



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE STEALING OF STOCK.

There is probably not another State or Territory in the Union that has suffered so great losses in stock from thieves as the Territory of Utah. Our stock has run on the range by themselves from one year's end to another, without any body having any special supervision of them. This has been more particularly the case in the past than it is at the present. But even now there is entirely too much carelessness and indifference respecting the cattle which run on the range. Thieves have too many opportunities for stealing, and making off undisturbed with their plunder. In fact, the entire absence of almost all precautions in taking care of stock, makes the temptation to steal a very strong one for men whose principles are lax, or whose wants are pressing.

As Spring is rapidly approaching a few words of caution on this subject will be appropriate. Thousands of head of stock will be driven from one point to another this season. Large numbers will be driven out of the Territory. There are many *bona fide* purchasers here, who if they can get stock that will suit them in quality and terms will buy and drive off to distant markets. Such men, if they knew there was the least suspicion respecting their movements, would court scrutiny. They would have everything to gain and nothing to lose by having their droves examined. But it is not of such men that we wish to speak. It is of another class, who are ostensibly in the country for the purpose of purchasing; but who will, if they can get the opportunity, drive off every head of stock they can without purchasing it. Stock owners have suffered greatly from the depredations of this class.

Last Spring a nest of these men was discovered in Millard county, and large numbers of stock were found in their possession, which they had stolen in various places and were driving off to Nevada or California. There was quite a number of these men banded together, and they were in various parts working in concert. It is not unlikely that there may be similar operations engaged in by men of this stamp this Spring. There can not be too much vigilance used by the civil officers, and by private citizens to check this system of thieving. When herds are driven through the settlements or in their vicinity, they should be examined. This need not be done in an offensive or disagreeable manner, and, when done properly, no honest man will seek to prevent or object to such scrutiny.

This subject deserves attention, and we hope it will not be forgotten or deemed of trifling importance. We have heard it asserted, on the best of authority, that if we had the value of the stock that has been stolen and driven out of the country, it would be more than sufficient to build the Pacific Railroad through the Territory. We believe the statement.

GRASSHOPPERS AND PLANTING.

Our present mild and pleasant weather reminds us of the near approach of Spring. As a consequence of our Territory being visited by such myriads of grasshoppers, last Summer and Fall, and the depositing of their eggs, there is an anxiety felt by many as to what will be the probable fate of the crops this season. Some entertain the hope that we will not be troubled with the insects, to any great extent, as the warm weather of last Fall caused the eggs to hatch out. Others think that if all the eggs deposited in the valleys did hatch out, there are still enough left under the snow

on the benches and in the mountains to do considerable damage; but they are sceptical about the eggs which were deposited in the valleys being hatched out.

In any case, prudence requires that we should be prepared. When grain has been scarce at other seasons, and there has been a probability of the crops being destroyed by grasshoppers, many farmers have refrained from sowing and planting, thinking it better to save what they had on hand, than to trust to the uncertainty of a crop. In many instances this has proved to be a mistaken policy. By sowing and planting at intervals, and not permitting any opportunity to do so to pass unimproved, farmers have frequently been able to raise grain of some kind, and the quantity of breadstuff has been greatly increased thereby.

Under our present circumstances it would not only be impolitically, it would be sinful, to sit down supinely and make no effort to raise crops because of a fear, whether well-founded or not, that our fields will be visited by grasshoppers this season. Efforts of a persistent and extended character must be made, faith must be exercised, to raise a good breadth of grain. The demand for it will be unusually heavy. Besides our own population, there will be the incoming immigrants, who, we have reason to believe, will be numbered by thousands, to feed. The breadstuff to sustain them must be raised here. We can not go elsewhere to obtain it. If every man who cultivates the land will exert himself and labor with faith, we have no doubts as to the results; there will be no suffering in the land, but all will be supplied.

When the Latter-day Saints have been faithful in the discharge of their duties, they have never been left to suffer. Afflictions and difficulties they have had to contend with; but the Lord has supplied their wants, and they have been delivered. He will do so still. The exertions which have been, and still are being made, to send for our poor coreligionists in Europe will, we feel assured, prove acceptable to Him whose armies the grasshoppers and locusts are. At His call they come forth; at His command their eggs can rot, or remain dormant in the ground until it will suit His purpose for them to hatch out.

