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Wednesday.....October 10, 1860.

THE WEBER CANAL.

Soon after the settlements in the northern part of Davis county were formed, it became manifest that there was not a sufficiency of water for irrigating what land was at first inclosed and opened for cultivation, and that the settlements could not be extended, nor more land brought into cultivation, (excepting here and there a small piece, where the water of some creek could be more advantageously used nearer the base of the mountain than further down towards the lake,) unless water could be brought from the Weber to supply the deficiency.

On exploring and surveying the country between the settlements on Kay's creek and the mouth of Weber kanyon, where the water would have to be taken out of the river, it was made to appear that it would require much labor and a large expenditure of means to bring it around on the north side of the high sand ridge intervening between Kay's creek and the river to where it would be used on the land that had been opened, or on other land that was suitable for cultivation, of which there then was, and yet is, a large tract on the west of the Territorial road running north from this city through Farmington to Ogden, that might be converted into grain-growing farms, if water could be obtained for irrigating, but, in its natural state, of no use excepting for herding purposes. An estimate of the cost convinced those interested in the matter that they could not then undertake a work of such magnitude with any prospect of success, and there the matter rested for the time being.

In the fall of 1855, the subject was again agitated, public meetings were held, committees appointed, the Legislature memorialized and a company was chartered at the Fifth annual session for the purpose of constructing a canal of sufficient capacity to take as much water from the Weber as might be needed to irrigate the lands in question; and there seemed to be no want of means nor lack of energy to accomplish the desired object.

A survey of the route of the contemplated canal was made the following summer, and arrangements entered into for commencing the work, with a full determination on the part of the citizens of Davis county generally, to extend the canal southward, after bringing it around the sand ridge, through most, if not all, of the settlements between the Weber and Great Salt Lake City, and thereby open large tracts of land for agricultural purposes that were then, and are yet, measurably valueless.

The great obstacle to be overcome, in bringing the water southward, after taking it from the river, was the sand ridge or hill running from the mountain several miles farther west towards the lake than much of the farming land south of the ridge that needed water to make it productive, was situated; and competent engineers were of the opinion, that the construction of a tunnel through the hill would be attended with less expense than the making of a canal around it of sufficient capacity to convey as much water as could be advantageously used on those lands. The feasibility of the plan was conceded, by a majority of those interested, and it was ultimately resolved to make an effort to construct a tunnel for the passage of the water, and the work was vigorously commenced late in the fall or early in the winter of that year.

After much means had been expended and the hill had been penetrated some considerable distance, it was ascertained that, instead of the line of the tunnel passing through a clayey, compact strata as anticipated, the internal formation of the hill or ridge was principally of loose sand, and that the expense of making a durable passage for a large stream of water through it would be enormous, and the prosecution of the work attended with imminent danger to the operatives. Under those circumstances, the tunnelling operation

was abandoned; and in consequence of the unsettled state of affairs that have existed in this Territory since the summer of 1857, till recently, nothing further has been done in relation to constructing the contemplated Weber canal, and the waters of that stream continue to flow into the Salt Lake without being made subservient to the agricultural interests of the country, that would be materially enhanced by their application to its parched soil.

How long it will be before another effort will be made to accomplish the original design of making the surplus waters of the Weber conducive to the growing of wheat and other staple products of the country, is not known; but inasmuch as it is now a time of peace, and general prosperity in the Territory, if the scheme is practicable, which most of those acquainted with the location, and have had experience in such matters, believe, and but very few seem to doubt, would it not be advisable to make another effort, to accomplish the work, and thereby convert many thousands of acres of waste, barren land into fruitful fields, the products of which would decidedly enhance the wealth, increase the population and add to the resources of Davis county in particular and of this part of the Territory in general.

The estimated cost of constructing the canal, as made at the time it was surveyed, was no barrier to the undertaking, as there was ample means at command, as per report, to meet all expenses; and the farmers and business men in the section of country that would be immediately benefited by the water, were firmly of the opinion, that a more profitable investment could not then be made, and they confidently believed that their farms and land claims would not only be greatly increased in value, but that the increase of their produce in one or two years after the work was completed, if no more land should be tilled, than was then inclosed, would be sufficient to repay them for all outlays in the construction of the artificial water course.

