



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1869.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE Eighteenth annual session of the Legislative Assembly convened in the City Hall this morning at 10 o'clock, as will be seen by the minutes published in another column. The organization was effected with that unanimity and concord which characterize the meetings of our Legislative body. The officers of the Council and House were elected without the necessity of a number of ballots, tie votes, bribery or any of the means to which recourse is usually had before a successful candidate can be elected in such a body. Those who compose our Legislature do not seek office. That is one reason why our Territory is always out of debt. There are no corruptants, in the shape of dishonest officials, devouring the public funds, and depleting the Treasury. The offices seek the men; not the men the offices. However much honor may accrue through being a member of our Legislature, there is assuredly no pecuniary advantage. There is not a man in it but could make more means by remaining at his ordinary business. It is not, then, the profit resulting from being elected that would induce those who are members of the Council or House to let the people thus have their services, for they lose in a pecuniary point of view. It is a patriotic feeling that can bring men from paying business to serve for the public benefit. It gives the people, too, more confidence in their representatives when they see such a disposition manifested; and know by the experience of years that the public interests will be faithfully watched over, instead of suffering at their hands.

We congratulate the Assembly on the harmony which has characterized the opening of the session. We congratulate the Territory on the union of sentiment, good feelings and concord which reign among their representatives. No rival political parties are striving for the triumph of party to the injury of the public interest, and the squandering the public money. And we are gratified to witness a continuation of that patriotism which labors for the greatest good to the greatest number, instead of seeking to advance the purposes, interests and objects of a few.

A ROUTE FOR THE CENTRAL PACIFIC.

THE Colorado *Chieftain*, published at Pueblo, Colorado, contains a leading article on the "Central Pacific and Eastern Division Railroads," in which the advantages of a Pass through the main range of mountains, called the Tennessee Pass, are dwelt upon. It says:

Passing southward along the main range of mountains, from the summit on the Union Pacific, every pass has been explored and surveyed to the head of the Arkansas river, and every one has been ascertained to be impracticable, except by the use of heavy grades and by constructing a long and very expensive tunnel through the summit. At the head of one of the forks of the Arkansas, in latitude 39, a pass was found subject to neither of these objections. We are not aware that any accurate survey of this pass has ever been made. This pass, called the Tennessee pass, has, however, been carefully examined by competent persons and the statements made herein will be found to be substantially correct. Without stating the precise height of the summit of the Tennessee pass, it is sufficient to say that it is at least seven hundred feet below the timber limit, that the approach on either side is very easy and that it is less obstructed by snow than any pass lying to the northward, without a single exception. One of the branches of the Arkansas forms its eastern, and the Eagle Tail its western approach. The head waters of these two streams interlock. The course of the Eagle Tail from its source is a little north of west, and a succession of valleys, forming water gradients, stretch from its source all the way to Salt Lake City, without presenting a single obstacle worthy of note. About three days journey west from the source of the Eagle Tail, a coal basin is reached, of

great extent and yielding the best quality of coal. This region of country is also more heavily timbered than any part of the mountain range to the northward.

The only engineering difficulty to be met with on the whole route, it says, is at the great cañon just above Cañon City, Colorado, and that is easily overcome by a divergence to the southward through a gap in the mountains. In the neighborhood of that city the proposed route cuts through a coal basin containing veins of bituminous coal from six to eight feet in thickness, and of a quality superior to any other in use in that Territory. Passing down the Arkansas river to Pueblo, which is on about the 38¹ degree of latitude, the most southern deflection of the route is reached. The advantages of this route over any other for connecting the Central Pacific and Eastern Division are seven in number and are set forth as follows:

First.—That it presents the most practicable and easy pass over the mountains, having the advantage of easy grades, cheap construction and freedom from obstruction by snow.

Second.—This route bisects two coal fields, two hundred miles apart.

Third.—It passes through the most heavily timbered portion of the mountain region.

Fourth.—It runs through a mining region on the head of the Arkansas, second to none on the continent.

Fifth.—It bisects the best pastoral and agricultural region to be found west of the States on the Missouri.

Sixth.—It passes a settled country for two hundred and fifty miles, insuring a large local trade and travel from the day of its construction.

Seventh.—A southwestern branch to the 35th parallel, through the Punga pass, will insure the trade of New Mexico, Arizona, and the northern States of Mexico, by a road of cheaper construction than by any other route.

