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TERRITORIAL FINANCES, AND
OTHER MATTERS.

In the Message of Governor Durkee, published in our issue of last Wednesday morning, are several items highly interesting and suggestive, and especially worthy of notice. The document itself is straightforward and candid; and while there may be difference of opinion with regard to some of the recommendations made, there can be but one honest opinion as to the thought manifest in it and the evident desire shown to labor for the general good of the people of this Territory.

Through it we learn that the financial condition of the Territory is in a highly satisfactory state, "all claims upon the Treasury having been promptly met, and there still remaining in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$41,855.24." This fact of itself speaks volumes. It shows that the proceeds of our Territorial taxation have not become the spoils of greedy place and office hunters; it tells the prudence, care and economy that have been exercised in the expenditure of the means collected; and that, while neighboring Territories have been exulting in the richness of their mineral wealth, gold and silver mines and placer diggings, and unable to keep out of debt, Utah has steadily pursued her way in increasing prosperity, mainly depending upon her agriculture as heretofore. What other State or Territory in the Union presents a Treasury in as solvent a condition? And if solvency in commercial life is an evidence of sound trading and a due attention to the best business principles by which commercial men gain success, why not in the administration and handling of public finances?

This single fact gives the refutation direct to many of the slanders that have been and are so industriously circulated concerning Utah, and we recommend it among other things to the careful attention of those who profess so strong an interest in her welfare. We are aware that facts no matter how well substantiated and statements however strongly corroborated, that tend to vindicate the people of Utah, are passed over silently by those who sedulously aim to do her injury. Every man who in the least degree seeks the welfare of this community, is by them marked out as an object for their malevolence; and, hence, our public men are painted in colors so dark that the arch-fiend himself would be disgusted at their blackness. Does the present condition of this Territory indicate that its public men are voluptuaries whose sole object is the gratification of passion? or that the people are abject slaves? Does it not bear the strongest evidence that care, wisdom, thought and true patriotism are the leading characteristics of its public men? and that its people are prosperous and industrious? for, be it borne in mind, public improvement has thriven here until our bitterest-tongued enemies have spoken of us as a miracle of industry and perseverance. Will those who so loudly bespatter Utah turn to the records of the times when this great Republic was about throwing off the yoke of Britain, and see if the men whose names are now so deeply vene-

rated by the entire nation, were not spoken of in almost the same terms and in precisely the same spirit by the venal press of England, that the public men of Utah now are by the corrupt portion of the press in this country, while their wise acts and thoughtful legislation are so clearly paralleled in Utah at the present time.

The subject of education receives a large share of attention in the Message, and, while we are justly proud of the efforts we have made to educate our young, unaided directly or indirectly from the parent Government, we are pleased that it does so, and trust it will receive that attention by the Legislature which its importance merits.

The Territorial Militia is referred to, and while requisitions are made concerning it, the Governor expresses his pleasure at witnessing the late review and inspection of the militia of this county. This is the military muster of which penny-a-liners and other contemptible or malevolent scribblers have been making so much capital lately, raising an outcry of the "Mormons" arming and drilling. Queer, is it not, that while we are magnifying and honoring the law of our country, doing as it requires us and as the people of other States and Territories are required by law to do, we should be abused from the platform and through the press for it, and sinister motives ascribed to the most legitimate and praiseworthy acts!

On the subject of turn-pike roads, toll bridges and ferries, as indeed on everything connected with Utah, there are people who indulge in the most reckless accusations on "Mormon rapacity." His Excellency offers some good suggestions concerning them, and proposes making the road from this city to the Weber river, through Parley's canyon, a toll road. Undoubtedly, various philanthropic people cannot see why the "Mormons" should not make roads and keep them in repair, for the benefit of immigrants, miners, freighters and others, without exacting a toll to meet the necessary and contingent expenses consequent thereon. While reference is made to the "exactions" of our people in this matter, and comparisons are instituted between this and neighboring Territories concerning it, we commend the following fact for consideration:—On the toll-road this side of Virginia City, Montana, which is something like the one referred to for difficulty of working, and about seventy-five miles in length, a toll of five dollars a wagon is exacted; and on that road a "Mormon" train last spring did considerable work, while passing, which the charterers should have done. We have not heard of anything being said concerning "unjust exactions" in the matter; but if it had occurred in this Territory, the changes would have been rung on it *ad nauseam*. This is not an isolated case, though we will close with it for the present.

HOME ITEMS.

LEGISLATIVE.

Wednesday, 13th.

