

THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

On July 10th a Bill passed Congress excluding the unorganized States from the electoral college. The object of this law is, it is said, to define the duty of the officers counting the electoral votes. It provides that in each of the States wherein a State government has been established in conformity with the acts of Congress, prior to the day of election, and an election takes place under the laws of such government, that the vote of such State shall be counted in the electoral college; but that no vote in either of said States, wherein there is no State government, organized since March, 1867, and under the laws of Congress, shall be received or counted. Republican journals deem the passage of this bill very timely, as it prescribes in advance what States shall and what shall not vote, and renders the holding of elections under the old laws and officers of the rebel States illegal; and, of course, their votes cannot, legally, be sent to Washington to be counted. They claim that, as the Constitution provides for counting the votes of the electors of the several States in February, there would be manifest impropriety in leaving this subject to be acted upon at the next session of Congress, after the result of the election shall be known. What view the Democrats take of the Bill we have not yet learned.

This subject is now receiving considerable attention. In yesterday's dispatches it was stated that President Johnson had sent Congress a message recommending amendments to the Constitution. He favors the election of the President by a direct vote of the people, and would have him, when elected, confined to one term. With the present race of politicians this last suggestion may be a good one; if they were continued in office longer than four years, grave evils might grow and flourish, and the Constitution and laws of the country be subverted. But if a man could be found, patriotic, loyal and honest, who could be trusted, what good could be gained by thrusting him out of office at the expiration of four years, just when his experience in the position would enable him to fill it judiciously and with dignity? Why not permit him to be re-elected as long as he should retain the confidence of his fellow citizens? When the day shall come that the Latter-day Saints will have to step forward as the champions of Constitutional liberty, and raise the Constitution aloft out of the mire into which it will have been trampled by contending factions, we hope to see an amendment adopted removing every restriction upon the re-election of the President, and permitting him to hold the office as long as he shall be deemed worthy of the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

From an article in the *S. F. Call*, we glean many of the following items. Under the original Constitution, before any amendments had been adopted, whoever was a candidate for President or Vice President, was, first of all, entitled to be, specially, a candidate for the Presidency itself. The certificates of the electors of the several States were opened and counted by the President of the Senate in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The candidate who had the highest number was declared Vice President. If two candidates should have an equal number of votes, or if no one should have a majority of the votes cast, it was made the duty of the House of Representatives to elect, from among the five highest in the list, one for President, and then one for Vice President. In this election each State had one vote. During Washington's first term, Congress passed an Act, March 1, 1792, providing that electors should be appointed in each State "within thirty-four days preceding the first Wednesday" in 1792, and in every fourth year thereafter; that the number of Electors should be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives to which the several States should be entitled at the time; that the Electors should meet and give their votes on the first Wednesday of December; that they should appoint a person to deliver the certificates of their ballotings to the President of the United States Senate, before the first day of January next ensuing; that on the second Wednesday of February following, Congress should be in session to open and count the votes, announce the result, and take action thereupon; and that the term of four years for which

the President and Vice-President should commence on the fourth day of March.

In 1803, during Jefferson's first term, an amendment to the Constitution was proposed by Congress, and subsequently adopted by the States, by which persons definitely were to be voted for for the offices, respectively, of President and Vice-President; by which, if no one should have a majority of all the Electoral votes, the House of Representatives was to select a President from among the three highest candidates on the list, and the Senate to select a Vice-President from the two highest for that office, and by which a quorum of Congress should consist of Representatives from two-thirds of the States. Under this amendment, known as the Twelfth Article of the Constitution, both of the highest officers of the Republic, from Jefferson's time to Johnson's, have been chosen.

Just before Polk's inauguration a law was passed, January 24, 1845, by which "the electors of President and Vice President shall be appointed, in each State, on the Tuesday after the first Monday in the month of November of the year in which they are appointed." Before the passage of this Act the electors had been elected very irregularly, so far as time was concerned, generally on the days of State elections.

On the 3rd of November next, according to the terms of the law, the electors of President and Vice President will be voted for by the citizens of the various States. On the first Wednesday of December the electors, for whom the majority of the citizens have voted, will meet at the capitals of their respective States and cast their ballots for President and Vice President. They appoint a Messenger to bear the certificates of the result to Washington. By a law of Congress this Messenger receives, as compensation, twenty-five cents a mile for every mile of the estimated distance between his home and Washington, going and returning. Prior to the first day of January, 1869, under a penalty of one thousand dollars, he must deliver to the President of the United States Senate the certificates; and on the second Wednesday in February following, both branches of Congress must meet together—probably in the Hall of the House of Representatives—count the votes, and declare, through the President of the Senate, who of the aspirants have been elected to the positions for which they were ambitious.

