

Deseret Evening News.

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GOVERNMENT TO BUY TELEGRAPH LINES.

By yesterday's dispatches we learn that it was stated on Monday in the British House of Commons that it was the intention of the British government to purchase the telegraph lines of Great Britain, and that a plan, effecting that change, would be submitted to the House within a week.

From our eastern exchanges we learn that parties were in Washington two weeks ago endeavoring to induce our government to purchase the telegraph lines of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The object in offering to sell to the government is to give the nation the control of telegraphic lines in the same manner that it has now the monopoly of the postal business. We understand the proposition for the Government to have such control is received with favor, and will, it is said, at some future day be adopted. The price at which the Western Union Company is reported to have offered to sell out—sixty millions of dollars—is looked upon as exorbitant, as the amount of nominal stock barely reaches forty millions, while its actual value is said to be much less even than the last-named amount.

The action of the English government may influence our government to take steps in relation to this matter. Complaints are made of the present high rates of telegraphing, and the construction of new lines by opposition companies is chronicled with apparent pleasure by the eastern press, who feel that there has been too much monopoly in the business of telegraphing. Whether the purchase by the English government of the lines in Great Britain is likely to be attended by any reduction in the cost of telegraphing, or whether it is hoped that any such result will follow the purchase of the lines in the United States by our government, is not stated. But judging by the tone in which it is treated we conclude that such a result is anticipated.

A GOOD STORY SPOILED.—For some weeks past a story has been going the rounds of the papers, headed, "Thrilling incident—Romance in real life" copied from the Cleveland (Ohio) Plaindealer, about the capture of a boy by the name of John Pringle by the Indians some years ago, while himself and parents and friends were en route for this city, and his recognition by his brother, William Pringle, "one of the pillars of the Mormon Church," when he was passing through Cleveland on his way to England as a missionary. The story as told is quite sensational. But it is lacking in one essential particular, and we almost regret it, for we dislike to see a good story spoiled—it is not true. In the Boston Statesman and Weekly Post we find the following humorous summary of the story:

A "long-lost brother" romance has just occurred in Cleveland. The chap with the strawberry mark on his left arm was stolen from a Mormon emigrant party, more than twenty years ago, by the Indians. He escaped a few years ago, served in the Confederate army, and at last turned up at Cleveland, O. His brother, who had meantime grown up into a Mormon elder and was on East in search of converts, recognized him in a drinking saloon, and immediately recognizing him by his nice taste for whiskey, fell into his arms, embraced him and straightway carried him off to Utah.

A QUESTION.—Editor of the Evening News:—To leave off drinking tea and coffee, in order to keep the Word of Wisdom, and then to pour down hot cocoa by the quart, is it not whipping the devil around the stump?

If we have a correct understanding of what is meant by "whipping the devil around the stump," we should

answer our correspondent's question in the affirmative. "Hot drinks," we are told, "are not for the belly." Hot cocoa, hot soups, and other hot fluids are all certainly included in what are termed "hot drinks." But tea and coffee are substances expressly referred to in the Word of Wisdom, being in and of themselves injurious to the body, though we have understood that a number of persons have found that they had strong symptoms of cancer since they heard an eminent authority state that it is a good medicine for that disease.

SALT LAKE AS VIEWED FROM AFRICA.—A correspondent from Prevo, Bro. A. H. Noon, forwards us a clipping from a South African paper which states that the latest advices from here "show that the Mormons are undoubtedly demoralized." "The community has split on the hierarchy of anti-polygamy." To show how completely Brigham Young has lost his authority, the editor relates an incident of a young man rising up "in the body of the crowded temple," and pronouncing his statements false, and that, thereupon, President Young ordered the young man's house to be torn down, "which was not done." "This and other incidents have so affected the President that he is thinking of moving to the newly-discovered mines of New Mexico!"

Our correspondent says the clipping is interesting as it shows "how quick lying and garbled statements of any small matter transpiring here are carried to the uttermost ends of the earth." It also shows how interested many people, even in the most remote parts of the earth, are in everything which affects what they call "Mormonism." The old proverb is a very true one—at least we, as a people, have found it so—that "a lie will travel a league while truth is putting on its boots."

