

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JULY 2, 1873.

MORE FIRES AND MORE FIRES.

THE most "numerous" topic in our despatches of late is that of fires, including those consuming outbuildings, houses, blocks, squares, and almost towns and cities, forests, and human life. There must be considerable malice, carelessness, or recklessness prevailing to result in such continued numbers of conflagrations, some of them of appalling extent and destructiveness. The extensive use of timber, for which there is yet no generally available substitute, is undoubtedly greatly conducive to the multiplicity and extent of the fires in this country. The restless, driving, hurrying energy of the American people impels them to adopt the readiest, which is often the most combustible, material at hand, and structures of the flimsiest description are erected thereof. This invites burning, which, once started, is so swiftly destructive that it is very difficult to save such buildings—they are like tinder for catching fire easily.

If the disposition exists to prevent fires as much as possible, more care should be exercised, and non-combustible material in the construction of buildings should be more generally employed. The exigencies of the newer portions of the country seem to demand the erection of a flimsier class of buildings by not giving time or means for the construction of more durable structures, but the custom thus induced should be resisted as much as it conveniently can be, as aside from buildings of that class proving peculiarly food for flames, they give an ephemeral character to American structures, which is in strange and unfavorable contrast to the buildings of famous nations in former ages and those of some great nations of the present day.

PROPOSED IRRIGATION CONVENTION.

THE following portion of a note from Fred. J. Stanton, C. E., dated Denver, June 17, will be interesting to our readers—

A Convention met here in Denver on June 11th, for the purpose of advancing the interests of irrigation. After a very interesting discussion it was determined to call a Convention of parties interested in the Western States and Territories to meet at San Francisco, in September. There is a great necessity for united action of the great west upon this question, and if a national project is inaugurated on a fair and legitimate basis, it is fairly presumed that Congress will grant to the various States and Territories the arid lands of the Great West, as she has formerly granted the Swamp Lands for reclamation.

No portion of the United States owes more to irrigation than does Utah. Without the assistance of that method of developing the latent fertility of the soil, this Territory never would have been settled by the large and prosperous community now found within her borders. Irrigation was the only hope for the people of this Territory to become self sustaining, and without that mode of culture the inhabitants of this region, if it ever had been settled, would have been few and far between and have been almost wholly dependent upon far distant communities for the necessities of life.

Any information or other benefits which can be obtained by general concerted action in these mountain and Pacific States and Territories, it is certainly advisable for the people of the same to endeavor to secure. The proposition for an irrigation convention at San Francisco in September is worthy of the consideration of the farmers and other citizens of this as well as other Territories and States within the region wherein irrigation is imperatively necessary to successful cultivation of the soil. The combined action of these Territories and States in Congress and otherwise could hardly fail of producing beneficial results. As to the matter of that body granting lands requiring irrigation to the several commonwealths respectively covering them, it is a thing which we have ever held to be consistent with justice, to say nothing of a generous recognition of the

value of the services to the nation of the men who, by constructing dams, digging canals and ditches, and turning the flowing streams into the fields and gardens, render the parched desert fertile and cause millions of blades of grass to spring up where none grew before.

We presume Mr. Stanton would take pleasure in corresponding with agriculturists hereabout in relation to the subject of this article.

A STEAMSHIP LINE FOR THE SOUTH.

THE Mississippi Valley, it has been said, is capable of raising sufficient food to sustain all the inhabitants of the earth, and the people of the South are agitating the important question how to most economically and profitably convey the breadstuffs raised in the valleys of the Mississippi and its tributaries to the needy inhabitants of the Old World. The Southern people are not content to send their breadstuffs and other exports by the expensive overland route via New York, and they are seriously considering the feasibility of establishing a steamship line to run between New Orleans and Liverpool or other European port or ports. It is proposed to organize a grand stock company with a capital of \$10,000,000, for the purpose of constructing a line of twenty ocean steamers of 5,000 tons burthen, not to draw more than twenty feet fully loaded, and specially adapted for carrying the grain, cotton and tobacco of the New World to the Old, and bringing emigrants from the Old World to the New. The proposition was to organize the company as speedily as possible, and then to canvass the cities of the entire Mississippi Basin, if need be, for subscriptions—not only the cities but the villages and towns, and boldly solicit even the farmers' granges for money.

