

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

PREPARE TO SOW WHEAT.

It is now the depth of winter. Almost all over the State the snow covers the ground. All streams and bodies of water are covered with ice. The earth is frozen to a great depth. The clutch of the ice king holds all nature as in the grasp of a vice. Men are idle, waiting for such a relaxation of the elements as will permit them to go to work.

Now is the time for them to plan. Their brains can work, though their muscles cannot, and brainwork is as great an element in the maintenance of the universe as is muscular labor. This is a mild statement of the claims of brains. Farmers especially should think, and mature their calculations for spring work. They ought to well consider how many acres they can sow to wheat, for that is a crop Utah should produce as much of as possible this year. They ought to hasten their plans, for the expectation is widespread that we will have an early spring.

All signs combine to indicate that the day of high-priced wheat is drawing near. The price last fall, though it fluctuated a good deal, averaged a figure which compensated the farmer liberally for raising it, and if the crop had been heavy the revenue from it would have paid many a farm mortgage, and made many a farm improvement, in addition to the relief it did bring, light as it was. Horses are abundant and cheap, and any farmer can easily procure all he wants, on long time and easy terms. Wild ones can be broken before plowing time begins. If money to buy plows and harness is not on hand, they can be purchased on time; and the farmer who buys them on credit to be used in putting in a big wheat crop, is pretty safe, though going in debt for implements is not generally to be commended.

But since dry farming became so successful in this region, the hills and plains that have hitherto been used only as range for stock, should be sown to wheat; and if it becomes necessary to incur moderate indebtedness for this purpose, the farmer who, with diligence and good judgment, puts in the crop, is pretty sure to come out all right at harvest time. Utah and Idaho ought to raise a great deal more wheat than they do.

JEWIS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The rapid increase of the Hebrew population in the United States during the last twenty years indicates that the time is approaching when this country will contain more of the scattered people than any other country of the world, as far as known. In 1881 the tide of Jewish emigration was turned in this direction, and at present the United States is said to contain one-seventh of all the Hebrews in the world. Only Russia, Austria and Germany have a greater number of adherents of the Mosaic faith among their population.

In an article on the growth of the Jewish population in the United States, by David Sulzberger, the estimated figures are given as follows:

"Twenty years ago the first systematic attempt to obtain definite information was made by the board of delegates of American Israelites with the assistance of the union of American Hebrew congregations. Incomplete reports secured showed a Jewish population of 189,756. By 1880 these figures had increased to 230,257.

The total population of the country in that year was 50,155,783. It is calculated that since 1880 something over 485,000 Jews have immigrated to the United States. This addition, together with the increase through births, gives at a conservative estimate a present Jewish population of 938,000. The total population of the country is now estimated to be 75,000,000. In other words, it is one-half larger than it was seventeen years ago, while the Jewish population is more than four times larger.

"The smallest Jewish population in any state or territory is 1,000, that being the number in each of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wyoming. The Jews are not numerous in other agricultural states. Their greatest populations are in states having large cities, as for instance: New York, 350,000; Pennsylvania, 85,000; Illinois, 85,000; Ohio, 50,000; California, 35,000; Maryland, 35,000; Missouri, 25,000; New Jersey, 25,000; Louisiana, 24,000; Massachusetts, 20,000."

Probably the present anti-Semitic wave in Europe will again increase the Jewish immigration to this country, as there really is no place of refuge for that people, where full liberty can be enjoyed and opportunities for activity offered such as are found in the United States; nor will there be, until the time for the rebuilding of the cities of their fathers shall have arrived. In the meantime it is but natural that many of them should be attracted to the land favored above all others, as was Joseph above all his brethren.

A BISHOP IN THE CASE.

