Deseret Evening News.

GEORGE Q. CANNON, Editor.

TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 18, 1868.

FLAX CULTURE.

The cultivation of flax is a subject which should command a great deal of attention from our people at the present time. Exertions have been made to produce a supply of cotton for our use, which would seem almost incredible to those unacquainted with them; and those exertions have been successful. The importance of wool growing is claiming its share of attention, with prospects that we shall, at a not distant date, have better breeds of sheep, and finer and better wool, in sufficient quantity to supply larger, and a greater number of, factories than are now in the Territory.

The manufacture of linen ought to go hand in hand with that of cotton and woolen goods. Its value for articles of clothing in a climate such as ours, especially in the summer, would be difficult to overestimate. And for a variety of purposes,—such as table linen, toweling, sheetings, &c., the home article would soon take the place of the imported material and of other fabrics now in use, its purity, beauty and durability making it much more preferable.

The first steps to the manufacture of linen is the cultivation of flax—of the plant from which the fibre is obtained. There is nothing speculative in saying that we can grow flax in this Territory, as easily as any other crop, and more profitably than many others. In the various processes through which it has to pass, from the time it is ready to pull until the fibre is in a condition to be spun, parts of the plant, which in many other products would be waste and comparatively worthless, are found to be valuable.

The seed alone forms a paying product of the cultivation of flax, being excellent for medicinal purposes, also yielding an oil the worth of which is well known, and the residuum from which forms a very superior article of food for animals. In Ireland, where its cultivation is great, the broken stem of the plant, after the fibre has been taken from it, is found useful, and the hatchelings are used in a variety of ways.

In Ireland, so justly celebrated for its linen manufactures, 175,495 acres were sown with flax in 1853, the latest date of which we have the statistics at hand. Much of the flax grown there, is, of course, worked up by machinery, in its various stages after being "retted," or exposed to the action of water for a time. But much of it is taken through all the processes by hand labor, except breaking the stem of the plant, which is often done by a large rock crusher worked by horse power. There the flax is pulled a little before it becomes fully ripe, and being tied into bundles, with flags or rushes, is placed in water with rocks placed upon it to keep it down, pond retting and stream retting being resorted to according to the facilities of the cultivator.

After remaining in the water some fourteen or fifteen days, until the stem will break and readily separate from the fibre, it is lifted and spread out to dry in the sun. When thoroughly dried it is taken to the crusher, and spread in a circle, where the ponderous roller passes over and over it, until it is sufficiently bruised for hatcheling. This latter is usually done in Ireland by females, who will work steadily, day after day, preparing the flax for the home spinner or the market. If spun and woven at home, then the members of the family wear at least their underclothing of their own manufacture, while their household linen is also so produced, and much cloth is sold to heavy buyers, bleached in the large bleach greens, and carried over much of the civilized world, commanding high prices everywhere it is sold.

The foregoing proves very conclusively that, situated as many of our people are, they are well able to cultivate flax, take it through its various processes without imported machinery, and weave their own linen, and that too, when properly done, at a less cost than they can buy imported linen.

[Special to the *Deseret Evening News*.]

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL!

ALASKA WANTS A CIVIL GOVERNMENT!

BESMARK SERIOUSLY ILL.

MORE FIGHTING IN CRETE, DEFEAT OF THE TURKS.

FIGHTING BETWEEN THE BRAZILLIANS AND PARAGUAYANS.

CHOLERA IN BUENOS AYRES.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

TRAIN'S ARREST.

DESTITUTION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

ENGLAND THREATENS TO SEIZE THE MEXICAN PORTS AND HOLD THEM FOR DEBT.

LOCOMOTIVE EXPLOSION.

LARGE INDIAN RAID FROM MONTANA AND IDAHO ON THE SWEET WATER COUNTRY.

Washington, 17.—*Senate.*—The Chair announced that Johnson was unwell and desired the vote on the admission of Thomas to be postponed until to-morrow.

Dixon presented a memorial from several Generals asking that the Secretary of War be directed to appropriate a large cannon and erect a monument to Gen. Sedgwick.

Sumner presented a memorial from German citizens asking an amendment to the constitution abolishing the office of President on the ground that it is a copy of royalty, and transferring the President's duties to a commission appointed by Congress.

Trumbull, from the Judiciary, reported a substitute for the House bill, providing that a majority of the votes actually cast on the question, also the rejection of the Constitution by the Southern States, shall decide the question, and that any person duly registered may vote in any part of the State in which he has been registered.

