

right, and to be right for such an expedition we must have a care for our credentials, and be sure, likewise, that our ship of state is not only perfect in workmanship, but is full-rigged and amply equipped for a long voyage.

To realize this splendid hope, the State of Utah from now till the sitting of the Convention should claim the best thought of every citizen. The delegates should come to the Convention surcharged with material for their work. The character of their work necessarily grants to them a vast discretion, but they may nevertheless be instructed in some things by their constituents; and proper instructions, properly given on such occasions, are usually followed. The people are sovereign in this country and a deliberate disregard of their expressed will involves a political distrust and possible oblivion which good men, to say the least, prefer not to incur.

With this morsel of general truth, we come to a case in point. One of the Constitutional items which the NEWS finds in its collection is a note from some mystic source calling attention to the subject of weights and measures, a special prominence being given to the weights and measures in use in this country, which the correspondent gravely denominates "The vilest relics left to us of the ignorant past." In this heroic sentiment the NEWS cordially concurs, and pledges its best endeavors to the cause of abolishing the nuisance. Some days ago it was learned through our educational editor that a similar thought with the corresponding intention, had been working in the minds of certain members of the University faculty, and today we are able to state that a resolution has been formally adopted by that worthy body the result of which will probably be a memorial to the convention asking for a constitutional recognition of the metric system. We are also informed that Prof. D. R. Allen, county superintendent of schools has already in view a regular course of instruction in this particular subject, which will be given for the especial benefit of the teachers of this county. The Territorial commissioner of schools, Prof. T. B. Lewis, has announced himself in hearty accord with the reform and will give it his support in the convention. This has the decided appearance of a oneness of sentiment at least and ought to insure to the movement a united support from all quarters. It is to say the least very glad tidings to those who understand the subject and know the benefits to be received from the reform proposed.

Without entering at this time into the details of the metric system, we will say in passing—what cannot be said truthfully of many of our mundane inventions—it has not an enemy in existence, and counts its advocates, not by individuals or societies, but by nations. It is the product of from fifty to seventy-five years of united observation and trial by the savants of France, revised and pronounced perfect by a conference of commissioned delegates from practically every highly civilized country in Europe and America. To be precise, the system has received the legislative legalization of the nations in-

cluding the United States with formal recommendations to the people to adopt it in their business and use it exclusively. France, Belgium, Spain, Mexico, Chili and some other countries went a step farther in the reform and denied to all other systems any legal recognition. They thus succeeded in sweeping those countries at once clear of the entire multifarious and nefarious collection of medieval systems then in vogue. This is what ought to have been done by the United States and England. It is what Utah has the power to do and ought to do through the State Convention. The stand the University has taken in the matter deserves the universal gratitude of the people, and particularly of the educators who understand better than others the full benefits to be gained from the reform. They should and undoubtedly will support the movement unanimously and with all the influence they can bring to bear upon it. It is they to whom the people naturally and properly look for the initiative steps in such matters, and for enlightenment when more light is needed to insure intelligent action. It may happen in this case that the county superintendents and teachers themselves are somewhat rusty; in which event it would become the duty of the University as the head of the public school system, and the various advance schools of the Territory, to provide means for bringing the question properly before the people. We seriously doubt whether our institutions of learning could find in the domain of education a field of effort more righteously within the line of their duty to the state. In any case, if consistent steps were taken by the school authorities of the outer settlements for bringing the people together and invitations were extended to the leading educators to come and talk to them, we believe the invitations would meet with the most cordial response in every case.

We recommend this method to those concerned and in the meantime invite a full discussion of the subject from all who have valuable thoughts in this line.

AS TO BARBECUES.

This suggestion will probably fail to excite the fancy of the heelers and burrah-boys; but it is prosaic if it isn't poetical, and we think it is at least practical, even though it shall not receive political approval. We refer to post-election barbecues and all the incidental excesses of eating, drinking, enthusiasm, rowdiness and oral exultation, with which the victorious party is wont to celebrate its triumph and make the losers feel as miserable as possible.

The NEWS has always urged moderation in politics as in all other habits to which human-kind is addicted. In asking that the victors should be temperate in their joy, and the vanquished temperate in their disappointment, we have tried to point out that there was no magnanimity in dancing upon a prostrate foe, and neither Christianity, good citizenship nor good sense in exciting, brooding over, or perpetuating the ill-feeling that even the best managed campaigns are certain to create. After each of the contesting parties has done its level best,

and the people by their ballots have decided the issue, it would seem to be prudent to accept the result with quiet satisfaction on the one hand and calm resignation on the other; and, without further attempt to widen the breach, get together again in business and social friendship at the earliest possible moment. The strain of a long-fought campaign is intense enough at best; surely there is no profit in prolonging its acerbities after it has been decided.

But if the victors still feel that a manifestation of their gladness is in order, if for no other reason than that they may publicly thank those who gave them the victory and may publicly announce what they intend to do with it now that it is theirs—why, we presume no one can consistently prevent them. But the doubt still remains as to the sense of a barbecue. We do not hear it claimed that the people who most need a good meal are thus to be provided with one. We could easily see and would gladly applaud the generosity that would take this half-dozen oxen and this half-score of sheep, and carve them up into small roasts, sending to each of a hundred or two poor families the meat basis for a Thanksgiving dinner. That holiday will be upon us in a little more than two weeks; and such a provision as we have indicated for its celebration would go farther toward pointing the way to the advent of the good times promised than all the collops and cinders and boisterousness of a dozen barbecues, or the hoarse cries of a thousand torch-bearers. As it is, the modern barbecue is too often made the occasion of extreme license in talk and conduct; it is almost invariably associated with the drinking of great quantities of liquor, and more frequently than not it is an institution actually gotten up in the interest of the saloon-keepers, who hope to reap a harvest of coin out of the excesses into which the visitors are expected to plunge.

The NEWS regrets the tendency that it has noticed—especially among a people the majority of whom are new to modern political methods—to go to extremes in these matters and to look with allowance upon the various extravagances and the nonsense that mark the present progress of the business. The sooner we all recover our equanimity and go to work on the serious affairs of life, and the sooner we eliminate all influences tending to retard that recovery, the better for all concerned.

IN ONE of his speeches in New York "General" Booth, the venerable founder of the Salvation Army, speaking of his plans as embodied in his book "In Darkest England and the Way Out," said among other things:

America may be free and enlightened, and all that, and England may be in darkness and gloom; but I tell you that when your chimney has smoked as long as poor old John Bull's it will be every bit as full of soot, if not fuller."

That was when he first arrived in this country. The "general" may by this time have studied our institutions a little closer and found that Americans have a way of sweeping their chimney when needed so as not to let the soot accumulate too long. That makes a great difference.