The *Chieftain* urges the managers of those two great corporations to give the route in question a thorough examination. It is persuaded that such an examination would demonstrate the absolute truth of its assertions.

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES.

—NOT MINING, THE TRUE POLICY.

WE had occasion some few years since, while residing in California, in writing of the difference between the policy adopted by the people of Utah and that of California, to assert that California's true wealth did not lie in her mines—that if she ever attained the rank to which her location, climate and natural facilities entitled her, it would be by following Utah's example in developing her agricultural and manufacturing interests, instead of depending upon the product of her mines. On many occasions there have been warm arguments indulged in upon this subject, especially when the course taken by the people of Utah in regard to digging for the precious metals within her borders has been under discussion. The name, the sound and the glitter of gold have had such an effect upon some men's minds that they have seemed to thin the best and only employment which the people residing in these mountains could follow is the digging of gold and silver. Our indifference to this all-engrossing pursuit has met with severe condemnation in many quarters, and many bitter comments have been made upon the policy which has dictated it. The desire of the leading men here to keep the masses in subjection, and other reasons, equally absurd, have been assigned for the policy which has been urged so persistently upon the people since we came here.

The people of Utah have never had a doubt but that time would vindicate and establish the correctness of their policy. Already it is perceptible. California is convinced that it is not upon the product of her gold fields that her future greatness is to depend. Agriculture has completely overshadowed mining in the State. It has taken the front rank in its industries, whilst mining has dwindled to comparative insignificance. For three years past this change has been noticeable; but during the year which has just passed the difference between the two pursuits is more perceptible than ever. And every year will increase this difference.

From the Sacramento *Union* we learn that the wheat production of the past year places California third among the wheat producing States of the Union in quantity and the first in quality. Besides this staple there have been other cereals, as well as grapes, wine and wool produced, and the products of the dairy, garden and orchard have been considerable; the progress of various manufactures has also been most satisfactory.

In several counties which had never produced anything from the soil for export, the *Union* informs us, this year are shown several millions of bushels of surplus wheat and barley and a consequent addition to the valuable real estate of the country amounting to many millions of dollars.

As a consequence of the increased attention which is being paid to agriculture and manufactures it is noticed that a marked change has come over the people. The wandering habits, encouraged by mining life, have given place to more settled ideas and steadier pursuits. Population has become fixed and permanent in most of the towns, as well as on the farms, and attention is turned almost universally in the rural districts to the improvement and adornment of homes and the comforts of enlightened life. These changes are followed by a decrease of crime and an increase of prosperity.

We chronicle these evidences of an improved condition of affairs in California with pleasure, and especially so as they substantiate the wisdom of the course adopted and pursued by our citizens. No people who devote their time and expend their energies in gold or silver mining can become permanently great and prosperous. To the Inquisition in Spain has been attributed by some writers the decline of the power and glory of that once great nation; but her decadence can be more clearly and consistently traced to the mania which seized her people to obtain the precious metals, and to the neglect of more certain and useful pursuits for the chase of a phantom. The strength and means which, if properly directed, would have enabled her to have maintained her proud position among the nations, were expended in the vain search for an *El Dorado*.

California has already proved that her future prosperity must depend on other pursuits than mining. Nevada, Colorado, Montana and Idaho will yet find in the cultivation of the earth and the development of kindred industries that greatness which they now seek and hope to obtain in the precarious exhumation of gold and silver from their soil.

THE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

THE chief corner stone of modern politicians seems to be based upon the passage of laws ensuring to the masses of the people the right of the suffrage. Universal suffrage is the watchword of the liberal party in this country and in Great Britain. This is the most potent agent, short of having recourse to arms, that the masses of the people can use to effect the accomplishment of their desires, because it gives them a direct voice in the legislation for their own government, and if intelligently and wisely used would never fail to wipe out abuses and to ensure good government. But if unwisely used or conferred upon a people who are too ignorant to comprehend its power it is certain to prove a detriment to them. In this country the great point at issue between the two great political parties is universal suffrage, the Republicans being evidently determined not to stop their efforts until the right of suffrage is secured to every male inhabitant of the nation, irrespective of race or color, who may have reached the age of twenty-one, and is free from crime. This is almost certain to become the law of the nation, although the majority of the Democratic party, and the people of the South, are opposed to it.

