

the vexation of his own country and of the outside world.

Our northern neighbors have been making great strides. The "Daughter of the Snows" is planning a new railroad to the Pacific. A great host of emigration is going that way now to appropriate the cheap lands. She had a great celebration of the tercentenary of the landing of Champlain at Quebec, and, for diversion, her people are talking in private and debating the question of whether it will ever be worth while to annex the United States or not. Modesty is not a feature of our northern neighbors, and still they are a sturdy race and making great headway in the way of peopling the wilderness and bringing it under the reign of order and of law.

The skies are fair for peace all around the world, although there is a disturbing state of affairs in southeastern Europe. The old Emperor, Francis Joseph, has just celebrated his 78th birthday and the completion of sixty years' reign. He cannot live much longer, and were he to suddenly die, it is impossible to predict what might happen in that region.

The presidential campaign in our own country had perhaps more conflicting elements than any previous one. There were six or seven tickets in the field. It began to look as though every man that had an "ism" was going to offer himself or some friend for a candidate for president, just merely to see how many people would agree with him.

The socialist vote fell off during this last year, which is a sign that there is no permanent, abiding principle in socialism which any people as prosperous as ours will ever endorse. The labor question was a strong factor in the campaign, but the result of the labor vote showed that the workingmen of the United States are thinking men, and no labor leader was able to draw the masses to the support of any one candidate. They, like every other American, cast their vote as their best judgment dictated, and the notice it served on the country, was that the party that can offer most for the whole country will be reasonably sure of the labor vote.

Mr. Bryan was beaten for the third time, but he polled a tremendous vote and he went down to defeat bearing with him the sympathies of thousands and tens of thousands of people who did not vote for him, because, though in the public eye for the past dozen years, he has by his integrity and his genius been able to hold the respect of quite half the thinking people of the nation.

But in the election of Mr. Taft both houses of congress were also made Republican, and it will take very level-headed management on the part of the party leaders to avoid extravagance and to advocate only wise measures.

The outlook for the country is of peace and continued prosperity, and signs multiply that when the great republic was founded it was the greatest event that had happened since the discovery of America, and that the purpose, away behind all human prescience, was that a nation should be formed which should mark the beginning of universal liberty to man, to precede the ushering in of the reign of everlasting peace.

Salt Lake City

WE THINK no city in the world of the size of Salt Lake has advanced in material wealth and in improvements so much as has Salt Lake since the first day of the present year. Its improvements are measured by millions; the work of building is still going on in gigantic ratio; the population is greatly increased and the city has reached a point when there is no longer a question about its being the chief city of this entire region.

The mines are keeping pace with the city. The work done at Bingham and Park City and

Tintic this year has been something tremendous. The facilities for reducing ores have been greatly increased and improved. This is the natural mining center of the United States, so far as the precious and semi-precious metals are concerned. No more gigantic mining was ever seen than is visible at Bingham. There the great forces of nature which men have brought under subjection are still employed—steam, electricity, fulminating powder, power drills and steam dredges are all at work, with the result that the hills of Bingham are being leveled and what is precious within them is being placed under man's subjection.

We are disappointed that a great sanitarium has not been built in this city in the last year; we thought it would surely come; it must come pretty soon, and when that is done, if on the right scale, that alone will add 20,000 to the population of the place.

The new year will open most auspiciously. All the industries are advancing. Next year is going to be a great year for conventions. The Grand Army is coming here. The Commercial Club is doing great work in getting better rates from railroads, in promoting worthy causes and outlining future enterprises. Before the year is out another railroad, perhaps two, will be here. The sun is as bright as of old, the climate is perfect, and the great snow fall that has come is packed away in the hills and there is sure to be a guarantee for an abundant water supply for the year.

The trend of the city is upward; one triumph succeeds another; one achievement is an incentive for another. Salt Lake is an enviable place and cannot help but be, in the lifetime of men already advanced in years, the foremost city between the Missouri river and the Sacramento. As the mines give up more and more treasure, more and more the spirit is to invest it here, and bigger and fairer grows the city.

