DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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ASSESSMENT WORK ON CLAIMS.

Some little excitement has been caused in local mining circles by the fact that a law extending the time of working assessments on mining claims had passed both houses of Congress and gone into effect. The motive which furnished the foundation for the measure was undoubtedly a timely one—the hard times were taken into consideration, and there was an apparent fear that the unfavorable action of Congress as to silver would tend to cause many owners of "prospects" to abandon them through the notion that a "silver mine wasn't any good anyhow."

We are somewhat amused, however, that at this late date there should still be uncertainty as to the provisions of the law and further anxiety to know its full effect and requirements. On the 1st of November, two long weeks ago, the NEWS gave a full synopsis of the bill, derived from official sources, and far more intelligible to the average reader than the full text of the measure—short as it is—would have been. For the information of those who are still waiting for information on the subject, we quote from our issue of the 1st, assuring them that herewith are the essential features of the act, and that a compliance with the terms herein given will avoid any future controversy or trouble:

South Dakota is exempted from the provisions of the bill, which suspends for the year 1893 the operation of the laws requiring $100 worth of assessment work to be done each year on mining claims. It also provides that statements of any mining location, in order to secure the benefits of the act, shall cause to be recorded in the office where the location is now or may hereafter be filed on or before the ninetieth day, a notice that he or they, or one of them, intend to hold and work said claim.

It is this we add the point suggested in a recent issue by an interview with Dr. H. J. Faust, just returned from Deep Creek, the necessary information will be complete:

The recent congressional act dispensing with the necessity of working out assessments for 1893, has, says the doctor, operated more to the injury of the working miners in the Deep Creek country than to their benefit. Those who are prospects in Nevada, but live in Utah, are not affected, as the owner and mine owner live in the same state or territory so he imagines. The law says we have done all the working miners had done their assessment work. Some of the rich companies had deferred their labor, believing that before the Autumn they could get men to work cheaper than early in the season, and as the assessment work does not have to be done now, there is so much less opportunity for the miners to earn a little money.

It is easy to see how some injury will be done by the operation of the law; for instance, the loss of employment by many miners who, while putting in the summer in developing their own claims, manage to eke out their needs for winter by doing assessment work on claims whose owners find it more convenient to pay $100 than do a month's actual work. On the whole, however, the beneficent provisions of the bill will, we think, prove indispensable—certainly the good will of the framers is unquestioned.

A BATCH OF THIEVES.

Montana's officials with official thieves too come early. But it is only sincerity in making its claiming day thoroughly, the extreme may be for the best. Some of our older states have neglected themselves in this respect so long that little short of a grand sweeping in official quarters can ever resize their ancient reputations. Beings in office, like Wendy on the farm, have a power of reproduction much superior to that of the model artful, and however careless in the beginning, their enforced leisure is to evidence the evidence.

Montana seems to present, along with her full complement of paramours and other criminals in office, a wide or not proportionate to enforcement. Two of our territories, according to the report, have been relieved to a single source, leaving plenty much every branch of government to fill office. This is a cutting fact to our cousins. But the worst the matter, as long as the champions of public weal can hold a good million majority we care the grit to carry on their pilgrimage. Sometimes it happens that the proportionity he takes in the inner circles of the public service, and the people are thus in a fix sufficiently

The honest man, though not always the most brilliant, is after all the most profitable investment a state can make. We have yet to learn of such officials being a drug on the market.

STAND UP, DR. WINDER!

Has anybody hereabouts ever heard of the "Reverend David Wilkins, eradicate monstrosity in Utah?" According to his own story, told before the Presbyterian Ministerial association at Pittsburg on the 6th inst., he has been "laboring for eighteen years among the Mormons." A special dispatch on the subject to the Philadelphia Public Ledger declares that "Dr. Wilkins shows a very dark picture of present Mormonism." He narrated an instance in which an official, whose duty it was to prosecute polygamists, "was told by the head of the Mormon Church to let the matter drop." This official is filed to the missionary that "yesterday was as much a slave of their faith and as religiously intimidated to act as in the days of Brigham Young. Furthermore, the intelligent and discerning Dr. Wilkins is sure that the Mormon priesthood is giving up their politics (we wonder what that means?) and polygamic lives is now being concerned, and the old spirit of opposition and hatred toward everything Christian is as bitter as ever it was. He continued with much more of the same strain, and finally set down amid tumultuous perspiration and great applause."

