# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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## SALT LAKE'S POPULATION.

The Sports guess by the second enumeration as the population of Salt Lake City in February, 1895, no doubt will prove disappointing to some people who have been sanguine in claiming that the city contained 50,000 to 70,000 inhabitants. The sale of the effects, the removal to elsewhere, will feel, however, that the result ascertained is approximately correct, and will be satisfied that the showing is as thoroughly healthful as could be desired in view of all the circumstances. The total population now is placed at 45,800, or a gain over 1890 of nearly 7 per cent in four and a half years.

Three years ago the number of the city's inhabitants was perhaps three to four thousand more than it is at present; but it cannot be said that this larger population was a benefit, from the fact that a considerable portion was of the transient class that drifted in here merely to fatten on the expenditures of public money. During the years succeeding the opening of 1890 there were millions of dollars distributed by public officials, much of it extravagantly; the city and county were burdened with debt to the extent of their credit for borrowing, and taxpayers will groan under the load for years to come. This extravagant expenditure was the opportunity for sycophants who had no interest in the welfare of this healthy valley, for the individual benefits they might receive and that made it an easier field of operations than elsewhere. Now that public finances are no longer playing fast and loose, those thousands have departed to other climes, and while here the Salt Lakers recognize that they have some valuable public improvements in lieu of the cash expended, they also realize that they have paid a very high price for the temporarily augmented population.

Under such circumstances, therefore, it is a source of gratification to know that the falling-off in numbers has been very largely in that class which the city can do without to advantage. As the municipality stands today, the increase has been in bona fide residents whose desire and intention is to make this their home, and to devote their energies to its prosperity. While the increase over the census of 1890 represents only 7 per cent, it should be remembered also that the census in that year was largely inflated by the influx of the floating element which has since departed. Considering this, the increase of substantial residents actually has been a higher percentage than the bare figures indicate.

There is another avenue of relieving the city's population which, however, has earlier subsets of the city finds a most desirable class of people who have always themselves frugal, industrious, and possessed of a strong attachment for the surroundings of permanent homes. These are business men and mechanics who have located in various suburban additions, which place them outside of the city census taker. The number of former residents of this city who have passed through that avenue during the past five years to swell the population of Ogden, Provo, Bingham and other towns, is considerable. If there is any logic associated with a falling off in population, it is because of a policy that has induced these people to go outside of the corporate limits.

In the comparative lessen of paper money, and the well known money stringency which would afford opportunity for deep thought among those actively engaged in directing the monetary policy, Gov. Prince, Commissioner Clinton, of Commerce and others of our business men in offices of money and influence of capital and work for business for the sake of work, while there stands before the country the spectacle which some of the past four or five years, local business men are going to Brinkley. On to see this sight, let us consider the prominent features: (1) That when there are public works to expand, contracts are not lucrative enough for the benefits, some property owners have to run the bill; (2) That heavy general taxes, supported by some extraordinary assessments on large districts, where the benefits are unequal and inadequate, are forcing the losers and bring to the opportunity to seek homes elsewhere of the class of rich financial opinions. All hands regarding advantages for local investments stands out of sight in the province of those historical and thoroughly commercial facts. When the home owner finds that it is cheaper to pay rent or live elsewhere than to pay special and general taxes, it is an easy to offset the opinion expressed that everything where such a situation exists of absolutely necessary, which, with political economy, all go down before the immediate grasp of high and special taxes. With most people the matter of dollars and cents is a matter not which cannot be overlooked.

In a comparison of the policy of a city in the conservative within market the opportunity to general effects prior to 1890—there are the brightest hopes for Salt Lake's future. It would give the merits to businessmen and others who are mostly independent of the public course and whose prosperity is the business of a prosperous commonwealth, because their chance of successes would not be a hamming of financial crashing. It would give to permanent contents the home idea of early great when public improvements were going on, and the city of "Salt Lake work for Salt Lake workmen" would not be longer an anthem of politicians' wind, but an established, substantial fact. What is needed now is something that will assure the people with the assurance that such a conjecture is unfounded. There will come as a natural result from that influx of capital and investment which is desirable, and indeed is a pretty class of people coming away from the city, they will carry hither. Then the counties outside are here sought to escape with have the old love renewed, and while it may not be advisable to change their residence, they will seek to be included within the municipality, bringing with them new friends and thus building a power in establishing the Greater Salt Lake, which ultimately need reach far and beyond the present city limits. Then there never will be any question of discussing changes of population from a regrettable point of view.