NEWS FROM THE EMIGRATION.

By letter to President Brigham Young from President F. D. Richards, dated Liverpool, July 1st, we glean the following items:

"The steamship *Minnesota* was cleared yesterday morning and steamed down the river in the afternoon. She had on board 530 souls of our people. Elder John Parry was appointed President of the company, and Elders E. J. Clark and Zebulon Jacobs, his counsellors. The health of myself and assisting brethren continues good; and all are very much interested in the good work of emigration. Joy and gratitude which fill the hearts of the emigrating Saints, are largely shared by those assisting them on their journey home. Things in general pertaining to the emigration seem very satisfactory.

"I have engaged passages on the steamship *Colorado*, which will sail on the 14th instant, for the last company of through passengers the present season, which will be about 500 souls."

OUR LOCAL'S CORRESPONDENCE.

No. II.

THE RAILROAD IN THE CAÑONS.

DEVIL'S GATE, July 21st, 1868.

UP WEBER CAÑON.

For about three miles up Weber Cañon the railroad will run on the north side of the river. The gorge for this space widens and narrows at short distances, being in some places about forty rods wide at the bottom, and in others seemingly so close that there does not appear to be room for a road, although there is one on each side of the river. The sides of the cañon rise in towering, rugged masses, the bare and jagged rocks standing in solemn and sombre grandeur, but relieved by occasional patches of verdure in varied hues of green; while in some places cosy nooks embowered within lofty peaks, are at this season a beautiful emerald. The river is turbulent and wicked-look-

ing, dashing and surging over huge boulders lying in its course, tearing at the earth and willows which border it in places, or sweeping savagely against jutting rocks that grimly rise above its waters.

AN INCIDENT.

But it is not near so boisterous now as it has been and usually is earlier in the season, for the waters are falling. Like nearly all our mountain streams, creeks and rivers, the spring floods make it very fierce and ungovernable. About three weeks ago when it was a good deal higher than at present, one of Sharp & Young's teamsters had crossed from the north to the south side of the river on the bridge, with a dirt cart drawn by a mule. The animal was new at the business. Being unused to the cart, and having mulish proclivities, it began as mules sometimes do, to move wrong end first. The driver tried to bring about a movement more in consonance with his intentions, but failed, and mule, cart and teamster vaulted backwards into the river. Providentially and by strong swimming the man escaped; the mule and the cart disappeared and went down stream out of sight. The mule was got a week after about three miles down the river, with the harness on and the shafts attached; the cart was found in fragments in various places.

SHEEP ROCK.

The line of the road marked is from thirty to forty feet above the bed of the river, and the side of the cañon rises quite abruptly, in some places almost perpendicularly. The grading will not be very difficult of construction for a mile and a half up, until "Sheep Rock" is reached, where there will be a cut of about a hundred and fifty feet long through solid rock; the depth of the cut I was unable to learn. In the neighborhood of a mile above "Sheep Rock" grading is being prosecuted by Sharp & Young's first camp. The work here borders somewhat on the massive. Large rocks are rent from their long resting-place, and hurled down the mountain side with crashing force, to form a solid substratum for the lighter boulders and earth which make the summit of the grading. There is considerable solid rock here on which pick, sledge and drills are kept busily employed. The eastern end of this section reaches a bend in the river, at the famed

DEVIL'S GATE.

Of which a description may not be inappropriate before proceeding further on the railroad. A short distance higher up stream the river winds around a little mountain that is detached from the main range on the south side of the cañon. The channel of the river narrows to about twenty feet, and the face of the little mountain named rises precipitously, a solid rock, some sixty or seventy feet high, on the inside; while on the outside, gaunt and grim, towers up an almost perpendicular mountain of rock nearly a thousand feet high. It was at dusk when I first saw the place, and the grey top of this mountainous wall seemed faint in the fading light, while there was around a sublimity and grandeur that spoke of the majesty of nature and nature's God. The river dashing around and through this narrow gorge, and spreading out immediately after to six times the width, forms a perfect pandemonium of waters; seething, boiling, dashing, leaping, hurrying on with maddening race, ever changing, yet ever the same fiercely troubled cauldron. It was through this little mountain, and at the back of the wall of rock which rises inside the bight of the river, that the heavy cut through solid rock was anticipated, to land the line on the south side; but it has been found since work commenced that much is earth which was supposed to be rock; though the latter may be reached of sufficient quantity to make a heavy job of it, the cut being a deep one. Above this point the river flows along placidly, and in a straight line with its course below, it being seemingly diverted from its channel and a passage torn for it through the titanic and wild-looking mountain of rock which forms the pillars of the "Devil's Gate."

