

EDITORIALS.

FIAT MONEY.

OUR attention has been directed to an article in the *Ogden Junction* which refers to a brief note in the *NEWS*, touching upon the "fiat money craze." The *Junction* asks what is fiat money? and proceeds to argue, in effect, that gold and silver coin as well as greenbacks come properly under that term, because it is the fiat of the government which gives them their established financial value.

We answer that the term "fiat" or "absolute" money is applied to the irredeemable paper currency, which certain politicians have advocated, as a means of relieving the financial pressure that has for some time been bearing down upon the trade of the country. This scheme, which has received the support of a number of Democrats, although it is contrary to the long established principles of their party, is called a "craze," because it is unsound and like the baseless fabric of a vision. It proposes that the Administration shall issue a certain volume of paper which by virtue of the fiat of the Government shall be declared money according to the figures stamped upon it. These bills are not to be based upon any intrinsic values. They are not to be promises to pay at a certain date. They are not to be redeemable in coin or anything else. They are to be called money simply because the Government says they are money. They can not be likened to the greenbacks issued during the war, because the latter were representatives of something recognized by the civilized world as a circulating medium and having an intrinsic value, which the Government guaranteed to pay under certain conditions. They are rather to be likened to the colonial money which the country was glad to abolish, and the French assignats that so greatly multiplied the difficulties they were designed to alleviate.

The Republican party have reaped many advantages during the fall elections—not so many perhaps as they claimed at first—because they advocated a sound financial policy. It is a mistake to suppose that they designed the abolition of greenbacks or any undue contraction of the paper currency. But their policy aimed at the very thing which the country has called for—a circulating medium, which, without the inconvenience of cumbersome gold and silver, shall bear a fixed value equal to that of coin, because always redeemable in metallic money. They advocated neither unwise contraction nor undue inflation. And the Democratic party was weakened in its campaign because of the affiliation of a number of its members with the "fiat" money scheme, which we could only denominate a "craze," because it is flighty and not founded upon any substantial support.

If it be stated that the wild scheme of "absolute" money as above described has not been entertained by any prominent politicians, we have but to refer to the speeches of the defeated candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, General Ben. Butler quoted the Latin words *fiat lux*, to illustrate his views of the power of the Government in relation to this matter. Those words signify, "Let there be light. He argued that the Government had but to say, "Let there be money," and it could be brought forth as light was in the beginning of creation. This, according to the knowledge and experience of the foremost nations for ages, is financial heresy, the mischievous and folly of which has been amply demonstrated in history.

It is contended that the fiat of the government makes a silver coin a dollar which only has an intrinsic value of 90 cents, and queried, if this dictum can do so much, why cannot the same power declare that a piece of paper shall be a dollar. But that silver coin is worth something in and of itself, without the fiat of the Government. The metal has a fluctuating value. It may become worth more than a dollar, though now its market price may be less. A piece of paper stamped with certain figures, but irredeem-

able in money, is in itself valueless, and representing nothing, is nothing. If the silver dollar will not purchase a dollar's worth of merchandise, the policy of declaring it a dollar may be unsound so far as its depreciation extends. But if this be the case, what shall be said of a fiat which declares a valueless piece of paper to be a dollar, or five dollars, or a thousand dollars? for it might just as well be marked up to the thousands as down to the units.

We do not pretend to be a standard authority on national finance, but we keep a close watch upon the great public questions of the times, and while we do not wish to enter into any extended controversy upon these subjects, either with our home contemporaries or newspapers abroad, we desire to see the maintenance of a sound financial system in the country, whether it be the policy of the Republicans, Democrats or any other party, and deprecate the tendency of the popular mind, to be attracted by the wild schemes which politicians invent as decoy ducks for the flocks of unreflecting and easily excited voters.

FILING ON RAILROAD LANDS.

We give space to-day, to the exclusion of other matter, for the following correspondence between Maurice M. Kaighn, Esq., and the U. S. Land Register and Receiver in this city, relative to filings upon railroad lands. It is a matter of great moment to many of the people of Utah, and we take pleasure in presenting anything which will give light on a subject which at present is surrounded with some obscurity. The circular alluded to in the remarks of the gentlemen of the Land Office has already been published in this paper, appearing in the *Daily of Sept. 26*, the *Semi-Weekly of Oct. 1st*, and the *Weekly of Oct. 9th*—

M. KAIGHN TO THE DESERET

NEWS:

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,

November 12, 1878.

Editors *Deseret News*:

Gentlemen—I have the honor to hand you herewith copies of letters recently passing between the U. S. Land Office and myself, in regard to the matter of railroad lands, which is now exciting a good deal of attention and concerning which erroneous impressions have obtained. I place them at your disposal for publication in whole or part or such other disposition as your inclination and judgment dictate.

Numbers of people through ignorance of the rulings and instructions of the Land Department are wasting their time and money in making filings that can in no wise be of benefit to them.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. M. KAIGHN.

FROM M. KAIGHN TO THE REGISTER AND RECEIVER.

SALT LAKE CITY,

November 6th, 1878.