It is stated that a line of barges now exists, capable of carrying down the Mississippi and landing at New Orleans 200,000 bushels of grain per week, at six cents a bushel, and with a few months' notice could greatly exceed that capacity. It is urged that "the saving to the farmers by this route thus equipped would be fully 30 cents per bushel, which would pay them about \$20 per acre more on their corn fields every year than they now get, and which would add from \$10 to \$20 per acre to the value of thousands upon thousands of farms in this valley, the produce raised upon which is now comparatively worthless."

It is also proposed "that no call upon the subscribed stock of greater than five per cent. shall ever be made, each call being sufficient to build one steamer, and that after the first steamer is built no call shall be made until she has made at least one round voyage and fully demonstrated her powers for money making."

An enterprise of this kind would be far more conducive to the prosperity of the region immediately concerned than quarreling about elections, and if the people of the South would set themselves to work in earnest to developing the resources of the country after this fashion they would soon become more prosperous than ever they were before the war.

OLD SETTLERS.—In judicial districts where anything like a fair administration of the law is had, it is an established rule that the claims of the old settlers are to be respected in the matter of water supply in the regions which are dependent on irrigation. This rule applies with equal force to new settlers up stream or down stream. The old settlers have the superior claim to sufficient water and the proper control thereof.

THIRD TERM.—Some of the papers, in their early allusions to the next presidential election, are already, probably by way of a feeler, putting forth the name of Gen. Grant for a third term. The most important qualification in the President is that he be the best man that the nation can furnish. When the time of choice shall come, if Gen. Grant prove to be that individual, the matter of a third term will be comparatively unimportant. But the other particular is all important—it is essential to the best interests of the Union.

"UTAH TROUBLES."

THE New York *Herald*, in an inflammatory, slanderous, and ridiculously supercilious article, dilates upon "The Utah Judiciary Troubles," and says that, "it devolves upon President Grant to be clear and emphatic in his support of the federal authority in that Territory, and the whole nation will endorse every constitutional means that can be devised for ridding the United States of the scandal of barbarism in Utah."

The *Herald* man doesn't know what he is talking about. He uses a few "Mormon crusade" stock phrases, waxes frothy and flippant with them, and then virtually recommends the extermination of the inhabitants of the most enterprising, industrious, peaceful, and prosperous of all the Territories. Whichever way the wind blows the *Herald* goes, if it knows, and if the "Mormons" were in the ascendant to-morrow it would be the first paper in the land to utter peans in its honor, "barbarism" or no barbarism.

What does he mean by "the scandal of barbarism in Utah?" Before the advent of what he terms "civilization" in this Territory, drunkenness was a most rare thing, burglary, highway robbery, and gartering and similar crimes were unheard of, dens of prostitution and gambling were unknown, and such and cognate establishments were not judicially encouraged. The people always were against these degrading institutions, but the purposely instituted "conflict of jurisdiction" is made to work against the well known wishes of the people and in favor of the perpetrators of all sorts of crimes.

We will say, not as the *Herald* says, that it is the duty of the President of the United States and every one else in authority to be clear and emphatic in their support of the constitution and of every constitutional and religious law, no matter whom the offenders are. But it is nobody's duty to single out any body of citizens as the objects of a ceaseless stream of vituperation and official malice. This land is wide enough for all, and the constitution is liberal enough for all to live in peace and at least a passable degree of harmony. But those political and judicial demagogues who foster petty prejudices and endeavor to inflame public opinion towards any community are the enemies of their country and should be scouted accordingly.

We repeat, what we have many times said before, that any "judicial troubles" which may exist here are simply such as have been instituted for the purpose of effecting crusades against the community that resides in these valleys, and they are agitated in Washington for the purpose of urging Congress to legislate in such a way as to deprive the citizens of their rights, in favor of the usurpative demagogues who inaugurate the difficulties. That is the substance of the whole matter, as everybody knows who has any correct idea of the affairs of this Territory. Utah has existed as a well ordered community for more than a quarter of a century, and has always been noted as a place of peace, order, industry, enterprise, and regard for wholesome law. Now half a dozen federal officials and other scoundrel persons, after they have introduced and sustained litigation, prostitution, drunkenness, gambling, etc., are trying to make the nation believe that the people at large here are barbarous, because they cannot sanction such things. These crusaders would be delighted if they could bring the whole power of Congress and the army and navy into exercise to crush the "Mormons." That is what is designed. But we have a notion that the design will fail, and that its originators and supporters will yet sink, under the weight of their own infamy, to their proper level.