To attempt to bring this sort of truth and this kind of speakers to the front would be a truth, is usually a thankless task, for there is always an avenue of "misquotation" and "equivocal blunders" open to the offender. In the present instance there is the additional difficulty that the speaker is more than ordinarily righteous, he is so sincere that one needs but to think of his "eighteen years' labor among the Mormons" in order to measure with fearful accuracy his ability and activity. Still, even an insignificant person ought to be furnished an opportunity to sell himself right. It gives the NEWS pain to be forced to believe that any gentleman of the cloth, to be great or lowly, must lie under the dreadful suspicion that he is spoiling his high silk hat by making a speaking trumpet of it.

DISAPPEARING ANIMALS.

With each year the wild animals in the valleys and hills of the Rocky Mountains are growing less in number. Utah is no exception to the rule, and it is now but a question of a few years when the hunter and sportsman will find in our mountains no means of gratifying his desire in seeking game, either among the feathered tribe or the denizens of forest and stream. The efforts of associations for the protection of game, and the operations of law to aid in that object may defer this result, but, unless a radical change takes place, the delay will be only for a short time.

It is interesting, yet in a considerable extent lamentable, to note this diminution in the animal creation in our own locality and in other parts of the earth, owing to the continual warfare made by man on the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, and the creatures that inhabit rivers, lakes and seas. The former annual now stands on chance against the hunter who is provided with improved firearms, and a duel even with the lion, the tiger, or the elephant is hardly more than butchery. The hunter generally prearranges the conditions of the contest, and is quite sure to give himself heavy odds.

Under these attacks of man, sometimes justifiable not more frequently otherwise, the extinction of the most interesting races of animals, except such as are systematically domesticated and preserved for the benefit of man, is constantly proceeding, at times slowly and at others swiftly, but always surely. Many species have ceased already to be in the flesh, and are now known only by their skeletons in museums. In a few years the existence of others will be but a memory.

The Asiatic mammoth, the animal of which now extended also over Europe, has disappeared since the history of man began on the eastern continent, and the mastodon of the western hemisphere is common as evidencing remains only in instructions of some of the Indian tribes as—the record we have of ancient America. The elephant, a still existing company of the mastodon and the mammoth, is slowly disappearing in numbers and contracting its range. Forty years ago the Sagami Baker stated that it was easy to bag a score of these noble animals in a single day in the island of Ceylon where now they are almost exterminated, and even in India the wild elephant is becoming a variety. The tiger, which in Asia in the same period is still more elegant. The animal is plentiful in small numbers in the great Nyanza region, and is the dominant game in the English and Dutch South African colonies, the elephant is rare in and with. Every hunter has exterminated these regions, and that now X—what for a year few months ago is now from little Tsavo, people were in the new and a few years ago this very field of the wildlife of the Congo, the greatest game preserve on the continent, is now more difficult to secure every year. It is estimated that 1,000 a thousand thousand elephants annually to supply the world's demand for ivory, but at the rate at this are now going, the present annual source of supply will in about years in another half century.

With such decade the lion, the rhinoceros and the zebra, which once swarmed over the whole continent of Africa, are becoming more limited in numbers. For thousands of years their ancestors by the myriads have failed to destroy them, but in the last half century the civilization of the white man has done terrible work to this end.

In North America the buffalo, or bison, which was so plentiful on the plains when Utah's Pioneers wended their way to this land, has almost entirely disappeared. A century ago, and even within half that time, there were countless herds from the Great Lakes to north to Mexico. The Indian had numerous uses for bisonine to satisfy his natural wants, but it took the skin-hunting and the bloodthirstiness of the white man of the present century to effect the great destruction. Here and there in the United States a few are now with, and in Britain America the depleted herds are being rapidly hunted to death. The European bison is undergoing a like process of extermination, which is now almost complete. Five centuries ago it existed in great numbers in the forests of central Europe, and was hunted as royal game. Now it is found in a half-wild state only in the wildest regions of the Caucasus. One herd in Lithuania lives by imperial protection in a great preserve, just as a herd of British wild cattle are now preserved in Chillingham park.

