

THE IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

The Preparations for Its Opening on Tuesday.

Some Noted Specialists Who Will Read or Make Addresses.

The Record of the Events Which Have Caused the Congress—What Has Been Done of Late—A Lively Meeting Expected.

About the most important gathering ever held in the history of this section will convene in this city on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock for a session lasting five days.

It is the International Irrigation congress, the preparations for which have been in progress for several months past.

The influence of the gathering will not only be felt in the great arid regions of the United States, but in the droughty east and in many foreign countries as well.

In view of the near approach of the congress, it would be well to trace briefly the incidents which led to the selection of Los Angeles for the present congress.

About one year ago Mr. W. E. Smythe, editor of the Irrigation Age, visited this city after having been in the northern part of the state. While there he visited Mr. Wright of Modesto, the organizer of the Wright Irrigation system and law. Mr. Smythe talked with Mr. Wright about his system, and also examined the irrigation works in the north.

Shortly after his arrival in this city Mr. Smythe was interviewed by a Hearst representative, and in the course of an extended talk he advanced the proposition of holding the congress in Los Angeles.

Mr. Smythe soon afterwards left the city to further study the irrigation systems of this section and the territories, stating, however, that he, and a committee of the congress, would present the claims of Los Angeles before the committee.

The chamber of commerce of this city became interested in the matter and also helped to arouse interest therein.

At a meeting of the national committee, held in Salt Lake City several months ago, Los Angeles was selected as the place for holding the present congress. The claims of several other places were also presented, but Mr. W. E. Smythe proved himself master of the situation, and to his efforts was due the present selection by the committee.

On August 9th ex-Governor Thomas of Utah, chairman of the national executive committee, issued a call setting forth the objects of the congress.

At the meeting of the trans-Mississippi congress, recently held in Ogden, Utah, the national committee requested the president to issue a call to the foreign nations. As a result Secretary of State Gresham caused the outside countries to be notified by means of a circular sent to this country's diplomatic representatives abroad. Many of these countries will send delegates.

When it was known that the congress was to be held here the people at this end of the line at once went to work to boom the meeting. A special publication committee was appointed consisting of Fred L. Allen, chairman, C. D. Willard, secretary, and Messrs. George Rice, I. H. Le Veer, R. E. Archer, Harry Brook, A. Phillips and T. B. Merry.

All data relating to irrigation was gathered and together with the purpose of the congress was compiled and presented in attractive style and sent to every paper published in any section that was interested or slightly identified with irrigation enterprise.

The matter sent forth by the committee was almost all published and the holding of the congress became universally known. In addition to supplying the outside papers with stuff a little pamphlet entitled Irrigation in Southern California was also issued and has been widely distributed.

Although the day for the congress is almost here it is impossible to form a positive estimate of how many delegates there will be in attendance.

The territories and states lying within the arid section will send delegates, as will even the several east of the Mississippi river. Among those from the far west several from Tennessee and one from Delaware. A letter has also been received from a man in Connecticut, announcing his intention of attending the congress. Ohio and Kansas will be represented, as will Illinois, the governor of the latter state having recently appointed a representative.

Several foreign countries will send delegates, while a large number of other nations has not been heard from as yet. Of the nations that have appointed representatives are France, Russia, Austria, Mexico, Ecuador and several of the British provinces, including, probably, Australia. The United States representative will be represented by F. H. Newell, of the interior department, who will contribute a paper. R. H. Hinton, for years in the United States geological department and also governmental irrigation agent, will be in attendance.

The programme of the congress is far from a simple one, and is as follows: F. H. Newell, department of interior—Irrigation Investigations by the Interior Department.

Elwood Mead, Wyoming—Interstate Division of Waters or A Land System for the Arid Region.

C. O. Wright, Modesto, Cal.—Irrigation Legislation.

Count Constantin Comodinsky—Irrigation in Russia.

Dr. Joseph Jarvis, Riverside, Cal.—Irrigation as Applied to Horticulture.

C. W. Cross, San Francisco—Ethical and Social Effects of Irrigation.

J. W. Gregory, Garden City, Kan.—The Significance of Irrigation with Respect to the Great Plain Region of the United States.

Wm. E. Smythe of Utah (secretary national executive committee)—What Shall be Done with the People's Heritage?

J. K. Doolittle, Phoenix, Ariz.—The Common Law of Water in Arid America.

G. P. Weeks, Bakerfield, Cal.—Colonizing Irrigation Lands.

C. R. Rockwood—Conservation in the Development of Irrigation Enterprises.

S. M. Woodbridge—Relation of Irrigation to Fertilization.

Major J. W. Powell, United States geological survey—The Government's Irrigation Work.

