

OUR CITY GOVERNMENT—PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

In passing the new city prison lately, which is being erected at the rear of the City Hall, we noticed that it is being rapidly pushed forward to completion. We had some curiosity to know its probable cost, and were informed that the contract had been let for a little rising of thirty thousand dollars, upwards of one-third of which amount has already been paid to Messrs. John Sharp & S. C. Cram, the contractors. Our attention was called to the improvements which have been made in the city by the Corporation, and, though familiar with the city and the unobtrusive manner in which our City Fathers have pursued their work, we were surprised at the large amounts which have been expended. If our community were split up into political factions, and the offices of mayor, aldermen and councillors were the objects of political strife, then the public would have been fully advised of the feats of economy which the party in power had accomplished. Out of such results any amount of capital would have been manufactured by party journals, and the party accomplishing them would have been lauded to the skies and the members been held up as models for other city officers to imitate.

But there has been no necessity here for giving such matters publicity. The public have seen the improvements in progress, and, being lightly taxed, have given themselves no concern as to how the means to make them has been obtained. Direct taxation has not furnished that means. That is readily perceived when it is recollected that one-half of one per cent. is the city tax. Such a tax would not build an elegant City Hall—that would not disgrace any city—at a cost of upwards of sixty thousand dollars. It would not build such a Prison as is now in course of erection; nor such a Bath House and outside improvements, which amount, in the aggregate, to upwards of twenty-five thousand dollars; nor such an aqueduct, at a cost of nearly twenty-five thousand dollars, as now furnishes a safe and beautiful outlet for the waters of City Creek. Such a tax would scarcely pay the police expenses alone of this city, without mentioning the current expenses of the city, the repairing of the streets, which is no inconsiderable item in the city expenses, the management of the water, the fencing and improving of the three public squares, upon which considerably more than ten thousand dollars have already been expended.

There have been some mutterings of discontent, not by old residents of the city, or by persons who have come here to reside, and who have desired to see good order maintained, about the tax which has been put on liquor, and the high rates at which liquor saloon licenses have been charged in this city. Attempts have been made to create prejudice in the East and at Washington against our people, because Great Salt Lake City government has kept the liquor business in its own hands. But these attempts have failed. The policy pursued by the City Council in this matter has vindicated itself. Every man of means in the community must give the city authorities credit for good management, and must acquiesce in their policy when he sees an efficient police force maintained, and the various works of public improvement progressing on every hand, without his having to pay heavy taxes, or the city being involved in debt.

There are very few, if any, who are fond of paying heavy taxes; yet every public-spirited man is proud of good streets, fine public improvements and an orderly, quiet city. If our streets are not yet as good as they will be, we have reason to be proud of our public improvements and the good order and peace that are maintained here, and particularly of the fact that the city is not encumbered with debt. If the City Council accomplishes these results by limiting the sale of liquor to a few saloons, and charging them high rates of license, or by taxing liquor in any form, we do not think there is any reasonable person who would entertain the least objection to their policy. It lightens taxation and checks the consumption of liquors—two results very greatly to be desired.

We think we are justified in saying that there is not another city on the continent, the finances of which have been managed with such economy and prudence as those of this city of Great Salt Lake. Our City Council, as a body, have from the beginning maintained an irreproachable character. They have not been kept in check by political opponents acting as spies upon their proceedings and criticising every act; but they have carried with them into the Council Chamber the same high sense of honor and conscientious regard for duty that ought to characterize the business dealings of honorable men in private life. Being a public body has not deprived them of individual responsibility or private honor.

[Special to the Deseret Evening News.]

By Telegraph.

CONGRESS REGULATING THE CHARGES FOR FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS ON THE PACIFIC RAILROAD!

European Conference Deferred!

GARIBALDI NOT ESCAPED!

Cholera in Honduras!

TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE AT PORTO RICO!

More Revolutions in South America!

Washington, 9.

House.—A large number of bills and resolutions were introduced and referred. Amongst them was one declaring that the Government will afford naturalized citizens the same protection as natives; also one authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to use \$4,000,000 in greenbacks, monthly, for the redemption of bonds; also, one for the resumption of specie payments, providing that after March, '68, all greenbacks received in the Treasury shall be destroyed, and new notes issued, payable in coin a year from date. Many other financial measures were introduced.