PLAGIARISM.—We have not the slightest objection to having our articles appear in other papers—in fact, we are rather pleased to see them, than otherwise; but we do think that we are, at least, entitled to the credit of them. Newspaper courtesy would certainly accord us that much. Sometimes a credit may be withheld from a paper through inadvertence; but when articles are copied from the News and our paper is systematically ignored, with all our charity we can not attribute such actions entirely to inadvertence. We have seen a number of instances of this kind, and thought we should allude to the subject at some time; but this morning we picked up an exchange, and in examining the editorials we saw an article, the language of which seemed familiar to us. Upon looking at it more closely we found that it had been clipped from one of our leaders, and put in without the least alteration. The part that would have betrayed its paternity, on account of it containing some views peculiar to the people of Utah, had been carefully omitted. The article was full headed, and appeared in every respect as the other editorials of the paper, and in contradistinction to the selected matter.

[Special to the Deseret Evening News.]

In Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL!

GERMAN BOARD OF INSPECTION FOR VESSELS TO AMERICA!

BILL TO MAKE THREE STATES OF TEXAS AMERICAN CITIZENS VISITING BRITAIN SHOULD PROCURE PASSPORTS!

THE NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON STYLE EXCESSIVE ON VERBAL CHANGES.

REINFORCEMENTS WANTED FOR THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION!

THE CRETAN REVOLUTION GROWS STRONGER!

THE NEW ARMY BILL! EXPECTED PENIAN RAID ON THE PACIFIC COAST!

Washington, 18.—Senate.—Several petitions were presented. Pomeroy introduced a bill to amend the Postal laws and increase the efficiency of the postal service. The Senate passed the House bill to reduce the expenses of the war department and for the gradual reduction of the army.

Cattell, from the committee on finance, reported adversely to the House bill for bidding the designation as a public depository of any national bank within fifty miles of the place where an assistant treasurer is located.

House.—Starkweather introduced a bill placing fifty thousand dollars in the hands of the Secretary of State, to relieve the wants and defray the expenses of the return to the United States, of destitute citizens imprisoned in foreign countries without justice, and discharged without trial, which passed. The House considered the bill giving pensions to certain officers and soldiers of the war of 1812. During the debate, Loan stated the amount to be paid under the bill would not exceed \$2,000,000 a year. The bill passed without division.

Berlin.—Bismarck proposes the establishment at the different ports of Germany of a board of federal officers, to examine into the condition of vessels bound for America. This is intended to prevent another Leblitz horror.

Chicago.—Washington special to-night says the Senate finance committee have agreed to report adversely to the confirmation of Wiswell as commissioner of internal revenue.

The war department has awarded the contract for carrying the government freight west and south, from the terminus of the Omaha Pacific railroad, to Smith and Colwell of Denver.

In the House reconstruction committee Stevens submitted a bill for the division of Texas into three States, providing the convention about assembling in that State will fix the boundaries of the new States; and, further, that each shall have the same constitution. He thought there ought to be four or five States carved out of the Texas territory, but he would be content with three.

New York.—Sir Edward Head, formerly Governor-General of Canada, died recently in England.

London.—The French legislature is still discussing the bill regulating the press. There was a violent debate yesterday on the question of distributing the government advertising. The opposition claimed that the liberal journals were entitled to a share of the national and municipal advertisements. They demanded this as a matter, not of necessity, but of principle. The Speaker declared that in the laws regulating the press, all journals should be treated with the strictest impartiality. An effort to modify the bill in this respect was defeated; but the majority was small.

Washington.—The House committee on foreign affairs have agreed to report a substantially new bill with regard to the rights of American citizens abroad.

The State department has issued a circular, recommending all citizens of the United States, native or naturalized, before visiting Great Britain, to procure passports while the habeas corpus remains suspended in the latter country.

Louisville.—The Kentucky legislature has elected Thomas C. McCreery, of Davis county, Senator, in the place of Guthrie resigned. He has always been a Democrat, and regarded as one of the first men of the State intellectually, but has never held office.

Syracuse.—The municipal election resulted in a Republican victory, with an increased majority over last year.

Charleston.—Senator Wilson telegraphs that Congress will not loan the State any money to purchase lands for the poor.

Tallahassee.—The Convention is reorganized on the basis proposed by Gen. Meade. It will readopt the Constitution thus far adopted by the majority.