If the people will do their duty, He will neither desert them nor withhold His blessings from their labors. But we should have faith in Him, and keep sowing and planting.

We have varieties of corn which ripen early. Every farmer should obtain what he needs of this grain, and plant at such times as he may think best. If planted in June, it will ripen. Buckwheat is also an excellent grain to have on hand to sow. After the grasshoppers have committed their ravages, and move off, buckwheat can be sown and it will frequently ripen.

LOTTERY SCHEMES, &c.—Every few days we receive notices of Gift Enterprises, Jewelry Associations, Lotteries and affairs of that character in the East, to which our attention is called with requests to advertise. We have invariably declined giving them the least publicity, or noticing them in any manner, believing them to be but little, if any, better than schemes for swindling. Many of our citizens also receive similar communications, which are frequently accompanied by tickets for themselves and others to sell to their friends. These people must find plenty of dupes in various quarters, or they would not be so numerous and successful, as they, apparently, are in their business. It is a pretty good evidence when a man patronizes such institutions that he lacks either judgment or honesty, and very frequently both. An honest man with any degree of judgment must see that where there are such promises held out, as these people give, there must be some roguery connected with the scheme, unless, indeed, we conclude that they have money which they want to give away.

The humorous writer, "Josh Billings," makes some very good remarks on this subject, which we give in his own peculiar language:

Yu ask me what i think ov the 'Gift distributing bizzness,' and i don't hesitate tew say, that it haz awl the premonitory symptoms of a dead beat.

I have alwuz found that when enny man offers to give me ten dollars for 50 cents, he lies; i may think he means to do it, but he don't think so; but i may possibly cum within 9 dollars and a half ov it once, and if i do, i hav dun well, a grate deal better than i will the next time.

I never put enny munny into these swindles, and would az soon undertake to raise a good-sized greenback bi planting a shiplaster back ov the hog pen.

If yu git desperate, and feel as tho yu must gamble, or die, go 25 cents, odd or even, on the number of hairs in a kats back, and count them; this will cool yu oph.

We can scarcely think that any of our people are likely to patronize such associations; but lest some unwary person might get deceived, we publish these remarks respecting them to put our citizens on their guard. The originators are so pertinacious in pressing the advantages of their schemes upon the attention of the public, that it would be strange if they were not successful in securing some dupes.

INDIAN TROUBLES.

By the dispatches, which appear in another column, it appears that Chicago has received news from Montana that the Blackfoot Indians are on the war-path, and have commenced their operations by murdering, destroying property and carrying off prisoners. Considerable uneasiness has been felt of late in some quarters about Indians, and articles upon the subject have appeared in the northern and Cheyenne papers. General dissatisfaction appears to prevail among the Indians on all sides. They are angry, and would like to vex the whites.

Our people who live in exposed places should be more than usually vigilant at the present time. The season is approaching for hostile Indians to make demonstrations. Stock should be carefully watched, the precautions, which have been enforced upon the people so repeatedly respecting traveling between the settlements, should be adopted, and no pains be spared to prevent the wily and treacherous foe from gaining the least advantage. The old adage, that "an ounce of preventative is better than a pound of cure" will apply to Indian difficulties as well as to other matters. Strict and judicious vigilance will frequently save many valuable lives and much property, and prevent a long and tedious war. But a few successes have the effect to embolden Indians, and they obtain a prestige which strengthens their influence with other Indians, and, animated by the hope of plunder, they rally around them and aid them.

This has been the experience gained by our citizens in the late war with Black Hawk and his party. He was an insignificant, contemptible foe, when he started upon his career of crime; but his depredations and attacks were successful. He rarely failed in accomplishing something, even if he did not reach all he intended to in every instance. We know the result. His band increased; he became a formidable enemy, carrying with him in all his forays the prestige of success. Had he been promptly checked in the beginning, Black Hawk would scarcely have been known, either among Indians or Whites.

We again repeat, vigilance should be exercised to prevent a repetition of such scenes as he and his party enacted. If the counsels and orders which have been so frequently given to the leading men and citizens in the outer settlements be carried out, there need be no difficulty. Life and property will be safe. This to our mind, is very clear, as it is to the mind of every one who has reflected upon, or is conversant with, the subject. Do not let ourselves be reproached for our carelessness and disobedience by suffering such deeds to be perpetrated in our Territory as, we now hear, have taken place in Montana.

