

THE DESERET NEWS.

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Since our accession to the "Editorial Chair" and entering upon the duties devolved upon us, in the new sphere of action thus placed in, we have, in consequence of the multiplicity of business and other duties we have had to perform, had but little time for reflection, consequently, have not realized, to any great extent, the responsibilities attaching to the position we are occupying. However, the conclusions have been irresistible, so far as the limited time allotted for examining into the existing state of things has permitted, that the responsibilities are of a different nature entirely from those that have attached to any other position we have heretofore occupied in public life, and that much wisdom will be needed and much labor have to be performed, in order to successfully and faithfully discharge the duties required of us in this new field of labor.

Before the change in the editorial department transpired the first number of the current volume was nearly ready for the press, and on examination we found that our old and long-tried friend and predecessor, Professor Carington, had provided a goodly stock of selected matter for future use, which has been a material aid to us thus far, and for which we have been thankful.

Hereafter we have to depend upon our own exertions to supply our readers with that variety of original and selected articles as their varied tastes may seem to require, or rather such as will please our own; for in all our intercourse and associations with mankind we have never studied to please others at the sacrifice of principle, nor changed the course previously pursued, until we became thoroughly convinced that it was injudicious and a better one could be adopted; and to do so now under existing circumstances would be folly in the superlative degree.

Inquiries have frequently been made, as to the course we intend pursuing in relation to those who are continually exerting themselves to bring evil upon the citizens of Utah, by every means in their power, and to divest them of every constitutional right. In reply, we wish to say to those making such interrogations—if it will be any satisfaction to them to know—that if those who are thus engaged, whether they are citizens or sojourners, officials or private individuals, do not use themselves up, fast enough to suit the times, and for all necessary purposes, we may occasionally aid them in so doing; but from the past and from what is daily transpiring here and elsewhere—unless we are mistaken in the signs of the times—there seems to be little or no prospect of our services being required in the premises.

To spend time or money in correcting evils that are in a fair way to correct themselves would be futile, and no sensible person ever engages in business of that kind. In these days when there is not much delay, in having the measure that is meted out by men measured back to them again, a little consideration and patience will convince any rational mind that there is not much use in pitching into everything that comes in contact with prepossessed notions and opinions of right and wrong, and giving it *Jessie*; and we have generally looked upon those who pursued a course of that kind as being more or less afflicted with insanity.

It is true that the circumstances that have surrounded the citizens of this Territory, especially those in this part of it, for some time past, have not been so very pleasing in their nature, and many things have transpired that have been grievous to be borne, but when rightly understood these occurrences will result in good, to those who love the truth and adhere to the same under all circumstances that may arise. If any good can accrue to the community who have thus been burdened, by keeping up a 'regular fire' upon those who have been instrumental in bringing about the order of things referred to, we have not been fortunate enough to see how it can be obtained.

The characters that have by misrepresentation and malfeasance been engaged either as principals or accessories, in bringing evil upon an innocent people, will sooner or later receive the reward due for the diabolical acts by them performed. There will be no failure in the payment; the last farthing will be on hand, and they will have to receive it whether the terms suit them or not. Then, why not be pa-

tient and wait till the time comes for those things to transpire which the Saints have been looking for these many years?—for it is near at hand, if there be any truth in the predictions of inspired men in ancient as well as in modern days.

In making these remarks, we do not wish to be understood that we may never be induced to say anything concerning things that are not right, as they transpire, should necessity require it, but that we intend to make the best use of time possible, and not waste any in pursuing a course that is uncalled for towards those who may be destroying themselves as fast as the Lord will permit. When men use up themselves—and there are many who do—they generally make a thorough job of it, much better than others can do for them.

The California Mail

Arrived on the evening of the 18th, by which we received news from San Francisco to the 5th of March, from New York to the 8th, and from Washington to the 11th of February. Congress had done but little up to that date. A bill organizing Dacotah and Arizona Territories was reported in the Senate on the 4th of February. The committee of ways and means of the House of Representatives had been at work early and late for some time trying to agree upon some bill, that they could report with some prospect of its meeting with favor, but no two of the nine members could agree upon any point. Some were for free trade, some for moderate, some for specific, and others for *ad valorem* duties, but could not agree as to the details.

The horrors of an empty treasury were before them, but to replenish it was no easy matter, and could not well be done without resorting to loans, or an increase in the tariff—a measure that could not be adopted without giving the lie to the reports that had been made by Secretary Cobb's subordinates, that the existing revenue laws were sufficient to keep the treasury in a healthy condition.

