



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,Jan. 22, 1868.

SUBJECTS FOR LEGISLATION.

The Governor's Annual Message is now before our readers, and they have an opportunity of judging for themselves of its merits. It is a plain, straightforward, good document, and bears the impress of its author's mind. We could not expect any other kind of a Message from him, for Governor Durkee is a man whose course, since his arrival in the Territory, has been such as to cause him to be universally respected by the people, and his suggestions will be listened to with respect.

The condition of our Territorial finances is made a subject of congratulation. Every inhabitant of our Territory should feel proud of the manner in which our finances have been managed. "Utah is, I believe, of all the States and Territories of our Union, alone, in being entirely free from indebtedness." This is one of the greatest compliments, in this age of extravagance and corruption, which the Governor could pay to the Legislature. In the address of the newly elected Mayor of the rich city of New York, delivered on the 6th inst., he stated that the city and county debt amount to forty-three millions, eight hundred thousand dollars! A stupendous debt even for a rich city and county to be under. It would not be so discouraging, however, if retrenchment were practiced, and the debt were being lessened; but there are no hopes of this. The Mayor states that the debt has increased five millions within a year. A hopeless prospect truly for its liquidation! It is not considered polite to institute comparisons; still, they are sometimes very useful in bringing truths home to those to whom they are addressed. Our people are comparatively poor. Being in a new country, with a great amount of improvements to make, the want of funds to be used in Territorial, county and city capacities, has been very pressing. Yet the Territory is free from debt; and this city and county, and the other cities and counties in the Territory, are in the same blissful condition.

The subject of Town Sites, to which allusion is made in the Message, should receive the careful attention of our Legislators. "An act for the relief of the inhabitants of cities and towns upon the public lands," commonly known as the Town Site Law, was passed by Congress, and was approved March 2nd, 1867. In previous articles we have called attention to this law, and explained its provisions. After the land, occupied as a town site, is entered, (either by the corporate authorities, in an incorporated town, or by the judge of the county court, if the town is not incorporated,) at the proper land office, and at the minimum price, in trust for the use and benefit of the several occupants thereof, the legislative authority of the Territory has to prescribe the necessary rules and regulations for the execution of that trust, as to the disposal of the lots in such town and the proceeds of the sale thereof. This is made the duty of the Legislature by the Act of Congress, and it is so important that it should receive early attention, and it no doubt will.

The want of a public Museum is much felt here. Our elders travel through a great many lands, and see and collect many objects that would be exceedingly interesting to the people at large, if they could be gathered and placed in a Museum. A great many native curiosities, and mineralogical and geological specimens from various parts of our Territory have been collected by one and another; but there being no place in which they could be deposited, they have been scattered and lost, and nobody has been benefited by them. Before the move south was made, President Young had a fine collection of curiosities and specimens; but, in moving, they were lost sight of, and are now scattered. In educating our young

people in the sciences, which it is proposed to do, a mineralogical cabinet would be very useful and instructive. In fact, the want of it would be much felt. If the Legislature would take the matter in hand, and establish a Museum, and give the institution their countenance and support, we are of the opinion that in a short time a very respectable collection could be made. The entire people would be interested in securing everything curious and noteworthy, and many of our citizens who already have small collections of curiosities, &c., which they have picked up in their travels, would gladly contribute them to a public Museum. This subject is worthy of the thought and attention of the Legislature.

We have heard it suggested also that the name of Richland county might with great propriety be changed by the Legislature to Rich county. The county was named, we presume, after General C. C. Rich. If so, Richland conveys no such idea; but if it were called Rich, it would. Such a change, we have reason to believe, would, as well as being appropriate, be very acceptable.

While on the subject of names, we think the name of our own city might be changed to advantage by dropping the word *Great*, and calling it SALT LAKE CITY. In consequence of the length of the name, the habit has been fallen into of calling it G. S. L. City, which is both unintelligible, (especially to people at a distance,) and objectionable. Far better to have a name that will not be too long to write. Salt Lake City will be short, and still be expressive. Our city is already widely known by that name throughout the Territory and in other places. In fact, it is the generally received name. If the Legislature would make this alteration by law, it would be received with favor and general satisfaction.

FINANCES OF THE TERRITORY.

