

EDITORIALS.

A REPORTORIAL RAMBLE.

VISITING THE SCENES AND CHARACTERS OF THE JORDAN CANALS.

A Tiresome, but Withal an Interesting Day.

A News reporter was rudely awakened from his slumbers Wednesday morning with the words, "If you want to catch the train you've got to hurry." He accordingly clothed himself in the quickest possible time, and proceeded to the Utah Southern depot, where he was met by a friend, at whose invitation the scribe was about to take a trip to the Jordan Dam and vicinity. We were tendered the courtesies of the road by Hon Jas. Sharp, and were soon aboard the train, whirling along toward our destination.

In the course of time the Point of the Mountain was reached, where the iron horse checked up sufficiently to allow the two travelers to dismount. No barouche was in waiting to convey us to our objective point, and the glories and difficulties of a long tramp then began to dawn upon us. No time was to be lost, however, and the start was made with alacrity and spirit. A tedious march of about a mile and a half, happily down a hill, over and through snow of varying depth, brought us to the

BIG DAM,

which is just inside the Salt Lake county line. It is a work substantially constructed, having a floor and numerous gates, by means of which the water above can be raised or lowered. It forms also a solid and convenient bridge. At this point two streams are to be taken from the river, the East Jordan and the West Jordan canals. A great amount of labor has been expended right here, not only on the dam itself, but on necessary excavations, embankments, etc. A gentleman named Turner lives here and is employed to see that nothing goes wrong with the improvements which have cost so much. We informed us that a short distance above and west of us, two men were prospecting for coal, the notion being prevalent that in the immediate neighborhood that valuable combustible could be obtained. It is a fact generally known among old settlers, that not far below this place a company of miners in early days erected a forge, sharpened and repaired their tools, and used stone coal for the purpose. The idea prevails, and with no reason to doubt its truth, that they discovered it near by. The late Dr. Dunyon was an enthusiastic believer in the presence of coal in that section, and with the present agitation over the fuel question in this county, it is reasonable to suppose that a thorough search will be made for it.

THE WEST JORDAN CANAL,

which when completed is expected to water thousands of acres on the barren Jordan range and the "Sand Ridge," has cost considerable means so far, and much yet remains to be accomplished. The bulk of the work is done, however, down to where the canal will come out on the level plain, where excavation will be easy and progress consequently rapid. The really costly portion of the work, namely that along the western bluffs of the Jordan, is, where finished, done in a worthy and commendable manner. To get the required depth of water in this ditch, the surface of the river will have to be raised some two feet above the present level, and to this many people of Utah County will object. Even then, however, we were told that high water mark would not be reached. No particular trouble is anticipated in coming to an amicable arrangement on this point. As far as we could see, work was stopped, though we were assured the suspension was merely temporary.

THE EAST JORDAN CANAL

taps the river a few rods above the dam, and runs along the foot of the bluff on the east side and thence northeast across the valley. Good, strong gates control the

below another pair of gates for greater security is being put in place. Between these two regulators of the supply, a long levee has been constructed, the river turned from its original course and a new channel arranged for it. This labor cost some \$8,000 and furnished several weeks' employment to thirty teams. This canal, which is fifteen feet wide at the bottom and will carry six feet of water, when completed will bring large tracts of land under cultivation, and will terminate near the Cottonwoods. It is the work of private individuals, who have organized themselves into an incorporated company.

Pursuing our way for about a mile down the river along the banks of the last mentioned canal, we reach, after innumerable tumbles and repeated returns to snowbanks for missing overshoes, the starting point of the

SOUTH JORDAN CANAL.

This is in full operation, and has been for some years. Though the stream is not very large, it is continuous and an absolute necessity to the settlement. It starts out on the east side of the Jordan, takes a circuitous route a short distance, and is carried across to the west side of the river in a flume. During its short course on the east side it receives the waters of a number of beautiful little warm and tepid springs. Just where the flume crosses the river, is the commencement of work on the

SALT LAKE CITY AND JORDAN CANAL,

about which so much has been said and written within the last few months and which was the main attraction of the day's travel. It is really intended to start at the same point as the South Jordan ditch, but whether it will have a parallel course, or whether it will occupy the enlarged channel of that stream has not yet been decided, so work has been commenced a short distance below the head. Standing on the point where the work was commenced, our view embraced teams and men in busy groups all along the bluffs as far as we could see.

It was getting late, so we could not stop to gaze long on the animated scene, but continued our way along the line of the canal. The work is let out in small contracts usually, in most instances the contractors doing their own portions. Many acquaintances were recognized and shaken by the hand, and at nearly every "crowd" an hospitable invitation to "come to camp and get dinner" was received. We thankfully declined, being already provided with eatables furnished by a kind friend at Sandy, who had packed us an ample lunch basket. We passed scores of these honest, industrious laborers, and were convinced by the dull report of blasts before and behind us, and the general air of industry among all hands, that the work was being pushed with vigor. Shortly before reaching Prest. A. M. Cannon's homestead entry, where we ate lunch, we were shown the spot where the young man Swenson, of Spanish Fork, was killed by a falling bank on the 24th ult. This sad accident threw a shade of gloom over the whole force.