A bill was introduced creating a Commission, consisting of the Secretary of War, *ad interim*, and the Attorney General, to fix annually the tariff of charges for freights and passengers on the Pacific Railroad.

An animated discussion came up on Butler's motion, to refer a portion of the President's message to the Committee on Appropriations, Butler and others taking the ground that a treaty is not operative until the House has made an appropriation. The resolution was rejected, and the subject referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; Adjourned.

New York, 9.

The Rising Star, with California mails to the 19th, has arrived.

Senate.—The Chair submitted several communications in answer to inquiries concerning the petition of Erastus Corning and others, stockholders of the Central Branch of the Pacific Railroad, praying that nothing contained in the Act for the Eastern Division of the Pacific Railroad was to be construed to the prejudice of their branch.

Ramsey offered a resolution, preliminary, for arranging a treaty with Canada, with regard to duties, importations, free navigation of the Lakes and the river St. Lawrence, the fisheries, copyright, &c.

Chandler called up the resolution recognizing Abyssinia as a belligerent power. After remarks by several Senators, the matter dropped, and the Senate adjourned.

St. Louis, 9.

Edgar Adams, a prominent citizen, died suddenly this afternoon.

Washington, 9.

The House to-day passed the Senate bill, fixing a quorum of the Supreme Court at five members, also, the bill striking the word white from all laws and charters of the District of Columbia.

London, 9.

It is thought the scheme for the European Conference will be deferred, as a speech of Minister Rouher indicates that the French Government is already prejudiced on the entire case.

A dispatch from Florence denies that Garibaldi has escaped.

The Cunard company will not exclusively perform the mail service between England and the United States. The North German Lloyd steamers have been accepted by both governments and the Inman line will also carry mails.

In Limerick there were large funeral obsequies in honor of the Manchester Fenians yesterday.

New York, 9.

The Rising Star with Panama dates to the 29th, say all is tranquil in Colombia. Marquessa's sentence has been commuted to three years punishment, with the nullification of all rights as a citizen. He goes to Europe.

The report of the attempted revolution in Costa Rica is unfounded. The cholera is reported in Honduras.

A Lima letter of the 21st, says the revolution is spreading.

There is no satisfactory news from Arquipa; and fears are entertained of the capital being sacked by the numerous banditti, who always appear when revolution breaks out.

The Ecuador Cabinet has resigned in consequence of the condemnation of Bulamante by congress. The latter before the close of the session, passed a strong vote of censure on the President, accusing him of incapability and corruption. Senor Carrion resigned the Presidency, being deserted by his friends, and unable to form a new Cabinet. Vice President Aretala took his place. The new elections are ordered for December fifteenth.

Atlanta, 10.

The Convention met to-day but were unable to agree on a permanent Chairman. After considerable wrangling, they adjourned until to-morrow.

Boston, 10.

Dr. Shurtleff has been elected mayor over Norcross, Republican, by 500 majority.

New York, 10.

The Herald's Havana special has advices from Porto Rico to the 2nd, of a terrible earthquake. The shock occurred December 1st. In one place the inhabitants were at church, and the scene that ensued was most pitiable. The people, dashed together, were in consternation, and the cries of women and children were heartrending.

The panic at Santiago about the cholera has subsided.

A Lima letter says the revolution is spreading. Fresh risings are reported every day; and discontent and distrust are increasing in Lima.

Edward Duffey, convicted of illicit distilling at Brooklyn, is sentenced to the penitentiary for 18 months.

The Times' special says the President has notified Theaker, the Commissioner of Patents, that his instant resignation will be acceptable.

A convention of whiskey distillers will be held to-morrow, the most important that has yet taken place. It is expected to be proven that the Government does not realize five cents on the gallon on all the whiskey made in the country. They will urge Congress to tax all whiskey before leaving the distilleries, and reduce the tax to twenty cents per gallon.

FOREIGN NEWS.

In the British House of Commons, the action of France in sending a military expedition to Italy, was strongly condemned by nearly all the members who spoke on the subject.

