

INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND MINES.

Harold M. Pitt, local superintendent for Bradstreet's agency has completed the following statistical report of Utah failures:

January, 1894, 23 failures, liabilities \$271,985; assets \$215,071; December, 1893, 19 failures, liabilities \$204,660, assets \$118,443; January, 1893, 23 failures, liabilities \$222,543, assets \$149,426.

The closing of the house of Goldsmith and company in Utah, can hardly be classed as a local failure. The firm's headquarters are in Baltimore, Md. There are two branches in Utah, one in Washington and one in Butte. These dependent stores could not be held separately responsible for the collapse of the house.

Eight of the total of 23 failures occurred in Salt Lake City, and although this number is over 33 1/3 per cent of the whole, the liabilities make but little more than 4 per cent of the total liabilities. In the face of the many dire predictions so freely made of financial disaster that would come with the new year, the actual record is at once surprising and gratifying.

By the utmost conservatism in buying, and economy in business, the majority of local merchants have reduced liabilities to probably one-third of what they were a year ago and although there are very few that have any more than held even, still the knowledge of their safe position gives a feeling of confidence that would not be warranted by the volume of business available. Collections continue hard; in the country they are found almost impossible and the stocks of both retailers and jobbers have been greatly reduced to afford means for the heavy liquidations of the past year.

"How do our local merchants sustain home industries? Is it by keeping the home manufactured goods in the background?" asked a gentleman of a News representative.

Then the gentleman went on to relate three incidents which he stated occurred in a large business house in this city.

Number one was that a customer went into the grocery division and asked for cheese, an article was produced when the customer remarked, "That is not home-made, is it?" "Oh, no," was the response. "I don't want it; I want home-made cheese." "We haven't any," was the reply, and the customer made the purchase elsewhere.

Incident number two was at the counter where they sell shoes. A customer came in for a pair, and the eastern article was produced. "Haven't you got anything made at home?" said the customer. "Oh, yes," said the clerk; and a pair of first-class shoes made at Z. C. M. I. factory was brought forward and purchased.

No. 3 was at the dry goods counter; flannel being what the customer desired. Promptly the imported goods were dropped to the counter. "I wish something better than this. Haven't you home-made flannel?" In a half-apologetic manner, as though the home-made was looked on as inferior instead of superior to the other, an excellent

quality of Provo flannel was brought and a purchase made.

Whether these instances are a sample of the way local merchants bring home industries to the front, is what the inquirer wanted to know. It is a question that is of interest to the merchants as well as to customers.

There is a movement on foot to use the water power of the great Shoshone Falls, Snake river, Idaho, for manufacturing and other enterprises, among them a railroad. The Boise Statesman says that negotiations have been in progress for some time regarding this road and recently State Treasurer Hill received a letter from a New York capitalist, who became interested in the enterprise some time ago, stating he was satisfied money could be raised, not only to build and operate the road, but to put in an extensive electric plant to furnish power for mines and manufacturing which the same men would doubtless put in operation as soon as sufficient power was assured. The gentleman asked Mr. Hill to forward him plans showing the ground, and other information. Of course the syndicate it is proposed to form will want to control all the water power. Other parties claim to have rights in that direction but if they be relinquished there is little doubt the gigantic enterprise would be pushed to completion. The length of the proposed electric railroad will be forty miles.

Iron county Record: A great many people are looking to southern Utah as a locality that offers many advantages for homes, investments and the establishment of business enterprises. As our many natural resources are becoming better and more widely known, this interest is becoming quickened, and by spring we look for a great influx into this region. The inducements offered by Iron county in the way of large tracts of arable land, immense deposits of iron and coal, and other resources, together with the bright outlook for railroad facilities in the near future, will draw many of the home seekers and capitalists here, and by another year we predict that there will be a great change in the appearance and condition of Cedar City. By then, we believe, we will have a railroad up Coal Creek to our vast coal deposits, and another one across the valley to the mountains of hematite and magnetic iron ore which abound there; iron furnaces and foundries will be in full blast, manufacturing establishments will be under way, and this city will present a scene of commercial and manufacturing activity.

The fruit growers of Weber county met Saturday afternoon in Ogden for the purpose of organizing a fruit growers' union. G. S. Geddes was elected temporary chairman and J. T. Albert secretary. Considerable enthusiasm was manifested and addresses were made by G. S. Geddes, E. G. McGriff, H. T. Peterson, George Smuin, D. Peebles, J. N. Barker and others. A committee was appointed to draft constitution and by-laws, to report next Saturday, members being selected from

the following places: Ogden, North Ogden, Mound Fort, Farr West, Pleasant View, Riverdale, Plain City, Willson, Birch Creek, West Weber, Kaneshville, Hooper and Uintah.

Next Saturday afternoon there will be a general meeting of all the fruit growers to hear and discuss the committee's report.

The Davis county Clipper has an eye to business and puts in a bid for the Utah University. The location it suggests is between Bountiful and Centerville, twelve miles north of this city, where a square mile of land could be easily obtained, with ample water supply. The Clipper adds: The climate is excellent for all kinds of agricultural products and cannot be surpassed for an experiment station anywhere in Utah. This point is between the capital of the Territory and the next largest city; the two cities contain about one-third of the population of our Territory. The people living north, east and south could easily reach it, there being excellent railroad facilities. Students from Salt Lake could attend the school as cheaply as if it were located at Fort Douglas or any suburb of Salt Lake City.

Mr. William Pearson brings in a good sized sample of his Beaver coal. The quantity was sufficient to give the mineral a successful test. It was burned in a cook stove and made a rapid and vigorous blaze, developing an immense amount of heat. Of the entire peck which we burned there was not a teaspoonful of waste, ashes included. The coal seemed to be full of the elements of good fire and heat. Mr. Pearson says he has already been inquired of as to the value of his claim, and this, too, by railroad parties. A representative of the U. N. & C. called upon him respecting his mine, but Pearson stated that he had not sufficiently developed the prospect to know what its value is, and could therefore not talk intelligently on the matter. The coal beds lie within eight miles of Beaver city.

The American Fork Item says it feels to rejoice that it is visited every day by people calling for location notices to stake gold claims in the vicinity. It seems that quite high grade ore can be found in and around the city, but not hardly sufficient to justify mining without a mill in close proximity. But the yellow metal is here, and all it needs is experienced men with money and push to get right in and develop these prospects. It is claimed that one man in this city found gold in his back yard. A bright future has American Fork in store. Ere the opening of spring, we learn that those owning mines in American Fork canyon will resume work upon them, although those mines are principally silver and lead.

The city board of education has had presented for its consideration a proposition to put in a new material for ceilings, sidewalks and wainscoting in the school houses to be erected. The suggested substitute for plaster and wood is iron or steel plating, enameled and decorated. It is claimed that this system is more durable, substantial and ornamental than the old method, is not inflammable, and is as healthful as the lime plastered walls. It can be decorated