To the Register and Receiver U. S. Land Office, Salt Lake City:

Gentlemen—I am in receipt of several letters from persons interested in railroad lands in this Territory, either as desiring to file on said lands, or as purchasers from one of the land grant railroad companies, inquiring as to the proposed action of your office under the decision of the Secretary of the Interior in the *Dudymott* case, as follows:

1st. Will filings be received on railroad lands that were unsold at the expiration of three years from the date of completion of the road, or only on lands that are unsold at the time the application to file is made by a settler.

2nd. If after you have conditionally received a filing on railroad lands, notified the railroad company of such filing and received its answer, that the land had been sold prior to the date of such application, what action will you take in regard to the offered filing.

3rd. What action will you take if you receive no reply from the railroad company, or a reply that the land was unsold at the date of the application to file?

4th. Is the ordinary "contract" made by the railroad company with its purchasers regarded as a

"sale" by your office and the department.

5th. Has your office yet made any decisions in any case of said applications to file.

Will you please afford me answers to these questions that I may communicate the same to my correspondents.

While most of these points are covered by the instructions of the commissioner, it appears they are not understood by the parties most interested, to wit: The purchasers from the railroad companies and the settlers. I would therefore beg to suggest that you furnish a copy of your reply to the city papers for publication, to the end that it may most speedily and generally reach the parties interested.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

MAURICE M. KAIGHN.

REPLY.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,

Salt Lake City,

November 9th, 1878.

M. M. Kaighn, Esq.,

Salt Lake City:

Sir—Yours of the 6th inst., addressed to the Register and Receiver of this office, making inquiry concerning the proposed action of your (our) office "under the decision of the Secretary of the Interior in the *Dudymott*" case was duly received.

In answer to your first point of inquiry, we have to state, that we will accept conditional filings on lands unsold, at or after the expiration of the said three years from completion of said railroads.

To your second point of inquiry, we have to state, that we are instructed to notify said railroad companies of all such filings, and give them 30 days in which to answer; and if they answer, that said lands have been sold, showing the date of sale, the persons to whom sold, a description of the deed or instrument of conveyance, we will reject the offered filing, subject to appeal by the party filing. (See circular.)

To your third point of inquiry, we have to state, in answer to the first part thereof, that when no response is received from the railroad company we are instructed, upon receiving a request of the pre-emptor, to order a hearing, giving the usual notice and time, provided by the rules of practice in the Land Office, to determine whether said land is subject to pre-emption under the said circular. (See circular.) With reference to the second part of this inquiry, to wit, If the railroad company should respond by saying, that said lands have not been sold, we are instructed to allow the D. S. filing and, upon full compliance with the law, to permit him to make entry on the payment of \$1.25 per acre.

To the fourth point in your letter of inquiry, we have to state, that the circular instructs us in all such cases to reject the offered filing, subject to appeal of the pre-emptor.

The Secretary has not decided that point in his decision of the *Dudymott* case of the 23d of July, 1878, nor has the Hon. Commissioner decided the point in his circular of August 10th, 1878. In answer to your fifth inquiry, we have to state, that the 10th instant is the day fixed for the U. P. R. R. and the C. P. R. R. Companies to make first answer to the notice of the conditional filings made on their lands, after which we will decide as directed by the land circular, which, as you will notice, leaves us no discretion.

Hoping the above will be found satisfactory to yourself and clients, we are,

Respectfully,

JNO. B. NEIL, Register,

MOSES M. BANE, Receiver.

WHY IS IT?

"MODERN history affords no more startling phenomenon than the continued existence and growth of polygamy in the heart of this Republic, in defiance of all legal efforts to extirpate it. It has worked its way from Utah into Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona in the face of armies, laws of Congress, judges and governors specially appointed to put it down, and in contempt of public opinion among Gentiles where it exists. Its defenders are more audacious and insolent to day than they were at the time that Albert Sydney Johnston marched a brigade of the regular army across the plains to assist the

civil authorities of Utah in enforcing the laws at Salt Lake City. Several causes have combined to favor this unnatural growth. The polygamists are secret in their councils, and military in the execution of their secret ordinances. In their philosophy "the end justifies the means," and it is all right if the means include the gravest of crimes. They have set the law of the hierarchy above the State, and a mass of ignorance and helplessness supports the assumption of superiority. They have acquired and husbanded with great care a vast amount of money and property for the purpose of corruption, and unless they are grossly belied, this has been freely used to bribe federal officials and to create favorable public opinion at the East. In fact, at the East there has for some years past been no such thing as indignant public opinion against them. Their great crimes are all excused upon the argument that they have created much property in a wilderness country, and are useful to commerce and trade."

The above is clipped from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and is a frank confession of the failure of the unequal conflict against the "Mormon" system of marriage. It is acknowledged that all legal efforts to extirpate it have proven abortive. It should also be stated that illegal efforts, far more numerous than the other kind, have been equally ineffectual.

