

reference to legislative treatment, and the extreme care with which new laws should be considered. Perhaps President Cannon most successfully represented the views of the majority of those present in his suggestions as to the determination, recording and maintenance of existing water rights, and as to the measurement of the water of our streams.

The latter is a proposition which offers few difficulties, and concerning the necessity of which there can hardly be any question. As to the former, the plan suggested was to have local boards of arbitration in the various counties to ascertain by evidence the claims and rights of the water users, these rights to be affirmed by certificates, in other words "water deeds," and the whole matter then, if necessary, to be made legally binding by being decreed and placed on record in the courts. The resort to costly litigation was deplored, and the injustice that might readily be done right in claimants in the ordinary courts and under the usual legal procedure was strongly pointed out; and the experience of Bishop Rawlins and associates with reference to the adjudication of their water rights in one of the Cottonwoods in this county made an effective argument in favor of the arbitration plan. The Wright law of California, the much discussed Wyoming law, and incidentally the Carey law as to public lands in arid states, were referred to; and the difference between conditions east or west and those existing here, as indicating the character of prospective legislation, was dwelt upon and found expression in the idea that so far as practicable legal enactments instead of overturning should confirm and crystallize rules and usages which have existed since the settlement of the State.

The meeting was in all respects an agreeable and profitable one; and it is truly to be hoped that out of the many suggestions made, and the material left with the committee in the form of an exhaustive written dissertation on the whole subject by Col. Stevenson, some simple law may be framed and adopted looking at least to the two points above referred to as matters of immediate necessity.

BOX ELDER'S GRIT.

News readers have been informed of the severe disaster which befell the good people of Box Elder county two weeks ago in the destruction of their fine Stake Tabernacle, the actual fire loss representing something like \$12,000. To a large, populous and wealthy Stake this sum would not be so large as to render difficult its easy replacement. But in the case in point the people are not very numerous, and they have moreover sustained various other severe financial losses, which, coming at a time of general stringency, have greatly ground them down in their monetary abilities, though by no means extinguishing their energy and courage. Furthermore, the various wards of the Stake have almost overreached themselves during the past year in the erection of public buildings; so that while they face their new disaster with plucky fortitude, they find their powers simply inadequate

to a task which their spirit prompts them to assume without delay.

Nevertheless, as has been stated, they have set to work to restore their Stake house, and the hopefulness and zeal thus evinced cannot be too highly commended. It is an example of potent faith and brave determination quite characteristic of Americans generally, of westerners particularly, and of the people still more especially who settled these desert vales and made the land delightful. Some of the authorities of the Stake are at present in this city endeavoring to enlist the active sympathy of their friends in the work now in hand. And the NEWS has sincere pleasure in recommending them and their most worthy object to the consideration and generosity of the local public. The people of Utah are so closely connected that any injury affecting one section is felt by all. The repair of losses sustained in one county is therefore an effort which the others may appropriately contribute to and in which they should have an active, tangible and willing interest.

CAMPOS AND CUBA.

Martinez Campos in an interview with a representative of a leading Danish paper speaks of the Cuban revolution. He says among other things that people in Europe do not understand the situation on the island. It is well known that the Cubans are fighting for independence, but it is not generally known that they are divided in so many factions that independence would speedily result in anarchy. There are, however, at least four principal parties. The first consists of the wealthier classes, who only wish to maintain the status quo. Another class is content with Spanish suzerainty but demands home rule as to the internal affairs of the island. Then there is a small party longing for union with the United States; while the most numerous faction, the Palencas, or descendants of the negro slaves, joined by a large class of people who have absolutely nothing to lose, clamor for an independent government. Under these circumstances, the general says, it would be unwise to proceed with much severity, crushing the good with the bad. His policy, therefore, was to gain rather by diplomacy than by force of arms.

It seems that the Spanish government was not unwilling to let General Campos try his experiment up to a certain time, but when the rebels threatened Havana and he apparently was unable to drive them back, notwithstanding he had 60,000 men at his disposal, they lost all patience with his "diplomacy" and decided on more energetic measures. In military circles in Europe his policy receives no endorsement. It is pointed out that his first duty was to crush the rebellion and then show leniency when this feat had been accomplished. In the meantime the thought prevails that there is much speculation as to the course the United States will adopt when a more vigorous campaign is commenced. A London paper, quoted by the Literary Digest, says this to say:

The truth is that the insurrection in Cuba is being supplied with arms and

money entirely from the United States. Not on any small scale either. The principal subventioners are the Sugar Trust, which body has contributed large sums of cash and quantities of arms, and is accused of bribing Gomez to fire the sugar plantations in order to run up the price of sugar. Neither Maceo nor Gomez bears a good reputation, and both are as much or as little "generals" as the filibusters Jameson and Willoughby. Nevertheless, they may be fighting against oppression and therefore deserve our sympathy. But Spain is quietly working up her case against the United States all the time; and the feeling of the Spaniards against the Americans is such that if by any unfortunate chance the latter did find themselves in a difficulty it is almost a certainty that Spain would seize the opportunity of avenging herself.

IMPORTANT AS TO INDIAN LANDS.

In view of the desire of the people of Utah for the opening of the Indian reservations in the eastern part of the State, or the cession of some of the lands to bona fide settlers pending the formal opening, it seems to us that the proper authorities—say the Governor and Legislature, who are the official representatives of the people—might profitably address themselves to the task of having reliable persons appointed to conduct negotiations with the department at Washington if such negotiations are considered advisable and necessary. Such action would appear to be of pressing importance from the fact that parties are just now moving in the same direction without any other authority than such as they have assumed, and they are perhaps conveying a wrong impression as to their backing and influence, whereas the scheme in hand is purely a personal one.

To be more explicit, the NEWS will state that from local sources and also from newspaper correspondence from Washington, it is learned that a certain man has been having interviews with the secretary of the interior and the Indian and land commissioners with reference to the colonization of Utah families upon ceded lands in the reservations alluded to. At last reports he was in Washington, whither he went as the self-constituted agent and leader of those whom he had induced to enter into his project and to advance him a few dollars each to pay the expenses he would have to incur. Those whom he approached on the matter here at home were told in some instances that while the Mormon Church might not for prudential reasons desire its hand to be seen or its influence to be known in the movement he was directing, it was nevertheless "all right and was without any objection." As stated, he obtained a small amount of money from some who were attracted by his inducements, presumably promising in return that if he was successful in getting the cession of the lands, he would locate his friends upon desirable tracts. The eastern papers have apparently derived the impression that this is a Mormon project, for much stress is laid upon the fact that the settlement "will be upon the lines established by Brigham Young and the early Mormon leaders in their