

ing editorially on the subject of Call's Landing (as the place was sometimes called) said: "We are satisfied that the Colorado route to and from Salt Lake City, will receive a thorough trial with flattering prospects of becoming sooner or later commercially beneficial." This view was taken in connection with the anticipated railroad across the continent, more particularly pending the completion of that road, and in view of a promised trade with the Sandwich Islands.

About the 25th of March, 1865, Captain Thomas E. Trueworthy, in conversation with Albert Carrington, then editor of the NEWS, gave an account of the opposition he, as well as others, encountered in attempting to take freight in steamers or barges above Hardy's Landing, on the Colorado. The people at this place seemed to be jealous of the prospects of the Mormon post. He says he started for Call's Landing with about one hundred tons of freight, of which 35,000 feet of lumber formed a portion, but learning that Anson Call had returned to his home in Davis county, Utah, he left his boat and cargo and came on to Salt Lake. Part of his freight he had previously discharged at La Paz. According to his estimate the distance from Hardy's to Call's Landing was 98 miles. Owing to the difficulty in procuring wood for the boats he thought it would take almost a month to make the trip from the mouth of the Colorado to Call's Landing, the rapids being the worst feature of the journey.

The Mercantile association of Salt Lake City passed resolutions about this time to do all in their power to demonstrate the feasibility of the Colorado route from Southern California to this city.

A letter dated June 19th, 1863, written by Jos. W. Young, giving an account of his travels through "our Dixie," incidentally mentions that some of the rock salt taken from the mountains between St. Thomas and the Colorado river had been taken down that stream in barges to Fort Mohave and other places.

The approach and advent of the Pacific railroad appears to have given the place its quietus; for it finally seems, from an article published in the NEWS of June 16th, 1869, that Callville had then been abandoned or left unprotected, as, from the mail carrier of St. George, it was learned that three horse thieves from St. George had made their way to the station, wrenched four large doors from the warehouse there, constructed a raft with them, and, leaving their horses and surplus luggage upon the bank, had launched out upon the turbulent stream; whether they survived the perilous journey was not known.

Elder Andrew Jenson, who kindly points out these references in early volumes of the NEWS, furnishes the following additional information:

"When I visited old St. Thomas on the Muddy, in Lincoln county, Nevada, in 1892, I learned that the walls of the old warehouse at Call's Landing were still standing. There are not, and never were, any facilities for a farming settlement at that point, as the surrounding country on both sides of the Colorado river is barren, sandy, broken and absolutely useless for

agricultural purposes. There is a small flat consisting of a few acres near the landing, covered with a weed known in that country as "meskeet," [mesquit?] and around a point some distance below the landing there is another flat, embracing several hundred acres; but it was not brought under cultivation by the Mormon settlers. The only object had in view in locating Call's Landing was to take advantage of the facilities for navigation up the Colorado river. The only buildings of importance ever erected there were the warehouse, standing about twenty feet from the bank of the river and a dwelling house for the accommodation of the people who had charge of the landing. No mention is made of Call's Landing in the records of the Muddy Mission."

#### A PROPER FAILURE.

The big land sale in Merced county, California, recorded in the NEWS of the 16th inst., is the culminating point in the overthrow of a scheme which practically sought to make land the chattel of irrigating water, instead of having the water right belong to the land. It is a matter of commendation in the West that every scheme of this kind, no matter how strongly it may be backed by capital, has been reduced to failure by independence of the mass of the people. Cultivators and small land holders have in the main refused to enter into a perpetual servitude to great water monopolies.

The land sale referred to was of 4500 acres of land and the interest of C. H. Huffman in the Crocker-Huffman Land and Water company of California. This company owned 40,000 acres of land and an immense canal, the total cost of which was over \$3,000,000. With the retirement of Mr. Huffman, who received \$2,000,000 for his share, the policy of the company will undergo a radical change. When the company was organized, the idea was to create a permanent water-holding for irrigation purposes, to which the land would be always tribute. An immense canal, extending for twenty-four miles, was constructed and enough water was diverted from the Merced river to irrigate 400,000 acres of land. An immense reservoir was constructed, from which many miles of distributing canals radiated through the surrounding country.

The plan of Mr. Huffman was never to sell the water outright, but to make the land-owner sign a contract to take the water perpetually at a fixed rental of \$1 an acre annually. This contract was a perpetual incumbrance upon the land and could not be abrogated. Whether the tiller of the soil wanted the water or not he was compelled to pay for it. But bad as the people needed the irrigating water, they would not take it on such terms, and comparatively few sales were made.

The company had also acquired the tract of 40,000 acres, and made great efforts to sell it with the water rental attached. Local buyers would not take it, so a great boom was got up, and people came all the way from New England to take in what, aside from the rental, would have been good bargains. They liked the lands, admired the prospect, and praised the abundance

of the water supply; but they refused to buy on the terms offered. The sale was a failure, and the land remained on the market without buyers.

In this situation the water flowed peacefully through the great canal without profit to the company or benefit to the land. The magnificent irrigation system was there, but it was almost in a state of disuse. It was a hindrance to the prosperity of that section of the country—a sort of oppressive nightmare. The present owners announce, however, that they will proceed upon entirely different lines. The land will be divided into small holdings and sold with inalienable water rights attached. Holders of the other land will be able to purchase water rights in fee simple, so that the land owners will become owners of the canal.

The latter is the only scheme that can be operated in an irrigating country for the success of the farmer. The natural and equitable method is that the land owner may acquire title to the water. If ownership by a monopoly is an enforced condition, so that users must pay a rental, it follows of necessity that water takers are subjected to a measure of slavery. In this part of the country, though schemes have not been quite so elaborate as the Crocker-Huffman enterprise, where they have been of the same nature they either have failed or are doomed to do so. It is a matter of satisfaction and justice that those who engage in great enterprises should receive due reward for their energy. But there is a limit to their prerogatives, and that is reached when the perpetual water rental is insisted upon. At this point the Crocker-Huffman plan failed, and so should others. The people in this section of the country, whether in cities, towns or irrigation districts, should own, or should at least have the privilege of owning, the water right for their lands, and not be enforced renters of that without which their lands would be valueless.

#### PRECARIOUS TIMES IN EUROPE.

If the war cloud which seems to overcast the face of Europe just now is not genuine, it at least looks like it, and that is more than can be said of the ordinary threatenings from that quarter. Spain, and possibly Italy, are in a position not so very far removed from that of France just previous to that most terrible of revolutions. Both of the nations named are reported bankrupt, with enormous debts now due. In addition to this, the people to whom the sovereigns would necessarily look for succor, are destitute, many of them in a state of slow starvation. France had just such a people for a dependence when it was in a similar strait for ready cash.

The king applied the usual remedy of heavier taxes. They responded with the torch, and finally the guillotine. There is little probability that Italy or Spain will repeat this dangerous experiment. But as affairs are progressing they will not have so very much time to consider what is best to do. If their thrones were on pedestals of dynamite their conditions would be no more precarious. In Spain