THE SOUTH SIDE.

A bridge will be thrown across the river and road here with a span of 280 feet; from this the road keeps the south side of the river for about a mile and a half. But to reach the point where this cutting had to be commenced, it was necessary to construct a road from the mouth of the cañon on the south side up to it.

The road, which is simply used for wagons to pass up to the work, has been constructed by Bishop Sharp at considerable

cost, for a distance of over three miles; and in one place it is taken from the river, large rocks being piled in with brush wood and heavy boulders, until a firm and substantial passage is obtained.

On reaching the work at the head of this road, yesterday morning, where the cut is being made at Devil's Gate, I found nearly 150 men at work within a quarter of a mile, under the charge of Bro. James Livingston, of the 20th Ward. The cut is 800 feet long, and at the deepest place it will be 60 feet on one side and 43 on the other. To get away the dirt as it is being dug out, side cuts have been made, and the bed of the river forms a convenient resting place for that which cannot be used to better advantage.

East of this, a very short distance, is a mountain of sand, which rises 159 feet high. This has to be cut away bodily 60 feet in.

MORE MEN WANTED.

From the mouth of the Cañon to this point there is work, I think, for 500 men more than are at present engaged on it; and those who wish for paying employment, and are not afraid of a pick and a shovel, can find work by applying for it. East of this contract of Sharp & Young's—who are the heaviest sub-contractors from the head of Echo to the mouth of Weber—Levi Stewart is at work on a half-mile contract, with 35 men. He would like a few more. Col. Thos. E. Ricks, of Logan, joins him, on a contract of nearly a mile, on which he is at work with some 50 men. The grading on these two contracts is progressing rapidly, the work being comparatively easy. Col. Ricks' contract crosses the river, and leaves the line again on the north side; and having once more got on the road made by the Weber Cañon Road Company, I will close this communication.

No. III.

MOUTH OF ECHO, July 22, 1868.

Having been furnished with a document, which was to pass me safely over the road, bearing the signature of Col. J. C. Little, as Secretary of the Weber Cañon Road Company, whom I met at the mouth of the Cañon, yesterday morning, I bade the Colonel and Bishop Sharp good-bye, as the latter was making preparations to put in a monster blast; and in company with John Sharp, jun., commenced travel up towards Echo. Passing "Devil's Gate" on the north side by full sun-light, it had, if anything, a wilder appearance than when seen by the waning light of evening. About a mile and three quarters above is Strawberry Ford, where the road crosses again to the north side of the river. And here it may be as well to state, that from this point the terms north side and south side, would not convey a correct idea of the opposite sides of the river, for it winds and turns so often and at times so suddenly, that the traveler is at a loss to know which cardinal point he is looking towards. I will, therefore use the terms left hand side when applied to that side of the river which was north at starting, and right hand side when applied to the opposite.

UP THE RIVER.

The Hon. John Taylor's contract of some three miles runs along the left hand side of the river going up, and does not appear to be difficult of construction. His head-quarters are at Mountain Green. Work has just about commenced here, and that of a preliminary character. Before reaching Mountain Green, the Cañon widens out to the size of a little valley, beautiful at this season with small cottonwoods and other trees in full foliage. There appears to be considerable cultivable land along these bottoms, but the locusts have been able to destroy as fast as the husbandman could see the fruits of his labors grow up; and the earth, where crops had been planted, looks bare and uninviting. The mountains recede, and between them and the valley bottom rolling hills covered with verdure present a most pleasing prospect, the light and shade making strong contrasts of hues; while the pine-crowned peaks rising above, and beyond on either side, those to the right hand still bearing a portion of Winter's wealth of snow, and the river winding between through the rank willows and growth of shrubs and trees, completed a picture of rare loveliness. Joining Mr. Taylor's contract is one taken by Bishop C. S. Peterson, close by Weber City Bridge; and next to it that worked by Hous. S. W. Richards and Isaac Groo. In some places here the line will trench on the river, which is being confined within narrower bounds; but there does not appear to be any heavy work. Riding along and winding around the bench where the road runs, we come to