Trumbull introduced a bill, which was referred to the Judiciary, defining the jurisdiction of the Courts of the United States, which declares that all courts, in the administration of justice, shall be bound by the decisions of the political department of the government on political questions, and that it rests with Congress to declare what government is established, if there be one, in any State. It is farther declared that no civil governments, republican in form, exist in ten of the rebel States; and that civil governments, in either of the said States shall not be recognized as a valid or legal State government, either by the Executive or Judicial powers of the United States, until Congress shall so provide, or until such State be represented in Congress. It is further affirmed, that the reconstruction acts are political, and that no judicial tribunal is competent to question them, and the Supreme Court is hereby prohibited from taking jurisdiction in any case growing out of the execution of said acts in either of the said States, until such States are represented in Congress, or until Congress shall recognize such Government, as republican in form;—and that all such cases pending in said courts shall be dismissed, and that all acts authorizing an appeal on a writ of error, or on habeas corpus or other proceedings, being before said Supreme Court for review, or any case, civil or criminal, or other proceeding arising out of the execution of said reconstruction acts, or authorizing an appeal from the Circuit Court in habeas corpus proceedings, to the Supreme Court, or which authorize the Supreme Court to issue a writ of habeas corpus, being before it for the review of any judgment of the lower court, in habeas corpus cases, are hereby repealed.

Wilson reported from the Military Committee, a bill for the gradual reduction of the army and to discontinue unnecessary grades there.

Edmunds, from the committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill regulating the presentation of bills to the President, and the return of the same. The Senate then considered the resolution for the admission of Thomas, of Maryland.—Cole and Hendricks spoke in favor of his admission.

House.—A large number of bills and a joint resolution, including one to establish a branch mint in Montana, were introduced, and referred.

Bingham, introduced a joint resolution declaring that, whereas a large majority of the votes cast at the late election in Alabama, in favor of the constitution and submitted by the convention; and whereas a certain combination of citizens refused to vote, with the intent thereby to defeat the friends of the Union in their efforts to restore the State to proper relations to the Union, therefore resolved, that the Legislature elected under the new constitution be convened as soon as practicable by the military commander, and upon ratification by the said Legislature of the fourteenth article of the Federal Constitution, and the establishment by law of impartial suffrage within the said State, that Alabama be admitted under the reconstruction act.

House.—The resolution to pay Symes, Smith, Brown and Burch 2,500 each for expenses on prosecuting claims, was rejected. The House went into a Committee of the Whole on the diplomatic appropriation bill. Butler's amendment, providing for the Minister to Greece was adopted. The amendment providing a Minister to Rome was rejected. Williams moved to strike out the missions to nearly all the central South American Republics; rejected.—*Serriatim* (?)

Washington.—Justice Chase, to-day, gave the unanimous opinion of the court, declining to dismiss the McArdle case. The opinion is clear and conclusive upon the jurisdiction in the case. The argument is, therefore, to be proceeded with on the first Monday in March.

It is reported on good authority that Gen. Sherman has written the President declining to accept either the brevet rank tendered, or the command of the new Department; and in case the President refuses to relieve him, he will tender his resignation. Major presented the council of Sitka petition to Congress for the establishment of a civil Government at Alaska.

Berlin.—The illness of Bismarck is serious, he is unable to leave Berlin.

Florence.—The council has at length resolved to pay part of the Papal debt.

New York.—The *Cimbria* brings London papers to the 7th. Athens journals report a serious engagement at Heraclium, Crete, Jan. 20th. The insurgents, 1,500 strong, defeated 5,000 Turks. Russian vessels continue to carry Candian families to Greece. The Turks are said also to have been defeated in an engagement near Canea.

New York.—Further news from South America says the new Cabneit of Peru is moderately liberal. The Japanese monitor Stonewall has arrived. The Callao *National*, says the United States minister threatens the New Gov't that they will not be recognized at Washington. Dr. Espanoza has been elected President of Ecuador.

London.—Private letters from Paraguay of January 18th, represent that the prospects of the Paraguayans continue to improve. Lopez has taken the offensive, and had bombarded the Brazillian camp on the Parana. Rios has joined Rosioro in revolt against the Federal Government. Marco Paz, Vice-President of the Argentine Confederation is dead.

New York.—The Santiago de Cuba brings Panama dates to the 7th. The United States steamer Niack, with General Prado, the Ex-President of Peru aboard had reached Caldira, enroute for Valparaiso. The cholera was raging terribly at Buenos Ayres, there being from 150 to 180 victims daily. The citizens were flying from the city at Villa Nueva. Ten out of 250, laborers on the railroad had died almost at once, and the people were flying in all directions.

