

liam D. Kelly, surveyed 1,734 miles southward from Quito, through Ecuador and Peru to Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Incas. The whole line, counting in loops already projected or in process of construction, will measure 4,500 miles, extending from the lower border of Mexico, to which the Mexican railways now run, clear down to the upper boundary of Argentina.

Engineer Kelly completed his task first, and although his corps was No. 3, his report will constitute the first volume of the report of the intercontinental railway commission, and it will appear in a few weeks. Engineer Shunk's volume will follow shortly after, and Lieutenant Macomb's will conclude the series. Each volume, brimming with beautiful photographic reproductions of life and scenery in the tropics and among the snow-clad Andean ranges, besides descriptions and incidents of adventure and practical engineering data, will be of absorbing interest, as the advance proofs indicate, and will show that an intercontinental railway such as is proposed can without question be built whenever the various American republics or individuals set about doing it. All three of the expeditions report that the respective governments and people of South and Central America received them with open arms, treated them as proteges and rendered them officially and personally every assistance and attention in their power, showering upon them courtesies and civilities without stint.

The cost of construction is estimated to vary from \$20,000 to \$60,000 per mile, or a total of nearly \$145,000,000. At this, it would be less of a financial undertaking than the trans-Siberian railway now being built by Russia, but would be of vastly greater importance politically and financially. The intercontinental railway commission make a report strongly in favor of the scheme, showing its certainty of success as a financial investment; but when such a great undertaking will be begun is a matter of extreme uncertainty, though no doubt it would be a potent factor in uniting in one all American interests.

ASIATIC DIPLOMACY.

China, like all great bodies, moves slowly, but at last the emperor has issued an edict setting forth the cause of the present war with Japan and commanding the various rulers and army officers to prepare for defense and to annihilate any hostile fleet or army that may approach the borders of the empire.

Japan long ago explained to the world that the Asiatic peace depended on the evacuation of Korea by China and that as this could not be accomplished by peaceful means the war was inevitable. In the proclamation it was set forth that the "equilibrium" in Asia was just as important as that in Europe, and that it was constantly threatened by the aggressive policy of China. Now, the Chinese ruler maintains that the Japanese without just cause invaded Korea, a Chinese dependency, and treacherously attacked ships sent on a mission of peace to that country. He says the policy of Japan is condemned

by the several powers as unreasonable and unjust.

No clearer evidence can be given of the influence western civilization has exercised on the diplomats of Asia than the efforts made by the rulers of the two belligerent countries to represent their motives and intentions in the most roseate hue possible. Neither Japan nor China wants the world at large to have the impression that the war, however savage it may be in its details, is prompted by that brute instinct which leads to combat and carnage among the beasts of the field. They both feel sorry for it, but they cannot help it. In fact the highest considerations of humanity and civilization demand that they butcher each other. To take their words for it, one would conclude that China and Japan, in the excess of their philanthropy, are so eager to preserve the peace of Asia and to assist their little neighbor in its struggles against rebels and thieves, that they have to fight each other for the privilege of rendering this great service. There is no selfishness in it, but their motives are pure and disinterested.

That is diplomacy of the genuine Bismarckian school. It is crude enough and too transparent to cover the real causes of the war; yet it is in a line with the diplomatic explanations sometimes given by European statesmen at critical points, and it shows a remarkable advance. Barbarous chiefs or rulers do not take pains to hide their real motives. If their weaker neighbors offend them, they will simply in a fit of rage command their generals to "go and eat" them and their land. When a country has learned the necessity of diplomacy it is already far advanced. The progress may as yet have reached only the ruling class and its immediate surroundings, but in countries with decidedly paternal governments that is both the most important and most difficult achievement. From the upper classes of the people any advancement will quickly exercise influence on the masses, who sooner or later will follow.

Now that war is declared in earnest we may look for a long struggle, unless something unexpected happens to bring it to a sudden close. Japan cannot well give in, for the reason that her defeat would mean internal revolution and perhaps the overthrow of the newly established civilization in that country. It is a grave question whether Europe can afford to remain passive in the view of such a probability. And that China will not retreat unless compelled to, may be taken for granted. The war is therefore likely to continue indefinitely almost, or until the resources of one of the combatants are about exhausted. It is predicted by some that before it is ended the European powers will be involved. It is true the feeling in Russia, as expressed by semi-official organs, is very strong against England on account of a habit acquired by this country to interfere in everybody's policy in foreign parts of the world, and there is some clamor in Russia to seize a province of Persia on the road to India; but notwithstanding this, the probability is that the war will be confined to the Asiatic belligerents and that the European

powers interested will be content to divide amicably any spoil they may be able to obtain as the result of their friendly offices.

SPREAD THE GOSPEL.

The importance of missionary labor is kept constantly before the Latter-day Saints, because on them is conferred the obligation of bearing witness of the restoration of the Gospel in this dispensation and carrying the divine message to every nation. To accomplish this purpose the Saints engage in missionary labor to an extent that is unknown among any other people. Not only do Elders go out in comparatively great numbers, preaching the Gospel without money and without price, but the people as a body engage in a vast amount of missionary work in various ways.

One of the most potent means of aiding the missionaries in carrying their testimony to the people among whom they travel is for those who have gathered to these valleys to write to their friends and former associates, so that the latter are interested in and are friendly to the Elders, and listen to the testimony they have to deliver. The spirit which accompanies this testimony is never without avail for the good of the work when given an opportunity to operate. And when the Elders bear letters of introduction from those who have gathered here, they have a way opened for them to preach the Gospel which otherwise would remain closed. Those who are in the field realize this to the full extent, therefore it is that such requests are made of the Saints as the following, which comes from Elder Henry S. Tanner, president of the California mission, whose address is No. 205 11th street, San Francisco:

I am very desirous of having the Saints or people of Utah, who have relatives or friends in California who they think would receive the Elders, communicate with me, for in so doing they will assist us greatly in this mission. If we have letters of introduction and are able to meet the people in formal ways, we will be better able to make friends and establish ourselves in different localities. In this state, as in others, formality is a heavy weight.

We wish all the assistance we can get from the people in Zion, for the apparent prospects of this mission are not very flattering. A great amount of work has to be done to make a little showing. Nearly all the past work has been in reclaiming the stray sheep which have wandered from the fold. Strangers will not hear our voices as yet, though we hope that in the near future the Lord will open our way that we may be able to reach the hearts of the people and feed them spiritual food.

I hope that our friends will avail themselves of this opportunity, and assist in the furtherance of truth.

Every faithful Saint will comprehend the necessity of heeding the requests made by Elder Tanner and others who are in the mission field. It is not alone on the Elders who are called on missions that the responsibility for preaching the Gospel rests. They are specially called to perform a particular part of the work. But every one who has heard the Gospel is under the divine command to pre-