The Secretary, in reply to an inquiry made in accordance with a resolution which passed the House, acknowledged that the receipts for the first quarter of the current fiscal year were only about twenty-three millions, and the estimates for the other three quarters amounted to only \$37,000,000. The pension bill alone, which had passed the House, would add several millions to the expenses this year and more next; and that if the treasury notes in circulation are to be redeemed this year, which was not contemplated when making the previous estimates, it will require eighteen millions more by the end of June, and should Congress adjourn without doing something to relieve the treasury, it would be impossible to meet the current liabilities.

As a means of revenue he recommends the abolition of the franking privilege, and increasing the rates of postage to five cents, together with a modification of the tariff.

The House committee on military affairs on the 4th of Feb. referred the war debt claims of Oregon and Washington Territories to the auditor of the treasury for computation, on the same basis that government paid for supplies for the regulars during the Indian hostilities of 1855-6, and to report to the next Congress. The claims of Oregon amount to over four millions, at the rate of \$11.21 for each day's service rendered.

A bill to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public lands, presented by Mr. Grow, of Penn., passed the House of Representatives on the 1st of February. The following is a copy:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of 21 years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, shall, from and after the passage of this act, be entitled to enter, free of cost, one-quarter section of vacant and unappropriated public lands which may, at the time the application is made, be subject to private entry, at \$1.25 per acre, or a quantity equal thereto, to be located in a body, in conformity with the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the person applying for the benefit of this act shall, upon application to the Register of the land office in which he or she is about to make such entry, make affidavit before the said Register that he or she is the head of a family, or is 21 years or more of age, and that such application is made for his or her exclusive use or benefit, and those specially mentioned in this act, and not directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever; and upon making the affidavit as above required; and filing the affidavit with the Register, he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land already specified: Provided, however, That no certificate shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry; and if, at the expiration of such time, or at any time thereafter, the person making such entry, or, if he be dead, his widow, or, in case of her death, his heirs or devisee, or, in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisee, in case of her death, shall prove by two credible witnesses that he, she or they have continued to reside upon and cultivate said land, and still reside upon the same, and have not alien-

ated the same, or any part thereof, then, in such case, he, she, or they, if at that time a citizen of the United States, shall, on payment of ten dollars, be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law; And provided, further, in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child or children under twenty-one years of age, the right and the fee shall inure to the benefit of said infant child or children, and the executor, administrator, or guardian may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent, and in accordance with the laws of the State in which such children for the time being have their domicile, sell said land for the benefit of said infants, but for no other purpose; and the purchaser shall acquire the absolute title by the purchase, and be entitled to a patent from the United States.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the Register of the land office shall note all such applications on the tract-books and plats of his office, and keep a register of all such entries, and make return thereof to the General Land Office, together with the proof upon which they have been founded.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That all lands acquired under the provisions of this act shall in no event become liable to the satisfaction of any debt or debts contracted prior to the issuing of the patent therefor.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That if, at any time after filing the affidavit, as required in the second section of this act, and before the expiration of the five years aforesaid, it shall be proven, after due notice to the settler, to the satisfaction of the Register of the Land Office, that the person having filed such affidavit shall have actually changed his or her residence, or abandoned the said entry for more than six months at any time, then, and in that event, the land so entered shall revert back to the government, and be disposed of as other public lands are now by law, subject to an appeal to the General Land Office.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That no individual shall be permitted to make more than one entry under the provisions of this act; and that the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby required to prepare and issue such rules and regulations, consistent with this act, as shall be necessary and proper to carry its provisions into effect; and that the Registers and Receivers of the several Land Offices shall be entitled to receive the same compensation for any lands entered under the provisions of this act that they are now entitled to receive when the same quantity of land is entered with money, on -half to be paid by the person making the application, at the time of so doing, and the other half on the issue of the certificate by the person to whom it may be issued: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to impair or interfere in any manner whatever with existing pre-emption rights.

The New York Tribune says "That, if this bill had become a law fifteen years ago, it would have saved a vast deal of public corruption, and would have added immensely to the power and happiness of the country."

The House committee on military affairs have reported adversely to the establishment of military posts in Sonora and Chihuahua, according to the recommendation of the President; and the Senate committee on Territories have expressed themselves averse to organizing a Territorial Government for Colona, or the Pike's Peak country.

It has been reported at St. Louis, that gold in large quantities has been discovered in the region of country lying between the headwaters of the Missouri and Columbia rivers.

The House of Representatives of Massachusetts has adopted an amendment to the Constitution, requiring a residence of two years in the State before the resident can be allowed to vote at elections.

Over one thousand persons were expected to leave St. Louis for Pike's Peak gold mines early this spring.

Lord Napier's successor was expected to arrive about the end of February.

