

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

SAN JUAN'S GREAT GRIEVANCE.

It was in 1893, we believe, that the public lands in the county of San Juan, this Territory, were withdrawn from entry by the chief official of the interior department or the general land office. The reason was that a treaty was being or had been negotiated with the Southern Ute Indians whereby the latter were to relinquish their lands in Colorado and accept in exchange this particular part of Utah; and the department properly considered that pending the confirmation of the treaty, white settlers should be given to understand that any land filings or improvements would be at the settlers' risk—in other words, that no indemnification might be expected for rights claimed or acquired subsequent to the date mentioned. It is understood that in the provisions of the treaty referred to there was an item appropriating a sum of money to reimburse certain settlers for improvements already made; but as there were but one or two perfected land titles in the whole county, the sum proposed has been generally regarded as absurdly inadequate to the liquidation of the righteous claims the people had acquired by their enterprise and toil. Certain it is that in the proposed appropriation the actual rights of many settlers were wholly ignored, and had the treaty been ratified as at first framed, a grave injustice to many worthy and deserving pioneers would have been wrought.

Our readers are familiar with the many phases which during the intervening years this Ute removal bill has assumed, and with its repeated delays and recent death. They are also probably aware that during these years two or three thriving settlements have been growing and extending their borders in the Colorado-coveted county, and that new settlers, confident of the future of the section, have gone in to strengthen the hands of their earlier fellow citizens and redeem the waste places wherever industry and patience could accomplish it. But few realize the difficulties under which these people have lived and the discouragements that have beset them. Not only were they in the angle between two lines of powerful Indian tribes, at least one of which had influential white backing for any insulance it might choose to display toward them; but they were also denied any assurance whether or not they were to be allowed to remain. If they stayed and builded and fenced and cultivated, they had the government warning that theirs was the risk. If the order of removal should come—that no remuneration for their work need be expected. If they pulled up and left the county, the loss of all they had earned was only different from that in the alternative case, in that it was immediate and certain.

And thus they have lived and labored for six or seven years, and thus they are living today. Of course there is no further danger that the Colorado Indians are to be dumped in upon them—no danger, at least, that it

will be done with the connivance and under the authority of the government. But the land is still withheld from entry, and they are as yet, with their settlements, farms, schoolhouses and churches, only squatters upon the public domain. If some of them still live under dirt roofs which in wet weather drip like a sieve, let them not be blamed for shiftlessness, for they have no guaranty that even the dirt roof will be legally recognized as theirs. If they have been slow in some instances in planting trees, let it be remembered that no consideration of common sense would have justified any such expenditure of means and labor until they had at least a prospect of being permitted to enjoy its benefits. But many of them have not been so conservative; they have shown a faith that deserves honorable mention and works that should bring them sure reward. Stone houses are beginning to make their appearance, orchards of choice varieties of fruit, and lines of shade trees, are already dotting the earth's surface, and new water courses and farms are being laid out and brought into use each season. Of people who have "builded better than they knew," these are a striking example.

Now, in view of all the circumstances, we submit that it is a duty which the press and people of the Territory owe to themselves and each other—a duty which any Delegate in Congress ought to blush to neglect—a duty which concerns every official and citizen—to see to it that that sorely tried but at last rescued portion of our state be freed from the last evidence of its embarrassment, and that its people be treated with the common courtesy that follows the settler upon the public lands everywhere within the shadow of the flag.

TELLING PLAIN TRUTHS.

In late years there has been in this part of the country a tendency of young men to crowd from the industries directly associated with agriculture into professional and mercantile pursuits, until the latter are overstocked, and the former measurably neglected. At the same time the idea has been too prevalent, judging by conditions which are apparent, that it does not require a very large amount of brains and intellectual training to engage in agricultural pursuits, and therefore there is no opportunity to display many abilities or secure a competency in that class of vocations. To this situation is largely due the fact that so many young men are without employment and that such a small percentage of what should come directly or indirectly from the soil is actually produced.

Recent discussion on this subject, however, is proving an important educational factor, and is arousing fresh and lively interest, leading in another direction, as may be seen in the workings of horticulturists' and beekeepers' societies, farmers' unions, dairymen's

and forestry associations, and young men who are turning their faces toward country life. The time is ripe for increased effort in directing attention to soil cultivation, etc., and much good work is being performed in this line. Among the efficient operators in this field we have had occasion to make frequent mention of the Utah Agricultural College. In an address before the chamber of commerce at Logan, the other evening, Prof. O. A. Mills, of the college faculty, dwelt on the topic referred to, and presented some plain truths in a very forcible manner. In reply to the question "Is there in Cache valley today a demand for agriculturally educated men? Is there a demand for better butter makers, for better cheese makers? Is there a demand for better horticulturists, for better gardeners?" the professor answered with a most emphatic "Yes!" and makes his reply applicable to all Utah.

Prof. Mills then goes further into the subject and adds that we "need men to study and to learn how to make four blades of grass grow where now there grows but one; we need men who will study to make 100 pounds of good palatable butter where now there is made but a pound of questionable stuff; we need men to study and to learn how to make ten good, sound apples and pears grow where now we have but ten aggregations of worms and insects; we need men to study and to learn how to breed and feed poultry that spring chickens may be on the market early, and that December and January may be as flush with eggs as are May and June; we need men to study and to learn how to breed and to feed hogs that they may weigh from three to four hundred pounds at about ten months old and the hogs reach this age from May to September; we need men to study and to learn how to breed and feed steers that at two years old will weigh from 1,200 to 1,400 lbs. and bring the highest price on the open market, so as to obviate the necessity of importing men to do the feeding for us."

The giving of instruction in agriculture is begun in the common schools of Canada, and Prof. Mills advocates the introduction of such teaching in the public schools in the country districts of Utah. At present the dependence is on farmers' meetings, which are few and far between, and on experience apart from systematic training. It is urged that there is no occasion for interference with such studies of the English language and sciences as now go on but that a mixture of agricultural training can be introduced with benefit to all; and further, that in addition to a hundred students for the agricultural course at the college itself, each winter should see at least two hundred farmers taking the short winter course provided by that institution.

This is a live discussion of topics interesting and important to our industrial development. As to the butter, the cheese, the fruit, the chickens, the beef, etc., every practical farmer knows there is room for much larger production and for better quality, and that there is great necessity for thorough education in these branches. If Utah dairy interests, for instance,