BROKE HER COLLAR BONE.—A New York paper has the following:

Boston, June 19.—During the performance of "Black-eyed Susan," at the Boston Theatre, on Saturday evening, Miss Victoria Vokes, the well-known actress, fell and broke her collar-bone. The extent of her injuries was unknown even by herself, and she reappeared on the stage on Monday evening. Although suffering severely, and though informed of the nature of her injuries, she reappeared on Tuesday night and last night, when she fainted from pain, and was carried from the stage.

The Vokes family are very clever performers in the Majilton style of art.

THE following extract from the minutes of a session of the City Council, June 3, 1873, will be of interest to our city readers—

The committee on Municipal Laws, to whom was referred the Petition of Joseph Young, Sen., and forty-two others, reported that they had examined the ordinances, and that in their opinion no further legislation was necessary to prevent firing of crackers, &c., in the streets and recommendations that the Mayor cause that the sections of the ordinances relating to the subject be published. On motion of Alderman Felt the Report was received.

Here follow the sections referred to—

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PREVENTION OF FIRES.

SEC. 1. Be it ordained by the City Council of Great Salt Lake City, that no person shall set off any fireworks, set up any stove, furnace or any other apparatus in which fire is to be kept, or carry fire in the streets, without observing the following regulations, under penalty of not less than one, nor more than one hundred dollars for each offence.

SEC. 2. No person shall be allowed within the limits of the city to discharge or set off any rocket, squib, cracker or other fireworks, without the consent of the Mayor, specifying the time when and the place where the same may be done.

Passed January 17th, 1862.

SECTIONS OF "AN ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO DISCHARGING FIRE ARMS."

SEC. 1. Be it ordained by the City Council of Great Salt Lake City, that any person discharging guns or pistols within the limits of the City Wall of this Corporation, between the hours of sunset and sunrise, or on the Sabbath day (except in case of self defence, or any civil officer in discharge of his duty), shall be liable to pay a fine in any sum not less than one nor more than ten dollars for every such offence.

SEC. 2. Any person or persons discharging fire arms within the limits of the City Wall, without a lawful breastwork or battery for the protection of the citizens, shall be liable to a fine of not less than one, nor more than twenty-five dollars for every such offence.

Passed April 27th, 1860.

By the above it will be seen under what regulations the firing of guns, squibs, crackers, and other fireworks can be legally indulged in within the limits of the city, and to what legal consequences offenders there-against make themselves liable.

Complaints have been many and various in regard to the careless, sometimes impudent and reckless, and almost always dangerous discharge of guns, pistols, and different kinds of fireworks, generally, but especially on such occasions as the 4th and 24th of July and other similar times for emotional ebullition. Fatal accidents have occurred in this city from these causes, the number of narrow, even hair-breadth escapes has been great, while the annoyance occasioned to many parties has been far greater than anybody should be subjected to. Bullets have been heard and almost felt whistling by the persons of citizens walking in the streets, and some have lodged in the walls of the houses. This is most dangerous and reprehensible, and in case of fatal result therefrom, the perpetrator could hardly escape the legal guilt of manslaughter, to say the least.

It is in no way commendable to annoy or injure other citizens in the manifestation of patriotic enthusiasm, and if any persons, young or old, desire on the occasion of a public holiday, or at any other time to indulge in this kind of explosive demonstrations, the municipal and other legal regulations relating thereto should be respected. It is not only annoying but dangerous for crackers, squibs, guns, etc., to be let off close or near to women or children, as many of them are startled thereby, some frightened, and probably some may be injured in person or apparel. Spirited horses also, under such circumstances are likely to become frightened and run away, to the imminent danger of many persons.

Indiscriminate indulgence in this kind of recreation in the streets calls for some checks and restrictions, and we understand that the police will receive instructions to look after offenders, on the coming Fourth. Therefore those whose loyal ardor impels them to pyrotechnic displays and general powder-burning on that day, should obtain permission of the Mayor, with particulars of time and place allowed, etc., and then they may properly indulge in the same, or else they should betake themselves to Ensign Peak, or over Jordan, where they might "blaze away" to their heart's content without interruption, and with little chance of other citizens being annoyed.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 25.

CHANGE.—The Utah Southern Railroad Company have changed the order of running the mixed trains. They now leave Salt Lake City, (Sundays excepted) daily at 6-10 a.m. and 1 p.m., arriving at Sandy at 7-25 a.m. and 2-15 p.m.; leave Sandy at 9-50 a.m. and 4-50 p.m., arriving at Salt Lake at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

CROYDON.—Mr. John Toone writes from Croydon, Morgan Co., June 21st:

"The smallpox, we think, has quite gone, and to prevent its return, we have vaccinated nearly all the children in the settlement.