The reading yesterday of the documents which accompanied the Governor's Message to the Legislative Assembly, revealed a condition of the Territory which is most gratifying, and is the highest eulogy that could be passed upon the Territorial officials and the Representatives of the people in a legislative capacity. By reference to an article which appears in another column, our readers can peruse a summary of the items in detail. They should be interesting to every resident of the Territory. How loudly they speak in favor of the correctness, the honesty and the frugality of the legislators and officers of the Territory, those who are acquainted with the financial condition of other States and Territories can readily understand. Our officers and public men do not make many fine speeches nor make many sounding professions of patriotism—they do not proclaim their own purity or that of their party, when they come before the people for election. Their force is not expended in talk; but is reserved for action. The fact that the Territory is free from debt, is of itself a whole volume of praise in behalf of the purity of their motives and the honesty, correctness and skill in their management of the public funds.

The condition of the finances of our Territory is a remarkable case in the history of modern legislation. We exhibit an example which every Government—National, State, Territorial, County and City—throughout the Union can profitably imitate. With us, it is not the man who seeks the office; but it is the office that seeks the man. There is probably not a legislator or officeholder in our Territory, who is elected or appointed here, who does not have to leave more profitable employment to engage in making laws and attend to other public duties. In accepting office or position he is prompted by pure patriotism. His country has a claim upon him, which, when he is called, he feels bound in honor to respect. He accepts office, assumes the responsibilities of public life, not for the emoluments, but because the state requires his services.

And who are these men who thus act? Who are the officers who have so judiciously managed the affairs of the Territory? They are the much-abused "Mormons!" The Territory is the persistently slandered, oft-denounced Territory of Utah! We call the attention of Congress, of the Legislatures of the various States and Territories, of public journalists throughout the Union, to the facts contained in Governor Durkee's Message and the accompanying documents, respecting the unexampled condition of our finances. In this age of political extravagance, when, with scarcely an

exception, every corporation and government is hopelessly involved in debt, they deserve attention, if for nothing more, at least for their novelty. There have been a great many accusations of one kind and another made against us at various times. Every thing that could be construed or distorted to our disadvantage and injury has been made use of. Now, let it be known, let the fact be widely circulated, that the Territory of Utah, under the management of its "Mormon" legislators and officers, occupies the unique position, at a time when it is universally fashionable to owe more than you can pay, to be free from debt! This fact alone, stated plainly and without embellishment, is sufficient to disprove a host of charges such as are current against us and clearly establish their falsity. If Congress could feel the full force of this fact, and properly realize the consequences which it foreshadows, they would, without hesitation, give us our rights. They would admit us as a State. They would say that a people who have exhibited such qualities of self-government—a people who, uncorrupted by the examples around them, have with true loyalty and patriotism, clung to the republican economy and simplicity of primitive days—ought to have opportunities for the exercise of their qualities. In a territorial capacity we have, for twenty years, shown the labors and efforts of which we are capable. We are the best and most cheaply governed people within the confines of the Republic. The day will come when we will have a larger field than that we have at present for the practice of the virtues we cherish.

In this connection, it may not be inappropriate to say that if certain parties who have been in this Territory could have had their way, instead of being free from debt, as we are to-day, our city, country and Territory would be inextricably involved.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

There is every prospect at present of a strongly-contested race for the Presidential chair. Already are the leading politicians of both parties taking the necessary steps to prepare for the triumph of their side, though they have not yet decided who shall be their standard-bearers. From the most reliable information that we can obtain from the East, it is thought that General Grant will be the choice of the Republican party. He scarcely suits the radical wing of the party; he is not ultra enough for them; but he is available,—a great point in a candidate for the Presidency. His popularity, growing out of his military position, is very great, and though it is conceded that he has the inside track, those who are best acquainted with the prospects and nature of the contest, think that he will require all his strength and influence to carry the negro, taxation and the other weights of the republican party.

The opposition will include all the outs, and embrace talent, energy and political tact rarely excelled. They will contest every inch of ground like men determined to win, and leave their opponents no advantage of which they can deprive them. Who their color-bearer will be is not yet known. A military man has been talked of; but there is no use in putting up a military man if Grant be the candidate on the other side. They will probably select some eminent civilian, and endeavor to fight the battle on principle and not on popularity. It would be refreshing in these days to hear of a man being elected President of the United States on principle!

It has been thought that President Johnson would be the most available man they could get. But who can tell how long a man in his position will be available? To-day's dispatches indicate a determination on the part of the House to stand square up to their policy, and if opposed by the President to impeach him. He seems equally resolute, and it is difficult to tell how the conflict between them will terminate. Between this and next November—the time for the election of President,—a great many changes are likely to occur which will produce entirely new phases in politics. Though we have no occasion to participate in the contest, we are interested, and every new development will be eagerly noticed.