## THE FIRST SILK LAW.

In a letter that appears in another column, Mr. P. A. Dix, president of the state board of horticulture, calls attention to an apparent neglect on the part of many if not all the county courts of this Territory in the matter of proclamations and the appointment of inspectors in pursuance of the law of the recent Legislature pertaining to fruit trees and fruit. We commend his criticisms and his suggestions to the immediate and special notice of all concerned. Whatever may be the imperfections in the law received in—and perhaps as we gain experience there imperfections will be found to be numerous—the fact remains that it is the expenditure of a worthy motive and has to show a good excellent object. If it shall receive the credit and observance it deserves on these grounds, we shall the sooner find out what amendments are necessary to make it work everybody should sincerely desire it to be a perfect success and nothing can be rightly entitled because of the approval and effort it will have in the minds of all intelligent citizens.

## GUNNISON'S GLANS.

The effort to mass available as an article of commerce the guano deposits on Gunnison Island has awakened no small amount of interest. Even if the quality of the fertilizer should be all that is desired, it may be questioned whether there is sufficient quantity to get up any enthusiasm about, though it might prove profitable for an investment in a small way. The amount to Gunnison Island is estimated by those most sanguine as to the extent of the deposits at 150,000 tons. This at $20 per ton would be $3,000,000, very handsome figure. But that this is more speculative than fact is the notion of many acquainted with the deposit. There is no question that the weight of commercial guano is about sixty pounds per bushel, that therefore is only about 750 tons to an acre, and to really a valuable crop, and that the yield is more than one thousand of the guano which inhabit the island, and which are not exactly a pleasant sight to see, or to be in the midst of, which is also not a matter of pleasant contemplation.

The commercial guano are chiefly in two groups, according to their relation to nitrogen or phosphoric acid respectively. The nitrogenous guano, of ammoniacal, is a very powerful source of potential ammonia, is a rich manure, for the development of foliage in plants. Mixed with phosphates it is applied to root crops, and sometimes to growing plants, though with great care, as on light land it is thus has been shown to burn and destroy the young plants, and even to prevent the germination of the seed. As a fertilizer, however, in winter, plants require their food to be put into, and it is highly advisable to use healthy, low average, containing of ammonia as Peruvian guano is of 13 to 20, and in the coastal and other ranges from 7 to 12 per cent. In both cases the percentage is what sold, and that what is in the phosphoric guano should, when combined, effect 27 per cent.

The importation and preservation of good guano appears to a source of riches and the supply of work which feed in fish. The fish combines

[illegible]

## WAR IN CUBA.

Another insurrection, it seems, has broken out in Cuba and this time the flames of civil war, unless speedily extinguished, threaten to ravage the entire island. The island between the native and the Spaniards has already cost the mother country enormous sums expended in almost 100 years attempts to crush the frequent revolutions, while the mining itself has suffered incalculable injury to the trade, as well as from constant emigration of the creoles to the American continent and heavy taxes levied in order to meet the enormous expenses incurred. But the government of Spain, instead of acceding to the reasonable demands of the inhabitants for a measure of home rule has only from time to time made the yoke heavier, thus prevading a reconciliation that would result profitably to both sides.

Cuba is the largest and richest of the West India islands and one of the most important dependencies of Spain. It is somewhat larger in area than Illinois, with a population of about a million and a half. Writers of Spanish birth divide the people into four classes—native Spaniards who usually occupy all offices of power and trust; creoles, who mostly have farming, planters, etc., and who are both in sympathy by the Spaniards; free men of color who are excluded from all civil offices, the fourth class consists of slaves. To these add a large number of Asiatic coolies whose condition is little better than that of the negro. It is easily understood that so long as this caste distinction is acted by law there must be much dissatisfaction and unequal efforts for liberty.

In either year such sympathy was shown in this country for the Cubans, and President Polk, in 1848, proposed to the Spanish government to buy the island for $100,000,000. Two years afterwards the proposition was renewed, the sum then suggested being $120,000,000, but the proposition was again withdrawn.

Cuba, with its rich sugar plantations, tropical climate and products, forests of mahogany, ebony, palms and other valuable trees and with a race with uncultivated land would shower fast and wise government become a source of wealth to any nation. As it is, miserable progress is slow. A large portion of the neighborhood of political civil and religious liberty and yet burdened with heavy taxation for the maintenance of the Spaniards who oppress them, lead their energy on plans for the overthrow of their oppressors and other matters are necessarily neglected. Tyranny to any shape always was its own curse.


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