



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The war on the Potomac has not been carried on very vigorously of late. Great and important movements have been in contemplation, as reported, but if anything in particular has been done towards bringing the war to a close, and putting down the rebellion, since the Confederates retreated from Maryland, it has not been announced.

The recent movements in Kentucky have been somewhat interesting, and the Federal army in that State has not been entirely idle. Considerable skirmishing and fighting has been done; but there has been nearly as much secrecy observed in relation to the operations of the war in that ill-fated State, as elsewhere; and, therefore, but little is known as to the results. It is generally believed that the Confederates will soon be driven out of the State, but that is a matter which time will determine.

The evacuation of Cumberland Gap by Gen. Morgan has been confirmed. His army is said to have suffered greatly in its retreat from the Gap to the Ohio at Greenupburg. The Confederates harassed them in front, flank and rear, almost incessantly during the hurried march which was effected, as per report, without serious loss, reflecting much credit on the commanding general.

In Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee the combatants have been quite active as represented, and several battles of some importance have been fought in the vicinity of Corinth, since the middle of September, resulting in reported Federal victories, but none of a decisive character.

Within the last few weeks the war in south western Missouri has been looming up, and there will in all probability be some fighting done there before long, with what result cannot well be predicted, as both parties seem confident of success.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Conference commenced its sitting on Monday, at 10 a.m. The President preached the opening discourse on the building up of the kingdom of God, as we are informed, not having been present, and gave much valuable instruction, principally of a local character, embracing the general duties of the Saints. He was followed by President Kimball with some pertinent remarks upon the same interesting subject.

In the afternoon, Elder C. C. Rich preached on the principles of present salvation, embodying in his discourse many remarks of encouragement and exhortation. Hon. W. H. Hooper also addressed the Conference, choosing for his subject the development of our own resources.

A meeting was held in the Tabernacle at half-past six in the evening, at which Bishop Hunter presided. Nearly all the wards in the State were represented, and some business was transacted relative to assisting those who have just arrived from the plains to procure homes and employment. Presidents Young and Wells then addressed the Bishops, pointing out to them the importance of classifying labor, and of endeavoring to develop the resources of our mountain home.

Yesterday the Conference was addressed by Elders O. Hyde and A. M. Lyman in the forenoon; the former speaking of the prosperity of the people in Sanpete county, the immense crops of grains raised the present season, and the scarcity of laborers in that part of Deseret; the latter speaking chiefly of the mental and physical culture requisite to prepare the people of God to enjoy that happiness and bliss that are in store for the faithful.

Elders Wm. C. Moody and John Van Cott, returned missionaries, each spoke for a short

time in the afternoon, relating many interesting incidents connected with their experience. President B. Young gave some important instruction on self-government, showing that all things of which the Saints are made stewards, should be subject to them and subservient to the will of heaven; that it is the business and duty of the people of God to labor to build up his kingdom and the redemption of the world.

The High Priests' Quorum held a public meeting in the Tabernacle last evening, President John Young presiding. Some reports from the country branches were read by the clerk of the Quorum, Elder Isaac Groo. The meeting was addressed by the President of the Quorum and counselor E. D. Woolley upon the duties of branch Quorum Presidents and their clerks, in reference to their semi-annual reports and other essential matters. Bishop Lorenzo D. Young expressed his gratitude for the privilege of meeting in Conference to hear the glorious instructions and counsels that had been imparted. Elder George D. Watt spoke of the spiritual kingdom of God being with the people of the Saints, and the spirit that governs it inspiring the Saints to build up the temporal kingdom preparatory to the coming of the Son of Man.

The Conference will continue to-day, and how much longer, if any, we know not. The minutes will appear next week.

INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS IN CACHE VALLEY.

Some days since, a report was circulated in the city that the Indians had stolen a large number of horses from the citizens of Logan, Cache co., which has since been corroborated by several gentlemen from that place, who state that on Saturday night, September 27th, between thirty and forty horses were stolen by a band of Shoshones or Bannocks, from Mr. Thatcher and others of Logan city, and driven northward.

As soon as possible next day, a company of twenty or thirty men under Major Ricks, started in pursuit. Late in the afternoon, four men who were following the trail in advance of the company, came unexpectedly upon the Indians in the hills, a few miles above Franklin. They had apparently halted for the night, had killed an ox, and were preparing to satiate their hunger. On discovering their pursuers, the Indians immediately showed fight, which the men did not consider wise to accept under the circumstances, as the natives were in superior force, and a skirmish with them would, in all probability, result unfavorably. The men either fell back or waited till the company came up, by which time it was nearly dark, giving the Indians an opportunity which they did not fail to improve, to escape with their booty. They, however, in their haste to get away, left several animals which were recovered next morning. The pursuit was continued, as stated, for two or three days without overtaking the thieves, but a few more of the stolen horses were found scattered along the trail, which had been left by the Indians in their haste to increase the distance between them and their pursuers.

