

proper direction. They indicate the coming of a system of sensible phonetic spelling in common as in technical terms; and we say speed the day of its general adoption. There are now in existence several societies for the purpose of rendering popular a few sensible innovations in spelling. When these are generally accepted others will follow, this course being considered preferable to that of attempting a wholesale change at once. The chief of the new methods consists in dropping superfluous letters: thus *are* should be written *ar*; *give* is discarded for *giv* and *given* is supplanted by *gion*; *though* and *although* become *tho* and *altho*; *catalogue* gives place to *catalog*; *have* is swept away and *hav* takes its place. These abbreviated words seem strange to us, but then every innovation is strange, and the century is characterized by changes; surely we should be somewhat used to them by this time.

A MODEST PROPOSITION.

Surely this is a day of bonuses—at least of expectations and demands for bonuses. Conspicuous among alluring projects is one which, though confidently asserted to be a money-maker from the start, still proposes to tap Uncle Sam's purse to the tune of a hundred million dollars. This is the Nicaragua canal. It scarcely needs a Napoleon, either of finance or engineering, to develop the hardihood necessary to begin the undertaking on the terms at present proposed. These, as they appear to the common understanding, are that the builders do not use a cent of their own money until they have expended a cool hundred millions to be advanced them by the government. The statesmanship and generosity of the scheme will be still further evident when it is seen that if the enterprise pays, the company shall divide the dividends among its members; if it does not, Uncle Sam will be accorded the exquisite privilege of liquidating the bills. There may be some other details which make the scheme still safer for the company and a little more risky for the government; but enough has been cited to show that the patriotism and progressiveness of the present Nicaragua promoters are not to be sneered at. Nor is it any argument at all to say that there are whole families ready to build canals on the same terms.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The shipping interests of Salt Lake City were for a long time seriously assailed if not directly jeopardized by the one-sided and short-sighted policy adopted by the railroads. As it was a case of mutuality between them, there seemed no relief from any source. Just a little antagonism between the two grand trunk lines from the east would have helped matters out immensely in this neighborhood, but, while there was competition and rivalry and jealousy and even hatred for each other, there was also an understanding by the terms of which Utah shippers generally and those of this city particularly found

themselves constantly between the upper and nether millstones of exorbitant freightage. Finally the Chamber of Commerce came to the rescue; on behalf of our business interests it threw down the gauntlet to the oppressors and in the short, sharp and decisive struggle which followed, wrested concessions from them which established equity or more nearly that than anything we had ever enjoyed in such connection before.

The Chamber was not at the high tide of prosperity then; in fact, it was drooping and likely to die. But our citizens came to the rescue, as a matter of pure gratefulness as much as anything else, and put it upon its feet more securely than it had ever been before. It has since maintained and increased its prestige, and we hope it will continue to do so. It has only to keep in mind the public weal and not lend its aid or countenance to any persons or corporations that have no regard for any interests outside of their own, and all will be well with it. Let it become the ally of any monopolistic or unpopular institution in the land, or even withhold its efforts to thwart them when our community is assailed, and the retaliation which would surely follow would be swift and effective. We do not look for this at all, and hope no one else has any reason to do so.

AS TO RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

The News received yesterday a copy of the resolutions of respect adopted on March 2nd by the 48th quorum of Seventies, at Manti, Sanpete county, in honor of one of the late president of that quorum, Elder J. C. A. Weibye, one clause being that they be furnished the press for publication. We are compelled to deny the request to publish, and are in this instance the better fortified in that refusal because the late Brother Weibye was personally a very warm friend of ours, a staunch supporter of the News, and a widely known and universally respected citizen as well as a faithful Latter-day Saint; if we could be induced to print resolutions of respect for any one, it would surely be in a case like this. But it is a business that once begun is never ended, and in our own interest as well as in that of our readers, we are compelled to set our faces against it. Every faithful worker, whether in religious or secular affairs, leaves a gap when he is called to another sphere of action; and the desire of his associates to emphasize his worth and to express a sense of their loss is perhaps as natural as it is universal. Hence it happens that schoolmates adopt resolutions of respect in honor of a departed companion; associations and societies of every kind and all kinds do the same when death makes an inroad upon their rank; even fellow-workmen deem it appropriate to adopt this method of testifying appreciation of a departed comrade. But for a newspaper to attempt to publish all such testimonials would obviously be as impossible as it is invidious for it to consent to publish any of them. We wish our friends to understand, therefore, that on our part no offense is intended to them, and most certainly

no detracting from the worth of the dead, in the refusal to give space to resolutions of respect. We avail ourselves of the present favorable opportunity of explaining this; for, as already said, if we can enforce the rule in the case of a man as prominent, as influential, and personally as deserving of a tribute at our hands as Brother Weibye, the surviving associates and friends of less widely-known people will have no occasion for complaint.

DON'T BE TOO HASTY.

Without intending to be invidious, let us make an examination into the matter of the proposed safe works for this city. Can any mortal point out what there is here at present to be so attractive to those who would make safes, locks, latchkeys and so forth? We are not producing an ounce of pig iron or metallic iron in any form except as a possible incident in the smelting or milling of other metals, and this does not count in a practical way. Safes cannot be made here or elsewhere without iron of the highest and completest grade, and such or any iron cannot be produced here with coal at \$5 a ton—could not if it were half of that. In fact, we may say that it takes a coal mine to run an iron mine and the two must not be very far apart either. This necessary situation not now existing in our midst, unfortunately for us, it follows that the safe makers would have to import either raw or finished materials to turn out the articles promised, and as there is vastly more profit in the latter, it follows as a most likely proposition that all our safe works would amount to, speaking in a general sense, would be a shed and the few tools needed in putting together the "knocked down" safes and locks imported from the East! Surely, a thousand dollars would come very near to if it did not quite cover the entire cost of beginning this particular industry, even to the point of putting its goods on the market.

When it comes to the marrow of the proposition we can see nothing to be gained by such an institution even if no more than what it actually required to begin operations were not asked. It could not in the very nature of things give employment to more than a very few men; it would be creating nothing in our midst, would not be even if the crude materials were brought on and worked up here; and there is or should be no disposition on the part of our business men to jointly create an enterprise for strangers except where Utah materials exclusively (or practically so) are to be employed from start to finish. That is where aided prosperity is to come from and is of itself the return which those who raise a bonus expect from their investment. We have said that a business like the one previously spoken of would create nothing, would thus amount to nothing in a general way. There would be no demand for the home-constructed article and thus the money invested would be thrown away. If it were all done here, commencing with crude materials in the caverns of the earth and ending with the last stroke of the decorator's brush,