

to build two cities twice the size of San Francisco. Mr. Thatcher discovered the deserted city while making a prospecting tour through Mexico, in search of a suitable place in which to establish a Mormon colony.

FOR COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

In view of the fact that Utah is distinctively recognized as the leader in practical irrigation, a duty her people owe to themselves and to those who have acknowledged their ability and accomplishments is that that leadership shall guide to still further attainments in the great work. With the field before them it will not do for the brain and muscle of this region to lie in idleness while others are struggling to the standard we have reached. As those who follow are pressing onward, there is plenty of work for Utah to do in the van.

The existing situation here requires that for the thorough utilization of resources available by means of irrigation, there should be a closer discussion of its various phases as applied locally. A more compact union should be entered into for the concentration of ideas and work. It would appear that this is a most auspicious time for the inauguration of Utah of county irrigation conventions, where those thoroughly posted on the theory and practice of irrigation may meet and present the results of their experience and investigation, for the benefit of others and the general enhancement of the various county interests. This done, the Territory, and perforce the entire arid region, will reap good results.

We mention county conventions because that appears to be the most suitable unit for the conditions which exist. A convention of the Territory could not meet often enough, because of the time it would consume and the expense it would entail, to cope with the exigencies of the case and bring out the detail of procedure which is now necessary to be added to public irrigation information. The time of generalization on these matters is about past in this locality; what is wanted now is the order of specific instruction. To give this thoroughly there could be no larger unit than the county boundaries, and smaller organization is not needed at present. At these conventions the irrigating systems and methods in the county, or any part thereof, the differing requirements of the soil, available sources of water supply, and plans for a further utilization of the streams, could receive thorough and profitable attention. A thousand questions on these subjects are being asked now by people throughout the arid region, who are looking for Utah to answer them. This desire could be complied with effectively in the papers submitted at the suggested conventions by leaders in thought and practice in the various counties.

There is another idea which presents itself in this connection; and that is that the topographical nature of our Territory suggests the general arrangement of irrigation systems in districts defined by county boundaries. This would bring about the organization of county irrigation boards, for the super-

vision of such systems in their general public aspect. Topographically considered, most of the counties are in a situation to extend a care over sources of water supply for the county as consistently as the various municipalities do now.

The matter of county irrigation boards, however, may be a subject that can be laid over for consideration at some future time; but not so with the county irrigation conventions. These are present need for the discussion of live topics, not only for the benefit of those outside of the Territory who look to irrigation as a means of affording material development in their various localities; but for the advancement of people at home, most of them irrigators themselves. There is no question that present methods should be improved on here, in practice if not in theory. There is land that is too heavily irrigated, and land that is unnecessarily kept too dry; there is irrigation in season and out of season; and in it all there is much of the useful liquid that is now wasted by misapplication. There is necessity for collecting and disseminating valuable information upon these and kindred topics, and the most potent means to accomplish the work would be in opportunities afforded by county conventions, whose deliberations and doings could be published and scattered broadcast. Will the local irrigation leaders tell how they regard this subject?

Western newspapers have recently advocated the holding of a convention of bankers from the silver states for the purpose of evolving light on the currency question in addition to that thrown upon it by the Baltimore convention of bankers, and it seems probable that such a convention will convene. Under the so-called Carey law, several of the new states receive a million acres each, to be used for the furtherance of the interests of irrigation. Would it not be a good idea to arrange a meeting of prominent irrigators in connection with the silver state bankers, in order to discuss the best methods of utilizing these lands? The NEWS invites suggestions regarding this matter, which certainly is one of importance.

ORIGIN OF "AMERICA."

The derivation of the name America from Amerigo Vespucci has never given full satisfaction to students of the interesting but obscure subject. In the first place objection has been raised on the ground that it is not customary to name places after the Christian name of discoverers. That the name of a whole continent should form an exception seems almost incredible. Then, some doubt has been raised on the ground that Vespucci's first name was not Amerigo. In contemporaneous documents it appears in various forms. It is usually written Amerigo, but also Almerigo, Albertino, Damerigo and other variations. And still more, doubt exists as to the facts regarding some of his alleged discoveries on the continent, and history has long ago pronounced the verdict that he was at best a third-class navigator who probably,

like many others, would have been forgotten, had not theorists connected his name with that of the Western world. For these reasons a more satisfactory explanation has been looked for.

Jules Marcou, a French geologist, has now advanced a theory which is at least entitled to some consideration. According to him there still exists a small tribe of Indians, not far from the Mosquito coast, known as the Ammeriques. Their country is rich in gold and is situated between Lake Nicaragua and the Atlantic. The name of the mountain range and of the aborigines is said to have been known as the Ammeriques for centuries. Columbus, it is further said, on his fourth and last voyage in 1502, stopped near the mouth of the Rio Rama on the Mosquito coast, not far from where Bluefields now is situated. The Carib Indians inhabiting the coast were very friendly toward Columbus and his sailors, and no doubt told them of the rich gold land in the Ammerique range of mountains. And from these narratives it is thought likely that the name "Ammerica," and afterwards America, came to designate the whole continent.

In 1507 the author of a geographical work proposed to give to the New World the name of America, but a map, published the following year did not contain it. In 1509, however, it was adopted in an anonymous work, entitled *Globus Mundi*. And on the map of Leonardo da Vinci, 1514, America was engraved across the southern continent. By this time, it is thought, the fame of Ammerique, the gold land, had been so widely circulated among European nations, by the friends of Columbus and his one hundred and fifty sailors, that it was practically adopted as a universal designation of the country.

Whatever may be thought of this theory when it shall have been further investigated, it certainly sounds more plausible, more natural than Mr. Major's to whom the world largely is indebted for the information, that the largest continent of the globe was named to perpetuate the memory of a navigator of inferior rank, who may or may not have set his feet upon these celebrated shores.

THE RACE WAR.

Perhaps the agitation of the London newspapers regarding the impending race war in the Southern states is somewhat unnecessary as a present condition. The status there is as well known to the people of the United States, and has been for years, as it now seems to be to our friends across the water; and many have been the suggested remedies for changing the situation, which at all times is more or less critical. At present there is no more imminent danger than there has been for a number of years, and far less than of some former occasion; therefore, the allegation of the London *Chronicle* that Georgia is on the verge of civil war is as much of an exaggeration as its proposition to disarm is an absurdity. From the standpoint of a great majority of the white people in some of the Southern states, to forbid them carrying arms would be to render them defence-