"Our crops look fine, and bid fair for an abundant harvest."

FOUND DEAD.—Last Sunday night, as the C. P. train from the west pulled up at the water tank near Montello, about eighteen miles this side of Toano, the body of an unknown man was discovered lying close to the tank. The man was seen alive by some men on the freight train going west about four hours previously. An inquest was held at Montello. An assayer's card, a jack-knife, and a twenty-five cent piece was all that was found on his person. It was evident that dissipation and exposure had led to his death, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly. —Ogden Junction, June 24th.

"JIM."—An Indian known by this name was put in jail last night, at the request of some of his red acquaintances, he being almost helplessly drunk. About eight Indians attended the examination, before Justice Clinton this morning. He was discharged.

It is a pity but the party or parties who gave the whisky to the poor savage could be discovered and punished. He cut some strange capers last evening. He rolled off his horse upon the ground several times.

TIMELY.—As it is proposed to build a new mining town in City Creek Canyon, the City Council, last night, instructed the City Marshal to see that the ordinance relating to nuisances, &c., be strictly enforced, the proposed site being within the city limits. This is a timely action on the part of the Council, as thousands of people are dependent on City Creek for their supplies of water for every purpose, and the prevention of the emptying of filth into that stream is therefore a positive and imperative necessity.

BEAVER COUNTY WOOLEN MILLS.—A gentleman who lately returned from a visit to the south informs us that these mills cost \$30,000. The reason the cost was so small was that the brethren who assisted to put up the building voluntarily reduced their bills 20 per cent below cash price. The building contains 300 spindles, with capacity to double that number. If run to their fullest extent the mills could turn out 300 yards of cloth per day. The building is two stories high, with a loft above, which is almost equal to another storey. About twenty-three hands are employed there. Brother John Ashworth is the Superintendent.

The goods manufactured are of good quality, and consist of light and heavy flannels, kerseys, blankets, tweeds, doeskins, &c.

The same gentleman states that he saw, at Dove Creek Fort, kept by Brother Ira Hinkley, one of the finest stud horses he ever remembers having seen before. It is French Canadian and is fifteen and three-fourths hands high. This fine animal is the property of Mr. Jos. A. Young.

CITY COUNCIL DOINGS.—The City Council held their regular meeting last night, Mayor Wells presiding.

Two additional petitions asking the Council not to license any dram or tipping shops and to prohibit, so far as they had power, the sale of spirituous liquors within the limits of the city, were presented. One had 1,550 and the other 450 signatures of citizens attached. They were handed over to the same committee as that to which the four petitions, on the same subject, presented a week ago yesterday, were referred.

The committee alluded to presented the following report on the matter of the petitions:

"To the Honorable the Mayor and City Council of Salt Lake City:

"Gentlemen—Your committee, to whom was referred the petition of Alexander McCrae and twenty-eight hundred and seventy-three others, respectfully beg leave to present the following report thereon as our conclusion, without special reference to the arguments, facts or modes of reasoning by which the same were reached by us:

"Your committee having had constantly in view the gravity of the subject matter of the petition in our deliberations thereon, and having carefully considered the prayer of said petition, and while we accord with the general sentiments as expressed therein, your committee deem it inexpedient, at the present time, to take the action solicited in the first prayer of said petition.

"Your committee would respectfully recommend the granting of the second prayer of said petition to the favorable consideration of the Council, and as a means to the end sought to be obtained in said prayer of said petition, presenting the following propositions:

"1st.—That in granting licenses for dram or tipping shops, there be inserted in the ordinance a provision limiting the sale of spirituous and malt liquors to certain hours, say from the hour of eleven o'clock a.m., to seven o'clock p.m., and this provision to be a police regulation.

"2d.—That the number of such licenses be limited, by which provision may be exercised a wholesale restraint over the sale or other disposition of such liquors.

"A. MINER,
"THEODORE MCKEAN,
"JOHN R. WILDER,
"J. B. SMITH,
"ISAAC GROO."

After the presentation of the report the committee was instructed to draft an ordinance, and, in doing so, to consider the advisability of limiting the number of drinking saloons to from twelve to fifteen, to be kept open only on week days and between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.