The result of the chase was that the redskins made good their escape with nearly thirty of the horses, and the return of Major Ricks and his company to Logan with nine or ten of the stolen animals, all weary and jaded, and fully convinced their campaign had been a complete failure, as most of such operations have ever been in these mountains. In truth we cannot recollect a single instance within the last ten years in which a pursuit of Indians has been successful under such circumstances. They can go where white men can not or dare not, and from their knowledge of the country manage to escape capture and punishment.

There is, as reported, considerable excitement among the people of Cache, in consequence of these depredations, and fears are entertained, not without cause, that there will be more incursions of the kind made into their fruitful valley before the setting in of winter.

GONE WEST.—Fred. Cook, Esq., A. J. Centre, Esq., and Supt. Doty left for San Francisco yesterday morning.

PAY ATTENTION!!—Wanted at the Office of this paper:—Wood, Hay, Beef, Corn, Potatoes, Home-made Cloth, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Butter, etc., etc., on Subscriptions.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL STATE FAIR, HELD IN THE STATE HOUSE, G. S. L. CITY, OCT. 2, 3 & 4, 1862.

Early on the morning of Thursday the 2d the display of the national and other flags upon the State House announced to the citizens that the time had arrived for another annual exhibition, and at noon the strains of music from the brass band proclaimed the opening of the State Fair to the public gratuitously.

In presenting the report of the fair, the board of directors desire to do equal justice to every department which has been represented. Any new feature, however, which has been developed lately, and which hitherto has not been exhibited, or any marked improvement in the various branches of manufactures, it has been thought proper to name, believing it was but just so to do, and that thereby the public interests are enhanced.

In class A,—field crops—the display was more limited than on some former occasions. Our farmers having demonstrated that our soil and climate are eminently adapted to the successful culture of wheat, barley and oats, and in most localities, Indian corn, seem to rest satisfied therewith, without bringing samples for a yearly display; but it must ever be remembered that Utah is the half way house over the American continent, and that our exhibitions contribute to the gratification and information of the stranger and sojourner in our midst; and that a state fair must be meagre in this department if our staple grains are not faithfully represented.

Although the society have offered premiums on cotton culture, we are not sufficiently advised from the cotton district to give accurate statistics; but can say from the personal representations of many that in Washington county cotton culture is considered a decided success, not only in quality, but also in the quantity produced per acre. Mr. Graves exhibited a specimen of the Peruvian cotton tree, in pot, nearly a foot high, the seed of which was planted in the middle of July last, which he obtained from Peru, through a friend in Iowa.

The premiums offered for madder and indigo will, no doubt, be awarded to our cotton planters; although the introduction of the cultivation of madder has been commenced throughout the Territory.

Class B—vegetables—bore evidence of improvement. The seven varieties of seedling potatoes, exhibited by Mr. L. S. Hemenway were first rate, and have been pronounced equal in quality to the eschaniac, and much more productive. Mr. Hemenway has been for the last four years trying to raise improved varieties from the seed of the eschaniac, and from one hundred and fifty varieties produced has chosen seven well worthy of cultivation, all of which ripen as early as the eschaniac.

The specimens of Winnigstad and Hat Dutch cabbages, acorn squashes, imperial melons and potatoes, Silvers' prolific cucumbers were excellent. The imperial melon has superadded to the quality of ripening early, that of keeping till January, and Sayers' prolific cucumber, though not so assuming in its proportions, as some others, for eating and pickling is said to be unsurpassed.

In class C—fruit, flowers and medicinal plants—there was a handsome and abundant representation. Gentlemen who had attended fairs in California as well as in Ohio, said they had never witnessed as good an exhibition of fruit—that California could not surpass Utah except in grapes, in which California excelled.

Mr. Ellerbeck's collection of grapes, which took the first prize, including the Chasselas Musque, Rose Chasselas, Chasselas de Fontainebleau, early White Sweetwater, Child's Superb, Buckland's Sweetwater and White Frontignac were a good collection, though from young vines. The magnificent collection of California grapes, from Prest. B. Young's vineyard, elicited universal admiration.

The fall apples were fully represented. The Porter—that favorite of New England, raised by Mr. Woodruff, received the first prize, and Mr. Hemenway's handsome collection of Maiden's Blush, justly received the second prize; both of which apples are well worthy of extensive cultivation in every orchard, not only for their sprightly agreeable flavor and abundance of juice, and their excellence for cooking and drying, but also for the general productiveness of the trees. Some of the fall seedlings exhibited were very fine.

We were pleased at the specimens of winter apples. The Esopus Spitzenburgh and Rhode Island Greenings were well represented, the latter measuring 14 inches round and upwards. A branch which bore seventeen of the twenty-ounce apple, was exhibited by Mr. Brizzene, which, at this season, averaged over one pound each, some measuring over fifteen inches round. Although too late in the season to witness an exhibition of summer apples, it might not be amiss to state that the Red June, Sweet Bough, Red Astrachan, Early Red Margaret, Early Joe, American Summer Pearmain, and Keswick Codling have fruited here, and proven worthy of cultivation.