In Great Britain, for years and years the cry among Chartists and other politicians of the radical stripe has been "Universal Suffrage" and so persistently has this watchword been sounded in the ears of the masses of the people that they have been induced to believe that universal suffrage would prove a panacea for every evil real or imaginary under which they labor which could possibly fall within the scope of legislation. It has long been persistently preached by those who have made it their business to disseminate political principles among the working classes of Great Britain that if the working men of that nation wished to have their interests attended to in the House of Commons, they must return men of their own class, as it was a folly to expect the aristocracy or middle-class men, who are unacquainted with the wants and wishes of the working classes, and who have but little sympathy with them, to legislate with an eye single to their welfare.

During the recent parliamentary election the right of suffrage was enjoyed by a far greater number of the people of that country than on any former occasion, and having the power in their own hands to a greater extent than ever

before; it might have been almost reasonable to expect that those "free and independent electors," as they are styled there, would have used that power to their own advantage, or for the return of their own candidates. But what does the result of the election show? That not one working man's candidate was elected, but instead thereof, men, who, as usual, represent the upper and monied interests of the country. It is true that a greater proportion of liberals, as they are called, have been elected, and that that party have now a majority in the House of Commons. Still they are members or offshoots of the upper classes of the country.

Now this failure on the part of the electors of that country to elect men of their own class was not owing to the fact that no such candidates were in the field, neither to the fact that they had not the power to do so, at least to a very great extent. It was owing to a very different cause, as disclosures made since the election have proven. That failure was owing to the fact that thousands of these men upon whom the great prerogative of suffrage had been bestowed, were willing to, and did actually sell their votes to any candidate who was rich enough to pay for them. It is said that a regular traffic was carried on in this business, and in one instance it is known that a candidate gained his seat in the House of Commons because he was able to, and did pay, ten shillings each for several thousand votes. There is little doubt that numerous instances of the same kind occurred during the election.

The possession of the power conferred by the suffrage, when abused in this manner will be productive of more and more evil the more widely it is spread, because it would result in placing the legislation for the whole nation in the hands of the few who were able to pay the highest price for the suffrages of the electors in the various boroughs and constituencies.

To be productive of the good it is capable of the suffrage needs to be used intelligently, and the more widely it is diffused among the masses the less likely is it to be so used. This is especially true of Britain, where the masses of the people are constantly deprived of the opportunities of becoming educated and intelligent.

In this country the same evils are to be feared, if not to the same extent. The issue of thousands of fraudulent naturalization papers during the recent contest shows that the same influences were operating. And if Universal Suffrage shall become the law in every State who can hope that even the majority of those by whom the privilege will be enjoyed will use it wisely. Education and intelligence should precede the suffrage, otherwise the latter would be like a razor in the hands of a child—more likely to prove destructive than otherwise, for in politics and legislation, as in every other branch of human affairs, it may be safely asserted that ignorance is the root of all evil.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Legislative Assembly convened today at 10 o'clock a. m., in the City Hall, and effected an organization.

COUNCIL.—Patrick Lynch, Esq., Secretary of last Session, called the roll, and a quorum was found to be present. The following officers were then elected: Hon. George A. Smith, President; Patrick Lynch, Secretary; Charles W. Stayner, Assistant Secretary; John D. T. McAllister, Sergeant-at-arms; Charles W. Carrington, Messenger; Charles W. Smith, Foreman; Joseph Young, senr., Chaplain. Councilors Arrington, Callister and Benson were appointed a committee to wait upon the Governor in conjunction with a like committee from the House, and notify him that the Assembly was organized. His excellency, Acting-Governor Higgins informed them that he would communicate the annual Message to-morrow. After appointing the several standing Committees Council adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow.

HOUSE.—Robert L. Campbell, Esq., Chief Clerk of the last session, called the House to order, and after calling the roll, announced a quorum present. The following officers were then elected: Orson Pratt, senr., Speaker; Robert L. Campbell, Chief Clerk; Joseph C. Rich, Assistant Clerk; S. H. B. Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms; Abinadi Pratt, Messenger; G. W. Slade, Foreman; W. W. Phelps, Chaplain. Messrs. John Taylor, B. Young, junr., and Joseph F. Smith were appointed a committee to wait upon the Governor in conjunction with a like committee from the Council. House adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow.

GONE EAST.—We are sorry to have to chronicle the departure of his Excellency, Governor Durkee, for his home in the East, in consequence of failing health; and we trust that with a recuperated physical system he may soon be able to return and resume his gubernatorial duties. During his absence Hon. Edwin Higgins, Secretary, will fill the Executive chair.