COUNCIL.—Council met at 1 p.m. The freedom of the Council was extended to Presidents B. Young, H. C. Kimball and D. H. Wells, his Excellency Governor Durkee, Secretary Reed, Franklin H. Head, Esq., private Secretary to the Governor, Hon. S. P. McCurdy, Associate Justice, Hon. Elias Smith, Probate Judge of G. S. L. county, Hon. A. O. Smoot, Mayor of G. S. L. City, and the members of the City Council, Hon. J. M. Bernhisel, the ex-members of the Legislative Assembly, J. C. Little, Esq., Assessor of Internal Revenue, and R. T. Burton, Collector of Internal Revenue.

The President of the Council referred the various portions of the Governor's Message to the proper committees.

A communication was received from the House wishing a committee from the Council to confer with one from the House on the propriety of revising or codifying the present laws. Councillors Benson, Cannon and Richards were appointed a committee for the purpose.

HOUSE.—House met at 1 p.m. A committee on postal affairs was added to the standing committees.

The Editors of the DESERET NEWS and Telegraph were tendered seats for themselves or reporters.

A bill for an act concerning Notaries Public for Tooele, was presented by Mr. Rowberry, read and referred to committee on elections.

Messrs. Farr, Rockwood and Rowberry were appointed a committee to confer with a committee of the Council on the propriety of revising or codifying the present laws.

Hon. Secretary Reed was requested to furnish the members and officers with a copy each of the Weekly and Semi-Weekly DESERET NEWS and the Daily and Semi-Weekly Telegraph during the session.

Thursday, 14th.

COUNCIL.—Council met at 1 p.m. The committee on codifying and revising the laws reported that they had decided, in conjunction with the like committee from the House, that the laws of the Territory should be revised and compiled. The report was accepted, and councillor Harrington was appointed a committee of one to act with a committee from the House for the purpose.

His Excellency Governor Durkee notified the Council that he had appointed Franklin H. Head, Esq., his private secretary.

Councillor Woodruff, the agent appointed by the last session of the Legislature for the disposal of titles to public lands for the purchase of site for an agricultural college and other purposes, reported, that on communicating with the proper Department at Washington, he had learned that the provisions of the act did not extend to Territories, and asked to be discharged from further duty on the subject. Report received, and the subject of repealing the act creating the agent, referred to committee on public domain and school lands.

HOUSE.—A message was received from the Council announcing their appointment of a committee on the subject of the codification of the laws.

The Speaker referred the Governor's Message to appropriate committees.

The committee on agriculture were instructed to bring in a bill on the subject of division fences.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the propriety of revising, arranging and compiling the laws, reported favorably thereon, when Messrs. Farr, Rockwood, West, Jennings and Wright were appointed a special committee on the subject.

The Governor informed the House of his appointment of Franklin H. Head, Esq., as his private secretary.

A committee was appointed to bring in an act in relation to stray pounds.

The standing committee were instructed to make such suggestions to the special committee on revision as they may think necessary.

Friday, 15th.

COUNCIL.—An act to repeal an act creating an agent to receive and manage the agricultural fund of the Territory, passed the Council and received the concurrence of the House.

The committee on the revision and compilation of the laws were authorized to employ what clerks they may need.

Council adjourned till Monday next at 1 p.m.

HOUSE.—A bill was presented for an act to incorporate Tooele city, read and referred.

The annual report of the Penitentiary was read and ordered to be printed.

After some other business, the House adjourned till Monday, at 1 p.m.

Monday, 18th.

COUNCIL.—A communication was received from the House, concurring in the bill to repeal the act creating an agent to manage the agricultural fund.

A press of business in the hands of committees induced an early adjournment.

HOUSE.—A bill to incorporate the Lehi Library Association was read and referred.

The inhabitants of Washington county petitioned for an appropriation for road purposes to be expended in that county. Petition read and referred.

The bill for an additional Notary Public for Tooele county, was read the first time.

Press of business in committees caused an early adjournment, as in the Council.

Tuesday, 19th.

COUNCIL.—Assembled at 1 p.m. Councillor Carrington presented memorial from Wm. Clayton, Esq., Recorder of Marks and Brands, praying for an appropriation to defray the expense of reprinting the Brand Sheet, which was read and referred to the committee on claims and appropriations. The Council concurred in the following House bills:—"an Act to incorporate Tooele City," and "an Act to incorporate the Lehi City Library Association." An act to amend an act to incorporate Logan City was returned to the House.

Committee on claims and appropriations handed in a bill, doubling the fees of Recorder of Marks and Brands, which was read twice.

HOUSE.—House met at 1 p.m. An Act to incorporate the Lehi Library Association was read three times and passed.

