

The President is elected for a term of four years from the 1st of December. His cabinet consists of six secretaries of departments. His salary is \$30,000 a year.

The constitution dates from February, 1857, but several amendments have been made since. Originally it contained a provision requiring an interval of four years between a second and a third term. Only a short time ago President Diaz secured the passage of an amendment abolishing the anti-third term provision. Under the new law he can again succeed himself.

The Church party which never liked Diaz, has always maintained that he would end in proclaiming himself dictator. When the amendment referred to was passed, it was regarded not alone by the Church party, but by Conservatives and many of Diaz's own friends, as the preliminary step to a dictatorship. In addition to this Diaz has made many strong personal enemies who, though not friendly to the Church, will now gladly favor any means of overthrowing him. In many of the States in addition to this political disquietude drought and famine prevail, and the people are fearfully discontented.

The State of Puebla where great excitement at present prevails, is a historic region. It figured largely in the Maximilian troubles. Its area is 12,000 square miles, and its population nearly 900,000. Coahuila is another of the States in which disturbances have taken place. Its area is 51,000 square miles, and its population less than 200,000. The State of Durango where drought and famine prevail has a population of about 300,000.

That Mexico has progressed under the presidency of Diaz no one can question. It is said that he is a patriotic Mexican, and that is why he desires to hold the reins of power, in order to keep down his enemies, whom he regards as the enemies of the country.

#### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS.

THE DESERET NEWS, on behalf of the "Mormon" people—the original settlers of Utah and those of their faith who are of later arrival, cordially welcome the representatives of the press who are favoring us with their company for a short time. We hope they will thoroughly enjoy their brief visit. We regret that their stay is so limited. The Territory abounds with attractions for the traveler and the writer. Its people are glad to see their friends from a distance and to be seen as they are in their mountain homes. Of course all of these bright men and women, after spending a few days

among the "Mormons," will be able to enlighten the world as to the peculiarities of the people of Utah, to show how the Mormon problem can be solved without difficulty, and to counsel Congress as to what course to pursue in relation to this growing commonwealth. But we may be pardoned if we offer them a word of caution. It is, simply, that they beware of the retailer of startling stories, manufactured expressly for ears that are eager for gossip and ready to receive tales of the marvellous, to be repeated by tongue or pen among folks who have never made the tour of the continent. The "Mormons" are made of similar material to that which composes other folks. They have sympathies in common with all humanity. They have respect for the talents of the leaders of modern thought and the educators of the world, foremost among whom are the journalists and press contributors of the period, and they unite with their "Gentile" fellow citizens in extending the hand of welcome to the visitors of the day.

#### A UTAH BILL IN CONGRESS.

THE Democratic Central Committee of Utah have sprung a surprise upon us all. The bill introduced by Delegate Caine in the lower, and Senator Faulkner in the upper House of Congress, as stated in the press dispatches, was prepared here and sent to Washington. We question whether any individual outside of the committee knew anything about the measure before it was introduced. We had not heard a whisper concerning it, and this morning's dispatch was our first intimation relating to it.

We copy the text of the bill from the *Herald*. Our readers will do well to examine it, thoroughly. Not that we think it is likely to pass. But it is sure to receive considerable attention and they should become familiar with its provisions that they may understand the discussion which it will provoke.

It is hardly probable that Congress will make such a radical change in the territorial policy of the country as this bill contemplates. The Territories form convenient places for political rewards to persons who have served the dominant party. They are held as the "property" of the United States. The theory is that when they have passed beyond their incipient stage and are fit to elect their own officers, they shall be admitted into the Union on an equality with the existing States. This measure, then, is a new departure and it contemplates something different both from a Territorial government and a State government.

However, we must admit that it is a step in advance. It is more in conformity with republican principles than is the territorial system. It would be a great thing for Utah to elect its own officers, even if she had to pay their salaries. That would have to be done if she were a State. But a query arises here. How do the dyed-in-the-wool Democrats reconcile the proposition for the government to appropriate funds out of a territorial treasury, with the fundamental principles of their party and the rights of local self-government?

This bill provides for the amounts which the leading officials are to receive as salaries, and that the money shall be paid by the Territory. When the United States create an office they should also pay its incumbent. If we understand the matter rightly this is Democratic doctrine. In this respect we think the bill a departure therefrom, and we view the provision wrong as in principle.

We should think the strong opponents of Statehood for Utah would be glad to support this measure. They have been so fearful that an attempt would be made to rush this Territory into the Union that they have been under continual terror, which was needless apprehension, for a long time. If this bill were to become a law it would settle the question in their favor until they would probably be as much in a hurry for Statehood as they imagine others to be now.

The bill is a sort of half-way measure, a kind of grudging attempt at a modicum of justice to a Territory that ought to be treated as a full grown State, and yet because of the prejudices of ill-natured neighbors is to be served like a juvenile too big for a child but hardly matured enough for an adult. However, "half a loaf is better than no bread," and perhaps a great many people at home will be ready to endorse the bill on that account, and many abroad will think it about as much as Utah ought to have at present.

Whatever may be said against this movement, it must be acknowledged that the bill has been drawn with care, and that it provides for a system that is a great improvement on the present. It is a step in the direction of popular government and, taking it as a whole, would be preferable in many respects to the vassalage to which we now are subject.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 12.—A six-story brick block on Viaduct street occupied by the Cleveland Electric Supply company, Champion Safety Lock company and National Iron Works burned at 2 o'clock this morning. Losses aggregate \$180,000; partly insured.