

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

REMEMBER THE POOR.

The depression which has prevailed for several months in business and industrial circles brings the people of Utah face to face with the fact there are many persons who, having been unable to procure employment with which to earn sufficient to purchase a supply of the necessaries of life, need assistance from their more fortunate neighbors. Winter is close at hand, and these people are lacking that which provides nourishment and protection for the body.

Besides those who have been reduced in circumstances by the unsatisfactory financial situation, there is the usual proportion in the community of those who are indigent through age and infirmity, and the two classes form a considerable number of persons who are now in a condition to require pecuniary aid. Added to this is the fact that in consequence of the depression in money matters there has been a marked curtailment in the amounts contributed this fall for the support of the poor, as many who have been liberal heretofore in this charitable work find their own means limited to a great extent. Thus the number of contributors to charitable purposes has been greatly reduced, the sum of the donations has been materially lessened, and at the same time the number of those requiring assistance has been largely increased.

This state of affairs calls for thoughtful consideration and prompt action on the part of the Latter-day Saints. Their organization and order of government are such that under ordinary circumstances it requires no great effort to provide for the poor and to see that none go hungry, improperly clothed or imperfectly sheltered. The Saints are trained to make liberal sacrifices of their means for the support of the more unfortunate among them, and thus it is that there have been few instances where there has existed a cause of complaint among this class.

It is not improbable, however, that unless there is a reminder of the sacred duty of contributing toward the support of the poor, and of the necessity which exists at the present time of giving much more freely than when times were better, some people may be inclined to forget others in the financial stringency which they feel themselves. It is this feature which people who have means need specially to guard against at the present juncture. Their minds should broaden to the fact that when they are affected in a general financial depression there are others who are less prepared for the burden which has fallen upon all, and therefore they should open their hearts and hasten to the assistance of the weaker ones.

The Latter-day Saints generally realize the urgent necessity of supporting the worthy poor among them. They comprehend that it is a solemn religious duty to go farther than this, and to turn away none who are in need of succor; that they should not drive out to perish even the beggar

that makes petition to them, and that it is a sacred obligation to "impart of their substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants." Possessing this understanding it would seem to be sufficient merely to point out the emergency which exists in order that it might be fully met.

Tomorrow, the second of November, is the first Thursday in the month—a day set apart as Fast Day among the Saints. So far as their circumstances permit, on these occasions they are to assemble in various places of worship to engage in prayer and praise, in thanksgiving and testimony. But over all this, and inseparably associated therewith, is the exalted duty of manifesting the love of Christ which is in their hearts by the charitable work of contributing for the support of those who are in need.

The present time finds the Fast offering fund very low through the heavy drain that has been made upon it. From many wards comes the report that the bins are almost if not quite empty. There is need for prompt action that the poor shall not be forced to suffer. Judging from the past, we believe the Saints will not ignore the existing situation or pass it carelessly by, but that they will arise with a wholehearted response to the call that is made, that the cry of the poor shall never ascend to the heavens against them.

IS NANSEN LOST?

It is probably too early to accept as true the story published by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Saturday, Oct. 28, and called throughout the world, to the effect that the Norwegian explorer, Nansen, is lost in the Arctic regions. Rumors about the untimely death of explorers will spread somehow, often far in advance of the event.

Dr. Nansen left Christiania June 24th this year in his specially constructed vessel the *Fram*. This ship is built of wood. The ribs are of Italian oak, one foot thick, and are placed only two inches apart; and the space between is filled so that even the skeleton of the vessel would be watertight, should the covering be torn off in places. Outside there is a thick covering of oak. Bow and stern are plated with iron. Inside are other coverings of oak, tarred canvas, cork, felt and finally a wainscot, all of which should effectually keep the cold out.

The last letter Dr. Nansen sent to Europe was dated Yuxorstrait, August 2, and addressed to the *London Times*. In this letter he says, among other things:

The *Fram* is a splendid ship for ice navigation. She is as easy to handle and steer between the floes as a boat. She has already given me many a glad moment, when I have seen from the crow's nest how well she behaves and how strong she is. With a feeling of sateness I let her

quietly run with full speed in between the big, heavy floes. She breaks them under her with almost no shaking, no sound in the vessel herself.

My present intention is to steer eastward along the Siberian coast until we reach the mouth of the Olenek river west of the Lena Delta. I shall keep as near as possible to the coast wherever there is much ice, as there is generally more open water along the coast than in the ice. If there is time and a good opportunity should afford itself I shall go into the mouth of the Olenek, as some other twenty-six dogs are waiting for us there. As the sledge dogs from eastern Siberia are generally known to be better than the western Siberia ones, Baron Toll, the Siberian traveler, who is now in Siberia, proposed to me to let some dogs wait for us there, too, so that if I should happen to pass I may take them.

After having passed the Olenek river we shall go northward along the west coast of the New Siberian islands as far as we can in open water. I hope to be there in the beginning of September. It may be that we shall meet with unknown land or islands to the northwest of Kotelny, and possibly there may be open water along the coasts there. If so, I shall of course use it as best I can. But when we can get no farther there is nothing left except to let the *Fram* get beset in the ice and be carried along northward or northwestward by the current, which, according to my opinion, must run in that direction in those regions.

Then there will probably pass a long time before we are drifted across the unknown polar region and into open water again or to some coast from which we can return home. In this time there will be nothing heard from us. But when years have passed I hope you will some day get the news that we are all safely returned, and that the knowledge of man has advanced another step northward.

The conclusion arrived at by the correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, seems to us unwarranted. He says the fact that no further news has been heard from the explorer strengthens the fear that he is lost. Not necessarily. If he has really been caught in the ice, as he expects to be, with a view of drifting across the polar sea, nothing would be heard from him in a long while. And it is just as well to take the more cheerful view of the case until evidence to the contrary has been produced.

SILVER IS DEFEATED.

The business for which Congress was called together in extraordinary session on the 7th of August has at last been accomplished. The repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law has been declared upon by both branches of the national legislature.

In some respects this session has been the most notable and interesting in all our legislative history. The Senate particularly has distinguished itself for abundance of speech, dilatoriness of action, vacillation in leadership, pertinacity for filibustering, and obstinacy against reason. The House, by comparison, has fairly carried off the honors of promptness, sobriety and dignity over the upper branch. The President comes out of the struggle with all the credit that belongs to unflinching purpose and uncompromising firmness in a cause right or wrong; for to all appeals to recede from his demand for unconditional repeal—appeals