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LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES.

GOVERNOR MURRAY has sent to the Legislature a copy of a letter to the Secretary of the Interior from the Assistant Attorney General, referring to the unnecessary doings of the Arizona Legislature at its thirteenth session. The Governor submitted the matter to Secretary Lamont, who referred it to the Assistant Attorney General.

It appears that the Arizona Legislature made some extravagant appropriations of territorial funds. For instance, the sum of \$19,967.70 for printing, in addition to the \$2,500 appropriated for that purpose by Congress. They had fifty extra clerks, four pages, two porters and two doorkeepers, besides the regular officers whose pay is provided by Congress. These clerks were paid from \$4 to \$18 each per day; the pages \$6 per day. Over \$3,000 was expended for newspapers, and over money for the House was given \$80, and each member of the Council \$60, in excess of the per diem paid by the Government, under the head of "expenses not paid for by the United States." Of course much of this was wrong and contrary to law, and the letter pronounces the appropriations void.

Such extravagance and excess of authority, of course, to be condemned. But we think the Government Attorney has gone to extremes in his learned opinion. He cites the rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States on the powers of Congress over the Territories, quotes from the laws of Congress in relation to legislative expenses in the Territories, and concludes that the Territorial Legislatures have no authority to make any expenditure whatever for legislative expenses beyond the appropriation by Congress for those purposes.

A critical examination of those laws does not fully bear out the opinion of the Attorney, and it certainly does not accord with good sense. That the members of a Territory, or a Territory, cannot vote for themselves any law, is clear and well known. We think, indisputable. Section 355 of the Revised Statutes provides that "No law of any Territorial Legislature shall be made or enforced by which the Governor or Secretary of a Territory, or the members or officers of any Territorial Legislature, are paid any compensation other than that provided by the laws of the United States."

Congress regularly appropriates a certain amount for legislative expenses, and by law has provided for the number of members and officers of each House, and specified that "No greater number of officers or clerks per diem shall be paid or allowed by the United States to any Territory." Also that "In no case shall the expenditure for public printing in any of the Territories exceed the sum of \$2,500 for any one year."

These two clauses have been usually construed together. Out of the money appropriated by Congress on \$2,500 can be paid out for printing, as is stated per diem for the stated number of members and officers can be paid. But to say that such printing as may be absolutely necessary for the convenience of the Assembly, and such extra clerk hire as is indispensable to the transaction of business within the time limited by law, cannot be paid for by the people's representatives out of the people's own money, is preposterous and contrary to usage in all the Territories for many years. Would \$2,500 pay for the compilation and printing of the revised laws of Utah? If the amount appropriated out of the National Treasury falls short of meeting actual, necessary expenses, cannot the people use their own money to supply a bona fide deficiency?

Congress, in a fit of paroxysm, cut down the number of members and the number of officers, and the amount to be used for printing, making no provision for the printing of the daily minutes and other necessary work. It was all done in ignorance of the needs of the Territories, and would have seriously impeded legislation if the Legislatures had no means to supply the deficiency. But what Congress failed to supply the Legislatures have been able to appropriate, without doing violence to the spirit or the letter of the Act of Congress directing the expenditure of Government money.

If the Legislature make an appropriation for needed purposes, which is signed by the Governor, how is Congress to stop the expenditure? The Governor may check extravagance, the people may take measures to prevent the waste of their public funds, but by what means, by what right is that expenditure to be stopped which the people approve and is useful for the public welfare?

Arizona has evidently been cursed with a set of wasteful and lecherous legislators, and they have clearly overstepped the bounds of the law. But that is no reason why any attempt should be made to cripple an honest legislative body, or prevent the expenditure of local funds for actual public needs.

It is an undeniable fact that the amount limited by Congress for printing is not sufficient for actual necessities. Also that extra clerk hire is indispensable, especially in the latter part of the session. The law specifies that only \$2,500 can be used for printing, but it does not say that extra clerk hire shall not be paid for out of the Congressional appropriation. The extra clerks are not officers of the Assembly.

