

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

NEW MEXICO FOR UTAH.

It is announced in the telegrams from Washington that at the earliest opportunity the Ute removal bill will be called up by Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, and that an effort will be made to get it through Congress. This measure, in one particular, is the same as that by which it was proposed to crowd the Indians from the Southern Ute reservation in Colorado over into Utah; but the bill has been amended in a very important feature. The name of New Mexico has been substituted for that of Utah, and it is now provided that the Indians shall be removed to San Juan county, not in Utah, but in New Mexico; that is, they shall be shifted southward, instead of westward.

With this latest action on the part of Colorado, the people of southeastern Utah may congratulate themselves that, so far as they are concerned, the conflict practically is ended. The fight in their behalf has resulted in substantial victory, and hereafter the Centennial state will look elsewhere for a dumping ground for Indians she may wish to get rid of. It may not be a great distance now to the occasion when the San Juan county lands shall be thrown open for settlement, and a better opportunity be afforded for developing such resources as that section may be found to possess, not only in the way of grazing and agricultural advantages, but in mineral wealth.

As to what New Mexico may say on the subject remains to be learned. That Territory may have as strong objections to receiving any more Indians as Utah had; and if so, it is hoped there will be given respectful consideration. One argument which was used in regard to this Territory is not now available—the country to which the removal is to be made is not occupied by white settlers. It is part of the Navajo reservation, and therefore no white men will be robbed of their homes, as would have been the case if the removal westward had been accomplished. How the Indians on both sides of the Colorado-New Mexico line may receive the change is yet to be seen, though it is hardly probable that such objections as they may raise will be given much consideration should the bill get before Congress at the time and under the circumstances which its friends desire. At any rate, Utah seems to be rid of any immediate interest in the Ute removal business, such as has distracted her attention for a number of years past, and her people are very glad of it.

A WORD ON REUNIONS.

In giving an account of a reunion held at Spring City, Sanpete county, a few days ago, the NEWS correspondent makes this remark: "One pleasing feature I noticed was that I did not see a cup of tea or coffee on the table, and there was not a round dance called for during the evening." The party re-

ferred to was one given by the ward; that is, the ward presiding authority, Bishop James A. Alfred and counselors, had supervision of the affair; the poor and the aged, the widows, and the missionaries' wives, were guests of the occasion, and in the program, which included speeches, songs, recitations, music and dancing, was also "a feast of fat things" in the form of a bounteous repast.

So far as most of the features of the Spring City party are concerned, it was but an example of what may be observed in season in nearly every ward in the Church. As the officials having a watchcare over the temporal wellbeing of those within their jurisdiction, the Bishopric cease the obligation of cultivating fraternal feelings among members of their ward, or bringing them together in happy reunion upon suitable occasions, and of filling their hearts with peace, and joy, and love, by dealing with the material things of life which are conducive to that end. All this is in perfect consonance with the Gospel which is salvation to those who obey it, both in this life and in the hereafter; for the care of a divine and loving Father is not less for His children in mortality than in the life beyond the grave.

But in the words of our correspondent there is a suggestion that may seem strange in view of the attitude of the Church upon the Word of Wisdom; and certainly the suggestion should fasten itself upon the minds of presiding officers in every department of Church work. The word of the Lord to the Latter-day Saints, revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith to the Church nearly sixty-two years ago, upon the Word of Wisdom, declares that that revelation shows forth "the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all Saints in the last days," and also that it is "given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all Saints, who are or can be called Saints." In that revelation the Saints are informed that hot drinks, tobacco, strong drinks, and "excess of meat for food does not tend to the temporal salvation or welfare of the Saints; in fact that these things are not good to be taken into their bodies."

This instruction comes from the Almighty as counsel to His people, looking to the manner in which they shall preserve their bodies and minds, in the way of food and drink essential for sustenance; it is not the supposition of man, but the revelation of the Lord. As such, one would naturally suppose that every person who lays claim to the name and standing of a Latter-day Saint, to be consistent with that profession would pay a sacred regard to that which the Lord has revealed. Yet in respect to one of these features, that of hot drinks, the conformity to the divine counsel seems to be such a rarity on certain occasions that an example of it is noted as a pleasing feature in the proceedings. No doubt it would be thought an awful implication if the correspondent had noted as among the things that pleased him the fact that

"cigars, or pipes and tobacco, or a glass of grog had not been provided" for those present who might have an inclination for such things. Yet one would have been as consistent as the other, if the revelation quoted from was receiving equal attention in all its provisions.

In the case of the Spring City ward, it is an occasion for congratulation on the progress that is being made; and no doubt the consciousness of a duty quietly and graciously performed brings a pleasurable satisfaction to the authorities there. But how about the conduct of others which makes this a notable exception? In this incident there surely is an impressive lesson to be learned. These ward reunions are to a large extent representative of the Church policy in regard to matters with which they are connected. They are under the direction of Church authorities whose every official act should be an example to the people and a living testimony on behalf of our Redeemer. And if in these ward reunions those authorities countenance, introduce, and provide for a violation of the divine law, what is the effect of their example, and what the influence of any teaching they may give contrary thereto, to say nothing of their own situation in disregarding the counsel of the Lord? Surely no ward or other officers who pursue the latter course, if any there be, will claim justification for such procedure, in the face of the emphatic declarations and instructions of the general authorities of the Church.

Ward reunions are most commendable upon appropriate occasions; so also are similar meetings of the Relief Society, choir, improvement associations, Sunday schools, and other organizations under Church direction. But with such sanction and control they can be conducted properly only by proceeding in perfect harmony with the divine law and Church discipline, to the exclusion of everything of an evil character. In doing this there is no invasion of any one's rights. If people wish to disregard sacred counsel, that is their own responsibility; but they must do it apart from official approval or permission. Upon those holding authority in this matter in various wards there is a demand of duty which cannot be ignored with safety, that in assemblages under their official direction they shall be neither coaxed nor coerced into a violation of Church rules or a defiance of the counsels of the Most High. Those who stand up for the right in humility, in kindness, in love and charity, and with firmness, will be sure recipients of that high reward which comes of duty well performed.

NEW ELECTRIC PLOW.

Steam plows became practical and are used with good success on some large farms both in this country and in Europe. It is now announced that a marked improvement has been instituted in this direction by a new form of electric plow, constructed in Germany, and said to have been found successful and economical. The plow has a pair of wheels in the middle, and will run in either direction, and it is