An Act to amend an Act to incorporate Logan City was read three times and passed.

An Act concerning Notaries Public for Tooele county was referred back to committee on elections.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Elder Orson Hyde reasoned upon the blessings that will be obtained through faithfulness to the truth and

continued obedience to the commandments of God.

Afternoon.

Elder Henry Walters, late from England, spoke of his gratification at arriving in Zion, the object he had in coming here,—to obtain salvation, and his desires to be faithful to the truth.

Elder H. C. Fowler, also from England, expressed his faith and feelings, and bore testimony to the truth of the work of God.

Elder H. Hogsted, from Denmark, spoke a few minutes in Danish.

Elder J. C. J. Kyompe, from Scandinavia, bore testimony and expressed his feelings.

Elder Erastus Snow interpreted the remarks of br. Hogsted, spoke of his commencing the Scandinavian mission and the feelings he had while doing so; cautioned the Saints against indulging in sectional or national feelings; and encouraged them to continue faithful to the truth, seeking always to abound in good works.

MORONI.—Bishop G. W. Bradley, in an interesting communication from Moroni, Sanpete county, which lack of space precludes our publishing in full, informs us that peace, harmony and good order exist in that locality. They have raised the height of their meeting-house, re-roofed and new floored it, and made quite a nice comfortable place of it. They are also preparing for pushing the erection of their new rock meeting-house next summer; and when finished they expect it will be second to none in the Territory. Their Dramatic Association has been re-organized, and were to present the comedy of Charles the Second and the Widow's Victim, Saturday evening, the 16th. Parties have set in for the winter season, and all is going "merry as a marriage bell" with them. "A merry christmas and a happy new year" to you, Bishop, and many of them, Moroni and all Israel included.

SEVENTIES' HALL.—The regular course of lectures for the winter season in the Seventies' Hall, was commenced on Wednesday evening, 13th inst.

President Joseph Young made a few introductory remarks. Elder John B. Malben treated on Trade and Merchandizing; Elder J. McKnight spoke on the rapid development of the Territory and the growth of the settlements, referring more particularly to Cache Valley. Some good singing by the choir, and an original song by Elder W. Willes, added to the enjoyment of the evening.

On yesterday evening, the 20th inst., short lectures were delivered by several brethren.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Through Bishop Bradley, Moroni, we learn of a fatal accident which occurred on the 20th ult. While part of the militia were assembled for drill, and some of them were engaged in target-shooting, a gun went off uncapped, and shot br. Joseph Goodworth in the right temple, who died about half-an-hour afterwards. He was a young man about 19 years of age, of good character and much respected; A Coroner's inquest was held on the body at Justice Hambleton's, and a verdict found in accordance with the facts, coupled with a caution with regard to carelessness in handling fire-arms, which might be extended to other localities as well as Moroni.

SPRINGTOWN.—Through a communication from br. Joseph T. Ellis, of Springtown, we learn two things of public interest,—considerable late wheat in that locality was injured by the frost, and the people are taking a strong interest in the suggestions thrown out through the News on the subjects of freighting, co-operation and doing their own trading. The first is cause for regret; the second matter for congratulation.

GENERAL ITEMS.—That snow-storm which was so long in gathering up, has come in force; fifteen inches over what was on the ground before, the Judge says: lots of sleighing.

Talking of sleighing, it must be a "damper" for a bevy of young ladies and a corresponding number of the other sex, to find themselves in a horizontal position among the snow, a minute after riding merrily along to the jingling of the sleigh-bells. We saw such a contretemps on Sunday evening last, while the feathery flakes were descending in abundance. Jehu strove to catch a view of a couple of passers on the sidewalk, and was unable to navigate out of the ditch.

Holiday times are coming; so everybody says, from the merchants down,—or up, which is it? Fine displays in the stores for the season: where is that memorable turkey?

Those front extensions of Walker Bros. and Ransohoff are resting; workmen are taking their holidays, because they can't help it; sad interferers with outdoor work, those storms.

Good fires are pleasant just now. Are those big piles of wood still held in reserve in the lower wards? Remember the poor, where you find them, you who are comfortable; their comfort will add to your pleasure.

Parties in the city and elsewhere are becoming the rule. Take care of yourselves when you get heated with dancing, and avoid catching colds.

That was a big fire at Camp Douglass on Tuesday morning, and attended with a heavy loss. The commissary buildings were destroyed, with most of the stores of grain, flour, groceries, clothing, etc. Loss estimated at various large amounts, up to a million and a half of dollars. The origin of the fire is said not to be known, though various surmises are afloat.