In the district court at Ogden this week there has been on trial a case which developed two or three features of unusual interest. It was that of Margaret Kennedy vs the Oregon Short Line railroad, in which the plaintiff seeks to recover damages for the killing of her husband in a wreck that occurred on the road named, in April last. The attorney for the railroad, Hon. P. L. Williams, endeavored to show that the attorneys for the plaintiff, Messrs. Evans & Rogers, had taken her case under a contract pursuant to which they were to advance all necessary costs, witness fees, etc., prosecute the claim, and let their compensation be contingent on success. If successful they were to have a share, presumably half, of the judgment; if unsuccessful the plaintiff was to pay them nothing for their services. Such a contract is called champetry, and in some states is illegal.

This sort of tactics by the defendant railroad company was evidently intended to produce an effect on the minds of the jury that would impel them to greatly reduce the amount of their award, and it was well calculated to accomplish that result. In order, if possible, to counteract such an effect on the jurors' sympathies, the attorneys for the defense tried to show that the railroad company had sought to intimidate the plaintiff by means of "church influence;" that it had for this purpose, enlisted the efforts of Bishop Glorieux of Boise, a prelate of the Catholic church; and that the bishop had tried to induce the plaintiff to consent to settle the case for a much smaller amount than she was suing for.

The facts in regard to the Bishop's connection with the case, as disclosed by the testimony of Mr. Williams, who took the witness stand, and by correspondence that had passed between

the plaintiff and the prelate, seem to be as follows: The bishop had not been asked by the railroad to interfere, but had proffered his services as an arbitrator, and his proposition had been courteously considered by the company. He wrote to Mrs. Kennedy, saying that he did so as a bishop, and not as one personally interested in the matter, and advised her to take the case out of the hands of her attorneys and try to effect a settlement with the company direct. In another letter he stated that, in his judgment, and that of her pastor in Kansas City, this was her best course, and that the amount the company would pay her would be larger than her share of any judgment her attorneys could recover. He wrote several letters in this line.

Either because she had committed herself by a contract with her attorneys, or because she preferred their advice to that of her pastor and bishop, she pushed the suit, and the trial followed. At this writing the "News" does not know the result, but it has a suggestion or two to offer relative to the attempt to sway the jury by the "church influence" catch cry.

It was bad taste and bad tactics to make such an attempt. Bishop Glorieux, as his letters plainly showed, sought the welfare of a member of his flock, and the ends of justice, by kindly proffering his services in an effort to effect an amicable settlement of an important lawsuit in which that member was plaintiff. He expressed the belief that she would get more money from the company direct, than she would through her attorneys after they had taken out their share; and on this point the "News" confidently anticipates a vindication of his judgment. His interest in the plaintiff was kind and fatherly, and was manifested in a manner that was perfectly proper, and in strict accord with the doctrines and discipline of the church of which the plaintiff is a member.

Jurors in this State should never allow bias nor prejudice to be created in their minds by a showing made during a trial, that ecclesiastical officers have endeavored to effect an amicable settlement of the controversy, without litigation. In almost all such cases, no matter what may be the religious society involved, it will be found on examination that the church officials are acting from far higher motives, and on lines much nearer to truth and justice, than are the lawyers who urge a fight in the courts.

CLAIMS OF "JOSEPHITES."

Elder Joshua Selly, president of the West Pennsylvania conference, writes to the "News" from Indiana, Indiana county, Pa., under date of the 22nd inst, enclosing a clipping from the Gazette of that place, which embraces a letter addressed to that paper by Elder R. Etzenhouser of the "Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," commonly called "Josephites;" and also a report of an address delivered by him, which originally appeared in the Independent, of Emporium, Pennsylvania. In his letter to the Gazette, Elder Etzenhouser claims and pretends to prove that the practice of polygamy has been revived in Utah. In support of his contention he says:

"Rev. Dr. Bliss, agent of finance of Salt Lake college preached at Somerville, Mass., November 15th, and declared that 'polygamy is still practiced by the leaders of the Mormon Church.' The Chicago Tribune of December 5th, says: 'Any polygamous marriages that have taken place since the issuance of the manifesto cannot be proven but that at least 1,000 polygamous wives