The Alton (Ill.) penitentiary was burned down on the 9th of February.

A regiment of Her Majesty's troops, the 42nd Highlanders, was expected at New York on the 5th of February, on their way to Oregon. Their kits had arrived and were in the custom-house. No British troops have been seen in that city before, since it was evacuated by them in 1783, at the close of the Revolutionary war.

THE EASTERN MAIL.—Due on the 6th, arrived on Sunday the 20th inst., about 3 p. m.—We have not as yet ascertained the cause of its detention.

The news by this mail from Washington city is not of so late a date as that received by way of California—by six days. There are two mails yet due from the East, but there are so many causes that might operate to delay the transmission, aside from deep snows and cold weather, that no calculation can be made as to the time when they may be expected to arrive. However, we firmly believe that if the mountain boys, who were employed during the fore part of the winter in carrying the mail on the route between this city and the South Pass, had been continued in the service, the mail would have been brought regularly despite of all the snow and cold weather there has been this winter in that region.

A NEW SETTLEMENT.—For several weeks past, emigrants in small companies with their families, stock and other effects having the appearance of being in transit to some other region, have been seen almost daily passing through the city, going north. On inquiring where they were bound, as it was too early in the season for them to be starting for California, and the movement attracting our attention, we ascertained that they were going to a new settlement that was being made in the north part of Weber county, between Ogden and North Willow Creek.

About one hundred families, we have since been informed, have gone or are going there this spring; about one half of them from Lehi, the balance from other places in Utah county with a few from Great Salt Lake.

The tract of land on which this company are locating is said to be a good one for stock raising as well as for grain, with plenty of water for irrigation, without which in this country farming cannot be carried on to any great extent, as there are but few localities where the ground is moist enough to grow crops, without being irrigated.

We wish those engaged in making this settlement much success in turning another portion of this sterile country into fruitful fields.

SNOW STORM.—On Saturday morning last, quite early, it commenced snowing briskly and continued without intermission till nearly sunset, with the wind blowing a good breeze from the north west, piling it up in heaps wherever there was any thing to check it, in its onward course.

Several severe storms of snow have visited this and the northern counties, since the first of February, but none equal to this; we had no means of ascertaining the exact depth of the snow which fell, as it was so badly drifted, but it must have been over one foot.

It was a melancholy time, especially to those who were short of fuel, and of feed for their animals; which in consequence of the protracted reign of winter, has been unusually severe in and about the city for many weeks.—Stock on the range must have suffered severely, as well as that which has been kept up for use during the winter.

How many more such storms may be expected this spring we cannot say; but one or two more would materially lessen the amount of stock of all kinds owned by the citizens in this and the counties north. We hope this will be the last one of the season.

THE WEATHER.—The prospects for the setting in of spring are no more favorable than they were last week.

Sunday was somewhat pleasant; and the snow which fell on Saturday melted fast.

On Monday the wind blew from the south, thawing slowly, but very chilly and disagreeable out doors.

Yesterday there was another snow storm, adding four or five inches to the depth of what remained of Saturday's issue.

The recent storms have not reached as far south as Utah valley, and report says that farmers have been plowing and sowing there for a week or more.

Tillers of the soil, in this and the northern counties, should have all things ready to commence operating as soon as the weather will permit, otherwise they will not get in their seed grain in season.

A DISGRACEFUL OCCURENCE took place in this city on Thursday evening last. A company of some eight or ten fast and headstrong young men had entered into a combination during the day to make an assault, as we have been informed, on a party that was to be held that evening, in Goddard's Hall, by some of that portion of the citizens, and sojourners, who by common acceptance, are denominated "Gentiles" in contra-distinction to the Mormons, and break it up.

Capt. Cunningham, Chief of Police, had by some means been advised of their intentions, and was on the alert to prevent them from putting their plans into execution, should they make an effort, and had a sufficient police force at hand for that purpose.

Some time in the evening they made an attempt to carry out their nefarious design, but found the police at hand ready to receive them. The mad caps made a vigorous attack upon the police, but were overpowered, and those who were not fortunate enough to make their escape, found lodgings that night in the lock-up.

The next day they were taken before his honor the Mayor and fined; but we understand that the ringleader of the band succeeded in getting away without being arrested, after drawing a pistol on Capt. Cunningham, and has fled from the city.

Such conduct should receive the severest reprobation from every good citizen, and the leader should be found and made to feel the punishment due for the offence. No matter how much men differ with others' opinion, so long as they do not infringe upon the rights and privileges guaranteed to their fellow beings in common with themselves; they should not be molested in the enjoyment of their pursuits and recreations, but should be protected against any unlawful interference with their avocations or amusements.