The bison, which at one time was plentiful over all North America, is now found in scattered colonies only in the Lake Superior region and in the vicinity of the Pacific coast. It is exterminated already in British America by the Hudson's Bay company trappers and hunters. Better for its required qualities than is no longer furnished to the world's markets, as the commercial demand has fallen off materially and this may give the animal an opportunity to partially replenish its numbers. The pecary and the tapir, and other animals hunted for skins, are also on the growing rate.

Creatures of the sea are disappearing in similar manner. At the time when Utah was settled, the California sea elephant, the largest of the seals, measuring in some cases twenty-five feet in length, was exceedingly abundant on the Pacific coast. It was mercilessly pursued for its oil, a single specimen sometimes yielding two hundred gallons. The animal has grown so scarce that it is now rarely seen. A similar fate has befallen both Atlantic and Pacific walruses. The arctic seacow has disappeared in the last hundred years, and the seal is fast following the same road.

Thus the work goes on, causing one to wonder whether the time is not comparatively close at hand when only domesticated animals and wild ones that are kept in menageries will exist on the earth.

LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS.

No word has been received yet of Wm. E. Carlin, son of Gen. W. P. Carlin, commanding the department of the Columbia, his brother-in-law, John Harvey Pierce, and A. H. Hinsmanwright, of New York, who left Spokane on Sept. 21 on a hunting expedition to the head of Clearwater river, north Idaho, and the Bitterroot Mountains. The party expected to return by November 1, but failed to do so. They had several pack-horses, an experienced guide, and a packer and cook—six men in all. It was supposed that the party would get through all right until the guide's partner turned of the depth of the snow which had fallen in the Bitterroot mountains—four to six feet—when it was considered that unless they got relief they would have to remain in the hills all winter.

As this was not a desirable alternative, General Carlin directed a party to go to the relief of the hunters. On the 10th inst. Lieutenant Overton, of the Fourth cavalry, left Kendrick, Idaho, with a pack train and experienced men, to engage in the search. It was hoped that they would early meet with the missing party, but this hope has not been realized. It is likely that the desperate men have a difficult task before them, as snowstorms have buried the trails and their work is thus made slow, tedious and uncertain, and attended with considerable hardship. It is feared that, unless the hunting party are so relieved before winter fairly sets in, they are not sufficiently provided to withstand the long siege of cold which must come before hitting upon the mountain trails to travel.

INDIANA'S CURE FOR VOTE-BUYING.

In 1889 the legislature of Indiana passed a law by which a voter who has been bribed to vote a certain ticket or ticket from voting, as the case may be, could use the man who gave him the title and receive an additional reward. In the election of 1891 a man who had sold his vote for $10 sought out a candidate with the new law for his gain. The latter could not legally defend against him, as the proof that he had not voted could be had only from himself with plain inside. He appealed to the prosecuting court of the county which sided with pauper from judgment with costs by the law.

This law surely works as well as tough as expensive as the law as we would state for instance without weapons. It would, with the guidance of opinions, to say between the place "Pin" looking for the biggest

recorded in the state, and no matter how I cause him, he's my man." As for the ethical analogies of such an extraordinary act, which to punish the bribe-giver multiplies the regular premium of the bribe-taker a hundred fold, it will hardly bear the searchlight of logic. But no matter about that; Roseyan definitions are pretty enough in the books, but we are fast coming to the point of practice where the best recommendation a law can have in respect to its propriety, is the assurance that it will do its work. The operations of these abstruse metaphysics have been growing regularly more impudent, since the ballot was invented. It seems that while everybody knew it, nobody was interested enough to do anything about it, and so have we drifted to that phase of the situation where nothing short of a sledge-hammer blow between the eyes of the enemy will do any good whatever.

All we have to say of this legal monstrosity that has come to the front in Indiana is, therefore, if it will cure the disease for which it was invented, that settles it. As to the moral status of the man who takes the bribe-money, we confess any commiseration. It is a certainty that when bribe-giving is made so expensive as to run the most robust of the profession out of business, there will be no more bribe-takers, and so the business will have an end all round.

IN SEVENTY counties of his own state of Ohio, Governor McKinley made 365 speeches in 120 days. No wonder his opponent, when the election returns began to come in, moved "to make it unanimous."

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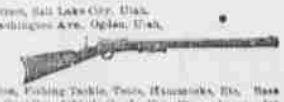

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