

people and the right of heirship to the throne is to be done away, while another element desire to come directly under the Japanese government. In fact, it is said that Japan was behind the recent conspiracy and was to have furnished the conspirators two iron-clads when they began operations. Under such circumstances as these it looks as though the overthrow of the recent plot will not end the troubles which are disturbing the inhabitants of the hermit kingdom.

MORE ABOUT CANAIGRE.

An observant and experienced agriculturist, B. F. Johnson, of Mesa, Arizona, gives the NEWS, in a letter dated March 20, additional interesting information regarding the much talked of canaigre root, whose tannic properties have been the subject of a great deal of discussion in this community during and since the session of the Legislature. For the purpose of comparison with the product of other sections, he has sent by a Mr. Rich a sample of the root as it grows near Mesa, the parcel containing some of the largest as well as some of the smallest roots in the same hill or stool, the whole yield of which he estimates would weigh twelve or more pounds. The root is native in the vicinity of Mesa and can be gathered from the sandy river bottoms in large quantities. Its bulbs or tubers are formed around the stalk like the sweet potato or the toes of the dahlia, and in its habit and appearance, both in stalk, leaf and seed, it is described as strictly a dwarf rhubarb and kindred to all the dock family. Our correspondent says he has seen it in Utah, at Johnson, Kanab, St. George and other places; but it is there of dwarf size and quite miniature compared with the Arizona product; hence he fears that in Utah it may not be so perfect a success as some would expect in its cultivation.

As to experiments with its tanning properties, Mr. Johnson gives an interesting reminiscence: "I found on my arrival at Tempe in 1882 a skillful tanner from California, by the name of Edwards, who had quite a plant for the manufacture of leather through the use of the canaigre, but his experiment was a failure so far as thick leather was concerned. He had many tons of the root gathered, had large boiling vats, etc., and other appliances with which he made experiments; yet while his harness and other leathers were excellent in their appearance, they were brittle and would break too much like bark. But of the astringent or tanning properties of the root there need be no doubt."

On discovering the plant in 1882, Mr. Johnson found that it so much resembled in its appearance the Turkey rhubarb of commerce that he sent a specimen to an eastern laboratory for chemical analysis, and the report received in reply was that it contained "a large per cent of tannic acid."

In view of all that is known and the great deal that is not yet known about the properties of the root, Mr. Johnson endorses the view already expressed by the NEWS: to arrive first at actual facts by experiment, and to go slow until these are demonstrated. This

would be at least a safe policy. But we are authorized to say that if the roots are now wanted in Utah, either for cultivation or tanning experiment, any amount on short notice could be shipped from Mesa at \$20 per ton or perhaps at a much less figure; and with direct railroad transportation, Utah could depend upon a full supply of the canaigre in exchange for Irish potatoes alone.

THE AGE OF ELECTRICITY.

Another wonder is about to be performed by the king of inventors, Mr. Edison. It is announced that by his kinetograph he is able to take photographic views at a speed of from forty-eight to sixty-five a second, which means that every expression and gesture of an orator, or actor, or a whole company of actors, can be transferred to the instrument as they occur in reality. After this is done the kinetoscope places the pictures before the spectator, who thereby is enabled to see the person or persons photographed, as if they were present before him in person. With the phonograph attached, what they say will also be heard, and thus listening to a concert, or enjoying a theatrical performance, or receiving the benefit of a sermon or a lecture, will be possible without bodily presence at the place where such are given.

It is said that the inventor himself does not feel very enthusiastic over this wonderful contrivance, and probably he is right. Entertainments of this kind derive much of their pleasure from the gatherings of a more or less sociable nature which they occasion. The sympathetic and magnetic influences so essential to the success of those who undertake to entertain and instruct the public would necessarily suffer by a mechanical arrangement of this kind. But even if the new instrument is not destined—as some seem to think—to revolutionize our customs as regards public gatherings, it will, when perfected, be a means of enjoyment to many who by sickness or other causes are prevented from appearing in public, provided they have the means necessary to cover expenses. And as a means of adding happiness to at least one part of mankind, it may claim to be classed among the most important inventions of the age, and its originator will be regarded as a friend.

The possibilities of electricity are by no means exhausted. Still more wonderful things are promised, among which are clothes of electricity. Nikola Tesla says he will some day be able to wrap himself in a sheet of electric flames that would keep him warm at the south pole without injuring him in the least. How this is going to be done is his own secret, but he claims to have discovered that while 2,000 volts will kill a man, currents of 200,000 volts can flow through his body without injuring him, the vibrations being so rapid as to produce no perceptible impression on the nervous system. As the velocity of the vibrations approaches that of the electrical ether, which is everywhere present, they no longer cut and tear the nerves as the artificial undulations do on account of their coarseness.

These discoveries have led to speculations as to the possibility of utilizing the electrical ether itself for industrial purposes, and when a method has been discovered by which that can be done, there will be electric lamps without wire connections; motors without wire lines; telegrams will no longer come "over the wires," and vessels will cross the oceans driven by an invisible power indeed. And most wonderful of all, if Edison has not lost all claim to reliability on such topics, there is a possibility of transmitting thought from brain to brain without the medium of a written or spoken language. Further than that the electrical forecasts do not go as yet.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

The San Francisco papers admit that during the past few weeks nearly 300 of the unemployed who have been fed at the Salvation Army soup houses in that city have been shipped eastward from California, the Southern Pacific railway having given them transportation upon the recommendation of a committee of citizens. This committee asserts that in each instance the men whom it recommended for a free ride to this part of the country claimed that they had a promise of employment, and convinced the committee that the claim was true.

There is no doubt that the bulk of the three hundred, and probably others not confessed to, landed in Ogden and Salt Lake. If that could be established, the railroads which gave them transportation in should be made to ship them out again. As to the committee being convinced that the men provided with transportation had a promise of work, that was not a very difficult thing to do, the opportunity of ridding the city of some of its paupers being a clinching argument in that direction. Not only were men given free rides from the coast to this section, but women were also similarly provided, and that, too, in cases where the parties had been residents of San Francisco for years, and had not asked for the change, but accepted the railway tickets when tendered them. The procedure in this line, both on the part of the railway and the parties who gave the recommendations for free rides, has been eminently unfair and unfriendly to this part of the country.

Just how many of the arrivals from San Francisco took part in the unemployed parade yesterday afternoon it would be difficult to say; but it was easy to discover that of the hundred or more men in line the majority were comparative strangers here. In fact the bona fide home workingmen avoid such movements. They know that it does their cause no good to engage in demonstrations which either bring them ridicule or are liable to produce excitement, the tendency of which is to defeat the very object sought, besides affording opportunity for developing anarchistic tendencies. The Utah workingman is a foe to anarchy, and he doesn't have anything to do with parades whose only effect can be to intimidate capital and steady people or to bring this section of country into disrepute.