

Written for this Paper.

PROGRESSIVE MATTERS.

There are several movements in a quiet way all making for the development of Utah interests of a local and general character. Manufacturing is on the increase and suggestions on branches hitherto untouched are stirring in the hearts and thoughts of men who are enterprising, and sense the industrial dilemma which environs the people!

Systematic hog-raising in Sevier county is one of the signs of the times, and if those engaged possess business aptitude and thus succeed, the spirit of imitation will draw others into that line until importation will be affected, and that much retained in the Territory. All the information had here in regard to this matter was from the letter of a correspondent in the NEWS. It was certainly somewhat of an unexpected thing, of which we hope to hear more after a time, and the example may yet be as fruitful in results as was the example of the first beet-raisers in Utah county.

Several inquiries have been made lately by a few of the brethren who think that olive culture will do well in Salt River valley, Arizona. The cultivation of the olive is a successful industry in California, and the valley referred to is deemed superior in climate and soil to a part of the Golden state. The olive grows readily from cuttings and these can be procured at from \$10 to \$15 per thousand; or seedlings can be had, from six to twelve inches high, for sixty to one hundred dollars per thousand, or maybe less for a quantity. There are several varieties of the fruit. The Mission olive is the standard one. It is a quick and heavy bearer, of large size and full of oil. At ten years of age it will yield twenty gallons of fruit, or three gallons of oil. Seventy trees to the acre with oil at five dollars the gallon would be profitable, and the trees are good for a generation or two. Many of the older trees of California were planted near 150 years ago, and though these are gnarled and stunted from neglect and long cutting, they show the persistent vitality inherent in them and thousands of their children are found under diversified conditions in all sections of that State.

It is well known that very little of the oil in common use here is from the olive. Most of it is from cotton seed, or at the best is the heaviest of European manufacture, for it is mainly the defective oil which is imported, particularly to America. Our Temples are mainly supplied from Palestine, but there is probably no reason why Salt River valley should not produce a better article than that, or one certainly at less cost. The brethren who undertake this will have a useful and valuable mission; and the same climate will admit of the cultivation of all the citrus family, and railroad facilities will enable them to export as quickly as they will be prepared to ship.

Another great industry may fall—if they wish it—into the hands of the dwellers in Southern Utah or Arizona. That is the growth of the agave or American aloe for its fibrous qualities as now used for rope. From fifteen to twenty carloads, at a cost of over thirty thousand

dollars, comes into Utah annually; and this plant, while probably not so prolific in our South as it is in Yucatan, all that is needed could no doubt be made in the locations indicated.

In the North, the grip was lost on the manufacture of glass bottles of various forms. This year over twenty carloads of fruit jars were imported, and the demand was not nearly supplied. Z. C. M. I. could have sold some carloads more than they did, but the distance from factories and a regulated output were in the way—a condition which the small factory in North Salt Lake could have obviated. It is not unfair to state that when running, it turned out a superior article to some imported ones of this year. If unbusiness-like management was the cause of this failure it ought to be resurrected under more intelligent control. If the skilled labor was not handy, why not import that ability for a season as was done for sugar?

The canning of local fruit is a something not yet lost sight of, although it might have been realized years ago. An enterprising gentleman offered to put one thousand dollars into it, and with an expert from San Jose, Cal., solicited from our leading merchants a measure of support. Their shelves were all full of imported goods, but whether from fear that these would not be sold, or for other causes, the needed help and interest was respectfully declined. The planting of some five hundred acres of small fruits and orchard, by a company who are utilizing the Rio Virgen, is a straw showing the way of the wind. As this comes into hearing, an outlet for fresh fruit will be in the near vicinity, and canning as a matter of course will be on the program, not for that farm alone, but for the locality as far as practicable, so that southern Utah conjointly with Arizona will supply to the north and east at least some of their products now excluded from the market.

Of such product will be early vegetables, early small and stone fruits, raisins, wine, figs, oranges, lemons, canned goods, preserves, peanuts, olives and oil, castor oil, material for or manufactured soap, rope of all kinds, paper material, syrup, sugar for local use, mustard for home use and seed for export; nuts and other kindred products now receiving little attention because of difficulty of exportation.

Large numbers of prune trees are being set out in this northern district, and growers will do well to be studying the best methods of curing, so that this desirable fruit at a low price (so as to compete with California) may be used and enjoyed by many who care little for dried peaches, apricots or apples.

The granting of a franchise by this city for a railroad to the Cottonwoods carries its possibilities also; the establishment of an electric power at "The Stairs" in that canyon, and maybe the resurrection of the paper mill, unfortunately destroyed some time ago by fire, will hinge upon the building of that road, to say nothing of its accommodation to a thrifty population.

The probability of a railroad west is still on paper and in the air. Now that miners know the best or worst of the silver question, new processes of

treating low grade ores will be found. Capital already invested is bound to work for its own salvation. Silver is not yet discontinued as coin, and its use for articles *de luxe* is but in its infancy, as the returning tide of prosperity will assuredly show!

Nor is the building of a road to the coalbeds given up in despair. As the Prophet said in regard to some other thing: "Though it tarry, wait for it, it will assuredly come." Coal cannot be dispensed with yet. It is a necessity, as much as air or water almost, and any pressure of monopoly will only hasten a consummation desired by thousands of irritated consumers.

The consummation of the great Bear Lake canal, and its transfer to local influence and control, will involve the creation of new towns this side the wonderful works in the divide. Large tracts of land are already platted; several thousand acres will be broken and sown this season, and many desirable homes will be created under the liberal terms projected by the enterprising men who are moving in this gigantic but assuredly promising scheme. Proffered advantages will offset those which belong to colonization in more remote localities, for railroad facilities certainly influence the prosperity of settlements within a certain range of their accommodation.

When Utah takes on the airs of a sovereign state, human nature will assert itself as heretofore. Men, feeling as if they owned themselves, and as if their possessions were doubly secure because subject to legitimate and local control, will reach out for improvement. Permanency will be written more legibly than it has hitherto been done, even by a sanguine people.

Popular sentiment in favor of home industries is now quite active. All our manufacturers should seize upon this quickened feeling. Measures should be taken by them to let the people see their goods, if a house to house canvass has to be done for its success. They have not been aggressive enough. Push is needed in these days of competition. New York men, Massachusetts men, eastern men representing all grades and kinds of goods, have headquarters in our largest cities, but every town and village has been invaded by glib-tongued agents who have outdistanced in the race for trade our local men who partly expected traders to come to them.

Our nurserymen years ago were possessed of this lethargy. They stayed at home, "waiting for something to turn up," and it did; men from the east with consummate cheek and highly colored illustrations of impossible fruit, ran over our Territory and boasted year after year of selling from fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars worth of trees and shrubs, of which but few were a success or true to name. But local stock, acclimated and proven, remained unsold, because of this apathy of the growers.

Everything now, save absolute necessities, must be canvassed for and presented to buyers. The pertinacity of outside drummers and agents has captured much of the trade of the Territory, and forced it into channels both unprofitable and undesirable for a patriotic and self-reliant community.