

Doings of the Legislature.

On Wednesday the 18th, in the Council, Mr. Woodruff presented a bill for "An act concerning the collection and payment by the Territory of Utah, her apportionment of the direct tax, apportioned by Act of Congress, approved Aug. 5, 1861," which passed its first reading.

A memorial to Congress for the donation of public lands to settlers and for educational purposes was presented by Mr. Smith, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Richards presented a resolution which was adopted, requesting the Governor to inform the Legislature if the Government intends stationing troops in Utah for the protection of the stations and property of the Overland Mail Company, or for any other purpose.

The bill providing for the holding of a convention for the formation of a Constitution and State Government was returned from the House and the amendments concurred in.

In the House, Mr. Holbrook, chairman of the committee on incorporations, to whom was referred the motion of Mr. Snow on the 13th inst., to take into consideration the propriety of reporting an act to repeal or modify all city charters, reported a bill for an act to repeal certain city charters, which was read and laid on the table to come up in its order.

The Council bill, providing for a convention, was taken up and passed with amendments and returned to the Council for concurrence.

There were other matters up for consideration but none of general interest.

In Council, on Thursday, the 19th, a communication was received from the Governor, informing the Council that he had no information in his possession relative to the subject of their inquiry, and he did not know whether the Government intended to extend protection to the Overland Mail Company or not, by stationing troops along the route.

Mr. Smith presented a memorial to Congress for semi-weekly mail service from Fillmore to San Bernardino, which was adopted and sent to the House for concurrence.

A resolution was adopted requesting the Secretary of the Territory to furnish the members of the Legislative Assembly with a copy of the DESERET NEWS during the present session.

A resolution for the examination of the route and the establishment of a Territorial road from Layton's, in Davis county, to Willard, in Box Elder county.

In the House, the committee on elections was instructed to report at an early day the number and kind of offices to be filled by the joint vote of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Smith, chairman of the committee on counties, reported a bill for an act further defining the duties of stray-pound keepers and for other purposes, which was read and ordered to be printed.

A resolution was passed requesting the Secretary to furnish the House and its officers with papers during the session.

The bill providing for the repeal of certain city charters and the modification of others was up for consideration and some progress made with it, when the House adjourned.

On Friday the 20th, in the Council, Mr. Snow presented a petition from the Mayor and City Council of Great Salt Lake City, praying for an amendment of the charter of said city, which was read and referred to the committee on incorporations with instructions to report a bill in accordance with the petition.

The resolution passed by the House, in relation to locating a road from Kaysville to Box Elder, was taken up, amended and referred back to the committee on roads, bridges, ferries and canyons, with instructions to present a bill authorizing the Territorial Road commissioner to locate a road, in Davis, Weber and Box Elder counties.

The bill for an act concerning the collection and payment by the Territory of Utah, her apportionment of the direct tax, apportioned by act of Congress, approved Aug. 5, 1861, was taken up on its second reading, and pending its consideration, the Council adjourned till Monday at 1 p.m.

In the House, the memorial to Congress for semi-weekly mail service from Fillmore to San Bernardino, California, which had been adopted by the Council, was taken up, read and adopted.

The bill for an act to repeal certain city charters was taken up on its third reading, and the further consideration thereof, on motion of Mr. Maughan, was postponed till the third day of January next.

On motion of Mr. Rockwood, the committee on education was instructed to take into consideration the propriety of creating the office of Territorial Historian.

Mr. Clawson, in behalf of the committee on printing, reported that they had waited on Secretary Fuller, in relation to his furnishing the members and officers of the Legislative Assembly with newspapers, and he had informed them that he did not feel at liberty to furnish papers to the extent asked for, but that he would take pleasure in furnishing them each with a copy of the DESERET NEWS during the session.

Mr. Farr, chairman of the committee on elections, reported a list of the number and kind of offices made elective by joint vote of the Legislative Assembly, which was read and referred back for further consideration.

Some other matters of minor importance were under consideration, and an adjournment taken till Monday the 23d at 1 p.m.

Miscellaneous Eastern News Items.

On the 18th of November a convention, so called, was held at Hat eras Inlet, in possession of the Union forces, in which forty-five counties of the State of North Carolina were represented, principally by proxies, which adopted a provisional government; repudiated secession; acknowledged the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land; declared vacant all State offices; appointed a provisional governor; declared the constitution and laws of the State in force, and provided for having the State represented in Congress, and made provisions for setting the wheels of the government, thus constituted, in motion on the sand-bar on which the place is situated. The whole concern, got up for effect, was evidently much of a humbug.