During the past summer, the scarcity of water has been severely felt in that county, and, if the canal is ever to be made, why not do it now, while there is opportunity, and thereby overcome an obstacle at once that will ever exist and prevent the full development of the agricultural resources of a large section of country, in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis of Utah, until there is enough water to irrigate the land.

Mr. Henry Nisonger, of Lehi, Utah county, has been examining the route of the contemplated ditch, recently, and proposes to take the job of digging the same, and bringing the water around the ridge to or near the point where the tunnel was commenced, for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars in stock or grain at tithing office prices, payment to be made when the work is completed.

That is comparatively a small sum and the profits that would have accrued to the citizens of that county this year, if the work had been done last fall and winter, would more than have paid the expense of the excavation.

With Mr. Nisonger we have no acquaintance, but if he is not a competent person to undertake the job which, however, we believe he is, from what we have heard of him, let some other person do it. There are many, no doubt, who would do the work for the same, and perhaps a less sum, than he offers to do it for; but less or more, the canal should be constructed and the large amount of water that can be taken out of the Weber without infringing upon the rights of any, should be applied to the soil that is now barren and valueless for the want of it. When that canal shall have been made and completed, and the anticipations, as to its usefulness, fully realized, other works of the kind that have been commenced in this and other counties, but are, and have been for a long time, in statu quo, may again be considered important and practicable, and the necessary measures taken to recommence their construction and to push them forward to completion.

There has been scarcely a commencement made as yet in developing the resources of these mountain valleys, barren and unproductive in their natural state, but fruitful when properly watered, cultivated and improved by the labor and untiring perseverance of those who have come hither to enjoy peace and immunity from religious persecution, and, as fast as circumstances will permit, all the water flowing from the mountains, not otherwise needed, should be conducted, by artificial channels, to where it can be advantageously and

profitably used in irrigating the soil that it may bring forth food for the thousands and tens of thousands that will yet seek refuge here from persecution and other afflictions that have been foretold, and will sooner or later come upon the inhabitants of the earth.—When that is done, the agricultural products of Davis, Great Salt Lake, Utah and other counties will be doubly increased.

EASTERN NEWS.

By the last mail from the East, dates from New York to the 15th, and from St. Joseph to the 18th of September were received.

There had been no particular change in the aspect of political affairs of late, and all parties were as much in doubt as ever, and were no better assured as to what the future would bring forth, than they were two months previously. The election in Maine resulted, as anticipated, in the complete triumph of the Republicans. According to reports their majorities were greatly increased. Washburn was elected governor by an overwhelming majority. All the members of Congress, the State senators, and a large majority of the representatives elect are Republicans, and they were rejoicing on a grand scale over their victory throughout the State.

The greatest disaster that had occurred was the sinking of the steamer Lady Elgin, on Lake Michigan, by which about 350 lives were lost. She left Chicago on the evening of the 7th of September, having on board nearly four hundred persons, principally excursionists from Milwaukee, who were returning home, and was ran into, when about ten miles from shore, by the schooner Augusta, off Waukegan, at two o'clock on the morning of the 8th, sinking in twenty minutes, with all on board excepting twenty-one persons. There were only two small boats left on the steamer, after the collision, in one of which thirteen persons escaped to shore, in the other eight left the boat, but four of those were drowned at the beach. There were in all some fifty persons saved, in various ways. Among the missing were Col. Lumsden, of the New Orleans *Picayune*, and Herbert Ingraham, Esq., member of Parliament, and proprietor of the London *Illustrated News*, and also his son Herbert, with many other gentlemen of distinction from various parts of the world.

The Canadian schooner, W. H. Davey, with a cargo of coal, sprung a leak in a heavy gale on Sept. 8th, and sunk near the Middle island, Lake Erie. The crew of seven persons escaped to the rigging, where they remained seventeen hours, and were finally rescued by a passing vessel.

The steamer Arago sunk, near Goose Island, in the Mississippi the same day. The schooner Vermont struck the pier at Cleveland, and went down on the 11th. She had on board a cargo of wheat and corn. Other disasters of the kind are reported on the lakes and rivers, with the usual number of fires and other calamities so prevalent in all parts of the United States and the Canadas of late.