Still lower down a number of young men were working on a contract, the preparatory work of which was the removal of some small snow drifts. The frozen moisture had to be plowed and scraped away like so much soil, than which it was considerably harder to handle. These men in their work have dug up a human skeleton, about five feet ten inches in length, and near it a peculiarly shaped stone, evidently a partially completed Indian pipe bowl. They are not yet done, and, in short, Micawber-like, are hourly expecting something else to turn up.

THE RETURN.

We had no time for further perambulations, and, indeed, very little disposition, so, the remaining crumbs of our basket being dispatched, we started for the railroad track. A young man with a venerable pair of mules offered us a ride, which our respect for the age of his team did not prevent us from accepting. We accompanied him some distance, when fearing we should be too late for the train, we bade him a fond good night and told him we would travel on ahead, that is, afoot, and he could come along at his leisure. We reached

modating train officials slowed up for us to get aboard, and, selecting the softest unoccupied seats in the car, we recapitulated to each other the day's doings.

Taken altogether the work on the canals has been carried forward with an earnestness and determination which should be appreciated. The great difficulties in the way, especially at this frosty season, are met and overcome, and the day is not far distant when the whole beautiful valley will be converted by the assistance of the water supply thus obtained, and the industry of the people, into a landscape of smiling fields and fruitful gardens.

The Utah Southern train rolled into the depot on time, and two tired, footsore passengers got off the car and into bed. The day was bright and pleasant, the atmosphere balmy yet bracing, and the night, a fitting termination to such a day, was peaceful and undisturbed.

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

THE liquor question is one which has engaged the attention of the best minds of the age, and the attempt to legislate against the growing evil of intemperance has provoked a vast amount of discussion among the thoughtful, and of animosity among the prejudiced. We do not believe a law can be enacted which would prevent intemperance and at the same time respect the rights of free citizens. But measures can be adopted to check and in some measure control the evil, and all legislative bodies should use their lawful powers in this direction. Our present statutes touching on this point are somewhat defective. Outside of municipal corporations, the powers of the local authorities are not clearly defined nor sufficiently extended, and we think some change might be made to great advantage.

In this connection a correspondent sends us the following condensation of the main features of the New York Excise Law, which we present for the consideration of the law-makers of Utah, now in session, and from which they may perhaps derive some ideas that will be of benefit to them and through them to the people of this Territory:

1. Every incorporated town has a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the supervisor and two justices, who have the power to issue liquor licenses, who meet the first Monday in May to issue licenses, etc., etc.
2. Board of Excise must keep a book of licenses granted, duly verified.
3. License to say, "To be drunk on the premises," etc., or not.
4. License to be conspicuously posted. Term one year. All needed or required restrictions to be printed on face of the license.
5. License to be paid before issuance.
6. Can be revoked for reasons.
7. A license granted by two of the commissioners valid.
8. No court should have power to control commissioners. *Palmer vs. Doney*, 2 John's cases, 348.
9. Commissioners indictable for knowingly and corruptly granting a license to persons of not good, moral character, etc., etc.
10. Before licensing, applicant must execute a bond to the people of the Territory for \$250 delivered to commissioners, that he will allow no cards, dice, etc., etc., in his house, outhouse, garden, etc., nor suffer his house to become disorderly. (If necessary, define by amount to penal code what is a disorderly house.)
11. Bond to be filed within five days after its execution.
12. Forbidding selling to any servant, apprentice or minor, for taking any specie, of goods or money for liquor sold, in payment or pawn.
13. Penalties to be sued for by the town commissioners. (This would necessitate an Act incorporating towns, [not cities] as is done in the East, and beneficial in a hundred ways.)
14. All penalties recovered payable to County Treasurer for the benefit of insane, &c.
15. Complaints for violation of this law must state where, time, when, kind and quantity of liquor sold. (*Blaisdell vs. Hewitt*, 3d Caines 137.)
16. Proof of circumstantial evi-

17. Each sale actionable, and a penalty. Several distinct sales might have a penalty in same suit. (*Deyo vs. Moore*, 3 Hill 527.)

18. Vacancy occurring in Board of Excise commissioners to be filled by County Court.

19. Election of Commissioners to be at the general election.

20. Fixing grade of license, to be drunk on the premises or otherwise, less than 5 gallons.

1 In towns and incorporated villages \$100 to \$250.

2 In cities, not less than \$200 to \$500.

21. All license money to be paid to County Treasurer, County Court to defray all expenses of commissioners, clerks, stationery, etc. Books to be deposited with County Clerk.

21. A proviso defining and regulating innkeepers, in this particular and others.

22. Something on habitual drunkards.

23. Compelling a drunken man arrested to tell where he purchased, etc.

24. Compelling magistrates to examine such drunkards. Neglect, a fine of \$50.

25. Summary conviction. No bail, or trial by jury allowed.

26. Selling to an intoxicated person, a fine of \$25.

27. Notification to seller from parent, guardian, husband and wife, to be deprived of his license, and a fine of not less than \$20 nor more than \$50.

