

the Church as a whole may know that the spirit of Elijah is resting upon the faithful. Since the teachings given by the First Presidency at the last General Conference, the work of forming a connecting chain between the Saints and their ancestors, so far as they are able to obtain clear and indubitable records, has increased remarkably. It will be observed that many of the Saints, while troubles are multiplying abroad, are electing to stand in holy places that they may not be moved when the day of the Lord shall come.

ONE OF OUR ERRORS.

The transporting of lumber to Oregon or Michigan, of coal to Pennsylvania or Newcastle, of iron to Cedar City, or of salt to Saltair would not be a more foolish and unjustifiable proceeding than is the shipping of fresh and dried and canned fruit into the Territory of Utah. If there is any one thing which more than another has been proven to be within the special reach of, and deserving of special attention from the people of these valleys, it is this very business of fruit growing. The world produces nothing better than has been grown in the Utah orchards; size, flavor, soundness, keeping qualities—everything that contributes to excellence has been developed to remarkable perfection in our home product. And yet we pick at California cherries and pears, munch Oregon apples, smack our lips over Delaware peaches and bathe our cheeks in the luscious coolness of watermelons brought even from Georgia! To round out and put a fitting climax on this policy of nonsense, we ought to eat Minnesota flour, Mexican mutton and Missouri potatoes!

But, says an objector, our fruit has deteriorated and is not able to compete with the imported article. The News submits that the deterioration is quite as much in the grower as in the product; it is he who seems to be afflicted. The soil is as good as ever it was, the water is as plentiful, the air as pure; frosts come no earlier and stay no later than of yore; the sun is as kindly, and the general labor of man is as well-rewarded. Shall we then blame nature for what is clearly a short coming of our own?

It is related of an early resident of Utah, that, traveling one day through a little valley waving with luxuriant grass—said valley having, since borne his name—he exclaimed; "At last I see how it is that I am still a poor man it is because I have not had great herds of cattle eating up all this grass!" With far more appropriateness may some of those who now complain of poverty and hard times bring reproof home to themselves in the matter of fruit-growing. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been and are being lost by this community every year because it does not proceed to earn and save them. If when we failed to produce that which we can produce better than any one else, we decided to go without, the fault would be in some measure atoned for by the penalty of deprivation which accompanied it. But we are even without that saving grace; we

actually impoverish ourselves and send away our substance to purchase that which we are too neglectful and too improvident to have at home almost for the asking!

The News is bold to say that our policy in this respect has been worse than a blunder, it has been a crime. And to the indictment thus plainly stated, without further multiplying of words or elaborating of argument we shall have to ask each head of a family mentally to stand up and plead, guilty or not guilty. In the case of those who acknowledge their error and will promise to make immediate amends, sentence will be suspended during good behavior. The others will be called up for trial on a subsequent occasion.

RAPIDITY OF FRENCH CHANGE.

The uncertainty of official tenure of a French ministry was never more clearly exhibited than in the recent defeat of Premier Casimir-Perier; surely a more trivial cause on the face of things never overturned even a French cabinet before. The question at issue really related to the rights of labor organizations to be represented in industrial congresses whether the employers of such delegates were willing to give them leave of absence or not; a French statute recognizes the existence of such organizations and is quite explicit in its statement of the prerogatives and privileges of at least such of their members as may be employed by the national government. Accordingly, when the minister of public works ordered the chiefs of state railways, and asked the chiefs of other railway companies, to refuse leave of absence to delegates to a congress of railway employes then about to meet in Paris, a strong protest was raised in the Chamber of Deputies against his disregard and violation of the law referred to. His rejoinder, that he had no desire to neutralize the law, but that the necessities of the service were his motive for the order, failed to answer the clamor of his opponents; and upon the demand of M. Casimir-Perier for the order of the day—the passing over of the subject without further inquiry, debate or review—the government was decisively defeated, and the cabinet resignations promptly followed.

That the ex-premier has presidential aspirations is very well known, and that his chances for election were superior to those of any other candidate has been generally admitted. This rebuke from the Deputies is therefore of much more significance as affecting his candidacy for the chief office in the republic than at a reversal of favor concerning his general governmental policy. For as to the latter, while he has held the premiership only about six months, this is almost as long as his immediate predecessor, M. Dupuy, who in turn was preceded by a minister whose term lasted less than four months. There have been some thirty changes of ministry since the establishment of the third republic, so that the average life of a cabinet is short; and though the last leader may not have reached even the usual

average of the term, his is by no means the shortest nor one that is forced to consider itself decisively and permanently brought to a close.

AMERICA, NOT ROME.

The history of the inception and development of the system of irrigation which prevails in western America is a subject in which Utah has more than a passing interest, because of the position her people occupy relative to the introduction of that method in agriculture. In order to be in harmony with the public sentiment and to disseminate correct information, it is necessary that teachers in public educational institutions here should be in possession of the facts when obtainable, and should communicate the same to the students when giving instructions upon this subject, that there may be no misconception of historical events.

In an address given by a student at the closing exercises of a public educational institution the past week, the following passage occurs: "It is to the Romans that we must give the honor of first materially aiding the oldest of arts, irrigation, the foundation of the success of future happiness and prosperity of this great western empire, extending as it does from the hundredth meridian on the east to the Pacific on the west, from Canada on the north to Mexico on the south." While there need be no disposition to deprive Rome, or any of the ancient nations equally entitled thereto, of honor for work accomplished, an intimation that to Rome or to other nations of the Old World belongs the credit for instituting or giving material aid to the irrigation system in vogue here is not in accord with historical fact. The record of opening up irrigation in the West has been frequently published, and therefore should be familiar to all teachers in Utah schools. In a standard work, Whitney's History of Utah or, the following account is given:

On the morning of the 23rd [July, 1847], after despatching messengers to the President and informing him of what had been seen and done, the camp removed to the south branch of City Creek, near the Eighth Ward or Washington square, not far from where the the Methodist church and its palatial neighbor the hotel Knutsford now stand. A meeting was there called. Orson Pratt prayed and dedicated the land and camp to the Lord, and he and Willard Richards addressed those assembled. Various committees were then appointed, and preparations at once made for putting in crops. The planting season being virtually past, no time was to be lost if they hoped to reap any results from their labors. Within two hours from the time they arrived on City Creek, ground was broken a short distance from camp—in the very business heart of Salt Lake City—and three plows were kept going the rest of the day. George W. Brown, William Carter and Shadrach Roundy ran the first furrows plowed by white men in Salt Lake Valley. Owing to the extreme dryness of the soil, plowing was at first very difficult, and more than one plowshare was broken in the sun-baked earth. But a dam having been placed in the creek, and the surrounding soil well flooded, the work was rendered comparatively easy. * * * On the morning