It would be proper for the Secretary of the Territory to acquaint the Legislature with the details of his expenditure of funds appropriated for legislative purposes. We understand that he has managed by economy to keep considerably within the limits of the amount of appropriations, and has recovered some into the National Treasury. The Legislature perhaps has no means of compelling a report, but if he is unwilling to do so voluntarily, it could no doubt be proposed that proper means are taken to obtain it. All the needless expenses of the Legislature should be met from some quarter, and if the Territorial funds may not be used for any legislative expenses, the money in the hands of the Secretary not otherwise appropriated should be utilized for the purpose.

There is no parallel between the economy of the Utah Assembly and the extravagance and clearly unlawful expenditures of the Arizona Legislature, and if there was only proper harmony between the Governor and the Assembly there would be no need to discuss the right of our legislators to provide for the absolute necessities to effective legislation.

TAX BILL AGAIN.

The Legislature should give the Governor one more chance on the bill. As in his message the chief excuse he offered for not signing the bill was that "a defendant convicted of murder in the second degree, or guilty of rape and other infamous crimes" may prosecute an appeal and "be turned loose upon society." Let a new bill be prepared making bail discretionary with the court in the cases of felonies, lesser description and in all cases of misdemeanors. This will bring the matter down to a smaller compass, and give our captions executive a further chance to put himself upon the record. This may bring forth those "other reasons" which he thought proper to conceal, and perhaps the real animus which prompted the veto will be clearly exhibited. By all means let the Assembly "try it over." Protection against judicial spite is a necessity in Utah, and it ought to be afforded. Against gubernatorial spite, of course, there is no safeguard.

The foregoing was laid over through the press of other papers up to date. On Jan. 10, 1856, Senator Joseph A. West has introduced a modified bill, which we hope will receive immediate attention and be quickly forwarded to the Governor, that he may have plenty of time to consider it and show just where he stands on a question of simple justice and right.

THE LEGISLATURE.

COUNCIL—JAN. 23.

At 1 p.m. after the formal opening ceremonies the lounge of Wednesday was read and approved.

Mr. Francis, from the committee of finance, reported a bill to re-enact back the position of A. E. Morison, Assessor and Collector of Sanpete, and recommended that the bill be allowed him and that said amount be placed in the general appropriation bill.

Mr. Page, from the committee of the city of Salt Lake, reported a bill to the Senate, asking for \$10,000 for roads and bridges, and recommended that the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated to the city of Salt Lake.

The special order of the day, C. F. No. 14, a bill for apportioning the representation of the Legislative Assembly among the counties, was called up, and on motion of Mr. Barton made the special order for Tuesday.

A communication was received from the House, announcing that they had appointed a committee, consisting of Mr. King and Land, to act and examine and destroy the redeemed Auditor's warrants.

Mr. Sharp was opposed to destroying the warrants. They should be preserved and laid away for future reference.

Mr. Brown and Page thought they should be preserved as least until after the committee had examined the warrants, made their report and had it read.

Mr. Garroway moved that the communication be referred to the committee of the city of Salt Lake, and the bill be referred to the committee on judiciary.

Mr. Howell presented a bill amending an act incorporating the city of Salt Lake, read and referred to the committee on municipal corporations on Monday.

Mr. King presented a bill in relation to bills, which was read the third time and referred to the committee on judiciary.

Mr. Garroway moved that when this bill is read the third time, it be referred to the committee on judiciary.

C. F. No. 19, a bill for the selection and payment of jurors, was read the third time and amended by inserting the words "and fifteen days" and fifteen cents mileage. The bill passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell moved to provide for the removal of the names of the members of the House adjourned to be till Monday, at 2 p.m., carried.

C. F. No. 19, amending section 18, concerning the laws of 1854, was read the third time.

Mr. Cree spoke briefly in opposition to the bill and was sustained. After the bill was read again, and it was voted to pass, it was adjourned to the order of the day for Tuesday next.

Council notified the House that it had passed C. F. 18, and adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday next.

Another Land Bill—More Stringent Provisions.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The Senate committee on public lands, which has been giving its attention to the subject of the condition of the land laws in the various territories, has recommended and referred to the committee on judiciary.

C. F. No. 15, a bill defining the boundaries and surveying disputed county boundaries, was read and referred to the committee of the House in opposition.

Mr. Sharp moved that it was unjust, and argued that it was unfair, and it was passed without hardship and injustice.

Council notified the House that it had passed C. F. 15, and adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday next.

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN. LATEST BY LIGHTNING.

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