

There is room even for a suspicion that, as the depression began almost as soon as it was known that the "Liberal" party had obtained control of the city, therefore the depression was due to the knowledge that the city had passed from conservative to reckless control. If this is true, then we may confidently look for a better state of business of all kinds as soon as it becomes clear that the safe and steady government is reinstated.

(2). That such a return to common sense would banish "thousands" cannot be true, since there were not thousands of residents engaged in the unhealthy speculations of the "boom."

That if statehood were granted to Utah "a crushing of trade" would follow cannot be true, since such an establishment of equilibrium would be the signal for an immigration that would give us a population of a million people inside of ten years. Of course, I speak only my own opinion and am aware that the NEWS may not agree with me, but sure am I that nothing would so enhance all the business and industrial interests of Utah as statehood. So clear is this proposition that if the Mormon people were desirous of obtaining political control of Utah, as the *Tribune* asserts, they would oppose statehood. Let statehood come, and in five years the non-Mormon vote of Utah must exceed the Mormon vote, and then pro-Mormon legislation becomes an impossibility. Then the practice of polygamy, which has given the *Tribune* so much simulated nightmare for years, will have become also an impossibility.

The same is true as to the *Tribune's* other charge, almost daily reiterated, that the Mormons intend to establish "here in the midst of our country an absolute theocracy." It is strange that men so full of ostensible Americanisms as the *Tribune* would have us believe its writers to be can reason so much like imbeciles.

CHARLES ELLIS.

ENGLISH INFLUENCE ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.

THERE is a possibility that England may, in the near future, obtain a foothold on the American Continent, from which she can never be dislodged. This development is likely to come about in a peculiar way.

In 1888 the Maratime Canal company of Nicaragua and Costa Rica was incorporated by act of Congress, with a capital of \$100,000,000. The object of this corporation was to connect the Atlantic and Pacific by means of a ship canal. Surveys were made and work commenced about two years ago. The length of the completed route will be about 169 miles, 140 of which are already more or less free navigation. There are but 29 miles of actual excavation.

When this company was organized it was expected that the United States government would guarantee its bonds. This the government has refused to do, and the financial outlook for the Canal Company is discouraging. Capitalists are not exuberant in their endorsements of canals. With the fact before their eyes that \$280,000,000 have been

absolutely thrown away on the Panama scheme, it is little wonder that capital should be a trifle discouraged. Of course, if there was a government guarantee for the bonds, they could be disposed of at par value and at low interest, but now they will not sell for 50 per cent. of their face value.

The first estimate put the cost of the canal at \$60,000,000. This was insufficient, and the latest estimate is \$87,000,000. This means an issue of \$175,000,000 of stock at 6 per cent. to build an \$87,000,000 canal.

Ex Senator Warner Miller of New York is one of the chief promoters of the canal enterprise. During last April he and a party of friends made a protracted visit to the scene of the work. They were accompanied by H. F. Donaldson, chief engineer of the Manchester Ship Canal, (England). He made an elaborate and exhaustive report of the Nicaragua enterprise to his own construction Company.

The Manchester canal is now completed, and all the plant used in that great work is ready to be transported to another scene. The company which built that canal has millions behind it. On its engineer's report it is prepared to build the canal, requiring only the commercial tax on shipping, when the work is completed, as its security for the investment. It is admitted on all sides that this tax will be sufficient to pay handsome interest on the \$87,000,000 required to build a canal. But at present, England seems to be the only agent able and willing to carry out the work.

England is already interested in Nicaragua. The public debt of that republic is about \$1,500,000. This money was obtained from English bankers at 5 per cent. England is said to be more familiar with the affairs of Central American countries than is any other foreign government.

Now, is it wise for Americans to permit this canal to be built by England? To California and the whole Pacific coast this work when completed would be of incalculable value. It would place its products 10,000 miles nearer the markets of the world. In a national sense the canal would be of inestimable value to Americans. It would render trade between the Atlantic and Pacific independent of trans-continental railroad monopolies. It would in many ways revolutionize commerce. In fact, it would be one of the greatest enterprises of the century. If England builds it, she will in time own it.

As to the propriety of the United States government taking the paternity of it, that is a matter that will admit of debate. Perhaps the government is being asked to throw its shield over too many things that ought to be left to private enterprise. Is there not capital and patriotism enough among the citizens of the United States to accomplish a purely American work? It is true very little is known of Nicaragua Canal, by the average American citizen, but we have newspapers and politicians enough to discuss the merits of the enterprise, and to prevent our being caught napping.

The union between England and Scotland was completed July 22, 1707.

DESERTED FARMS.

THE number of abandoned farms in New Jersey has led the Commissioner of Statistics of that State to make a careful inquiry into the cause. The assistance of local assessors was obtained in order to get the information all the more accurately. With the exception of three counties, Hudson, Essex and Union, New Jersey is an agricultural State. Returns from 218 townships outside of the three counties mentioned were received. Only one county, Salem, reports no abandoned farm. So far as known 818 vacated farms have been reported. Many of these, however, are not absolutely abandoned, inasmuch as they are used for grazing.

The chief reason for this desertion is poor soil. Thirteen were given up on account of mortgages, nine for taxation, 210 because of worn out soil, and twenty-six through poor management and ignorance.

In addition, the report says in a general way that farming is not a prosperous industry in New Jersey. Though the great markets are within a few hours ride of the farmer there, he has the same grievance as the granger of Kansas and of Dakota, that is, expense of transportation. Here is a problem for the philosophers of the Farmers' Alliance.

ENGLAND'S CHILD-LABOR LAW.

IT is estimated that the child-labor law, which was lately passed by the English Parliament, will liberate from the factories and other places of harsh servitude nearly two hundred thousand children between the years of ten and eleven. The original amendment extended the age under which a child could not lawfully be hired out for wages to twelve years.

For some cause which was not revealed in the pointless arguments advanced, the Tory element opposed the measure. It was charged that the operatives of the Lancashire mills had something to do with their opposition. They also opposed the eleven year amendment, but by an extraordinary effort the Liberals crowded the bill through on a small majority of sixteen.

This places England in advance of most of the other European countries. Some of the United States, however, have gone even farther than England in this direction. Massachusetts, for example, places the limit of child-labor at thirteen years. That State has further provided that no child shall be employed during the hours that the public schools are in session. The temptation is thus removed from poor parents to deprive their children of the advantages of education in order to avail themselves of a little more of their young energies.

It might in many cases seem to be a hardship, but while the provisions of this enlightened statute may inflict privations, the indulgence which it is intended to remedy is a barbarism. A restriction is always a tyranny to those whom it prevents from the pursuit of a fixed custom or desire. But limitations that are inspired by the exalted motives that have prompted this prohibi-