

case of Rochester, 60 miles distant, grave doubts are expressed by electricians as to the possibility of profitably transmitting the power to that place, owing to the heavy loss in transmission. In view of the proposal to transmit electric power from Keewatin to Winnipeg, a distance of 130 miles, the opinion of electricians upon the feasibility of electric power transmission is of local interest. The Keewatin Power company has asked the Winnipeg city council to refrain from taking any steps to develop the water power of the Assiniboine river at Winnipeg, as the company expects to be able in the near future to transmit power to Winnipeg from their Keewatin works. However, if electricians are dubious about transmitting power from Niagara to Rochester, it would seem beyond the power of electric science, as at present understood, to successfully transmit power such a long distance as is contemplated by the Keewatin Co. Under these circumstances, it is hardly reasonable to expect the Winnipeg city council to delay the Assiniboine water power project, on account of the proposal to transmit power to this city from Keewatin.

IRRIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

One of the greatest questions in the United States to-day is that of irrigation. The public domain, outside of the vast arid region in the western and southwestern states, is about exhausted, and the need of more land to open for settlement is now being felt. Attention is therefore turning to the reclamation of the arid country by means of irrigation. A national irrigation congress has lately been in session at Denver, in the state of Colorado, to consider the best plan of entering upon irrigation work in a comprehensive way. The question as to whether the arid lands should be ceded to the different states, and whether the waters in arid regions should be under national control, were the most important subjects debated at the congress. The platform as discussed, provides that the general government legislate for the repeal of the desert land laws. The withdrawal of pastoral lands from settlement and sale and leasing the same, was defeated as was also the provision requiring the states to provide for organizing hydrographic basins for the control of water if the Carey land grant act was accepted. The request was carried for the appointment of a national irrigation commission as was also that for the appointment of international commissions with Mexico and Canada to regulate and arrange as to our international water supplies. The congress after sharp debate decided to ask congress for a sufficient appropriation to push irrigation surveys, the ascertainment of water supplies under ground, surface and storm. It declares that the conclusions reached are illustrative of western unanimity; that they are of the highest national character, and seek only to make new homes and fresh prosperity. That the fundamental idea is not the separation of state and national interests, but co-operation between these powers within their proper spheres. It endorses storage and forest reservoirs and endorses the grant of one

million acres for reclamation to each of the arid states. It declares that irrigation solves the problem of homes and asks the country to so consider the issue presented. The irrigation congress reached no conclusion in regard to the policy to be recommended concerning the reclamation of the arid lands and the relation of the state and national government to that problem. The matter being referred to the several state commissions to report at the next congress, the subject will be fully investigated by those commissions, so that a wise conclusion may be reached. In the meantime, however, the grant of lands under the Carey law will give the several states an opportunity to show what they can do in the way of reclaiming such lands without national interference.

The question of irrigation is beginning to attract much attention in Canada. In the western territories and British Columbia we have large areas of land which require irrigation, and it is of the utmost importance that the work should be begun on the right basis. We can therefore watch proceedings in the United States with interest and profit by the experience gained there. Irrigation is a work which should not be undertaken in any haphazard way. To attain the best results, it must be undertaken on a comprehensive and thoroughly defined plan. There are two principal points to consider, and these are: First, the land which requires irrigation; and secondly, the available supply of water for irrigation purposes. In the United States the great question is as to the control of these two important considerations, some favoring state and others federal control. It is necessary that the water should be so used as to be of the greatest possible usefulness, hence a general survey of the country is first necessary to determine the best plan of procedure and prevent any waste of water. In the case of local or state control, there would be a liability of the clashing of interests, in taking water from streams which intersected two or more divisions.

In Canada it has been proposed to form one province or territory made up of all the arid region lying east of the Rocky Mountains, the province so formed to be handed over all public lands within its boundaries, now vested in the Federal government. Capital, it is believed, could be secured upon the security of the land and the work of irrigation could be undertaken by the provincial government. It is not likely however, that anything will come of this proposal. The Federal Government now controls the public domain in the arid regions of the territories, as well as the rivers and streams, so that the Federal authorities have the full control necessary to undertake any irrigation work deemed advisable, or regulate such work by private companies. In British Columbia the public land belongs to the province, that province having been a separate colony before it entered the Canadian confederation.

The Canada Cotton Company, of Hamilton, Ont., re-opened the mill on Monday, and have posted a notice of ten per cent. reduction of wages.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR. BRAITHWAITE, president of the Patrons of industry, writes charging The Commercial with breach of confidence in publishing his letter last week upon the binder twine question. Now, there was certainly no breach of confidence about it, so far as The Commercial is concerned, and it is Mr. Braithwaite's own fault if he neglected to mark his letter private. We thought we were doing him the favor of publishing his letter in full. The letter was addressed to "the editor" and was not marked private. As it was a reply to an article which appeared in a previous issue of The Commercial, it was of course taken as intended for publication.

THERE are times when nations, as well as individuals, require to practice economy. The financial statement of this country (published elsewhere in this issue) indicates a deficit for the year ended June 30 last, of over one and a quarter million dollars. The reduction in the sugar and other duties, at the session of parliament in the winter of 1892-93, has no doubt had considerable to do with the falling off in the customs revenue. Our public debt has grown heavily of recent years, and with a popular movement for tariff reform setting in, the watchword of the future will have to be strict economy.

It is reported that the Massey-Harris implement concern contemplate establishing a manufactory in the United States, at Niagara Falls, and that with this object in view they have been looking up a site at the place named. This is probably in view of the expectation that at an early date there will be free trade in implements. As the raw material is considerably cheaper in the United States, in the event of free trade it would of course be absolutely necessary to have the factory so located as to be able to take advantage of the cheapest purchasing markets.

THE Act introduced in the territorial legislature to provide for the destruction of noxious weeds, has been passed. This bill provides that "every owner or occupant of lands shall cause to be cut down or otherwise destroyed all noxious weeds growing thereon, and if any such owner or occupant suffers or permits any noxious weeds to grow thereon, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20 for each day he suffers or permits the same to grow thereon." In Manitoba the law provides a fine for neglecting to destroy weeds, but we have never heard of the infliction of this penalty in any case, though a drive in any direction around Winnipeg would disclose many cases of neglect of the law.

It appears that after all the warnings which have been given, some Manitoba farmers are still foolhardy enough to neglect treating their seed wheat with bluestone. It has been proved over and over again, most conclusively, that bluestone properly applied, is a complete

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