

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE ARIZONA SQUABBLE.

On Monday last President Cleveland sent to the Senate the name of Benjamin J. Franklin to be governor of Arizona, vice Lewis C. Hughes, the incumbent. This action is claimed to have been the result of a factional fight between a number of influential Democrats in our neighboring territory, and the circumstances would seem to bear this out; anyway, Governor Hughes refused to vacate, claiming that he had a right to hold on till his successor was confirmed. This was a legal point which the President had probably overlooked, but he was equal to the occasion, for yesterday the acting secretary of state, by Mr. Cleveland's direction, telegraphed Mr. Hughes that he was removed and must turn over his office and its effects to the secretary of the territory, Charles M. Bruce. This is a peremptory way of doing things, but that it is effectual whenever the President sees fit to resort to it, we of Utah can bear abundant witness to. The governor thereupon stayed not upon the order of his going but went at once.

Without knowing or caring particularly regarding the merits or demerits of the Arizona unpleasantness, we sincerely hope the time is not far distant when our neighbor like ourselves will be officered and managed by people of its own choosing. The plan of governing and regulating distant commonwealths at the seat of the nation favors a little too strongly of colonial times and the causes which led up to the Revolution to be altogether agreeable in this day and age. Happily, there are but few territories left now, and there is every assurance that not many years can elapse before they will all enter into their rightful inheritance. Speed the day!

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

Events in South America, Asia Minor and Africa have for a long time almost eclipsed the developments in eastern Asia, and the fact is nearly lost sight of that the last war in those regions resulted in a policy that in due course of time is certain to give a new direction to the history of the world.

Russia, ever watchful when her own interests are involved, interposed her immense power between the two combatants and laid hold of the prize for which they were contesting, and from that day she has closed Corea ever firmer in her protecting hand. Japanese influence is declining and Russian prestige taking its place. Japan is as yet unprepared to resist, and there seem to be no other powers willing to stop her further progress.

The Russian press is unanimous in the declaration that room must be made for Russia in Asia, and this must be regarded as sanctioned by the government. One paper states the case thus:

The old formula proclaimed by Akenow and Katkow, that "Russia must be reserved for the Russians," is out of date.

Russian diplomats must now follow the lead of the Americans and establish a doctrine of wider importance. Had we done so years ago, then Russia would not have played so important a part in Western civilization, nor would she have made such great sacrifices without adequate compensation. Russia can not flourish unless she elbows others, especially England, who can not be brought to reason by gentle means. Russians must in future stand by the parole, "the East for the people of the East."

The opinion is also generally prevalent that the czar's government has the support not only of France but of Germany and Austria. It is therefore supposed that in a short time the gigantic empire will be firmly established at the Pacific Ocean in a latitude where her ships will be in a position to move at all seasons of the year. The dream of centuries is about to be realized.

At the same time it is noticeable that the great giant of Asia has awakened from his slumbers. The Chinese government has decided to send several hundred of its young men abroad to be educated according to the rules of occidental civilization. This means the infusion of new life into the veins and arteries of the Chinese nation, and there is no apparent reason why the result in China should not be quite as striking as it has been in Japan, and in shorter time.

Li Hung Chang's genius is seen in this new move. When asked to conduct peace negotiations with Japan, he consented on the condition that he should be allowed to carry out his ideas as to the political regeneration of the people. Imperial consent was obtained, and he was placed at the head of China's foreign affairs. Li Hung Chang is seventy-four years old and cannot be expected to hold his office many years, but the probability is that the lesson taught by Japanese victories on land and sea will remain a permanent reminder to the rulers of the empire that China's only salvation is in the breaking down of her conservatism. Li Hung Chang's educational work will be continued and be a factor in the country's affairs for a long time.

Russia and China now stand together. With the former established as a great naval power and the latter aroused to a realization of her immense strength and resources, the political, industrial and commercial problems of the world are likely to assume new difficulties. Was it a flash of inspiration that prompted the German emperor to depict western Europe standing on an elevation and looking across the chasm, from the other side of which barbarism arose threatening like a cyclone the work of western civilization? The next generation will better be able to tell.

SALT LAKE SILVER CHAMPIONS.

In the March 25 number of the National Bimetallist, Salt Lake City is largely in evidence. W. M. Wantland of this place is hailed as the premium solicitor for the above named paper, having sent "314 subscriptions

obtained in three days, and soon thereafter 145 obtained in one day." By far the longest article in the number is by S. P. Armstrong, of this city, dated Nov. 1, 1896: the headings and sub-headings (which will perhaps sufficiently explain the drift of the author's argument) being as follows: "Unrestricted coinage of silver by the United States—The value of the money metals is determined by the economic law of unlimited demand—Legislation can fix the price of the money metals—The price of the money metals, as fixed by legislation, is not affected by the amount of bullion produced—The United States cannot look to Europe to remonetize silver—Laborers and farmers have suffered great loss by the demonetization of silver—This nation has ample power to remonetize silver—Coinage of silver should be restricted to the product of the United States—The United States should fix the ratio at 16 to 1—Compromise measures are inadequate." The article would make about seven columns in the NEWS.

THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

The Republican State convention will be held on Tuesday next, April 7. Enough of its constituent elements are now made up to enable us to have something of a forecast as to its inclining, and these are just now a matter of no little interest. One thing is well assured—it will be strongly and determinedly for free coinage at 16 to 1, and this will not be permitted to occupy an inferior or even a secondary place in the declaration of principles which will be adopted.

With so much assured, the work of the State convention would seem to be plain and direct. This is a silver-producing and silver-upholding State; no matter how much the people may be at variance otherwise, they are practically a unit on that question. But silver and gold are not the only great products of the commonwealth by any means; it is an immense wool, lead and stock producer, and concerning these interests so much harmony does not exist; in fact, we may say that there is no harmony at all. One grand division of the body politic holds that in order that our best interests may be conserved, increased and continued the tariff duties which were reduced on lead and taken off altogether as to wool shall be restored if not increased over the former schedules; another division nearly if not quite as large holds almost diametrically the other way, but as it is not their occasion that is under discussion we will let them pass for the present.

The convention will choose six delegates to the national convention at St. Louis. Here the grand clashing of interests, the bristling of hostile views, the sallies of rhetoric, the outbursts of oratory, the scintillations of wit, the plots and counterplots will occur, and the desire all around ought to be, and we believe is, that the newest State in the Union shall not only not be the weakest but show herself one of the powers in the deliberations and conclusions of that body. The East is against silver with almost unanimity; the West generally, and Utah particularly are almost as solidly for it. Manifestly, therefore, the Republican dele-