We view this as an unequal conflict from two standpoints. Firstly, we see a mere handful of people, resisting successfully the persistent assaults of many millions of adversaries, backed by the machinery of courts and the terrors of the law, and looking at it in this light, it is indeed a marvel that the few have not succumbed to the many, and that the infinitely weaker have not long ago been pushed to the wall. But, secondly, we look, with opened internal vision, and behold the Hand of the Supreme, stretched out to guard the little band who are seeking sincerely to carry out a divine command, in the establishment of a social system designed to purify and regenerate the race, and we recognize that it is an Almighty Power which says "thus far shalt thou go and no farther," and that if the conflict is unequal on the one hand, it is far more unequal on the other. Discerning this, we marvel no longer, except at the blindness of those who cannot perceive that there is something more than human wisdom which foils the attacks of a world, and saves a small community from overwhelming defeat.

We suggest, with all good feeling to those who recognize the failure of anti-"Mormon" crusades, the propriety of investigating this "Mormon" question otherwise than by accepting the rumors and rubbish which are palmed off upon them by the press as authentic exposures of "Mormonism." There must be something connected with it which the world has not fathomed yet, or it would have been trampled into the ground long ago. A people like those who have made this Territory, cannot be the licentious, lawless, sensual ignoramuses they are pictured. It is evident that they are animated by the force of some principle. It may be that they are in the right and their maligners and persecutors in the wrong. It is possible that the popular ideas of their views and doings are incorrect. We know that many things said of them and accepted as recognized facts, are entirely untrue. For instance, the article from the *Chronicle* says: "In their philosophy the end justifies the means, and it is all right if the means include the gravest of crimes." All of this is utterly false and in direct opposition to their philosophy and their practice. The marching of the army across the plains, above referred to, is an example of the folly of accepting accusations without adequate proof. It cost the country millions of dollars, was altogether unnecessary, for the causes alleged were proven to be baseless, and the whole campaign was a miserable fiasco.

Therefore, we say again, look into this "Mormon" problem, and as a new method of solution, try the plan of obtaining facts instead of newspaper stories and pulpit fictions, and learn what "Mormonism" is from "Mormon" sources.

For a man's bitter foes are no correct guide to his character, and the same rule will apply to a people and a system. As sure as God lives He is in it, and that is why its adversaries cannot prevail?

THE SUGAR BEET.

DURING the past season the Department of Agriculture distributed through the country packages of the seed of the sugar beet, with the view of testing its adaptability to certain sections, and of discovering the results of its cultivation in various soils and climates and under different modes of treatment. The object in view was the increase of the sugar production of the United States.

It is well known that a vast amount of sugar manufactured from the beet finds its way into the markets of the world, and it needs no argument to show that the extensive successful cultivation of the sugar beet and, the production of good sugar from this prolific vegetable in this country, would add greatly to its wealth and reduce the price of one of the necessities of modern life.

The Commissioner of Agriculture is desirous of obtaining reliable reports of the results of planting the seed distributed. We believe that though our Delegate samples of this seed were forwarded to farmers in different parts of this Territory. For the good of the public it is to be hoped that those who received and planted the seed will now respond to the call for a report. Following are points furnished by the Commissioner to be reported upon in relation to experiments with sugar beet seed received from the Department of Agriculture:

- 1st.—Time of planting?
- Ans.—
- 2nd.—Depth of planting?
- Ans.—
- 3d.—Quantity of seed used per acre or fraction thereof?
- Ans.—
- 4th.—Distance of rows from each other?
- Ans.—
- 5th.—Distance between beets in the row?
- Ans.—
- 6th.—Time of harvesting?
- Ans.—
- 7th.—The nature of the soil and subsoil?
- Ans.—
- 8th.—The kind of manure that was applied?
- Ans.—
- 9th.—Had the land been previously well manured?
- Ans.—
- 10th.—Are you in the habit of raising root crops every year?
- Ans.—
- 11th.—Did the drought at the end of June and beginning of July perceptibly interfere with the sugar beet crop?
- Ans.—
- 12th.—What is the cost of raising sugar beets? State cost in money value, if known, or your opinion of cost as compared.
- Ans.—
- 13th.—Have the beets suffered from frost, and if so, at what date?
- Ans.—
- 14th.—What other crops, if any, suffered from the same frost?
- Ans.—
- 15th.—Have insects infested the sugar beet crop, and if so, what kind?
- Ans.—
- 16th.—What other peculiarities did you observe regarding this special crop?
- Ans.—
- 17th.—What quantity in weight of beets did you harvest per acre?
- Ans.—

As the value of the beets produced is in proportion to the amount of saccharine matter they contain, and as few have the means to demonstrate the quantity of sugar capable of being extracted from the beets they raise, samples of the roots should be forwarded to Washington. Packages containing from two to four beets, the whole not exceeding four pounds in weight, may be sent by mail to the Agricultural Department. About half an inch of the tops should be left on the roots, and each beet should be separately wrapped in paper to prevent bruising.

This is a matter of public importance, and may prove of great local value; therefore, a prompt response should be made to the request of the Commissioner. Friends, will you attend to it, at once?