

than last year's and almost the smallest on record. The March government report is really the chief bull reliance. It may result in his complete discomfiture. But it is not likely that the agricultural bureau will go back and increase its crop yield figures. If it does not do that, then it is inevitable that it must announce an unusually small farm reserve.

The United States produces annually about twice as much wheat as it needs for home consumption and of course such a vast surplus cannot all find storage. Besides, it is one of our chief exports and thus becomes a source of revenue from abroad. In this matter we have no equal and steady competitor. Russia might be but for its instability, not producing enough some seasons to keep starvation away from its own people's doors, while India, though more reliable, is much farther away. *Bradstreet's* shows that the yield of the former this year will not be heavy but that of India will be quite abundant, and the Argentine Republic—which is about now in the midst of its harvest time—is to be a very free shipper, and altogether the visible supply, while not equal to what it has been, is pronounced ample. The efforts of those who seek to "bull" the market—that is, to raise the prices—by showing that there is a great falling off in the supply, are thus not likely to succeed. "If there is any other present or prospective bullish factor in the wheat trade aside from ravages of worms or effects of the weather," says the paper quoted, "it is not easily perceived. Available supplies here and abroad, based on the rate of consumption, are apparently ample; growing crop conditions abroad are in the main not unfavorable, and the outlook does not favor heavily increased exports from the United States, so that, unless we find farmers' wheat-bins very low indeed—much lower than ever before—there appears to be no price lever in sight."

There is another cause, however, for the low price of wheat besides its abundance, as has been previously pointed out in these columns, and that is the low price of silver. There seems to be an affinity between the two products, for certain it is that when conditions generally are normal the two rise and fall together so nearly equal as to indicate sympathy; the movement either way is gauged to almost thermometric precision.

PLENTY OF SNOW.

It is to be hoped that those who permitted themselves to engage in apprehensive views of the coming season because of the comparatively fair and snowless weather prevailing during the latter part of January and the beginning of February, have at least measurably recovered their wonted cheerfulness by this time. From a condition that threatened to beat the record in point of paucity of snow, we have swung around to the opposite and have been receiving more than the traditional oldest inhabitant can remember, the length of time and time of the year considered.

There is no longer any fear of a water famine unless something alto-

gether unforeseen and quite improbable takes place. It may and doubtless will be a warm summer—when it begins; but even if the snow were to cease now for the season, there is evidently enough of it in the everlasting reservoirs to send down constant and copious streams of the life-giving fluid till the end of the irrigating season at least, and that is as far as our concern need to go for this year. In addition to this it should be remembered that it has not quit snowing yet and it is not within the province of man to tell us just when it will stop.

EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

Some time ago the *News* gave publicity to and endorsed the suggestion of a friend as to the advisability of an early convention of leading educators from different parts of the Territory to take into consideration such matters of interest pertaining to their vocation as might have presented themselves in their experience or be brought before them by colleagues whose thoughts and studies are all the time directed toward the advancement of the cause. It was hinted that one great desideratum to be sought in such a convention was the adoption of more uniform methods upon the lines which experience and improvement have shown to be most practicable; that possibly amendments in the present school law should be considered and agreed upon, which would be equivalent to securing the passage of such amendments by the next legislature; that there seemed to be a present need for the establishment of county high schools, from which pupils might advance direct to the University, instead of being compelled, as is now the case to a great extent, to take a course at the preparatory school in connection with the University before being competent to enter the latter; and finally, that the acquaintanceships formed, the friendships stimulated and the interchange of opinions invited by such a gathering of educational men could not fail to be of benefit to them, to their pupils, to the great work in which they are engaged, and to the zeal and progressiveness of the Territory.

The suggestion has met with favor among representative educators in various parts of the country, and it is with pleasure that we learn of the preliminary steps having been taken for the holding of the convention. The following official invitation from Judge Boreman has been sent out into all parts of the Territory:

Office of Jacob S. Boreman, Commissioner of Schools for Utah Territory.
OGDEN, Utah, March 1, 1893.

Utah.

Dear Sir:—It has been deemed wise that the city and county superintendents of district schools, together with persons having official connection with denominational and other private institutions of learning in the Territory, should confer together with a view to having some adjustment of the courses of study in order that there may be harmony and system on educational lines throughout the Territory, and to having a closer connection between all schools in the Territory and the University of Utah.

Such a conference will be held at the University building, in Salt Lake City,

on Saturday, the 8th day of April, 1893 at 11 o'clock a. m. of that day.

You are respectfully invited to be present and participate in the deliberations.

Yours truly,

JACOB S. BOREMAN,
Commissioner.

It was a happy thought to designate the 8th of April as the date for the gathering. The city is certain at that time to contain representatives from every town and hamlet within our borders, and a full attendance is thus assured. The *News* cordially endorses the movement; we hope the Commissioner's invitation will be generally accepted, and that in energetic and harmonious action the cause of the public education may be bravely forwarded.

THAT CORONER'S INQUEST.

The verdict of the coroner's jury in the case of the murdered infant, on Thursday last, deserves a place in the "Chronicles of Legal Procedure." It is not only a distinct departure from anything of the kind ever before recorded in this Territory, so far as can be learned, but has another and still more striking peculiarity, in that it assumes a deficiency in our laws that does not exist and impliedly charges the community with neglect concerning an advanced degree of crime. It ought to be known by this time to everybody concerned, though it does not seem to be, that there is no manner of criminal conduct that is not punishable under our laws, and statements to the contrary are not only false and misleading, but amount to uncalled-for reflections upon the Territory.

The jury found that the infant was "the victim of wilful murder" committed by some person unknown, and yet say there is no law covering such case! This must have reference to the fact that the murderer is unknown—or perhaps the men who framed the verdict had in their mind's eye the old saw that "there is catching before hanging," and as the perpetrator in this case was unknown and therefore not caught, nothing could be done with him! It must be something of that kind if they meant what they said, for in no part of the United States is the law against "wilful murder" more specific, more plainly set forth, the different grades of homicide more clearly marked and explicitly defined, or the punishment for either more severe, on the whole, or more definitely prescribed than here in Utah. Just think of a coroner's jury under such circumstances bravely recommending that the next legislature take up the subject and see to it that the "omission" no longer exist!

Technically considered, we do not think the jury was right in considering it a case of wilful or any other kind of murder, for the reason that, while as a matter of fact it appears to have been what moral and conscientious people regard as the vilest kind of murder, the law has otherwise designated the circumstances making up the case. It seems from all the facts that the child was brought forth before its time by violent and intentional means. That being the case the proper