Although we have imported so many choice varieties of pears, but few have fruited sufficiently to judge of their qualities, or to pass for recommendation. Mr. Harlow Redfield's Seedling took the first prize, which is indeed a very rich, melting, juicy pear. Nine large winter pears, measuring twelve inches round, grown by Mr. John Sharp, on a tree not much larger than a currant bush, were exhibited,

as well as other good specimens of winter pears, which the awarding committee will notice in due season.

Although considered a fruit country, no fruit succeeds here better than the plum. Mr. G. B. Wallace's specimens of Sayer's favorite, of the gage family, and the yellow magnum bonum received, respectively, the first and second prizes.

The apricot is well adapted for cultivation here. The Gates' and Woodruff, both seedlings, are the best so far as proven. In cherries, the Black Tartarian, and Morello received the first and second prizes, the former grown by Mr. Saines, the latter by Mr. Bullock.

The awarding committee have given to Mr. Ellerbeck's collection of strawberries the first prize. The Wilson's Albany, Vicomtesse and Victoria are considered the best varieties for cultivation in hills, and the Scarlet Magistrate for cultivation in bed.

The gooseberry has been introduced and will be cultivated extensively to perfection here; trees healthy, exceedingly productive and not affected with mildew nor blight. Mr. Jennings' currants have taken the first prize, and with high culture show to what great perfection they can be raised here.

The flowers contributed much to the decoration of the rooms, and formed a pleasing and beautiful display.

In class D—cattle—the exhibition was very limited indeed. We understood some had mistaken the day, and that others were prevented by the high waters of the Jordan river, from bringing their stock; and, as a natural consequence, most of the animals exhibited received prizes.

Mr. Jenkins' Canadian horse carried off the first prize. Prest. Young's Devon, and Mr. B. L. Adams' Durham, bulls, respectively took the first prizes. A few good specimens of sheep were exhibited of the half-blooded Merino, Leicester, Cotswold and South Down breeds.

Classes E and F were not so fully represented as usual. The few specimens on exhibition were arranged judiciously. The plow, washing machine, spinning wheels, and heavy castings received marked attention, as did also the leaden pump made by Mr. Peter Evans.

Class G—leather, harness, etc.—was well and abundantly represented, and bore evidence that much attention has been paid to the improvement of this staple in home manufactures; and in this department a new feature has been developed, viz., the finishing of leather by coal oil obtained from the oil well known as the tar springs near Yellow creek. Nearly all of the leather exhibited was from the Big Canyon Tannery, and about one-half of it was finished with the coal oil, of which fact the awarding committee were not apprized, but on the leather being inspected after the awards were made, the first prizes were attached, in three cases out of five, to those specimens finished with the coal oil. Harness and saddles were never so well represented; one set of fancy harness from Mr. Howard's establishment was superb, and would have done honor to the World's Fair; and the same compliment can justly be paid to the Sonora saddle and trappings from the establishment of Young and Platt.

Class H—domestic dry goods—like its predecessor, bore evidence of marked improvement in the fine texture and color of the cloths exhibited. The pieces of satin and kersey were especially fine, and have followed the introduction of the merino sheep. The samples of white and colored flannels and linseys were very good, and the specimen of cotton goods, carded, spun and woven by hand, was a very substantial fabric. The shawls exhibited were good. Some of the goods from Utah county were very fine and received first prizes.

In class I, some good specimens of hats were exhibited, likewise several suits of home-made clothes.

In class J—furniture—many beautiful specimens were presented. The bedstead and chairs made by Mr. Bell were superb; the work-stands and looking-glass were of elegant workmanship; and, in fact, every specimen in this department was highly creditable.

In class K, the representation was unusually large. Mr. Savage exhibited a fine collection of plain and colored photographs, ambrotypes and photographic views. Messrs. Parris and Hopkins presented a fine collection of ambrotypes. Mr. Ottinger's collection of paintings in oil, landscapes and portraits, attracted attention, and his night scene, an original painting, from "The moon on the lake is beaming," by Moore, elicited much praise. Mr. Beck exhibited a fine collection of small paintings, chiefly marine scenes. Mrs. J. V. Long, as usual, contributed some finely executed oil paintings. Mr. Silver's mechanical drawings, coupled with Mr. Harrison's architectural designs, and Mr. Bullock's county map of Utah, also a specimen of the Deseret News printed in bronze by Mr. McEwan, and several good specimens of transparent window blinds by Mr. Maiben added much to the interest of this department. The elegantly finished specimens of violins, violas, violoncellos and double basses reflected great credit on the mechanical genius of Mr. Olsen.

Among the most interesting features of the Fair were the specimens from Prest. Brigham Young's paper mill, manufactured by Thomas Howard, consisting of several varieties of wrapping paper, bill, plain and ruled foolscap and large royal book paper, a fine sample of envelopes, copy, memorandum and account books, which were ruled and neatly bound by Mr. Kelly.