

tion was of the transient class that drifted in here merely to fatten on the expenditures of public money. During the years succeeding the opening of 1890 there were millions of dollars distributed by public officials, much of it extravagantly; the city and county were burdened with debt to the extent of their credit for borrowing, and taxpayers will groan under the load for years to come. This extravagant expenditure was the opportunity for corruptants who had no interest in the welfare of this locality except for the individual benefits they might receive and that made it an easier field of operations than elsewhere. Now that public finances are no longer playing fast and loose, these transients have departed to other climes; and while bona fide Salt Lake residents recognize that they have some valuable public improvements in lieu of the cash expended, they also realize that they have paid a very high price for the temporarily augmented population.

Under such circumstances, therefore, it is a source of gratification to know that the falling-off in numbers has been very largely in that class which the city can do without to advantage. As the municipality stands today, the increase has been in bona fide residents whose desire and intention is to make this their home, and to devote their energies for its prosperity. While the increase over the census of 1890 represents only 7 per cent, it should be remembered also that the census in that year was largely inflated by the influx of the floating element which has since departed. Considering this, the increase of substantial residents actually has been a higher percentage than the bare figures indicate.

There is another avenue of reducing the city's population which, however, has carried outside of the city limits a most desirable class of people who have shown themselves frugal, industrious, and possessed of a strong attachment for the surroundings of permanent homes. These are business men and mechanics who have located in various suburban additions, which place them outside of the city censustaker. The number of former residents of this city who have passed through that avenue during the past five years to escape city burdens of different kinds will reach into the thousands. These are not included in the enumeration, though they are all intimately connected with the city's business. If there is any regret associated with a falling off in population, it is because of a policy that has impelled these people to go outside of the corporate limits.

In the comparative figures of population, and the well known causes affecting them, are suggestions which should afford opportunity for deep thought among those actively engaged in directing the municipal policy. Our business men, promoters, Chamber of Commerce and others all may combine in efforts to secure an influx of capital and bona fide residents for the city; but while there stands before the country the unvoiced object lesson of the past four or five years, level headed people are going to flinch. On its face that object lesson presents two prominent features:

(1) That when there are public funds

to expend, non-taxpayers and transients reap the benefits, while property owners have to foot the bill; (2) That heavy general taxes, augmented by more excessive special assessments on large districts, where the benefits are unequal and inadequate, are forcing the brawn and brain of the community to seek homes outside of the line of such financial oppression. All boasts regarding advantages for local investments shrink out of sight in the presence of these historical and thoroughly demonstrated facts. When the home owner finds that it is cheaper to rent or to live elsewhere than to pay special and general taxes, it is useless to offer the specious argument that the city where such a condition exists is desirable for homes; climate, water, soil, picturesque scenery, all go down before the relentless tyrant of high and special taxes. With most people the matter of dollars and cents is a stubborn fact which cannot be brushed aside.

In a change from this policy—a return to the conservatism which marked the municipality in general affairs prior to 1890—there are the brightest hopes for Salt Lake's future. It would stop the outflow of tradesmen and others who are usually designated as the middle classes and whose presence is the backbone of a prosperous commonwealth, because their change of residence would not be a necessity of financial pressure; it would give to permanent residents the benefits of employment when public improvements were going on, and the cry of "Salt Lake work for Salt Lake workmen" would not be longer an outburst of politicians' wind, but an established, self-evident fact. What is needed now is something that will impress the people with the conviction that such a change is to be inaugurated. Then will come as a natural sequence that influx of capital and investment which is desirable, and instead of a goodly class of people rushing away from the city, they will crowd hither. Then the suburban residents who have sought to escape will have the old love renewed, and while it may not be advisable to change their residences, they will seek to be included within the municipality, bringing with them new friends and thus becoming a power in establishing the Greater Salt Lake, which ultimately must reach far and beyond the present city lines. Then there never will be any occasion for discussing changes in population from a regretful point of view.

RUSSIA TAKES ACTION.

The news that the Russian government has ordered the Mediterranean squadron as well as men-of-war from the Baltic, join her fleet in eastern Asia is regarded as most significant, in view of the pending negotiations between the European powers to bring the war between Japan and China to a speedy conclusion. When these ships arrive at their destination Russia will be represented in Chinese waters by a fleet of fourteen vessels of various patterns. That the gathering of so formidable a force at the scene of trouble is done merely as a precautionary measure or for the protection of Russians in China is hardly conceivable, particularly when it is remembered that all the time the Russian troops on the Chi-

nese border have been reinforced from all parts of the country.

In Russian circles much distrust is manifested in the sincerity of England's intentions. Thus the *Novoe Vremya* points out that Japan hitherto, with remarkable dexterity, has excluded western powers from interference in her contest with China, and adds that since the invaders now are masters of Pechili and in a position to march on Peking without hindrance of foreign ironclads, the only course left for the interested powers to pursue is to agree upon a plan whereby China's defeat may be deprived of any serious consequences to Europe. But this concord, the paper says, is lacking and British diplomacy is held responsible for its absence, being suspected of seeking to gain some advantage to the detriment of Russian and French interests.

This view of the situation would explain the formidable display of force in Asia by the Czar's government. For Russia has evidently long ago made up her mind as to her share of the booty in view, as a result of the war, and should the necessity arise for the enforcement of her demands, she will be prepared for a possible emergency.

SUCCESSFUL PROFIT SHARING.

A recent number of the *Elkhart Truth* contains an interesting account of the celebration of the twelfth anniversary of the destruction and rebuilding of the hand instrument factory of Congressman C. G. Conn of that city. The event was rendered auspicious on account of the public distribution among the employees of \$13,500, representing the workmen's share of last year's profit of the institution. Mr. Conn was prevented from being present on the occasion, but sent a letter to his appreciative employees. In this he explained that although hard times had somewhat diminished the sales and necessitated a lower scale of prices, he was in a position to distribute about \$1,000 more than the year previous.

It is now four years since Mr. Conn adopted the plan of profit-sharing with his employees. The dividend list is a roll of honor, the distribution of the money being a reward for diligent and faithful services as well as for good conduct. The money is paid in addition to the regular wages as an encouragement and an expression of the good will existing between employer and employee, and so successful has the plan proven to be that each year has witnessed an increase of the profits, notwithstanding the depressed condition of the trade in general.

Mr. Conn says to the workmen: "My sympathies and hopes are always with you and I am entirely satisfied with the results of your labors. The prosperity of the factory will remain undisturbed so long as you are faithful to your duties. Be attentive and diligent, and at the next annual reunion our dividends will be increased."

In a time marked by unrest among the laboring classes, when dissatisfaction preponderates on account of low wages and the question of a remedy is forced uppermost in the minds of many, it is interesting to