There is not an omen of disaster over the progress of the city.

Utah

OUR state is taking on advancing strides every day. The year past was filled with progress and prosperity; harvests were abundant; field and orchard gave up increased bounties; everything produced brought generous prices; the improvements going on were constant and the ratio of progress was all the time increasing. The depression that was upon the mining industry at the beginning of the year has passed away and there is exceeding activity in all the principal mining camps, with the certainty that many of the old mines and several new mines will make the output for 1909 greater than in any preceding year.

The men in charge of the copper mines are entitled to especial credit, for when the year began the price of the metal was so low, and the prospect for an increase was so faint that they would have been amply justified had they closed their works and said: "We will wait until a more auspicious time." But there was no abatement. The work of getting the great mines in proper form and getting the smelters ready for work was rushed to the utmost, with the result that now the most majestic mining ever seen, in the west at least, can be seen in our great copper camp.

Our friends of Park City and of Tintic insist that there has been more progress in both camps than usual during the year past and that the result of the work will begin to materialize in most substantial form so soon as the spring opens.

There has been much active work in Beaver county, but not so much as we had hoped. We still look to see one of the greatest copper mines in the world opened in Beaver.

At the state fair there was an exhibition of fruit from southern Utah which was a sure indi-

cation that with a little work in turning water, a little more work in building roads, that part of the state will be the great fruit orchard of the whole country. It was not confined to the ordinary temperate zone fruit, but all the semi-tropical fruit were in evidence.

Utah is a great state and growing greater every moment, and when some more of its water is impounded, more of its land brought under cultivation, better roads to remote parts, it will rival the most pronounced of all the fruit states in the Union. At present Utah peaches command a premium over any raised north, south, east or west.

And one feature which is helping the state very much is that of late years much of the vast amount of money realized from the mines is being invested at home. For many years the rule was here as it was in Nevada, and is yet to a great extent, that the hills were robbed of their treasure and sent away to adorn and to make rich other states.

The Silver King was the first great mine to invest its products here, and has now resumed its dividends. This has been followed in a splendid way by Mr. Newhouse, with the result that two of the finest buildings in all the west are already nearing completion, while ground is broken for two more.

Mr. Jackling has taken a firm hold. We shall hear a good deal of him in the next few years, and there are many lesser fortunes, wrung from the mines, being invested in this state.

There is no healthier spot on earth, no better place to work on earth, and to those who work, as a rule, the rewards are generous. Utah will have none but joyous greetings for the New Year.

Nevada

NEVADA has had a pretty trying year, this last one. When the flush days passed by and the Comstock, Eureka, Pioche, Candelaria, Austin, Treasure Hill and Tuscarora all gave out and the state lapsed into an almost moribund condition for fifteen years. Then came the discoveries of Tonopah, later of Goldfield and of several other camps, and Ely made clear what its tremendous undeveloped wealth would probably be, and the excitement returned to the old state and the output of Goldfield apparently crazed the people. They put all their money in stocks. The stocks, under the labor difficulties and under the too great depression of a year ago, failed, and the men of Nevada were about as badly broken as the whole state ever was before.

That was the situation at the beginning of the present year, and it has been a hard struggle, and still immense strides have been made. Three or four new districts have made clear that the old prestige of Nevada ought to come back, and the showing in Goldfield and Rawhide and Seven Troughs and Gold Circle and many other camps give almost a certified assurance that in the next year or two Nevada will be producing more gold than any other state, and that her mining will exceed that of any other state.

Within the year the mills at Silver Peak have got under motion; two great new mills at Goldfield have been built; the rebellious ore has been mastered, and it has been pretty well demonstrated that if the bullion is in the ore, there will be a way found to extract it.

She has added a good deal to her agricultural area; a great many new discoveries have been made within the last twelve months; she is a great old state, and will be the concernment in money centers during all the coming generation. The old race of Nevada people has passed away, but the new race is taking up the burden. We look for nothing but good in Nevada for the coming years.