The Pope, who was at first strenuously averse to any Conference whatever for the settlement of the Roman question, has at length withdrawn his objections, and is now in full accord with the proposition of Napoleon. The Government of Bavaria, which it was asserted would not join the Conference, has also signified its acceptance of the French plan. Many of the details of the Conference have been agreed upon. Since the last dispatches the Governments of Italy and Wurtemberg have signified their intention of accepting places in the Conference. The Paris Patrie, in a leading article on the

subject, takes occasion to deny the report that Gen. Dix had expressed any desire for the representation of the United States in the Conference. The Emperors of Russia and Austria have formally signified their intention of participating in the proposed Conference for the settlement of the Roman question, as suggested by the Emperor Napoleon, as have also nearly all the smaller Powers of Europe. The course that Prussia will pursue in the matter is not officially known, but it is believed that she, too, will send representatives. The note recently sent from Great Britain on the subject is accepted as a mere formal objection. His Holiness, the Pope, is known to oppose in advance any action of the Conference which invades the rights he now enjoys, and particularly any plan divesting him of his temporal power. The 11th of December is the time appointed for it to meet.

The steamship Danube has arrived at Havana from St. Thomas on the 18th inst., via Porto Rico. She reports that severe shocks of earthquake occurred on the 18th inst. at San Juan, the principal port and capital of Porto Rico. The hulls of the schooner Clinton and the brigantine Mecosta, damaged at St. Thomas, have been condemned. Divers were working in the Bay of St. Thomas to discover treasure sank in the late hurricane, and were meeting with success. Five millions in specie went down with the steamer Rhone.

Correspondence.

LOGAN, CACHE CO., Nov. 29, 1867.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother, On the 22nd inst., Pres. E. T. Benson, accompanied by Bishop Wm. Budge and Elder W. H. Shearman, left this place on a short missionary tour through the northern settlements of this county, and the Malad Valley. It was the design to hold meeting in Franklin, on Friday evening, but the severe storm prevented. The elders met with the warmest reception at Oxford, where three meetings were held on Sunday, and a Sunday School was organized, under the superintendency of bro. N. Brimhall. They have a very good log meeting-room in the settlement, 19 by 39, and, although the people have had to move several times, their spirit of enterprise is not quenched, but they confidently expect—as they have a right to from the excellent facilities around them—to establish a prosperous and large settlement.

At this place the company was joined by Bishop Wm. Nelson and Elders N. Brimhall and Jas. Clements. Arriving at Woodland's Station, Marsh Valley, about 150 miles north of Salt Lake City, they were received with every manifestation of kindness by Sister Woodland, her husband being absent in the city. At Malad City, Bishop Daniels and many others were rejoiced to see the brethren, and extended every courtesy in their power. The school-house was crowded in the evening by persons of various persuasions, and a very excellent meeting was held. This valley appears to be remarkably adapted to stock raising, but not so good for agricultural purposes as some other sections of the country; still it has many advantages, a large extent of tillable land, and will, undoubtedly, yet be thickly populated.

Bishop Daniels is a faithful and energetic man, and he does not forget to strongly recommend the DESERET NEWS and Juvenile Instructor; he hopes to add largely to his list of subscribers to both of these papers.

On Tuesday the party proceeded to Bear River where they were truly surprised to see the changes that have been wrought in so short a time by the capital and energy of Messrs. Godbe & Hampton of your city. The hotel is an excellent rock building which, in its appearance and accommodations, would be a credit to any community. The hotel and store, together with the granaries, storehouses and shops of the company, make quite a picturesque little village. The bridge is approached from both sides of the river by splendid dugways, which reflect credit upon the proprietors and makers. One was made by Messrs. Godbe & Hampton, the other by Wells, Fargo & Co. One thing deserves special mention—there was no liquor for sale on the premises, neither was there any drunkenness nor profanity witnessed during the visit of the party. Pres. Benson and company were most kindly entertained by Sisters Hampton and Grant and bro. F. H. Young and family, the worthy, genial and energetic "Ben" being absent in your city. The improvements made by Messrs. Godbe and Hampton have been