

and had a very enjoyable visit with President Young and those with him, and remained there one or two days, returning to the city with the President's party.

Those who met Lord Roseberry at the time were greatly taken with his unassuming manner and the evidence of marked ability which, although but a young man, was plainly given. He evidently thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Utah and with its best-known citizen, and so expressed himself; regarding the disagreeableness of the trip to Provo in the "cart" as nothing that was not thoroughly compensated for by his pleasant visit there.

THE DAY OF THE "MOSS BACK."

It is only a few years since the term "moss back" was freely applied in contemptuous udescription to a class of citizens, generally old residents, who offended the spirit of the times by advising conservatism in respect to public and private financial policy. Men who refused to fall into line under the leadership of imported "boomers," were called "moss backs." Men who expostulated against running this city into debt so deeply and the extravagant use of money obtained by selling Territorial bonds, were stigmatized as "moss backs." In the Legislative Assemblies of 1888 and 1890, it was the "moss back" members only who counseled conservatism and economy in public expenditures and in the shaping of the public financial policy.

But a little time has wrought retribution. The day of the "moss back" is here. He can now triumphantly exclaim to his erstwhile detractor, "I told you so;" while the public generally are regretting that his influence was not more potent in counteracting those that have produced existing conditions. A retrospective view of the past will often afford light for present and future guidance, and the pending perplexity of the Legislature in regard to certain matters concerning which they are compelled to take action, suggests a chapter of history connected with that body which it may not be unprofitable here to relate.

Hon. Anton H. Lund was a member of the House, from Sanpete county, in 1888, and at that session he earned and received the title, "Father of the Reform School." Realizing the necessity of having an institution to which erring boys and girls could be consigned for purposes of education and reclamation, he drew and introduced a bill providing for the erection and control of the present Reform School. On the main issue, the gentleman met with little or no opposition to his measure; but on the question of the amount to be appropriated, he had a hard and hopeless fight. The bill as he drew it appropriated \$85,000 for the erection of the buildings; but the House would not listen to such a proposition. Not a dollar less than \$75,000 would appease the spirit that was then predominating. In vain did the author of the bill insist that buildings of sufficient capacity to meet the wants of the Territory for many years could be erected for \$85,000; in vain did he try to effect a compromise on \$50,000, or \$60,000; the House would hear of nothing less than \$75,000, and

that amount was appropriated as a starter for the Reform School.

The same spirit continued to dominate legislative action in regard to this institution, at the sessions of 1890 and 1892; and it was not until last year that a very large and costly building was finished, with the lavish appropriations that had been made for it, in addition to the \$75,000 structure that had been authorized in 1888. The total cost to the Territory of the improvements on the Reform School grounds amounts to about \$150,000, and now, within a few months after the completion of the second large building, the taxpayers are told that there is absolutely no need for both structures for reform school purposes, and that one of them ought to be utilized as a "School of Charities." Objection being made to such an arrangement, the taxpayers are told that a structure near Ogden, built for the purposes of a military academy, at a cost of \$42,000, will afford ample and in every way desirable accommodations for the Reform School, and the Legislature is now favorably considering a proposition to remove the school to the premises named, as an alternative to closing it; for there is, in the present Assembly, a strong sentiment in favor of discontinuing it.

In this same connection rise up the immense expenditures that were made for an Agricultural College, which now presents itself to our lawmakers very much in the aspect of a white elephant, and the further fact that the Insane Asylum at Provo has room for two or three hundred more inmates than it contains. The "moss back" is fully vindicated. The perplexed condition of the Territory's finances, and the deplorable state of those of this city, when considered in connection with a number of "public improvements" which were so enthusiastically demanded two or three years ago, tell the story of his wisdom.

The moral of the story is this: The counsel of that class of old citizens who "killed the snakes and built the bridges" in these valleys, can be more safely relied upon than can the advice of late-coming speculators.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

Advices from Germany indicate that the emperor has lately taken a great deal of interest in the silver question. A commission has been appointed to look into the various points connected therewith, and in this action some have thought they were able to discern a ray of hope for the white metal.

The friends of silver in this country must not, however, be too sanguine in their expectations of permanent results from the labors of imperial commissions. If the financial salvation of this country depends on free coinage and bimetallicism, the best thing for us to do is to go to work and secure the needed legislation and then let the other countries follow, as their interests may require. It is too much to expect that the crowned heads of Europe can feel very deeply interested in questions of this kind, which touch largely the conditions of the toiling masses. Kings and emperors

draw their immense salaries whether the laborers earn a bit of bread or not. And, what is to them almost as important, the appropriations for the maintenance of the vast armies have to be paid even when many of the poorer classes are on the brink of starvation. Monarchs are too often apt to consider themselves as beings of an order different from the people, moving in a different sphere, with interests sometimes conflicting with those of their subjects. What can be expected of them, under the circumstances?

The case was well illustrated a few years ago when the labor question was under discussion in Germany. The Swiss government issued an invitation to the various countries to send delegates to Switzerland to discuss the problems of the day and adopt recommendations for the benefit of the working men. The idea was seized upon by William and he issued a similar invitation for a labor congress to be held in Berlin, at the same time notifying Switzerland that a withdrawal of the invitation to meet in that country would be gracefully remembered. This was done, and the congress met at Berlin. It was a splendid affair. The delegates were mostly aristocrats with superfluous titles, who knew next to nothing about labor and the needs of the working classes. But they spent several days in the imperial capital and consumed any amount of dainty food washed down with expensive wines. There were fetes and parades and balls and music, and that was about all that was accomplished in the interest of the laboring classes.

Those well informed do not expect that the silver commission will bring better results. In some quarters it is even asserted that it has been convened only for political purposes. The bimetallicists and agrarians must be appeased in some way, and an imperial commission is thought to be a convenient expedient for the purpose. The international idea may be a weighty element in questions of finance, but there is little to be hoped for on this side of the water until our country shall feel able to assert its independence of European kingdoms in such questions as it has successfully done in government and politics.

A long-lost Spanish mine of fabulous richness has been rediscovered near Durango, Mexico. An old smelter was found at the same place.

Near Trinidad, Colo., the Sunflower valley people are holding farmers' institutes for the discussion of dairying, creameries and other important topics.

The old-time telegraph operators in San Francisco are sad. John Leatch, one of the oldest operators in the state, died on Saturday morning. He was 60 years of age, and had to been actively engaged in the telegraphing business in California and on the Pacific slope for forty-two years. He was one of the first telegraph operators in San Francisco, and was engaged by the old California State Telegraph company when it started in 1852. Leatch was also the first operator in California to read by sound. For many years he was connected with the Western Union Telegraph company.