28. Necessary forms to be printed by County Court for use of Town Commissioners.

FORMS.

Petition of householders to obtain a license.

Proof of the signatures by a subscribing witness.

Affidavit on application to sell liquors.

Bond for selling intoxicating liquors.

Acknowledgment of bond.

Justification of sureties.

Approval of Commissioners.

Bond of an inn-keeper.

Acknowledgment.

Justification of sureties.

Approval.

STOCK SPECULATION AND SCIENTIFIC PLAGIARISM.

DURING the excitement over the alleged triumph of Edison's electric light, we took occasion to show that in view of the fact that nearly all allusions to the light were coupled with remarks as to its effects on gas companies, the movement had the appearance of an effort to "bear" gas stocks and "bull" electric light stocks, in the interest of speculators.

Subsequent events have borne out the truth of this opinion. The reported entire success of Edison turns out to be incorrect; those who have sold their gas stocks at a discount have lost money, and those who have bought electric light stocks at a premium have themselves been "sold;" the market price of the latter has gone down to less than half the figure quoted during the excitement. Wall Street is a power in politics; it also enters the domain of science, takes advantage of its triumphs and failures, and from its private "Tom Tiddlers ground" picks up the gold and silver.

Edison may or may not be a tool of the money-grubbers. If he is working in their interest, no doubt he has secured his share of the proceeds arising from the speculation. His claims to the partial success which most persons have accorded him is disputed, challenges are made daring him to the test, and proofs are given that in any case his so-called invention is nothing but plagiarism.

To show that all that Edison claims and which has been the subject of so many flaming articles in the *New York Herald*, is not new or original with him, the discoveries of other men, several years ago, are being brought before the public eye. The descriptions given in the *Herald* of Edison's method, apparatus and all connected with them, when placed side by side with articles describing these prior discoveries, read almost exactly alike. The *New York Sanitary Engineer*, of Jan. 15, reproduces the description of some of these discoveries published long before Edison was heard of by the public. From this it appears that on Nov. 14, 1845 a patent was taken out in

England by an American named Starr, through his agent King, for producing light by electricity. The patent (No. 10,919) contains the following:

"The invention has for its basis the use of metallic conductors or of continuous carbon, heated to whiteness by the passage of the electric current. The best metal for this purpose is platinum, the best carbon is retort carbon. When carbon is employed, it is useful on account of its affinity for oxygen at high temperatures to cover it from air and moisture."

Then comes a description of a figure or drawing of the apparatus, which shows a thin rod or filament of carbon inclosed in a glass vessel:

"A vacuum is previously established in the bell, and the apparatus veritably forms a barometer, with one of the poles of the battery in communication with the column of mercury and the other with the conductor."

This patent, which embodies all the essential features of the Edison lamp, vacuum, distribution, etc., was followed by improvements and modifications of several other patentees whose names are given, proving that Edison had a plentiful store of appliances and systems from which to obtain the ideas that he claims to be original with himself.

At a meeting of the French Academy, March 1st, 1858, M. Jébaud communicated the discoveries of M. de Changy on the electric light, and following are some extracts from his document:

"In his laboratory, where he has worked alone for the past six years, I saw a battery of twelve Bunsen elements, producing a constant luminous arc between two carbons, in a regulator of his own invention—this regulator being the most simple and perfect I have ever seen. A dozen small miner's lamps were also in the circuit, and he could, at pleasure, light or extinguish either one or the other, or all together, without diminishing or increasing the intensity of the light through the extinction of the neighboring lamps. The lamps, which are enclosed in hermetically-sealed glass tubes, are intended for the lighting of mines in which there is fire-damp, and for the street lamps, which would by this system be all lighted or put out at the same time on the circuits being opened or closed. The light is as white and pure as Gillard's gas, with which it has one point in common, namely, its production by the incandescence of platinum. The gas pipes are replaced by simple wires, and no explosions, bad smells or fire can take place.

"The trials that have hitherto been made, with the object of producing an electric light by means of heated platinum, have failed on account of the melting of the wires. This difficulty has been overcome by M. de Changy's dividing regulator. The cost of the light is estimated to be half that of gas. A lamp placed at the mast head of a ship would form a permanent signal for about six months without the necessity of changing the platinum."

"I also saw a lamp so arranged in a thick glass globe, that it could be immersed to considerable depths without being extinguished by any movement. This lamp has already been used in the taking of fish, which were attracted towards the light. * * * A lamp was to my astonishment, lit in the hollow of my hand, and remained alight after I had put it in my pocket with my handkerchief over it."

Now what is there in Edison's much vaunted, wonderful "invention," that has come to the same grief as that which has befallen the former discoveries, that is not contained in them, particulars of which have been published and been well known to specialists on the subject of electricity for many years?

But notwithstanding the repeated failures in the practical application of the principle, we have faith in its ultimate complete success, and fully believe that electricity is the coming light as well as motive power. However, we do not countenance support the speculation which has grown out of the experiments of science, nor repose much confidence in a man who has repeatedly endeavored to take the result of the thoughts and labors of others and palm them off upon the world as his own. This is as much robbery