Captain David R. Porter, of the navy, was in New York a few weeks since getting together the materials for another expedition to the Southern coast. His destination was not known, but being of fighting stock it is expected that he will make a mark wherever he goes. There were about eighty government vessels in New York harbor most of which were ready for sailing, and others preparing for service.

On the 22d, Judge Thos. S. Richards was shot through a window of the Court House in Memphis, Scotland county, Mo., while confined as a prisoner in the hands of Colonel Moore, of the Home Guards. Colonel Moore offered a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the assassin.

The report of Major Belger, Quarter-master at Baltimore, made the last of November, shows that he had, within the thirty preceding days, dispatched on an average two thousand tons of forage per day from Baltimore to Washington by rail.

News had been received at Washington from Ship Island to November 15th. The fortifications there had been completed. The mutineer soldiers, stationed at Tortugas were in good condition at latest dates. They were kept under strict discipline. A mutinous delegation from Col. Wilson's Zouaves, on Santa Rosa, had recently arrived. They had a great aversion to hard labor at first, but they soon became submissive.

Henry Fry and Jacob Henzler, Unionists, were hung at Greenville, Tenn., on the 30th of November for bridge-burning.

The Commercial's Frankfort dispatch says that although every act in the legislative proceedings shows a most loyal feeling, nothing of general interest had transpired.

The expulsion of the traitor Breckinridge from Congress had given great satisfaction. Many were aspiring to succeed him, among whom were James Guthrie, Joshua E. Bell, George Robertson, Nat. Wolfe, and Garrett Davis.

Zollicoffer was on the south side of Cumberland river, seven miles from Somerset, with 7,500 men, and some good artillery. General Schoef was on the north side and would be ready to engage him as soon as the river receded.

Acc. ups from South Carolina state that the planters on the seaboard were hourly applying the torch to their crops of cotton and

rice. Along the coast there was one sheet of flame and smoke.

Many military companies in New Orleans were volunteering for thirty days service at Columbus, Ky.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 5th says that it was currently reported that General Floyd's command had been ordered to another important post for duty.

A Nashville telegram says that Gen. Floyd had fallen back to within thirty miles of the Virginia and East Tennessee Railroad.

By advices from the southwest it was rumored that Ben McCulloch had gone into winter quarters on Pea Ridge, near Bentonville, Benton county, Arkansas, and was putting up barracks for his troops.

The Norfolk Day Book of the 5th contained a message from Governor Letcher, the main point of which was his regret that Fortress Monroe is not in the possession of the Confederate States.

The rebel Congress, at its session on the 31 inst., passed a resolution of thanks to Gen. Sterling Price for his active services in Missouri during the campaign.

Gov. Letcher urges a forward movement. He says the banks of the Potomac is not the place to fight, but the banks of the Susquehanna.

A Washington dispatch of the 5th says that an old law in force there had prevented all colored persons, slaves or free, from leaving Washington without suitable passes from the authorities. On that day a bill was introduced in the House repealing this law, and allowing them to go and come as other people.

Lieutenant Colonel Reynolds has been appointed "resident agent" at Port Royal, under the general regulations relative to securing and disposing of the property found or brought within the territory now or hereafter occupied by the United States forces in the disloyal States. He has been ordered to report to the Secretary of the Treasury.

It is stated that the plain black uniform prescribed by military regulations does not please a number of chaplains, who, having sported shoulder straps and gilt buttons, are loth to relinquish them.

Gen. McClellan has urged upon Gen. Ripley the necessity of having additional light artillery of bronze, iron field pieces being too heavy for rapid transportation over the roads of Virginia, which are very muddy at this season of the year. It was expected that the order for their construction would be issued immediately.

Lieut. Hare, of the Thirty-first New York Regiment, was arrested and brought to Washington on the 6th, charged with sleeping on his post while on picket duty. It was thought that in view of the strict order of General McClellan in this respect that he would meet with the full penalty, that of death.

In the Legislature of Kentucky on the 6th, E. F. Burn offered a series of resolutions, including a demand on the Federal Government for the return to Kentucky of ex-Governor Moorehead and other political prisoners, and affirming that the President's message foreshadowed the impossibility of preserving or reconstructing the Federal Union; which were referred to the committee on Federal Relations.

