

trolled by wise legislation as to secure, without delay or loss, the purposes designated in the grant.

For nearly fourteen years the election machinery of Utah has been operated by a commission appointed by the President of the United States. During that period great progress has been made in many of the states in perfecting their election laws. Utah is, therefore, lamentably behind the times in this important particular. The perpetuity of a republican form of government is dependent upon the purity of the source from which it springs. That source is the will of the governed. The ballot box is the means by which that will is expressed. Therefore, the protection of the purity of the elective franchise is of primary importance. The universally favorable reports upon the advantages derived from the Australian ballot system, strongly commend it as worthy your careful consideration. The modifications and improvements to the system adopted within the past two years by several of the states should be carefully investigated, to the end that we may profit by the experience of others and avoid their mistakes.

Utah is reported to be, and probably is, the pioneer user of water for irrigation in the United States. We are, therefore, looked to, not only for the most perfect system of irrigation, but for the most approved laws on the subject. The question should receive the careful consideration of those of your members best qualified to act on this important subject. The utmost care should be exercised that the rights of the original appropriators of water should not be interfered with. The law should include provisions on the following subjects at least:

For a uniform system of measuring water; for the filing and recording of rights already acquired through appropriation and the use of water; for the manner of acquiring the right to use unappropriated water; for the economic use and systematic apportionment of the water among the rightful users thereof; for the right of way over State lands and the condemnation of private lands for canals and other distribution works, and for reservoir sites; for establishing the rights of canal or other companies who furnish consumers with water, and defining the relations of the former to the latter.

I also believe great advantage would result from the creation of the office of State engineer, charged with the duty of attending to the irrigation interests of the State.

The disastrous results that have followed the denuding of our mountain districts, in many parts of the State, of their timber through wanton spoliation and forest fires, calls for some effective legislation to arrest such destruction.

The conservative influence of forests on the water supply for irrigation makes their preservation a matter of imperative necessity.

I trust you will give this subject the attention its importance demands.

Section 4 of the Federal Sundry Civil act of 1890 prescribes the manner in which 1,000,000 acres of desert land may pass under the ownership and control of those states desiring to avail themselves of the gift. The purpose of

the law is to empower the public land states to promote the reclamation, cultivation and settlement of the arid areas within their boundaries, and thus augment with all possible dispatch the permanently productive estate of the commonwealth. In striking the ultimate balance accounts the State will have been at no expense, since the proceeds from the sales of the reclaimed lands are to be applied to the reimbursement of the State for moneys invested, the residue of the revenue derived from the million acres to create a fund for the reclamation of additional desert lands. The establishment of the irrigation plant, which must precede settlement and sales, devolves upon the State, according to the terms of the act.

Legislation is needed providing for the acceptance of the terms of the grant, and for the irrigation, occupation and disposal of the lands thus acquired.

Legislation is needed to give the article on labor, in the Constitution, proper force and effect. A board of arbitration and conciliation is provided to represent the interests of both capital and labor, whose duties and compensation are to be provided by law. The conservative character of our people, the fact that no serious disturbances have ever occurred between capital and labor in our past history, and the unpropitious state of our finances, suggest that, for the present, this compensation should be small. The prohibitive clauses of the article should be made effective, especially those prohibiting the contracting of convict labor and the exchange of black-lists by railroad companies or other corporations or persons.

The first triennial report of the bureau of statistics, authorized by act of the Territorial Assembly of March 10, 1892, made its appearance during the year. The work appears to have been well done; the information is concise, comprehensive and interesting. In view of the great need which existed for statistics in Utah, the publication of this report is noteworthy, and the copies should be given wide circulation.

So manifold are the resources of our State, that though its great industry—silver mining—has been almost prostrated, our people are still reasonably prosperous. But it would be wrong to attempt to conceal or discount the great injury brought about by taking from silver its American market, and the reduction in its price, or the further loss suffered by our producer, by the corresponding reduction, because of the demoralization of silver—in the price of all other products of our State. I am my hope, that the cause of this great fall in prices generally, will, at no very remote time, be understood by the great army of producers in the Eastern states, and that they may realize the impossibility of there being any marked advance until silver shall be restored.

If in your wisdom you deem it appropriate to memorialize Congress on this subject, it will be a pleasure to me to co-operate with you.

The necessity of doing all in our power to encourage the growth and development of our home industries is apparent to all. We may differ as to what may be the best methods to

pursue to accomplish so laudable a purpose, but all will agree that something should be done. Without desiring to bring into the consideration this all-important subject partisan feeling, I deem it to be my duty to suggest that the policy outlined by the pioneers of the State, of paying reasonable bounties to infant industries, has been so frequently and decisively endorsed by the people as to place the policy of paying bounties beyond the domain of argument, so far as the wishes of the majority are concerned. The people of Utah believe the wealth of their mountains should be utilized; that work should be found for their young men, and a home market provided for their farmers. The policy which fastens upon a people a system which makes them send their money away for articles which they need, and which could and ought to be produced at home, and which also makes them send their surplus products to a distant market at a heavy cost for freight charges, cannot be the best for the people or the State. We must find employment for our people, and must keep our money at home. The statutes of Utah are full of laws providing for bounties and remissions of taxes to new industries suitable to the wants and needs of the people. I favor such action consistent with these views and the finances of the State, as will help to promote an industrial development, and commend this important subject to your earnest consideration.

Owing to the prevalence of the idea, that the adoption of any measures in any way attacking transportation revenue might cause losses on operation and investment, we have no legislation in regard to railroad and general transportation charges. So long as the question is approached in a spirit of moderation, however, and with the purpose to do exact justice between the corporate powers and their patrons, the accusation of hostility or prejudice to organized capital represented in transportation companies, falls to the ground. Nothing should be done to militate against the construction of new railroads or to impair the usefulness of those we have; at the same time, it is a well known fact, that discriminations have been made in transportation charges that are unjust to the public, and that have, in numerous instances, crippled and killed struggling industry in Utah. If legislation can correct this evil, it should be provided.

I therefore recommend the enactment of a law on this subject, that will secure equitable rights to all concerned, always having in view the upbuilding of our internal industries. Under proper regulations, coal would be delivered at our manufacturing centers within the State, at such prices as would place Utah in the front rank in manufacturing, and secure to our melting and refining works the reduction of such ores as legitimately demand treatment here. No discrimination in charges or facilities for transportation should be made by any railroad between persons or places, and unjust and unreasonable rates for passengers and freight should be prohibited. The recognized method to accomplish proper results is through the creation of a commission clothed with power to carry out the designs of the law-makers, and I recommend that