The congress will hold its sessions in the Grand opera house. The foreign representative will be seated in the boxes which will be appropriately decorated with the flags of their respective

THIS IS STRICTLY BUSINESS.

A Review of the Past Week Commercially.

The Element of Despondency Conspicuous by Its Absence.

The Situation in the East—People Still Hoarding Their Money.

In business circles during the past week there has been almost an entire absence of that element of despondency that characterized the earlier days of the late financial panic.

Affairs on the coast have taken a brighter turn. A leading San Francisco financier who has large interests here, writes most encouragingly of the improved state of things in the northern part of the state, and predicts an early return to a condition where banking and commerce will again be conducted on terms of mutual confidence.

THE EASTERN SITUATION. The latest bulletin of affairs in the east as furnished by Dun's Review under date of September 29, does not speak of the situation there in such a hopeful way, although the tone is by far less alarmist than that of the same circular a month ago. It says: "A complete statement of failures for the quarter which closes tonight is not possible, but the number reported is about 4000, and the aggregate of liabilities about \$150,000,000, a great surplus of the record of any previous quarter. For the past week the failures have been 329 in the United States against 177 last year, and in Canada 34 against 21 last year."

"Hope deferred" explains the past week in part, and it is doubtless true that many indulged unreasonable hopes, but business has not entirely answered expectations. A feeling of disappointment is commonly ascribed to delay of action on the silver bill in the senate. It is also true that many works which have resumed operations do not find orders as large or the demand from consumers as vigorous as they anticipated, and with some it is a question whether they will not close again. While money on call has been abundant, cheap, and about \$4,000,000 earnings have been reported as being retired, there is perceptible greater caution in making commercial loans here and at some western points.

Wheat receipts decrease again, and far behind last year's, but stocks in sight are too heavy, and the price for December fell nearly one cent. Corn continues to come forward freely, and crop reports are not more unfavorable, but the price fell off one and three-eighths cents. Changes in pork products are obviously due rather to manipulation than to any other cause. Cotton declined about three-sixteenths with no great change in the movement or in crop prospects, and with increasing work by the mills in this country. When stocks are unusually large, their very weight at times over-balances all other considerations.

The cotton manufacture is gaining more than any other, and there is a stronger market for print cloths and prints, while some reduction has helped to stimulate trade in other goods. The enormous decrease in production for the past two months begins to be felt, and sales are larger, though much below usual quantity. Trade in woolen dress goods is better, and there is a little more demand for men's wools, though not enough to keep employed the increased number of mills now running. Clothiers are cutting up more goods, it is said, but the change is not so marked as in previous seasons of samples for another season might cause, and there are noticed attempts to clear off old stocks by opening retail stores and selling at manufacturer's prices. Sales of wool last week were 6,600,487 pounds against 6,448,000 last year, and for four weeks below 75,000,000 pounds last year, but it is believed that many purchases here and at the east are for investment rather than for manufacture.

While 78 manufacturing concerns are reported as having wholly or in part, against 20 closing or stopping for good, more than a third of the increase has been in cotton mills and another third in machine shops, nail mills, manufacturers of stoves and hardware, tools and cars, while in the iron manufacture proper only 7 concerns have started against 3 that have stopped, and the outlook does not seem bright. Chicago is adding to her marvelous buildings, and in structural and some other forms the demand at the west is clearly increased. But the closing of the largest iron mine in the country, the Norrie, which ordinarily produces a million tons yearly, indicates the likelihood of a decrease in the demand for products is painfully inadequate, even for the scanty force now at work, and the lowest prices on record attract little business.

Clearing house exchanges indicate a little gain in the volume of business, being for the week 19 1/2 per cent below those of the same week last year. In foreign trade, exports again exceed last year's, and for the month about 24.6 per cent, while imports show a decrease for the month of about 30 per cent. Yet foreign exchange has not improved, the exports of gold to Germany might be made with little loss, and it is believed that calls for repayment of gold obtained on loans from Europe in July and August affect the rate more than current business. The gold has been expected, and the banks have on hand more than they need, the treasury stock is so low that renewed outflow would be regarded with some apprehension. The return of money from the interior continues large, and plainly reflects less activity than past years in this season in domestic trade and industry.

AS TO HOARDING MONEY. Considerable complaint is made by the principal local brokers of the difficulty experienced in placing loans and

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selling investment securities in quarters where it is well known that the ability exists to make purchases. "It is not," said one, "as if the money were not here. There is plenty of it, but people are still keeping it locked up in safe deposit vaults rather than buy the best class of securities at the prices for which they can now be purchased. In a few months these people will be running after the same securities and paying a big premium for them."

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