

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

COUNTY WARRANTS.

SALT LAKE CITY,
February 18, 1896.

I was surprised to learn from the discussion of House bill 64, validating certain excess county warrants, that there exists any real opposition to a bill so eminently just and honorable.

From the remarks of the opponents of the bill it is apparent that this opposition exists not because any member favors repudiation of just and honorable obligations, but because they had not either a clear understanding of the purport of the bill or of the circumstances leading to this indebtedness or excess of the debt limit.

Until the decision of the Supreme court, rendered February 23, 1895, in a friendly suit instituted for the sole purpose of determining what was the debt limit, lawyers honestly differed in their interpretation of the law.

The Supreme court fixed the limit at \$377,982, and declared that "when it reaches this limit, the power to contract further indebtedness ceases."

If this indebtedness or obligation was not created until the warrants were actually drawn, it would be a comparatively easy matter to determine when this limit was reached, as the outstanding warrants did not exceed this amount until the middle of December, 1894, and within this view all warrants drawn prior to December 12th, 1894, are legal.

This was the generally accepted opinion at the time and also the opinion of the Supreme court since the question of priority of contract was not then raised; but on January 4th, 1896, injunction proceedings were brought against W. P. Lynn, county treasurer, restraining him from paying any warrants issued after May 15th, 1894, upon the ground that contracts were made and indebtedness created prior to May 15th, 1894, but for the payment of which warrants were not drawn until after Dec. 12th, 1894, and holding that these warrants, although issued after the debt limit was reached, were issued in payment of contracts entered into before the limit was reached, hence should take precedence.

Twenty-five thousand dollars is now in the hands of the treasurer, on which the county is paying 8 per cent interest, pending a decision on this point.

The general opinion among attorneys is that priority of contracts takes precedence, and if this point prevails, there is not a member of the Legislature who, without several days' investigation, can separate the legal from the illegal warrants.

It is also apparent if priority of contract takes precedence, that all indebtedness incurred during the last six months of 1894, and possibly that incurred during the last seven months, was absolutely illegal and void. This includes all salaries of county officials from the selectman to the janitor; all expenses incurred for the maintenance of roads; for care of prisoners; support of the poor farm; day work done upon

the city and county building; supplies furnished all departments and every expense and indebtedness whatever incurred after debts amounting to \$377,982 had been incurred.

Prior to the decision of the Supreme court, Salt Lake county warrants were accepted at par by all our merchants and in a dozen different windows hung the words "We uphold the credit of Salt Lake county and take county warrants at par."

It cannot be claimed that the officers and employes working for the county and the merchants furnishing supplies knew or had reason to know, prior to the decision of the Supreme court, that the county had no authority to pay for services or to pay for the supplies furnished during the last few months of 1894.

Much less can it be claimed that those purchasing warrants and paying from 97 cents to par for them considered them in the least questionable, especially as they knew the county had received full value for the amount represented by the warrants, and if in any case (and it is probable there are some) the county did not receive full value for the amounts represented by the warrants, the bill now before the House does not prevent, but directly authorizes the county to refuse payment of such warrants.

For years, we as Utah citizens have been misjudged by a large portion of the misinformed East, our sincerity and integrity questioned, and our motives misconstrued. Only during the last few years have they come to a true understanding of our people, and render us impartial judgment.

Shall we now, then, just after entering the sisterhood of states, at the first session of Utah's Legislature, even before Utah's star ornaments the blue of the American flag—shall we by our own act, by acknowledging full consideration and refusing to pay for it, by repudiation of our just and equitable obligations, bring down upon us the just criticism and censure of every honest heart, and compel every citizen of Utah, and every friend who has championed her cause, to bang his head in shame, as Utah's financial credit is discussed? R. L. TRACY.

SOUTHERN UTAH VETERANS.

Responding to a suggestion of the NEWS made on the subject of veterans a few weeks ago, the St. George Union gives the following list of Dixie's representatives:

Verna Bryner, 92 years old in March, 1896. Her husband died in 1862. Her posterity now numbers over 100. She was with the first company of Latter-day Saints that came from Switzerland.

Luella G. Pace, widow of James Pace, born in 1805, joined the Church in 1839. Her husband was a member of the Mormon Battalion, and founder of Payson City, Utah county.

Sarah R. Kest, 83 years of age; joined the Church in 1841. She is believed to be the only person living in Utah who saw General Lafayette, the friend of Washington; it was on his visit to this country in 1825.

George Woodward, born in 1817, joined the Church in 1840, went to Nauvoo in 1841; is one of the Utah Pioneers. In 1856 was counselor to E. F. Sheets, Bishop of the Eighth ward, Salt Lake City.

Thomson Downing Woodward, wife of George Woodward, born in 1814, joined the Church Christmas day 1839; has been a Temple worker since 1877.

William Carter, joined the Church in 1840, and came to Utah in 1847; is one of the Utah Pioneers.

William Fawcett, 81 years old; was the first man baptized into the Church in York England, the event occurring January 1, 1840; came to Nauvoo in 1843, and to Salt Lake City in 1850; was counselor to Wm. Hickenlooper, Bishop of the Sixth ward, this city, in 1853; was among the first to arrive in St. George in 1861; was appointed to preside over the High Priests at the first organization in St. George in 1862, and still presiding; has been a temple worker since 1877.

Easton Kelsey, born 1813, joined the Church 1836.

Samuel K. Gifford, born 1821, joined the Church in 1833; is a son of Alpheus Gifford, who baptized Heber C. Kimball.

Lorenzo Clark, aged 90; a member of the Mormon Battalion.

David Moss, 77; member of the Mormon Battalion.

Augustus Dodge; member of the Mormon Battalion.

Samuel Miller, 70; member of the Mormon Battalion.

Edward Bunker sen; member of the Mormon Battalion.

Levi Savage, 76; member of the Mormon Battalion.

John Steel, 75; member of the Mormon Battalion.

Zadok Juad; member of the Mormon Battalion.

Robert Covington, 81; member of the Mormon Battalion.

Rufus C. Allen, born in 1827, joined the Church in 1837; member of the Mormon Battalion; accompanied Elder Parley P. Pratt on the Valparaiso, Coill, mission in 1851; the law forbade her preaching in Chilli.

H. W. Bigler; member of the Mormon Battalion.

John Pym, born 1815; joined the Church in 1850; has been postmaster at St. George 28 years.

Sobuyar Everett, born 1843; drove on ny express across the plains when a boy.

Israel Ivins, 80; surveyed the plot for the city of St. George.

Charles Smith, 77; pioneer watchmaker of Salt Lake City.

Richard Bently, formerly in His-torian office, Salt Lake City.

Aaron Nelson, born 1828.

Thomas Cottam, born 1820, joined the Church in 1841.

George W. G. Averett, born 1824, been with the Church since 1835.

John L. Smith, brother of the late President George A. Smith; came into the Church when a boy; was among the early missionaries to Germany; a temple worker.

James B. Bracken, 80, joined the Church in 1834; was one of the guard between the Saints and the mob at Independence in 1833, when the first fight took place.

Daniel D. McArthur, 76, joined the Church in 1836; president of St. George Stake.