

without detriment to the revenues of the Indian government. The report of this commission on this point could, of course, be nothing else than negative; the suppression of the traffic would result in diminished revenue, but what is remarkable is that the commission endeavors to deny the evil consequences of the use of opium. "We find no evidence," those gentlemen say, "of extensive moral or physical degradation from the use of opium." They declare its use is in some cases beneficial, and for the most part without injurious consequences. They further state that its non-medical uses are so "interwoven with the medical uses that it would be impractical to draw a distinction between them; one cannot be prohibited without the other."

The whisky investigation was held under an order of Secretary Asquith and covered England and Wales. The report of this commission was that it failed to establish any connection between drunkenness and crime. As those gentlemen saw it, people who were habitual drunkards sometimes were models in other respects. They further state, what is no doubt true, that no connection necessarily exists between poverty and crime. Crimes are as numerous in prosperous years as in hard times, and cities where poverty prevails are no more hotbeds for crime than wealthier communities.

What is most striking in these official reports is the evidently concerted action to furnish the government an excuse for the continuation of deriving revenue from such sources; the protests of the reform element will henceforth meet the assertion that their representations are not supported by facts.

It ought not to be a subject of doubt that both whisky and opium are used by those addicted to the drugs, in injurious to the system. The drunkard and the opium smoker generally, not exceptionally, find an early grave, and the seeds of disease sown in their own bodies are not infrequently found to break out in physical and intellectual as well as moral weaknesses in their offspring to the third and fourth generation. Poverty and misery in the home are often results of that kind of intemperance. It could probably be shown by indisputable figures that the revenue of any government derived from these sources is insignificant as compared to the financial ruin wrought, and it is indeed surprising that an attempt to justify the traffic on the plea of its moral innocence can be made after years of incessant labor for reform by temperance societies. Opium and whisky remain the curse of nations, notwithstanding the reports of interested parties.

#### OLD FOLKS' DAY.

The annual treat to the "Old Folks" of Utah this year will consist of an excursion to Pleasant Grove on July 11, as announced by the committee engaged in the highly honorable and pleasing work of providing a day of pleasure for the veterans who are fast approaching their evening of life. The U. P. managers have generously tendered a free ride to persons whose age entitles them to the excursion, and the street car companies join in the

courtesy as far as their lines extend. The "Old Folks' Day" will, as usual, be one of genuine pleasure, and the invitation is cordially extended to all persons who are seventy years old or more, without regard to creed, color or social standing. The hint given by the committee on invitation that every citizen of Utah on that day should make it a point to do an act of kindness to some veteran is peculiarly appropriate and should find expression in liberal contributions to the funds needed in order to make the undertaking an eminent success.

Honor to the aged ones was a cardinal duty among the ancients, and its revival in this Territory speaks well for the morals of this people and for the bright future of Utah. Long life and prosperity in the country are temporal blessings promised on the condition of honor to fathers and mothers, and with them are coupled others of a spiritual nature. All this, then, to the veterans on that day, and may they long stay among the people and give wise counsels and be examples worthy of imitation, and success to the "Old Folks' " committee!

#### WATCHING UTAH.

The interest centering in the election which will take place in Utah next November extends from coast to coast, and events here are closely watched, for the reason that it is now generally supposed that this Territory, soon to become a state, is the pivotal point. Senator Carter, of Montana, a gentleman prominent in the ranks of his party, recently expressed the opinion that with two senators from Utah the new Senate would have a Republican majority and be able to organize without combining with the third party. The *San Francisco Chronicle*, commenting on this statement, reviews the situation and points out that the November election involves not only the ratification of the new Constitution and the choice of a State government, but also the selection of two United States senators. If the Constitution is adopted by the people, the President, the paper says, will proclaim the admission of Utah to statehood, after which the legislature of the new State will assemble and elect senators. In due course this may occur before Congress meets in December, or at least before the Senate has completed its organization.

Utah's importance appears when the strength of the two national parties in the Senate is considered. The Republicans have a majority over the Democrats, but not over all. There would be eighty-eight members if the Delaware election were beyond dispute, but it is taken for granted that Dupont's election will be contested, so that there will be only eighty-seven members to take part in the organization. Of these forty-three are Republicans, thirty-eight Democrats and six Populists, including Stewart and Jones from Nevada. Should two Republicans be elected from Utah before the Delaware contest is decided, the Senate would consist of eighty-nine members, of which the Republicans would claim forty-five, a clear majority. Should, on the other hand,

two Democratic senators be elected, that party would have forty members in the Senate against forty-three Republicans and the six third party members would hold the balance of power. Hence the importance attached to the November election.

It would be unprofitable to indulge at this time in predictions as to the results. The majority of voters in this Territory in all parties are intelligent and independent citizens who have closely studied the questions at issue, and they will vote according to their convictions. We believe they would readily put their foot upon any effort to achieve victory by means of trickery, should any such be attempted.

This people have had a long training in standing up for principles and are, we believe, prepared to apply this to politics for the best interests of their respective parties, well knowing that victory with dishonesty forms but a poor team on the road to prosperity. As the eyes of the nation are resting upon Utah at this time, an honest, clean and open campaign, one founded on purely intellectual arguments, be the result whatever it may, is a debt every good citizen owes to the name and fame of fair Utah.

#### "MORMON OBJECT LESSON."

The June number of the *Irrigation Age* has its usual quota of comment upon Utah and the conditions here prevailing. Our Constitution-framers are criticized for their "deplorable neglect on the subject of irrigation," and for failing to provide an irrigation administrative system. Other parts, however, of the magazine's leading article are more complimentary. Read, for instance, the following, "Mormon Object Lesson:"

The little farms of Utah are looking very bright and prosperous this spring. Early in May the orchards were laden with blossoms and the garden stuff was beginning to make straight green lines on the black soil. The alfalfa, or lucern, as it is always called there, had begun to paint the valleys with its deep green tint. Fat horses and cows loomed comfortably about the barnyards in the little agricultural villages. As usual there will be no empty stomachs among the sovereign laborers of Utah who work for themselves. The figures of Mormon earnings, published in the *Century Magazine* for May, have called out some letters which dispute the showing. These figures were furnished by the Church authorities, and were given for what they are worth. But in considering the Utah experience there is no need of disputing about figures. The simple facts are luminous. Everybody knows that these people carved out 10,000 small farms from the virgin desert, having almost no capital except their labor. Everybody knows that the cost of their canals, stores, factories, banks, railroads, telegraphs, churches, temples and missionary work, as well as the stupendous cost of the living of all these people for forty years, came from irrigated soil. A few millions more or less are not important. The great fact is that these people started practically without capital and have prospered and multiplied. Their experience constitutes the stupendous object lesson—the unanswerable argument—which arid America shows to be worth at his time, when there is so fierce a demand for labor and homes for the masses. Those who quibble about figures lose sight of the larger consideration.