

body would think of giving that epithet. His whole life since 1847, when he attained prominence before the public as an opponent of a scheme which he later carried through with most brilliant success—the unification of the German empire—proves him to be one of the most remarkable men of this or any other century. As regards long and unbroken terms of office Bismarck surpasses all other statesmen of modern times, a fact which is all the more remarkable, because at one period he brought his country to the verge of revolution by highhanded contempt for public opinion and disregard for the enactments of the Diet. A man who could tell the representatives of his country that the government intended to do without their aid, if they refused to sanction his measures for creating and maintaining an army, and yet remain the leading spirit of the country for nearly half a century, is no fool, whatever else he may be.

The celebration of the anniversary of Bismarck's birthday yesterday, April 1st, was the occasion of great rejoicing at Friedrichsruhe. The aged statesman received special marks of honor from the emperor, and as his health seems to have improved remarkably since the reconciliation with his royal master took place, there is every prospect that in his retirement he will yet be able to enjoy for several years such attentions and tokens of respect and honor as a nation and an emperor are willing to bestow upon him.

#### A RIPE FOUR SCORE.

The NEWS, speaking for the people of Utah, and for the Latter-day Saints in all the world, congratulates President Lorenzo Snow on attaining this day, April 3, 1894, the age of eighty years. No man living has been more closely identified than he with the work established in these last days for the redemption of man, and none has rendered greater service than this zealous missionary, and refined, accomplished gentleman. Intimately acquainted with the Prophet Joseph in his life-time, and a participant in the stirring episodes of Church history since the very beginning, President Snow's life is invested with almost the charm of romance—better still, it can be quoted as the life of a righteous man. He has traveled in many lands, and has lifted up his voice among strange peoples as a messenger of salvation; and now in the evening of his days, still busy and earnest in the great cause to which he has given his earlier years, he is continuing within the sacred precincts of the Temple the glorious labors to which he and his associates have consecrated themselves—labors of such profound importance to this sin and death-afflicted world. We feel sure there will be no dissent to the hearty wish that President Snow's health and strength may be maintained and his life prolonged in peace and happiness until in his own heart he can say, it is enough.

The work in the Salt Lake Temple closed on Friday evening, March 30th,

to be resumed after Conference. Anticipatory of the birthday anniversary of President Snow, the officers and workers in the House of the Lord resolved to appropriately express their regard and affection for him. Immediately after the termination of the labors of the day, on the date above named, a meeting was held and a message sent to Brother Snow to the effect that a number of his friends had assembled and greatly desired his presence. He soon made his appearance and Bishop John R. Winder delivered the following address:

*President Lorenzo Snow:*

Your co-laborers—the officers and workers in the Salt Lake Temple—are about to separate for a few days. Before doing so they desire to present you with a token of their esteem and love. They have selected me to make the presentation to you of this cane, in the hope that you will favor them by accepting of it as a memento of the eightieth anniversary of your birthday, which occurs on April 3rd, 1894. I assure you that the donors appreciate your many virtues and hope that you may live long to labor in the front rank of the anointed of the Lord for the establishment and extension of the righteousness of His Kingdom.

The cane is the hand-omest that could be obtained in Salt Lake City. The staff is ebony and the handle, which is massive and of beautiful design, is gold. On its top is an oval burnished plate, on which is this inscription: "Lorenzo Snow, President Salt Lake Temple, April 3rd, 1894," and on front of the handle the following: "Presented by Officers and Workers, Salt Lake Temple, on his 80th Birthday."

Elder Snow made an appropriate responsive address, during the delivery of which he showed that he was deeply moved by the exhibition of good feeling of his co-workers in the Temple toward him, and he assured them that these estimable sentiments were reciprocated toward his brethren and sisters associated with him in the house of the Lord.

#### THE FARMERS' WORST FOE.

No better evidence could be given of the serious importance of the Russian thistle as an agricultural scourge, than the attempt that has been made, by bills introduced in Congress, to invoke the arm of the national government against the imported pest. Various kinds of thistles, Canadian and others, have flourished in times past without exciting congressional oratory; and even the ever-present and persistent sunflower has not been dignified with so much notice. Indeed, as a general thing weeds of all kinds have been deemed a subject for individual study, toil and warfare, not one which should be manipulated and contested with funds from the government treasury. The gravity of danger that is threatened from this new foe will therefore be appreciated when it is remembered that propositions have been made in all seriousness that the work of battling with, resisting and eradicating the invader be done under the government supervision and at government expense.

We believe the Russian thistle has

not yet been able to cross the Rocky Mountains, though it has already reached their eastern base and has been detected near Denver. It is only within the last three years that the weed has been heard of to any extent in the United States, the first complaints having been received by the department of agriculture at Washington in the fall of 1891. The dry season of 1893 gave it unusual development, and farmers became thoroughly alarmed at the situation. It made its appearance in the wheat-raising region of the northwest a few years ago, and its worst ravages are still confined to those sections; but as the damage already done by it is estimated at several millions of dollars, and as the thistle is rapidly spreading over new territory and being more destructive in the region already infested, the subject cannot be without interest to agriculturists of our hitherto exempt region.

For a great deal of valuable information concerning the habits and the proposed remedies for the thistle, we are indebted to a late report prepared by the division of botany of the department of agriculture, and submitted by the assistant secretary to the House of Representatives committee on agriculture. The plant is an annual one, easily killed at any time during the growing season. It produces no seed before the middle of August or first of September, and the seed is short-lived. It would therefore seem to offer exceptionally good opportunity for being checked or even exterminated. Permitted to scatter its seed, however, it spreads with extraordinary rapidity, far exceeding, in this respect, any weed known in America. A single plant of average size, of two to three feet in diameter and weighing two to four pounds when dry, bears about 20,000 to 30,000 seeds. Plants have been found six feet in diameter and estimated to bear 200,000 seeds. The report maintains that the most active mode of distribution of the Russian thistle and the one furnished by nature, is the wind, and flax seed continues to be, in the absence of good fanning mills, the chief artificial agent of distribution. Railroads form a third and most important means of transportation for the seeds over long distances. There is good evidence that the railroads have carried them in the bedding of stock cars. These cars are sent to the stock yards at Indianapolis, Chicago and Sioux City and unloaded, but they are seldom cleaned until they are again sent out and have reached their destination to be reloaded.

The naming of these railway centers for cattle shipment immediately suggests inquiry as to the sections of country most grievously affected, and the report on this part of the subject is significant as it is alarming. At the present time all the counties of South Dakota east of the Missouri river and twenty counties of North Dakota, are infested with the weed, and the plants have crossed to the west side of the Missouri river in at least four places in those states. Two counties in western Minnesota, three in northwestern Iowa and four in northeastern Nebraska are thoroughly impregnated with the weed. Altogether this makes one almost continuous area of about 40,000 square miles which has become more or less covered with the Russian thistle in a compara-