New Orleans.—The committee on style has made so many changes in the language of the constitution that one of the members said the constitution hardly recognized its own creation. It was finally concluded that they recommit the report with instructions to have the constitution printed without any comments, for comparison with the copy as amended by the committee. Work is, therefore, laid out for an indefinite period.

Paris.—The Corps Legislatif has rejected the amendment to permit the free admission of foreign papers, and the unrestricted sale of French journals.

The Montreal reports that Gen. Napier is calling for reinforcements.

London.—It is said Lord Derby is improving.

The examination of the prisoners charged in connection with the Clerkenwell explosion terminated in all being remanded except Allen, who is discharged.

Sir Stafford Northcote made an explanation in the House of Commons, and the committee of the whole agreed to renew the suspension of the habeas corpus in Ireland.

Berlin.—The Upper House of the diet has passed the constitution made with the deposed powers whose territories are annexed to Russia, by which the King engages to suspend all payment of money to the princes and confiscate their property.

Chicago, 19.—The Republican special says the Senate committee on military affairs has voted to return Sherman's brevet to the President, with a resolution declaring it inadvisable to confer brevet offices to the two highest generals. It is stated that Johnson is highly indignant at Sherman's conduct, and has a great mind to order him to the department of the Pacific, and bring Halleck to Washington.

The President has accepted Steedman's resignation as collector of internal revenue at New Orleans.

Havana.—Advices from Kingston say the American consul, Gregg, has telegraphed to Washington, demanding the services of a man of war, to obtain redress for an outrage on the American whaler, Hannah Grant.

New York.—The cashier of Ezra Goodrich & Co., importers, Exchange Place, is reported to have disappeared with from one to three hundred thousand dollars of his employers' money.

The World's Richmond special says, the republican state convention is stormy with only a few members present. Hawxhurst leads in the gubernatorial race. Hunnicutt goes to Congress.

The Tribune's special says Sherman has written a letter to Grant respectfully asking to be relieved from the command of the new military division. The letter will be laid before the President. Senators have written to Gen. Sherman, asking him not to think of resigning. Should the President insist he will assume the new command.

Dates from Crete to Jan. 20th, represent the prospects of the Turks as more gloomy than ever. They have been defeated in several engagements and met with severe losses. The Mussulman population are becoming discontented, and the troops have shown a mutinous disposition. The Island is now in a more successful state of revolution than ever; and arms and provisions continue to be sent in from all quarters. On January 24th, a Russian corvette landed 1,400 Cretan women and children at Piræus. The number of Cretan non-combatants in Greece is 63,000. The provisional Government has appealed to the Christian powers to send ships to convey the Cretans and their families to Greece; it has also protested against the cruelties of the Sultan.

Chicago.—The bill for the reduction of the army passed the Senate yesterday. It provides that no more second Lieutenants be appointed, except graduates of West Point. The grades of regimental commissary sergeant, hospital steward, veterinary surgeon, and regimental commissary in cavalry regiments, be abolished. The number of corporals to each company shall be reduced to four. The fourteen military bands, authorized by the act of July '66, will be honorably discharged. Wilson says if it becomes law, it will save two millions yearly.

San Francisco, 19.—It is reported that the Penian organization on the Pacific coast is being placed on a war footing, with the probable intention of a raid on the British possessions north.

In the Legislature the Senate unanimously passed a resolution asking the President and Congress to honorably acquire or annex British Columbia to the United States.

LOCAL ITEMS.

THEATRICAL.—Last night there was the largest house that there has been for some time; and Miss Adams has much reason to be satisfied at this proof of her popularity. The performance was very good. The opening piece kept the audience in constant laughter. The characters in it were admirably sustained, the cast being composed of Miss Adams, Miss Alexander, Messrs. McKenzie, Lindsay, Graham and Har- die. But to Miss Adams and Mr. Graham the lion's share of praise is due; the latter as Timid, was excruciatingly funny. By the bye, as the winter season draws near a close, and benefice men are in order, we would like to see this gentleman's name up for one. He is already one of the most popular actors on our boards, and displays very considerable talent and much versatility.

"The Dead Shot" should be played again. The parlor skating and Indian club performance by Mr. St. Ledger were executed in su-