

PROSPECTS.

Some very intelligent Americans who have been in Europe lately—among them J. J. Hill, of St. Paul—say that a most notable advance toward bimetalism has been made in Europe because of the vigorous course of this country in stopping the excessive coinage of silver. Now that the United States can no longer be used as a dumping ground for the surplus silver of Europe in exchange for our gold, those countries feel the necessity of coming to our terms, which are an international money standard for both gold and silver, and the coinage of both on an equal basis by all countries of importance. The prospect is good for a reassembling of the international money congress this year, with a chance of definite action. The present gradual but steady rise of silver, with the almost certain reopening of the mints of India to silver coinage, and the rapid improvement in gold mining here, are signs of improving business conditions that are highly encouraging to any one not a confirmed calamity howler.

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Arbor Day was well begun in Yakima on the 14th, as on that or other days in different parts of the land. In the comparatively treeless region of the great Inland Empire the observance of Arbor Day is of special significance. In Yakima the mayor, city council and citizens dedicated the new city park by setting trees with their own hands and then had a jolly little time in speech and recitation. A church society began the adornment of its grounds with trees and shrubs. One public spirited rancher-physician put his whole force of a dozen men to tree planting for the entire day, setting a long stretch of county roadside with ornamental trees. Many others devoted special attention to putting in fruit trees. The schools led all efforts, and the pupils are worthy of commendation and encouragement for their interest and excellent work. Their tree and plant setting, with pretty, appropriate and intelligent literary exercises, were earnest of more important work in the future. Under the interested guidance of the teachers, this Arbor Day work will lead to decoration of the whole school grounds with

trees, shrubs, flowers and grass, just as has always followed like efforts in older places. It develops love of nature, discovers more than the lore of books in growing things, and awakens a kinship with trees that serves a man well through life. We expect to see this Arbor Day sentiment increase from year to year. Once let it get a hold upon the people of our sun-kissed land, and in a very few years it will seem an "arid land" only in name. The history of the Arbor day in the prairie states of the east shall surely be surpassed in the Inland Empire.

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Washington will do well to speedily follow the example of Oregon in introducing song birds from abroad. Already the songsters heretofore introduced, and now fully at home, are returning from their winter migrations, and their musical notes are enlivening the parks and groves of Portland and other towns. Among them are the black starlings, the goldfinches and the skylarks. The rod and gun clubs will see so it that the game birds are introduced and protected, but we need societies for introducing the cheering song birds of the south and of Europe. None of them are very prolific breeders, and if introduced now eastern Washington tree planting will be sure to furnish them with as luxurious quarters as their numbers demand. Be sure of it, no homeseekers will attack the feathered songsters that may be brought to the sun-kissed land.

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The Yakima shipping association has made a good start in organization. At the last Saturday meeting of the county horticultural society the committee was instructed to proceed with incorporation of the shipping association as soon as fifteen signers to the plan of incorporation should be secured, and the incorporation was a virtual fact the same afternoon, with the probability of three or four times that number before the shipping season opens. It is expected that all the intelligent growers of fruit and perishable vegetables in the valley will join this association, so that all may profit by its facilities for gaining information of the markets and the control of the supply, thereby preventing the flooding of any market and consequently securing the proper maintenance of prices for produce. The

railroads and express companies are doing their part in giving fair rates of transportation. Nature is doing her part in giving the Yakima country the grandest harvest prospect in her history. It now rests with the producers to so organize that they may act as one man in the disposition of the harvest; not as monopolists, but for the prevention of needless waste, by no longer following the senseless custom of dumping perishable goods upon a full market, and by selling through known reliable channels. This may be accomplished only by knowledge of the markets, which may be secured by small producers economically only by thorough organization. The same argument applies to any other shipping district of the northwest as well as to Yakima.

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A meeting of importance to all the fruit growers between the mountains was held on last Saturday in North Yakima of the officers of the Yakima county horticultural society and Messrs. H. H. Browning, T. S. Bell and M. G. Hall, of the Northern Pacific express company. Arrangements were advanced by which great reductions will be made on fruits and vegetables by express shipment to the Sound and to eastern points. It is proposed that the fruit of this region shall have a means of speedy exit to market at a cost for transportation that shall result in a profit to the grower. All things are conspiring to the prosperity of the "arid region" of the Pacific northwest, A. D. 1894. People are getting ready for the harvest all along the line.

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The continual prevalence of cool weather in retarding the development of most of the fruit buds to a period beyond the point of danger by frosts, but confirms our earlier predictions of the harvest prospects for the Yakima country. Similar conditions and results prevail throughout the intermountain region, differing only in degree. Following the terrific storms of snow and killing frosts over the whole country east of the Rockies in March, last week another rushed over the land to continue the work of destruction and make more and more certain the devastation of the orchards and gardens of the Atlantic coast. The March cold wave seriously cut off