

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

## UTAH'S CROPS AND FINANCES.

So far as the general condition of crops throughout the State is concerned, the yield for 1898 has been satisfactory in most particulars. In some localities the peculiar weather of last spring caused delays and losses, but these were mostly made up in other ways, so that in grain, hay and vegetables the production generally has made a very acceptable average. From the reduction in the amount of stored hay last spring there may not be so much of this crop on hand as there was a year ago, and in some localities prices may rule a little higher on this account than for some time past; but the present supply is not at all inadequate to the demand, so there will be no shortage. In one particular, the fruit crop, there has been a heavy falling off, and quite a burden will be entailed on some localities and classes in consequence.

From the standpoint of having a sufficiency of food generally, for man and animal, the showing is fairly satisfactory; there is no denying that it would have been better if the fruit-yield had been up to the usual standard. Yet taken altogether there is little to complain at and very much to be thankful for. Of one thing there is assurance, viz.: that there is no necessity for any deserving person to suffer for the actual necessities of life, though there will be many who cannot afford the luxuries and must be economical in utilizing the comforts thereof.

One fact that has to be considered and which establishes an effective barrier against extravagance in most families, is the low prices that come to the producer under existing circumstances. The cause and cure of such condition are matters of extensive discussion; its existence is plainly apparent, and a duty of providers for families is to wrestle with that condition as it is. They cannot sit in idleness till theoretical or even demonstrated remedies are applied in the slow order that attends disputed policies. For the people of the State there is but one road to safety in their business and household expenses, and that is rigid economy, intelligently applied.

There are very many people burdened with debt; and it might be superfluous to suggest the advisability of getting out from under the load as quickly as possible, for the reason that such a course would be adopted if it were available. But the admonition may be ventured that no further indebtedness be incurred where it possibly can be avoided; and that those who are out of debt remain so, at least till matters are in a more settled condition.

The financial stringency of 1898 brought home many, and sometimes painful, lessons of economy to people who had been too extravagant or venturesome in their business affairs; and the experiences since that time should not be without value now. However bright the prospect might appear in the near future, it must be admitted that there is an interim

which might not prove pleasant if unwisdom should abound. The present increasing stringency of the money market, which is naturally connected with the expressed inclination of certain financial forces in the land to precipitate another panic, indicates that such a condition can be safely avoided only by care and patience on the part of the people themselves.

The present situation is such that it is only necessary to make the merest suggestion in order to attract attention thereto and demonstrate the wisdom of caution and conservatism in these matters. With the standing the people of this State have for integrity in financial affairs, and their well known ability to weather business storms successfully through their willingness to aid and their confidence in each other, whatever adversity might come should touch them more lightly than any other part of the Union. With the goodly supply of the necessities of life that we have on hand, and the exercise of ordinary prudence in business affairs, public and domestic, there ought to be no occasion for special worry, though there is abundant reason to keep "a level head."

## MAX O'RELL AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Paul Blouet, or Max O'Rell as he is known in the literary world, does not seem to be getting on as smoothly as he did. He has said some very witty things, but latterly has been indulging his humor at the expense of his veracity and has not been as courteous in his choice of subjects as the proverbial Frenchman. Literary folk will remember that a couple of years ago Blouet perpetrated a joke at the expense of the genealogy-seeking element in Americans. It was responded to rather coarsely by Mark Twain, who was taken to task for not discerning the point of the O'Rell witticism and letting it pass by. But now others are noting the trend of the Frenchman's joker, and in a way to show that the American humorist, while proceeding at an inopportune time to rebuke Blouet, had a pretty good insight into his way of doing business.

One of the recent bits of supposed humor by Max O'Rell has been his North American Review article on female suffrage. In ungallant fashion he made women voters the butt of ridicule. In writing on "petticoat government," the Frenchman said he "knew of one country only where the government by woman was given a real trial, and that in New Zealand. The law was passed and the experiment was made. The law had to be repealed after six months. The government had taken such a tyrannical aim that that loveliest of spots on the earth was on the eve of a revolution, of a desperate struggle for liberty."

This statement was allowed to go unchallenged for a time, but its reproduction in leading journals caused a prominent London newspaper, the Daily News, to take the matter up, and to give Max O'Rell a warming up be-

cause of his disregard of truth. After paying attention to him for his apparently deliberate misstatement of facts, it says that female suffrage, granted in New Zealand three years ago, is not more likely to be revoked there than is vote by ballot to be repealed in England. It adds that indeed the absence of expressions of discontent with it is remarkable; that the fact seems to be that female suffrage has been quietly accepted in the colony as a recognized institution. It has also been established in South Australia and it is worthy of note that in both colonies the effect of the admission of women voters was to confirm in power previously existing, and very radical, administrations.

A few more incidents of this kind, and Max O'Rell's witticisms will lose their point because he assumes imaginary conditions on which to base his observations, instead of displaying the genius of the true humorist by making his foundation that which actually exists.

## DECLINE IN THE PRICE OF LAND.

Important points are often lost sight of in the heat of political discussions, and the subjects dealt with are consequently partly left in the dark. The question of the cause of the fall in the value of land and the products of the soil is an illustration. The decline is felt in several countries and is chiefly attributed to foreign competition. But has it no other and no deeper origin?

A contributor to the Cosmopolis thinks it has. He points out that the progress made in chemistry and physical sciences is such that the value of land necessarily must fall. By this process it has been made possible to supply the necessities and luxuries of life from the mineral kingdom to an extent that has made this a dangerous competitor of the products of the land.

It has been observed that the human family in its search for means of subsistence first turned to the animal kingdom; then to the domain of plants and lastly to minerals. This principle is illustrated in many ways. For instance, to obtain the purple color the ancients were dependent on the little Mediterranean shell fish, and it was so expensive that kings only could afford to wear it. Later the dyeing properties of the Orseille weed were discovered and lastly the beautiful series of purples yielded by coal tar as results of the combination of one of its products, aniline, with other bodies. By this progress one of the most important industries of Tyre, once an important city, was entirely wiped out.

To obtain light people first used the fat of animals; then oil pressed from plants and then coal oil. Wood has had to give place for coal and iron. And even clothing is being manufactured to some extent from the products of the mineral kingdom.

Only two years ago a prominent chemist predicted that the time would come when the whole human family would be supplied with all necessities of life from minerals, and that the surface of the earth would be transformed into flower gardens and parks. Whether