

doubtful Territories, and he had his way.

As to Idaho's chances, everything depends upon the kind of constitution she will adopt. If the infamous test oath be retained, by means of which men fully qualified for the privileges of citizenship are denied every one of them but those of owning property and paying taxes, the chances are that the "Gem of the Mountains" will remain an unpolished gem so far as Statehood is concerned for some years yet. No enabling act has been passed for her benefit, and Congress is thus under no special agreement to receive the Territory into the confederation. It is quite likely that there are enough Republicans opposed to an invidious and unjust test oath, albeit designed for the sole purpose of converting a Democratic into a Republican Territory, to unite with the great body of their opponents in opposing such a provision, and thus Idaho's constitutional convention labors would be in vain.

If, however, better counsels shall prevail and religious tests—any form of which is forbidden by the Constitution of the country—shall be omitted; if a charter whose provisions are equal and republican, ostracising none for opinion's sake, and conferring no special privileges, shall be adopted—it is a fair presumption that if the difficulty as to lack of population can be overcome, the State of Idaho will be reflexed upon the flag at the same time the other stars appear there. Idaho contains or contained a Democratic majority of from 2000 to 5000; how it would stand now if all who are constitutionally entitled to it could vote, cannot be told at present.

Arizona and New Mexico will have to wait a year or two longer at least, the former because it has not sufficient population and the latter because it is not, as is claimed, sufficiently advanced in the matter of civilization.

THE COMPLAINT AND THE REMEDY.

The present scarcity of water is deplorable for many reasons. One is, it gives occasion for much complaint and many unreasonable and untruthful charges against public officers.

The growler is nearly always on the popular side. It has been the custom in the world for ages to find fault with officials and to denounce those who are wealthy. The cry of the poor against the rich is a familiar sound. No doubt there have been

substantial reasons for this, and the wail of the oppressed has ascended to heaven against the mighty and the oppressor. But the people who have gathered into these valleys ought not to indulge in complaints that are groundless because that is a custom, nor mingle real grievances with those that are imaginary or invented for a purpose.

We of all people in the world should be rational and just. We should not make charges against public men which have no foundation in fact, nor rail at officials whom we have placed in position and who are striving to the best of their ability to do what appears best according to their judgment.

We believe that the City Council have made some mistakes on this vexed water question. But we do not admit for one moment that they have done so with any improper intent. We regard the water ordinance, by which assessments are made according to the area of ground possessed by the person to be benefited, as unjust and ill-advised, and that if executed it will work very great hardship upon a number of poor people. The benefits to be received from the water service bear no relation to the number of rods of ground the user holds, and therefore the principle underlying the whole scheme is fallacious. But the Council passed that ordinance in pursuance of powers and a method indicated in the latest amendments to the City Charter, and supposed the plan was proper. We believe that they now perceive it is not the right way, in view of privileges previously granted in the distribution of water. An error of judgment is very different to intentional injustice.

In the changes made from the use of City Creek water to canal water and Parley's Creek water, by which a large number of original owners of City Creek water are now completely deprived of any water at all, there was no design of evil. On the contrary, a more equitable distribution of the essential fluid was the purpose of the Council. If the natural supply had been equal to that of former years, this difficulty would not now exist. If the Council had foreseen this terrible drouth, probably the present arrangement would not have been made.

Shall we charge the scant snows of winter, which made but a small storage in the mountains, and the lack of rainfall this summer which leaves dry the valleys, to the city

officers, who suffer with the rest of us? Let us be reasonable. Get at the bottom of our troubles, if we can, and suggest sensible remedies. But let us not berate and falsely accuse our own brethren of that which is not chargeable against them. They are as anxious as anybody to relieve the situation, and they spend much time and labor to effect a change.

But there is a disturbing element in the midst of the people, working up disaffection, pandering to the popular disposition to growl, fomenting unreasonable discord, blaming men who are doing their utmost to discharge their duties, and seeking to divide the people. And what for? Just to work into the hands of the enemy and aid in a scheme to place local control in the power of the minority.

Latter-day Saints, remember that you are here to do right and build up Zion in the spirit of your religion! This is the true spirit of civil and religious liberty. It will inspire you to struggle for the right, but will not be with you in clamors and accusations that are wrong. Neither will it guide you to wisdom and peace, when you join in schemes intended to disrupt and subvert all that you have come here to build up and maintain. Do not be led into folly and evil because you are enduring some distress which to a large extent is unavoidable.

We understand it is contemplated to give temporarily the whole city, as far as possible, the benefits of City Creek water to save the trees and fruit. It is thought that by shutting off the sprinklers and other means of water issue at night, and turning the whole available stream into a given district, sufficient water can be conveyed to irrigate that district during the night. The next night it can all be turned into another district, and so on until all have had the use of a good stream one night, instead of a dribbling, trickling rill as in some parts and complete drouth as in others.

We do not know that this will be found fully practicable, but it is under consideration. If we can tide over this extraordinarily dry time, other means will be put into operation for a fuller supply for another season. The reservoir now building at the head of First South Street will be an important aid to future supply. There are other and fuller plans in contemplation. The sub-