

Whenever the Priesthood has been upon earth this law has been in effect that the Saints might observe it and partake of the blessings which result therefrom.

The object to which tithes are devoted is to the establishment of Zion—the building of houses to the Lord and such other purposes as are designated by the voice of revelation for the building up of the Kingdom of God. The Lord is to “suddenly come to His Temple” in the last days; and in these sacred edifices are administered ordinances of the Gospel for the salvation of the living and the dead, and instructions are given to prepare the Saints for a residence in the presence of God. The erection of temples and the carrying on of other works necessary to establish the foundations of Zion cannot be done without the means necessary for their accomplishment. The funds are provided by the tithes of the Saints.

Payment of tithes is voluntary. Each person has his agency to receive or reject the law. If those who have taken upon themselves the covenant of the Gospel, keep the commandments of God, blessings and not cursings will attend them; if they do not heed His word, an opposite result will follow. For the liquidation of expenses that are to be met by the tithes, it would not do to leave to the generosity of the people the proportion of their means which should be contributed. Some would give liberally, while others would be more or less controlled by selfish motives, and thus an inequality would be caused by a difference in disposition. Such a rule would be unjust, not being based upon the ability of the individual to impart of his substance.

Man is not made the judge of the proportion that is required by the Lord; he is not the framer of the law. The finite mind is not to prescribe the rules which govern the Infinite, for such a procedure would destroy the control by the Almighty and be subversive of the principles of truth. The Lord gives the law; He sets the bounds and declares what is the true principle or doctrine. Man may obey or disregard the divine word, and abide the consequences of his choice. The Almighty has said He requires a tithe or tenth, and applies the law equally to all. The principle is the same today that it was anciently under the same conditions; a change would have been inconsistent. With the restoration of the Gospel in this age came the revelation to the Saints to pay one-tenth of their interest annually as a tithe, for the purposes named. The Saints are exhorted by the Lord to remember the poor, and to consecrate of their properties for their support. He says: “Behold, now it is called today, and verily it is a day of tithing for my people,” and informs us that He has tithed His Saints “to prepare them against the day of vengeance and burning.”

The Latter-day Saints have had the blessings of heaven poured out upon them because of their observance of this law. This is conclusively shown by the prosperity which attends them at their gathering places. They are called by the nations blessed in their material affairs, as was Israel of old, and the land

which was a desert when they first occupied it, indeed has blossomed as a rose and become choice above all other lands through the fulfillment of the promises of the Lord to a people who have kept the law.

In the face of such evidences of the Lord's blessings and the revelations He has given, to conclude that salvation does not in any degree depend upon the principle of tithing, or to say that it is an unimportant or unnecessary ordinance, is to contradict an evident fact. Tithing, like all other doctrines of the Gospel, is worthy the most serious consideration of every member of the Church, to know its purpose, understand the necessity of keeping its conditions, and render intelligent obedience to its requirements. No member of the Church is exempt from its provisions or excluded from its benefits when he observes it. All who earn, all who receive an increase of this world's goods, are under the law of tithing, paid voluntarily as a free-will offering to the Lord. Those who comply with it are to receive blessings from the opened windows of heaven in time and eternity. True believers in Christ Jesus will unhesitatingly pursue a course to prove that where men honor the Lord He never fails in fulfilling His promises, but is a rewarder of all that diligently seek Him and keep His commandments.

GRAND AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES.

There will be placed before the Legislature early in the session a proposition to change the boundary line between Grand and San Juan counties. The effect will be to enlarge Grand by a considerable slice off San Juan. The present southern boundary of Grand is on latitude 38 deg. 30 min., on a line with the northern boundary of Wayne county. The change sought is to extend Grand about twenty-five miles to the south, on a line with the southern boundary of Wayne, along the sixth standard parallel.

The arguments used in favor of the alteration in county lines is that the division would be more natural because of the topography of the country, and that the occupiers of the tract proposed to be transferred are in favor of it. Moab, the county seat of Grand, and Bluff City, county seat of San Juan, are both near the southern boundaries of their respective counties. It is a long and difficult trip for the people in north San Juan to go to their county seat, while in case the suggested alteration were made they would be quite close and convenient to Moab.

The proposed new line does not go as far south as the summit of the mountain range and thus make a strictly natural division on topographical lines, but it is stated that it goes so far up the chain of hills as to include all habitable country, leaving to the north of the summit only a comparatively small range for cattle, horses and sheep, the possession of which would be a matter of small moment to either county.

There is one objection which may be urged on the face of the showing made in the suggested change. In depriving San Juan county of a strip of country twenty-five or more miles wide and giving it to Grand county,

there would be taken from San Juan a considerable portion of its revenue, derived from taxes on the extensive ranches and herds of stock in that section. Grand county is fairly well provided for already in the matter of taxable property, in proportion to its population, and has the advantage of a considerable section of the Rio Grande Western railway. But if the convenience of the people residing on the tract in question requires the transfer, the particular county that gets the revenue is a matter of secondary importance.

As a rule, it is inadvisable to frequently change the boundaries of counties. In the present instance, however, those who are moving for action by the Legislature make a good showing in behalf of their proposition. The arguments in its favor will be placed before the legislators at the earliest possible date, for their consideration. Whether or not San Juan county will raise any objections to being reduced in area in the manner indicated has not been developed yet. If the officials and residents there do not take kindly to the move, they should make an early presentation of their reasons for opposing it.

DON'T BE RASH.

Promptness in seizing opportunities is as necessary to the success of a community as to that of an individual. It is always an indication of energy and courage, and these two qualities are as potent in the accomplishment of every purpose as any that mankind is gifted with. Yet there is no real safety in energy which is not associated with judgment, nor in courage untempered with sagacity. It frequently happens, therefore, that promptness is nothing more than recklessness, and that sober sense is rendered silly by enthusiasm.

Every community that has no railroad is probably anxious to get one. Almost every community that has already one railroad—no matter whether one horse can do their work quite as well as two and at half the expense for feed—is keen to get the second one. There are certain kinds of property—money and railroads among them—of which the more a people get, the more they want. Nor is this desire, even when it reaches the virulent stage of avarice, altogether to be condemned. To strain, and sweat, and grasp, in the accumulation of means, is not wholly bad, though there may be grinding and miserly methods employed. Means thus acquired will usually benefit someone in the end; and the example furnishes both a good lesson in industry and economy, and a grim warning against cupidity and inhumanity.

So, we applaud the efforts of any community to acquire the untold benefits that come of railroad connection with the rest of the world. We also applaud the reasonable endeavors of any community, already thus favored, to secure by new railroad connections an escape from the monopoly they may be suffering under. But all things in calmness, and with due regard to the sound principles of business sense! It has seemed to the NEWS that some of our southern friends just now need,