

## IMPRESSIONS OF UTAH.

The Valley region which I have seen—Utah lake and Salt Lake City—is a beautiful oasis in the midst of a desert. The handsome gardens, remarkable avenues of trees, the orchards and farms, show great labor and skill and determination among the people of this state in making homes under great difficulties.

Water is the motive power—life, health, happiness, among men depends upon the abundance of water. No animal and no vegetation can exist without water. It has not occurred to many that water, as well, depends upon vegetation, yet such is the case.

Trees in forests attract moisture and cause precipitation.

Removal of forests has caused many densely populated countries to become arid, changed agricultural regions into pastoral and then to deserts.

The planting of forests has greatly increased the rainfall of other regions. Upon the mountains trees hold the snow, and by shading prevent too rapid melting and thus extend the season of water flow for irrigation. The roots of trees and the deposits of leaves, together with shade, give to the soil the power to retain water, which gradually finds its way by springs to the surface. A barren mountain permits the melted snow and the rain to flow away quickly, causing floods, when droughts soon succeed.

The mines of Utah are dependent upon timber. It is important that a succession be insured; this cannot be unless the young growths are protected. Every pine tree has grown from a tiny seed. And in future the forests must depend upon what are now insignificant little seedlings.

Your railways are borne upon wooden ties, immense quantities of which are required. Unless the forests are protected your commerce will suffer.

Understand, forestry does not forbid the use of timber, but does discourage its waste—its wanton destruction—and insists upon the protection of young growths.

No tree less than twelve inches in diameter should be cut.

One by one the larger trees are felled, for the uses of wood are very great. If the young trees are not protected it will be but a short time when barren mountains will shorten your water supply and cause untold misery from such improvidence.

Forest fires, it is conceded, cause the greatest destruction of timbers. But forest fires never were known to occur spontaneously; carelessness or criminality has been the cause.

I cannot suggest any prevention of forest fires until all the people of the forest region shall have learned the value of trees, and have a sense of the rights of posterity and thus become careful in the use of matches, lighted cigars,

leaving camp fires etc. Only a strong government can patrol the forests and protect them from the fires of careless persons.

## Spoliation.

The governor of a western state has recently stated that "thefts of timber cannot be prevented, that it is impossible to convict timber thieves because the communities are in sympathy with the spoilers."

All this is because the mass of people do not appreciate the value of the timber, and only measure it by the sawmill price per thousand feet. Education to the true value of forests will overcome this in time. Who will undertake this?

Insects are destructive to forests as well as fruits and all crops of the farm.

Protection of the birds is the best and cheapest remedy known for this. The Black Hills has lost one-fourth if its pine, and there is danger of its entire destruction by beetles. Had there been a goodly number of woodpeckers in the Hills this could not have occurred.

I consider the greatest enemy of the forests next to fire is the herding of large bands of sheep in the timber. These animals, as well as goats, eat the young, tender seedling trees, browse the larger growth and prevent their attaining a size suitable for use. The hard tramped ground with so many thousand small feet prevent the growth of seed.

In the East when we want to clear a field it is easily accomplished by turning in a flock of sheep. They make quick work of all sprouts.

I do not oppose the herding of sheep upon the prairies and plains, and am alive to the importance of the wool industry. It should be carefully guarded and encouraged, but not at the expense of all our forests.

Vast numbers of cattle and horses would graze upon the mountains and find ample feed, but not after sheep have cleared the land, as they do of every vestige of green, and leave the ground poisoned for other stock, swim the water courses, pollute the streams. It is time to consider the cost and also the extremely small number of persons benefited by so great a loss to all beside.

Spain is an example of a country ruined by clearing the forests and then pasturing large herds of goats, which have prevented reforestation.

The present drought should make the time opportune for the careful consideration of this subject.

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## OUR TRADE ABROAD.

The chief of the treasury bureau of statistics has just promulgated his report on the foreign commerce of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1900, and makes an exhibit which must bring some of the great commercial powers to

reflection. It shows that the commerce of the United States for the year was more than \$2,000,000,000, the imports of merchandise being \$849,714,670, and the exports being \$1,394,186,371.

As to imports, it is gratifying to note that the class designated as "manufacturers' materials," including only articles in a crude condition, is by far the largest, being in 1900 \$302,264,106 against \$222,657,774 in 1899, or nearly 40 per cent, greater than in any preceding year, while the class which includes articles wholly or partially manufactured for use in manufacturing amounted to \$88,433,549 against \$98,753,903 in 1893, and considerably more than \$100,000,000 in 1891. So it is seen that even in the imports account there is abundant evidence of the increase in our manufacturing business.

## Increase in Exports.

But this is a small item as compared with the exports of manufactured articles. These amounted to \$432,284,366 in 1900, against \$339,675,558 in any preceding year. The increase is \$92,608,808 against an increase of \$50,000,000 in any year preceding.

To put it in another way, our manufactures form 31½ per cent of the total exportations in 1900 against 28.13 per cent in 1899. The total exports for 1900 were four times as great as in 1860, while those of manufactures alone were ten times as large as in 1860. It is shown that while the total exports for 1900 were but 50 per cent in excess of 1891, the exports of manufactured articles were 150 per cent in excess of that year.

It is interesting and instructive also to note that this large increase in our export trade is due to the fact that we have found new markets for our wares. The report shows that exports to the continent of Europe increased only 10 per cent in 1900 over 1899, and but 50 per cent over 1890, while to Asia the increase was 43 per cent over 1899. This is most significant as showing the direction in which our trade is expanding. We are finding markets in territory which has not hitherto been occupied by us.

## A Gold Production.

It is also a notable fact that the gold mined in the United States during the year ended December 31, 1899, amounted to \$72,500,000, exceeding the production of any previous year, and for the first time surpassing the record established in 1853, when the mines of California produced \$65,000,000 worth of gold. The annual average gold product of the United States is now double that of a decade earlier.

These exhibits as to our export trade and our production of gold have a most important bearing on the present political status and of themselves differentiate the campaign of 1900 from that of