The Louisville papers condemn the policy of Secretary Cameron, in reference to the emancipation and prospective arming of the slaves, and the Journal says the President is equally censurable.

The Governor's Veto.

For the benefit of all whom it may concern, we publish the communication of his Excellency Governor Dawson to the Legislative Assembly, assigning his reasons for the non-approval of the act to provide for a Convention of Delegates for the formation of a constitution and State government, and also his communication in relation to the Memorial to Congress praying for the admission of Utah into the Federal Union as a State.

On the first reading of the documents before they were put in type, we thought of exposing the fallacy of the doctrines and principles therein contained, but on the second reading we became thoroughly convinced that no exposition or refutation was necessary, and that ink and paper would be wasted in so doing. It is, therefore, submitted to the public for their consideration, without note or comment, only asking Young Americans, or, to be quotable "men of Utah," what think you of the veto?

Postage in Utah.

Extract of a letter from Hon. John M. Bernhisel to President B. Young.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30th, 1861.

I have had an interview, this morning, with the Hon. Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General, also with the First Assistant Postmaster, in relation to the TEN CENT postage charged at Salt Lake City on letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, and I have the satisfaction to inform you that it resulted in the issuing of an order for a letter to be written to Mr. Postmaster Bell, instructing him to charge only THREE cents on letters of the above mentioned weight.

We take pleasure in giving publicity to the foregoing, as the construction that was given by Mr. Bell, Postmaster in this city, to the postage law which went into operation on the 1st of July last, so far as related to the postage on letters sent from or to this Territory, has operated very injuriously to the citizens who have corresponded with friends in the East; and many, in consequence of the exact action of ten cents for the transmission of a letter not exceeding a half-ounce in weight to any State or Territory not on the Pacific, have not patronized the Post Office department very extensively during the last six months. They will now probably renew their correspondence; and, although the increased number of letters that will be mailed will somewhat increase the labors of Postmasters or their assistants, the net proceeds of the Department may not be expected to be diminished by the operation of the legal, instead of the assumed ten cent, postage arrangement.

We do not wish to cast any reflections upon the course Mr. Bell has taken in the premises. He unquestionably believed that the ten cent provision was applicable to Utah, why and how he came to that conclusion we do not know, but it has been avowed by some that the opinions of his acting predecessor and of others who favored that construction of the law, and should have been learned thereon, had some influence in the matter. Be that as it may, we certainly thought our rendition or interpretation of the provision of the act in question, published before the new law went into operation for the special benefit of all concerned was so plain and logical that it would convince every postmaster in the Territory that Utah was not "on the Pacific" and insure the exaction by postmasters of three cents only for half-ounce letters sent to any State or Territory "east of the Rocky Mountains," at least till the opinion of the Postmaster General could be had thereon.— That course should have been pursued, and if any blame attaches to the postmasters in the Territory, collectively or to any one individually, it is for not taking the necessary steps to dispel the doubt they entertained, if any there were, in relation to the matter at the earliest possible date and for not giving to those patronizing the Post office institution the benefit of those doubts until they were removed.

In the various stations we have occupied in life, we have ever endeavored to discharge the duties devolved, faithfully, without claiming any thing as our due for services rendered for the general good of community, and in this instance, while it is true that we have done more than others to have what was considered, wrong made right, the satisfaction derived from the success that has attended the effort is an ample compensation for the services performed. No unfriendly feelings have been entertained towards Mr. Bell, in consequence of the differences of opinion that have existed and we deem it due to him to say that he cordially co-operated with our delegate to effect what has been accomplished, and now endorses the Postmaster General's decision.

Rock for the Temple.

In consequence of the bad condition of the roads, for some weeks past, the hauling of rock for the Temple has been suspended, and unless there is a change for the better soon, and the highways become passable, so that the teams can be set to work again at the hauling business, the stone cutters will be out of employ, as a large portion of the rock already hauled has been fitted for the walls.

We have been informed by Mr. Sharp, superintendent of the quarrymen, that, including blacksmiths and other workmen engaged in the quarrying business, there are some twenty-five or thirty men constantly at work getting out rock, and that a large amount is now in readiness for the teams whenever the roads shall be in a suitable condition to resume hauling.