The Indian troubles in New Mexico were becoming serious. Governor Rencher had refused to call for volunteers, asserting that there were sufficient troops of the regular army, and that he had no power to call the militia into service, as Congress had made no provision for paying them.

Col. Fauntleroy had received orders from the Secretary of War, to make an immediate and vigorous campaign against the Navajoes.

On the 15th of August, the Navajoes stole from the Government herd at Alvarde, 300 head of beef cattle. Thirty troops went in pursuit, and recovered 50 head, but did no injury to the thieves.

A report reached Santa Fe Fork that the Cheyennes, Kiowas and Sioux had joined together and would make war upon the troops wherever found, and the command at the Pawnee Fork were apprehensive of an attack from them shortly.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Toronto on the 7th of September, and those who had been with him from the time of his arrival in America, considered that his reception there exceeded all others that had preceded it, in grandeur and magnificence.

On the evening of the 8th, the Prince was made a barrister, and signed the rolls of the Queen's Bench, the Common Pleas, and the Chancery Court. He was also made a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Sir Allan McNab appeared in his barrister's robes, for the first time in many years.

He attended church on Sunday the 9th, and there was a tremendous effort made by the Orangemen, amounting to a mob, to make him pass under an Orange arch they had constructed on King street, in going and returning, but they were foiled in their attempt by the firmness of the Duke of Newcastle, and the dexterity of the coachman.

On his egress from the church, the Orangemen were at hand in strong force, intending to seize him and make him pass under. He became pale and turned to the Duke as if asking counsel. The Duke, stern and determined, strode ahead. The police cleared the way, and the royal party was again seated, when the mob gathered around the horses. By order of the Duke, the coachman plied the whip; the horses reared and plunged, and, to the great danger of those in front, the cortege passed swiftly through, while mingled cheers, groans and hisses followed them.

The Orange difficulties were subsequently settled and things were moving on smoothly at latest dates.

From Cache County.

Among the many friends, who called to transact business with, or visit us at our office during the Conference, from Cache County, were Judge Maughn, Bishop Tidwell, Maj. Blair and others, all of whom gave a very flattering account of the progress of events in that valley, the amount and quality of grain produced, and the advancement of the people in the several settlements, in house and mill building, manufactures, and other matters connected with their permanent establishment in the country and the development of its resources.

There are four saw mills in operation in that county and others building. Several grist mills are in progress of erection and the enterprising spirit of the inhabitants is exemplified in the various permanent improvements that are being made in each settlement, necessary to their prosperity, comfort and subsistence.

Major Blair has, since going there sometime about the 25th of July, erected a saw mill at Providence and had it in successful operation for several weeks, and has also inclosed a large farm. He seems well pleased with the country. However, we shall not be surprised if, when that valley becomes densely settled, its attractions for him, in consequence of his proclivities for frontier life, shall measurably decrease.

During our short interview with him, he did not even refer to his late editorial career. The wilderness has charms for him, that the tripod never possessed.

Arrival of Judge Kinney.

Hon. John F. Kinney, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for Utah Territory, arrived in this city by eastern mail stage on Thursday evening last, in excellent health and met with a cordial welcome from his old friends and acquaintances.

At the close of his first term of office in this Territory, Judge Kinney was officiating in what is now, the Third District, and had his residence in this city. By the last assignment of the Federal Judges, Chief Justice Eckels, the successor of Judge Kinney, and now his predecessor, was assigned to the First District, and resided at Camp Floyd in consequence (as was supposed) of his military proclivities and fondness for such society as existed in and about that post, during his sojourn there; but we have no hesitation in saying, that altho' Judge Kinney may, till an assignment is made by the Legislative Assembly, have to officiate and reside in the First District, composed of Cedar, Utah, Juab, San Pete, Millard, Beaver, Iron and Washington counties, he may not be expected to make his home in a garrison, nor to associate with such beings, as are usually found following the army and prowling about military encampments.

We welcome the return of the Judge, and trust that the friendly relations heretofore existing between us, will not be impaired by any circumstances that may hereafter arise.

Information Wanted

Of the whereabouts of THOMAS SNOW-BALL. He was an engineer in England, and left Hull about 7 or 8 years ago. Any information will be thankfully received by his nephew. Please address R. R. Birkbeck, Cedar city, Iron county, Utah Territory.