

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE TURN OF THE TIDE.

The cashier of one of the leading business institutions of Salt Lake City said to the writer today: "This week has been considerably better in collections and trade than last week was, and last week was better than any we had had for four months. Say that much to the readers of the News; it is true, and it will perhaps make their Thanksgiving meal, whether of turkey or not, taste a little sweeter in the mouth."

So many other business men have given substantially the same verdict as to the improvement, that there can be neither risk nor mistake in calling attention to it. We would not raise false hopes or impart too rosy a tinge to a prospect which has looked so forbidding for the winter; but we shall not deny the satisfaction that comes of the ability to make this report truthfully, for its tendency will be to restore confidence, and confidence is more a necessity in present commercial and industrial affairs than cash. There will still be necessity for close economy in personal expenditures, and retrenchment in all that will admit of it without actual loss; but there is an unmistakable revival in the various avenues of business and a welcome loosening in the stringency which has been so intense.

In this connection it may not be amiss to note that a gentleman who recently returned from the East brought with him a copy of a report made to a leading firm of New York bankers by a representative of their house who looked this country over as to its prospects and resources, and the security it offered for the investment of capital. The comparison drawn between Utah and some of the adjacent commonwealths is most flattering to us—so much so, indeed, that the News hesitates to reproduce it lest it should be deemed odious to our neighbors. There can be no impropriety, however, in giving a brief summary of the compliments bestowed upon Utah and her people.

The expert referred to says he is more than ever impressed by the future possibilities of the Territory; its agricultural condition has reached a high state of development, but as regards mining and manufacturing, its resources have been scarcely touched. "The per capita mortgage indebtedness is smaller than that of any other state or territory; the population is thrifty and economical, and in hard times like the present they simply live more economically, but do not show any indication of being willing to go into debt. Their progress has been steady and the fact that they have attained such success against the obstacles which existed when the Mormons first reached Utah, shows that with the facilities now offered Utah must ultimately become one of the greatest states in the Union. * * * Instead of fighting on the mining issue, as many of the other Western states have done, Utah has faced the situation, and the mine laborers and

others have accepted a reduction of wages. * * * All the banks have a good reserve, and this is largely because there is very little disposition on the part of the people of Utah to borrow. * * *

The trouble in Utah was certainly not entirely caused by the stoppage of the mines. The Territory shared in the general business depression, and will recover with the general recovery, but I think more rapidly, as the people are not in debt."

There is much more of the same friendly tenor in the report before us, but enough has probably been given to show the reader how capitalists regard the people of this Territory and their credit. The latter remains unshaken by panic, depression, or even threats of revolution all around us. It constitutes a bright record, and is more precious than silver or gold.

GIVING THANKS.

In the observance of one of our national holidays—Thanksgiving Day—a beautiful custom has grown up among the American people. When November of each year rolls around, the President of the United States, in conformity with a custom which expresses the will of the nation, issues a proclamation, which is supplemented by a similar document from the governor of each state or territory. The aim of this official document, when the genius of the rule which inspires it is conformed with, is to call attention to the fact that the last Thursday of November is the day which the nation has decreed shall be observed as a time of rejoicing and of thanksgiving to the Father of all for the mercies He has shown and the bounties He has bestowed during the year about to close. The request is made that the people assemble in their places of worship or at their homes and offer up prayer and praise to the Giver of all good, while it is suggested that in the feasting and rejoicing their hearts be opened and their purest joys loosened for the benefit and blessing of those whose lot may not have been cast in pleasant places.

This is the general form of the typical Thanksgiving proclamation, and in giving assent to it, business is suspended for the day in all parts of the country. In various churches brief services are held, and in the home circle families gather to partake of a bounteous repast, where in the "Thanksgiving turkey" is realized the anticipations of many days, and pleasing recollections of the happy time are provided for. Those who are kindly disposed rejoice in making glad the hearts of the poor, the day being second only to Christmas in the work of charity and love. One notable distinction between this day and the great Christian festival is that it is not an occasion of presents for friendship or affection, for a thanksgiving gift is essentially one that is designed for the poor.

When the day is observed in such a manner, which is in accord with its institution, it is an occasion of happi-

ness and a source of blessing to those who celebrate it, even in seasons that may not be so prosperous as others have been. With such observance the heart expands with gratitude, the ties of love are strengthened, and the bonds of sympathy extended and augmented. Those who regard the day as one for selfish pleasure, devoid of the associations of prayer and thanksgiving, of charitable and loving deeds, are not numbered with those who enter into the spirit and partake of the peace and happiness which pervades the true Thanksgiving Day. Its joys are broader, deeper and more lasting than are felt in hearts inspired by anything less than the love of God and their brother man.

It is appropriate that a day in each year should be set apart as a time of special thanksgiving to the Almighty, that particular attention might be drawn to the principle of expressing gratitude in proper season. The honored day which the next week will bring upon us should be observed in spirit for the choice blessings which the nation has received. There have been unpleasant experiences and gloomy forebodings; but the mercies of Providence have far outweighed these. Our country is at peace with all nations, and famine and pestilence and tumult in and on the earth have not afflicted the land. The situation is one in which the whole people can appropriately ask themselves whether they are living sufficiently near the Lord to entitle them to the blessings they possess.

The Latter-day Saints have special cause to be thankful, as a body of religious worshippers, for the temporal blessings they enjoy. Peace and the needful portion for their comfortable subsistence have been their lot, and those in their ranks who have been touched by want are not numerous. These it is the pleasure of the others to search out, and during the year now drawing to a close the Saints have not withheld of their means from the needy.

The Saints fervently unite with the nation at large on Thanksgiving Day in grateful praise to Jehovah, in words and deeds. It is not, however, with them the only day in the year for thanksgiving; nor should it be with others. The Latter-day Saints offer up their praise to God on all days and at all times. So full of gratitude are they for His manifold blessings which they receive that thanksgiving time with them ceases not, but is one continual round. Nor is their gratitude returned for temporal blessings alone. More precious still, beyond comparison with the wealth and pleasures of earth, is the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ which shines in their hearts and illumines their path unto the perfect day. Living in the dispensation of the fulness of times, when the Lord is gathering into one all things for the establishing of His Kingdom, they have received the everlasting Gospel and become recipients of its saving power. They realize that this reaches throughout eternity, and the extent of their gratitude is to be measured only by the infinitude of the blessings which the Gospel brings. They are heralds of the glad tidings to the world, and would joyfully give all an opportunity of partaking of the waters of