

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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CHARLES W. FENSTER, EDITOR.

Wednesday, February 25, 1891.

DEFYING PUBLIC OPINION.

The "Liberal" City Council does not increase in dignity as it gains in experience. The article described in the minutes of Tuesday evening's meeting is not very creditable to some of the participants. But what can we expect of a body nearly one-half of which is foreign?

It is evident that the majority of the constituents of seats in the Council belong to those in the Old Part who are the supporters who have been fighting for us for so long time. What the other members do not appear on the surface, only two members took any active part to opposing the action. They are sufficiently energetic in their opposition if not greatly familiarized with wisdom and discerning. They are to be commended for their evident honesty and their undeniably merits.

City Attorney Merritt handled more heat in his official career than he did in his position last night which will remain in the memory of all parties. He contended for the rights of the Council as a legislative body, and for the rights of the public as citizens owning property proposed to be decided away from them without their consent. We believe he is legally right, we are sure he was morally courageous. He performed his duty, although he knew his position was distasteful to the body that appointed him.

Notwithstanding the legal advice of their own attorney, the majority of the "Liberal" Council seem determined to do two things in defiance of public opinion. One is the handing over of a public square to a private company; the other is the granting of a liquor license for use in a variety show building. Mr. Merritt has advised them against both, but the committee report in each case is favorable to the applicants, and they are merely laid over for a week because they could not be put up in view of the objection of two members.

This is "Liberalism," falsehood, backbiting and shrewd. "Sense of the people?" Not much. That did very well for the day to go with "Prostitution, Lake work for evil Latin women," and other descriptions without to add votes. These supporting officials will let the people know that they consider themselves "sense," now. They do not expect to be ever elected again. They know that their political doom is sealed. Their impetuosity, extravagance, and general failure are the talk of their own party, and they will do just as they please, and defy public sentiment.

There is now, nearly a week before the proposition to turn over the Old Fort Square to a railroad company is up, no deposit guaranteed, and that to give a liquor license is persons in the Franklin Avenue showhouse can be passed upon. Time enough for reflection. Time enough for protest. If there is any wisdom left in the promoters and abettors of these schemes in the City Council, they will think deeply before committing themselves finally to projects that are clearly in the interest of individuals, and would not be endorsed, but be indignantly repudiated, by a vast majority of the general public.

ARE THE INDIANS DECREASING?

It is generally supposed that the Indians are rapidly decreasing in numbers. It is represented that the red men are going down before the sun of civilization. They are being crowded back before the advance of the "superior race," and like the buffaloes, it is thought, they will soon disappear and be known only in history.

The census returns give some little color to these views. But it is claimed by those who know that the Indian census is always incorrectly taken. Accuracy is not aimed at. To do the work in the easiest way seems to be the chief object in view of most of the enumerators. If that is true, it is not difficult to see how the scattered remnants of the land could be increased by the removal of these census agents, and the number reported fall far below the proper total.

On this question the *Atlantic Monthly* has the following to say, which is well worth considering:

"One of the most curious and widespread of all recent censuses is that relating to the American Indians. According to the Indians of North America before the search of civilization." It was an officer of the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington who made this remark. "As a matter of fact," he added, "the Indians are probably more numerous than they were when the first white man came to the country, and that they have been here in the past, and that they have been here in numbers from time immemorial."

"There are now in the United States 250,000 Indians. When Columbus landed they were about 10,000,000 or less in number. The Indians of the land have disappeared by the scores. Under such conditions we can scarcely gainsay the theory that they have been here in the past, and that they have been here in numbers from time immemorial."

In 1824 there was a great strike of coal miners in the State of Illinois.

Country stopped out on this coast so miners soon took a small population. This is the best possible reason for believing that two centuries and a half ago the Indians in what is now the United States out of the original did not exceed 250,000."

Some miners are bound on the assumption that the various miners are arrested. With this view of the situation, the miners of the coal district are increasing, and taking into account what is said in reference to the census enumeration, it may be set down as a matter of fact that the popular notion on this matter is a gross mistake.

DEATH OF AN OCTOGONARIAN.

A Notice in another column announces the death of a venerable and greatly respected lady—Mother Mary Ann Emery, who went quietly into sleep Saturday morning, January 25, 1891. The deceased was one of the oldest members of the Church, having with her husband been baptized in Canada, in 1827, only three years subsequent to its being organized in this country.

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