to an American court.

About a week ago a test case was brought before Judge Swan, of the Federal district court at Detroit, Mich., and he decided that Canada was the country from which the Chinamen