

pearances indicate that it was a case of attempted incendiarism, as a pile of shavings soaked with kerosene was found. The neighbors succeeded in extinguishing the fire before the arrival of the department.

A correspondent sends a request to publish some particulars concerning David Conkling, one of the Carthage mob, who died at Louisiana, Missouri, on the 7th of February last. Here is the item, as given in a telegram from the town where Conkling died:

David Conkling, aged 93 years, who died in this city in February was a first cousin of the late Roscoe Conkling of New York, and was born near Charlestown, Jefferson county, Va., February 15, 1802. In 1839 he made Carthage, Ill., his home, remaining there until 1854, when he came to Louisiana. While at Carthage Mr. Conkling was one of the organizers of the "Wolf-hunters," a sort of military organization, whose object was not the extermination of the animal whose name it bore, but of the Mormons.

When Joseph and Hyrum Smith, Dr. Taylor and other Church dignitaries were arrested at Nauvoo in June, 1844, they were brought to Carthage and placed in jail, but the "Wolf-hunters" mob, not fearing the guards' guns, which were said to be loaded with blank cartridges, succeeded in battering down the jail entrance, and rushing in, soon made quick work of Hyrum Smith, who was instantly killed by a rifle ball. Joseph Smith was then dispatched while in the act of jumping from a window, by a well-directed shot from a gun in the hands of a young man named Moreys, of Missouri. Mr. Conkling once said: "The Prophet gave three convulsive gasps and expired. I stood over him at the time, and the ground was saturated with blood. I ran my forefinger deep into the wound to probe for the bullet, but it could not be reached."

The announcement that Elder Thomas W. Ellerbeck, a well-known and highly respected citizen of this city, passed away at 7:30 a. m. Tuesday, will be received with sadness by his many friends not only in this city but throughout the Territory.

Thomas Wilton Ellerbeck was the son of Thomas and Mary Wilton Ellerbeck, and was born September 14, 1829, at Pendleton, near Manchester, Lancashire, England. He emigrated to Utah in the year 1851 in Orson Pratt's company, arriving here on October 15. He went at once into President Young's office and remained there until the spring of 1872, and for many years was chief clerk in the President's office.

During the building of the Union Pacific railway he had charge of all the accounts of the contract taken by President Brigham Young for the construction of the 300 miles of that road which was built by the people of this Territory at this end of the line.

When the gas works were started in the spring of 1872, he was placed in charge and was practically the promoter of that enterprise. He acted as superintendent of the gas works until 1890, since which time he has held the position of director of the Salt Lake & Ogden Gas and Electric Light company.

The deceased was superintendent of

construction of the Salt Lake City waterworks system, and has held many positions of trust and responsibility, all of which he has filled with marked ability and to the satisfaction of those who reposed their confidence in him.

At the time of his death he was a director of the Utah Commercial and Savings bank.

Regarding the assertion made in the Constitutional Convention that the woman suffrage plank in the Republican platform was placed there merely to catch votes, ex-Gov. A. L. Thomas, who was referred to as having framed the resolution, offers the following statement:

"I was the chairman of the committee on resolutions appointed by the last Republican convention. I have a very clear recollection of the action of the committee in relation to the granting of equal suffrage to women. Twenty-five of the twenty-seven counties of the Territory were represented on the committee. The large majority of the members were not of the class usually denominated politicians. They seemed to me to be men who acted from conviction. I believe the woman's suffrage plank was inserted in the platform because the majority of the committee thought it was right to place it there, and the manner in which it was received by the Convention showed, I think, that the large majority of the Convention thought so too. No other resolution received such strong manifestations of approval.

"With all due respect to the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, representing both political parties, who make the charge that the woman suffrage plank was inserted in the platform for the purpose of 'catching votes,' I deem it but just to say that in my opinion, so far as the action of the Republican committee is concerned, the charge has no foundation in fact. It was, I believe, an honest expression of the opinion of the large majority of the committee and Convention.

"I know of no pressure that was brought to bear upon the committee in relation to the matter."

From Messrs. Tracey & Head it is learned that next week the engineering corps and forty to fifty teams will leave Ogden for Snake river valley, where they go to commence active operations on the American Falls canal, a mammoth enterprise which is destined at no far distant date to irrigate and make fertile a scope of country equal in extent to all the cultivated land in Salt Lake valley. The canal when completed will have a carrying capacity larger than any other canal in the Intermountain country, and but few will equal it in the world. The average width as it is now being constructed is sixty-six feet. The Snake river is the source of the water supply, which of itself is a guaranty that this element so necessary to the welfare of the agriculturist will be plentiful. The lands covered by the American Falls canal are located on the north side of the river and mainly above the town of American Falls, which is on the Oregon Short Line at the intersection of Snake river with that road, and being government land it is easily

obtained by the homeseekers. The company that is building this canal is composed of thirty strictly Utah men, most of whom have had from ten to twenty-five years' experience in canal-making and in subduing the soil. The wants of the settlers are therefore well understood. That the poor man may obtain a home in this valley, which is said to be unequalled for climate and soil, an opportunity is given him to work out a water right while there is work to be done. In the extension of laterals and the enlargement of the main canal, work will be prosecuted by the American Falls Canal and Power company for several years to come. By the spring of 1896 water sufficient for \$500,000 acres will be in the canal.

ENNEFER, Summit Co., Utah,

March 30, 1895.

The Constitutional Convention now assembling each day is getting into confusion. It appears hard to agree on the questions that come up. The woman's franchise has overbalanced some of them—especially in the case of one member calling another a traitor—that is certainly very unbecoming in a constitutional law maker. It is said the woman's franchise may endanger the chances for Statehood. Some one may rise up yet and object to prohibition on that ground. What if we should ask for a measure to suppress the cigarette?

I understand this to be a progressive convention. Give the women the voting power, subdue the liquor traffic, abandon the cigarette, and institute low salaries for officials—then we can encourage hopefulness in behalf of our new State.

JAMES LYTCHGOW.

The incorporation of the Durango, Flagstaff and San Diego railroad recently is regarded, says the *Denver News* of April 1, by persons acquainted with the resources of the region through which the proposed line is to pass, as one of the most important enterprises that has been projected for years in the Southwest. The road is of special interest to Denver, as it would give direct communication between Denver and Southern California and would open to the wholesale trade of this city a country which has never been reached from the Rocky Mountain region. The road as projected will run from Durango through southeastern Utah and northwestern New Mexico to Flagstaff, Ariz., and thence by way of Phoenix and Yuma to San Diego, Cal. The men at the bottom of the movement are Arizona citizens, the first comprising Major D. M. Riordan, David Habbett, J. W. Francis, Wilson Hamilton and J. L. Kilpatrick. The incorporators have subscribed for \$2,500,000 of the capital stock. It is estimated that the road can be built and equipped for \$7,000,000. The route leads through the agricultural and fruit lands of Montezuma county, this state, San Juan county, N. M., and San Juan county, Utah. Mineral, timber and coal lands of great value are found along the route and in connection with the Denver & Rio Grande in this state it is claimed the line would prove one of the main systems of communication with the fruit regions of the coast. Central Arizona needs the road and the Arizona legislature has recognized this fact by extending the time of con-