

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

AN IRRIGATION INSPECTION.

Hon. Charles W. Irish is in Utah on a mission whose importance should bring to him every assistance the people of this Territory can offer in the brief time at his disposal. He is here to inspect and study the irrigation system, as head of the irrigation division of the national department of agriculture. His duty calls him to make thorough inquiry into the methods followed in applying water in cultivation, to ascertain the proportion of loss through percolation or other causes, the nature of soils with reference to the quantities of moisture required, the manner of controlling the distribution of water, and other valuable information connected with irrigation matters.

In carrying on his investigation Mr. Irish already has visited Arizona, California and Nevada, and after leaving here will give attention to Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado. He will remain in Salt Lake City and neighborhood until Monday next, when he will start on a trip to the counties of Utah, Juab, Millard, Beaver, Sanpete and perhaps others; then a trip north will be taken to inspect that interesting section. He will gather samples of the products of irrigation, general statistics as to the crop yield and the supply of water, specimens of soils in different sections, etc., to aid in his general purpose.

As Utah is the recognized leader in irrigation matters, it is here that Mr. Irish anticipates securing the most valuable information for all purposes. In this respect he is not likely to be disappointed, for not only is this a field for the most satisfactory investigation, but the people will be highly gratified at the opportunity of communicating the knowledge they possess for the general good. Hence Mr. Irish's visit should be productive of the best results. He is deeply interested in the subject of irrigation, and has had an experience which makes him thoroughly capable to meet the responsibility placed on him. He has already instituted practical irrigation in the New England states, having made the plans for applying the system to a number of farms there. In the important mission he is now engaged in, we bespeak for him the cheerful and prompt assistance of the people of this Territory as he may require it.

THE SCANDINAVIAN CRISIS.

The latest phase of the difficulty between the two kingdoms of the Scandinavian peninsula is set forth in a telegraphic announcement from Stockholm, that the Riksdag has decided to give notice of the termination of the commercial treaty between Sweden and Norway. This treaty by which the principal products of the countries are exchanged free of duty has always been considered one of the great advantages of the political union. Its termination is a measure of retaliation that will be felt as keenly in the

inland provinces of Sweden as in Norway. It is a revival of conditions prevalent at the time of hostilities between Denmark and Sweden, almost perpetual as long as Norway was ruled by occupants of the Danish throne, and it certainly marks a crisis in the Scandinavian union.

It may be interesting at this time to notice the account given of the difficulty by Bjornson, the real leader of the Norwegian liberals and probable candidate for the presidency, in case the attempt to overthrow the monarchical form of government in favor of a republic should prove successful. In a recent letter to the *Neue Freie Presse*, Vienna, he says the difference between the two countries is so great that it is almost impossible for them to remain united. Sweden is aristocratic, Norway democratic. Sweden has an old, powerful nobility, great landowners and a strong bureaucracy; Norway has none of these but only small farmers, sailors or fishermen. Sweden is for protection; Norway for free trade. In Sweden the church is all-powerful; education is in the hands of the Lutheran clergy and the administration of justice is incompatible with modern ideas.

The writer goes on to explain that Norway, on economic grounds, wishes a separate foreign representation, as the people deem it unnecessary to spend large sums on a diplomatic corps. Consuls and consular agents, he says, would answer all purposes; hence the demand in Norway for separate diplomatic and consular representatives.

The statement of the illustrious Scandinavian poet will appear strange to any one acquainted with the conditions he endeavors to depict; but even if it be admitted that he has not drawn largely on his petrical fancy, he seems to argue for disruption on irrelevant grounds, inasmuch as the union is entirely for offensive and defensive purposes. Nothing binds the two countries together except the common king, common foreign representation and whatever friendship they may succeed in maintaining. It is perfectly clear therefore, that whatever defects there may be, according to the judgment of Mr. Bjornson, in Swedish institutions, that has no effect whatever in Norway either one way or the other. The latter country has a perfect right to develop its system of government along democratic lines and establish a republic whenever the people is ripe for it; to frame artificial grounds of justification for this right, inherent in every nation, is unnecessary.

Unfortunately for the liberal party in Norway it has not been able to satisfy the expectations of the people as to economic administration and perfect equality, and since the days of Johan Sverdrup the conservatives have in many places more than held their own. It is not improbable that the near future may bring a change. An impression prevails that the time has come for action and that the people must take their choice between revolutionary and the inauguration of a conciliatory policy. If those who wish

the establishment of a republic are wise they will follow the latter course, for the Norwegians love liberty, and they will oppose coercion no matter in what form. They would dethrone an arrogant political party as surely as a too haughty Bernadotte.

DON'T OVERDO IT.

There are several people interesting themselves just now in bringing colonies from the East to the Rocky Mountains. Some of these are looking toward Utah, where eligible sites for the establishment of settlements have been located. In Emery, Millard, Box Elder and other counties there is abundance of land, with good water facilities, which it is proposed to utilize, and if the plans are carried out on proper lines the ventures should be highly successful, not only to the individual promoters of the schemes, but also to the colonists who take up the burden of the work.

It seems to be opportune, however, to point out in connection with these colonization projects a serious danger which threatens. If colonies are organized and families brought in under false representations as to what they may expect in settling here, the effect cannot be otherwise than highly injurious to the Territory. One disappointment from this cause cannot be overcome by a dozen successes under a proper representation. If people are induced to come here under the idea that they are going to reap marvelous results from their toil in forming new settlements, they are sure to be disappointed, and the good name of the Territory as a place for homes and homeseekers will suffer thereby.

A case in point is set forth in a special dispatch to the Idaho Statesman of May 23, and telegraphed to Salt Lake. It is stated that a colony has been organized in Chicago, to settle in the Payette valley, Canyon county, Idaho. It is composed of families who have means to support them from the date of their intended settlement, August and September next, until the harvest of the succeeding year. The committee sent out by the colonists were enraptured with the country, which is indeed beautiful and fertile, and went back with glowing accounts of what could be grown there. They reported that cereals, vegetables and fruits luxuriated in the valley; that there could be raised cucumbers twenty-six inches long, weighing six and three-quarters pounds each; sixty-pound watermelons; strawberries ten and a half inches in circumference which average ten to a quart; tomatoes weighing over three pounds apiece, etc.

Now all these statements may be true, but because the half is not told they do not convey a correct impression; when the colonists learn that they have been deceived they will feel awfully bad, and disappointment will produce dislike for all Idaho. Those colonists will not find many 28-inch cucumbers, 80-pound watermelons, 10-to-a-quart strawberries and 3-pound tomatoes in their gardens. The bulk of their crops, with the best success experienced men can hope for, will be far inferior to such a standard; and