London, 17.—In the House of Commons, Earl Mayo, chief Secretary for Ireland, stated that Government was preparing an Irish reform Bill which would be ready to present before the House by march. He said other measures with regard to Ireland would be brought forward on March 25.

Sir Charles Bright called attention to the scheme for placing the telegraph wires under the control of Government, and asked if the ministry proposed to take action to that end. Hunt, Under-Secretary of the Treasury, replied that it was the intention of Government to purchase the telegraph lines of Great Britain, and promised that a plan effecting that change, would be submitted to the House within a week. On a motion being made for the second reading of the bill for the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, Fortesque, the member from Andover, said he thought the motion proved that the administration of affairs in Ireland was wrong and greatly needed reform. Marston the member from Waterford, said the bill was an outrage upon the Catholics, shut out as they were from a rightful share in the Government.

Earl Mayo made an explanation with regard to the arrest of George Francis Train. He said the policemen who arrested him had received general instructions to watch persons arriving from the United States, and stop all suspicious parties. Copies of Train's speeches on Ireland were found in his trunk which caused his arrest. He was finally released on giving a pledge that he would make no speech and do no act in sympathy with the Fenians.

Letters from Paris reiterate the statement that changes are contemplated in the Cabinet and policy of the Emperor.

Dublin 17.—The jury have found a verdict of guilty against *Sullivan*, editor of the Dublin *Nation*, for publishing seditious libels.

Halifax, 17.—A House Committee of the Assembly report that great destitution exists among the fishing population of twelve counties, and unless extensive and permanent arrangements for relief are made many will perish from starvation.

Galveston, 17.—Mexican advices to 16th, say the Legislature of San Luis Potosi have heavily taxed the wholesale merchants, and have taxed the retail sales three per cent., and ask the general Government to impose a fine and imprisonment as a penalty for evading the tax.

New York, 18.—The *Herald's* Washington special says, private advices from London state that the receipt of the intelligence that the Mexican Government had determined to repudiate all debts to foreign countries except that of the United States, has given rise to intense feelings of indignation. The English Government it is said, now seriously contemplating fitting out a fleet to take possession of the posts of Mexico and hold them until satisfaction is given. It is also understood that France, though consulted, has declined for the present to participate.

Lowell, Mass., 18.—A locomotive exploded here, to-day, killing the engineer, and seriously injuring the fireman and two other persons.

St. Louis, 18.—The Ft. Sanders *Index* says, "Two thousand Indians are marching into the Sweetwater country from Idaho and Montana. They have burned all the ranches north of Soda Springs, have driven off the stock, and compelled the ranchmen to seek refuge in the cañons.

Wellsburgh, Va.—The Bishop Campbell Will case, involving half a million of dollars, commenced to-day. The best legal talent in the country is employed.

LOCAL ITEMS.

THANKS.—We acknowledge courtesies received from our Delegate, Hon. W. H. Hooper, which we appreciate.

ST. JOSEPH.—The following correspondence taken from a letter by Elder Nelson A. Empey, dated St. Joseph, Jan. 31st, will be found interesting, especially to the friends of those who went south last fall:—

"We all are busy grubbing, plowing and sowing. The soil is splendid, therefore we are expecting to reap a plentiful harvest. We have an advantage over our northern friends, for we can do all of our plowing and sowing in the winter season. The climate is beautiful. We have had considerable rain this winter, which will make it is anticipated, much better crops than in any previous year. Some twenty of us boys are going to the head of the Muddy to build a fort. Then we expect to take our families there and make a permanent home for ourselves. This valley is three miles wide and eighteen miles long. About one half of this will make good farming land. The head of the Muddy is a beautiful little place, about thirteen miles from here, and will accommodate about one hundred families. There are advantages there that are not found in either of the other settlements on this stream;—wood, grass and building lumber are much more plentiful. Bro. D. C. Kimball and train passed here to-day. They did the missionaries here a great favor by bringing their baggage to the amount of 6,000 pounds. They were getting along finely, and their mules were looking splendid."

MINERSVILLE.—Elder R. H. Blackburn, writes from Minersville, Beaver county, under date Feb. 10th, from which we learn that they have had the coldest weather there this winter that has been experienced since the place was settled. They have a Sunday School numbering seventy scholars, in which much interest is felt, and the teachers manifest a great deal of activity in endeavoring to make it productive of good. There has been good health among the people, and a large measure of the holy Spirit has been enjoyed by them. They are endeavoring to increase the quantity of their cultivable land; they have plenty of water for irrigation purposes;