THE FIRST ALASKA PAPER.

By the kindness of Messrs. Sabin and Pierce, two of the members of the Telegraphic Expedition which was sent to

Russian America by the Western Union Telegraph Company to build the Russian extension of their Line, we have been furnished with a bound file of *The Esquimaux*, a paper published by the gentlemen composing the expedition. *The Esquimaux* was published monthly, and twelve numbers were issued. The copy before us is a republication issued at San Francisco, and, in the language of the editor, J. J. Harrington, "is simply offered as a memorial, and to place upon record the first newspaper ever published in our new territory of Alaska." In the editor's preface he says about *The Esquimaux* that it was "published in the ice-bound north among a party of whites, whose time, for the most part, was necessarily idle. There, shut out from the great civilized world, everybody looked to his neighbor, as a source of knowledge and amusement, and this was one of the means employed to make the hours pass swiftly by."

From the INTRODUCTION we make the following extract, which will repay perusal:

"The enterprise of connecting the two continents by telegraph, via the Amoor River, and Behring's Straits, had long occupied the minds of scientific and commercial men, but it was not until under the administration of President Pierce, when Perry McDonough Collins, Esq., was appointed Commercial Agent at the mouth of the Amoor River, that any definite steps were taken in regard to it. Mr. Collins succeeded in obtaining proper authority and suitable franchises from the Russian and English Governments. The former Government agreed to connect St. Petersburg with Nicolaeisk, at the mouth of the Amoor River, and to afford all possible facilities to the American Company in the prosecution of the work through Siberia. Mr. Collins transferred his interest in the matter to the Western Union Telegraph Company, who commenced active operations in 1864—1865.

The work was placed under the charge of Col. Chas. S. Bulkley, a man eminently qualified, both as a business man, and one of the most distinguished electricians in the world, for the management of so gigantic an enterprise. In the spring of 1865, Col. Bulkley made a preliminary trip to New Archangel, to make necessary arrangements with the Russian American Commercial Co., for the successful prosecution of the business, and the bark Clara Bell, and the schooner Milton Badger were dispatched from New York, to Sitka, laden with material and stores. In July, 1865, Col. Bulkley sailed from San Francisco with about 60 employees designed for the work of exploration. These parties left for Sitka on the steamer Geo. S. Wright, and the bark Golden Gate. Arriving at this port, they met the vessels previously ordered thither, from New York. From Sitka a small party were sent to the Anadyr River, N. E. S. while the main portion of the party rendezvoused at Plover Bay. The work of the first year was confined entirely to explorations; parties were distributed at various points over the entire route, extending from New Westminster, B. C., to Nicolaeisk, at the mouth of the Amoor River. From the result of the explorations then made, it was determined to prosecute the work more vigorously, and in 1866, the fleet was augmented by the purchase of three vessels, and the land force increased to some 300 men, including those employed in British Columbia. Among the forces thus brought together, a party numbering about 40, were left at Grantly Harbor, or Port Clarence, on the eastern side of Behring's Straits, in lat. 65° 30' N., long. 166° 17' W., under the immediate command of Mr. D. B. Libby, though included as the district under charge of W. H. Ennis. Here, amid the Arctic snows, when daylight was only visible for an hour or two, and it was therefore almost impossible to prosecute our labors, to while away some tedious hours, this little paper was produced.

Upon the abandonment of the enterprise, the bark Clara Bell, under command of Capt. John O. Norton, was dispatched to collect the various parties. On this vessel they were brought together, at the old rendezvous—Plover Bay, N. E. S. This place also borders on the Straits, but on its western shore, and is but one degree further south, from where *The Esquimaux* first made its appearance. Three numbers were issued there, completing the first volume, which contains all the numbers published."

An item, called "Travelling in Russian America," published in the January number, 1867, will give our readers an idea of the changeable nature of that climate, and the extreme cold to which it is subject. "Two of our party who recently returned from Kavalrazkh-mute, report the thermometer on their trip at from 10° above zero at their start from here, to 53° below when they left that place. Considerable of a change for four days."

At another time we notice that, within twenty-four hours, the thermometer rose from 20° below zero to 12° above.

We are obliged to Messrs. Sabin & Pierce for their courtesy in sending us *The Esquimaux*.

NORTH POLAR CONTINENT.

The interest which is attached to the northern polar regions, has induced many expeditions to make discoveries in the Arctic ocean and towards the north pole. For many years regular efforts were made to penetrate by that route to India, from the northern and western nations of Europe; and the desire to dis-