FAMINE IN SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

Famine is performing its fell work in Sweden and Norway. The visitation is said to be beyond all precedent, the most severe of the kind that has ever been known in those countries. The poor people are reduced to the direst extremities for food. Every thing that can possibly be eaten, or that will afford the slightest nutriment, is greedily devoured. In the best of seasons the food of the poor people in those bleak and forbidding regions is not the best; but now that the crops have failed and famine prevails, their condition is truly horrible.

We clip the following extract of a letter from the *Alta California*. The letter is from the interior of the famine-stricken country, and is only one of hundreds of instances, the writer states, that might be given:

"A poor farmer and his wife and their infant child (they are all poor now, after six successive years' failure of any harvest,) being the occupants of a small hut in the village referred to, after having consumed their small stock of eatables, the husband went to the neighbors, trying with his small coin to obtain some nourishment for himself and family, but without success, as they themselves had not more than a few days' rations, so to speak, and he was directed to try in the next village, twenty or twenty-five miles off. He started, but when about half way on his journey, through weakness and hunger, he fell down on the road and expired. Some one coming that way a few days after, found and recognized the body, and brought it back to the village. Entering the dead man's hut, they found the wife dead, but the little one alive, having in his struggle against hunger consumed nearly the half of his dead mother's breast, and thus preserved its life."

The number of sufferers is estimated at 350,000. There is considerable sympathy expressed in the papers east and west for them, and subscriptions have been taken up for their relief. The compatriots of the sufferers who reside in this country, are contributing liberally to send them aid.

Our people who are from Scandinavia, and they are very numerous in this Territory, will read with sad interest the accounts of the wretched condition of affairs in their native lands. That form of relief which suggests itself to others, and which is generally acted upon at such times, namely, the sending of money or the fitting out of vessels with provisions—is not the plan that we would adopt. We are called upon to raise means and send it to Europe to pay the passages of the poor from the lands of poverty and wretchedness where they dwell, and bring them to a country where, with ordinary industry and economy, a comfortable living can be obtained. This is the most effectual form of help; because the people are thereby removed to a land where their labors will be remunerative, and they can easily, if so disposed, refund the money which has been spent to emancipate them. If this be promptly and honestly paid, it can be used over and over again for the deliverance of other worthy and needy persons. But to send money and provisions there is only to afford temporary relief; the benefit is not a permanent one. It is a species of pauperization which has the effect to demoralize the people who are the recipients of its favors and to kill their energies and independence.

Immigration is the great panacea for the evils which afflict Scandinavia and the other over-crowded and poverty-stricken countries of Europe. In this respect the gospel comes in very deed to the people of Europe as a plan of salvation; because the doctrine of the gathering is one of its great distinctive features. It is God's plan of removing many of the evils under which mankind groan. There should be a united and determined effort made by our people to respond to the call that has been made upon them for means to send to Europe for the poor.

HOME ITEMS.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY.

LEAP YEAR IN THE SOUTH.—"Away down south in Dixie"—our "Dixie," though, they are enjoying the delights of Leap Year and the privilege which it confers upon the ladies. A correspondent from Rockville, Kane Co., tells us—quite confidentially of course—a polite invitation he received from a provokingly fascinating young lady to be her partner at a Leap Year ball, and how he went, and enjoyed himself, and what a good time they had; and that the profits were handed to the Bishop to aid the coming season's emigration, all of which we take pleasure in duly chronicling.

FROM ENGLAND.—We have been favored with a letter from Elder Franklin D. Richards, to President B. Young, dated Liverpool, Feb. 8th, from which we extract the following:—

Since the Conference at Birmingham, on the 26th of last month, the papers have been giving us a general round of notices, as you may observe from reading *Public Opinion* of Feb. 1st. I have just received a line from Bro. Karl G. Maeser, who is in Saxony. He says the papers there have translated and published the report of the Conference, taken from the Birmingham papers, and give particular notice of the remark that you are the greatest philanthropist of mankind living on the earth. He says there are some twenty-five or thirty ready for baptism there, some of whom expect to go to America when he does.

The joy of the Saints in England is greatly increasing, and they and the Elders are praying continually that ways may open whereby you may effect the necessary changes of property into cash, so that all may be accomplished that is desirable. The American Elders are generally well, so far as I know.