

## EDITORIALS.

## TIMBER LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

HON. J. A. Williamson, Commissioner of the General Land Office, has published a circular of instructions to the Registers and Receivers throughout the country, containing matters of interest to the people of Utah. It is approved and countersigned by the Secretary of the Interior, and the regulations therein are in the nature of law, being made in accordance with the provisions of an Act of Congress, approved June 3, 1878, which reads as follows:

**An Act authorizing the citizens of Colorado, Nevada, and the Territories to fell and remove timber on the public domain for mining and domestic purposes.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all citizens of the United States and other persons, *bona fide* residents of the State of Colorado or Nevada, or either of the Territories of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Dakota, Idaho, or Montana, and all other mineral districts of the United States, shall be, and are hereby, authorized and permitted to fell and remove, for building, agricultural, mining, or other domestic purposes, any timber or other trees growing or being on the public lands, said lands being mineral, and not subject to entry under existing laws of the United States, except for mineral entry, in either of said States, Territories, or districts of which such citizens or persons may be at the time *bona fide* residents, subject to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe for the protection of the timber and of the undergrowth growing upon such lands, and for other purposes: *Provided*, The provisions of this act shall not extend to railroad corporations.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of the register and receiver of any local land office in whose district any mineral land may be situated to ascertain from time to time whether any timber is being cut or used upon any such lands, except for the purposes authorized by this act, within their respective land districts; and, if so, they shall immediately notify the Commissioner of the General Land Office of that fact; and all necessary expenses incurred in making such proper examinations shall be paid and allowed such register and receiver in making up their next quarterly accounts.

SEC. 3. Any person or persons who shall violate the provisions of this act, or any rules and regulations in pursuance thereof made by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and to which may be added imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.

The regulations issued by the Commissioner, so far as they affect the people in the Territories are here subjoined.

1 SEC 2461, Revised Statutes, is still in force in all of the States and Territories named in the bill, and its provisions may be enforced, as heretofore, against persons trespassing upon any other than lands which are in fact mineral, or have been withdrawn as such; and in all cases where trespasses are committed upon the timber upon public lands which are not mineral, the trespassers will be prosecuted under said section.

2 It shall be unlawful for any person to cut or remove, or cause to be cut or removed, from any of the mineral lands of the United States, any timber or undergrowth of any kind whatsoever less than eight inches in diameter, and any person so offending shall be liable to be fined, in compliance with the provisions of the third section of said act, in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and to which may be added imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.

3. I shall be the duty of the Register and Receiver of each and every local land office in whose district any mineral land may be situated, to ascertain, by personal observation, or by sending persons to

examine the same from time to time, whether any timber is being cut or used upon any such lands except for the purpose of building, or for agricultural, mining, or other domestic purposes, or whether any timber is cut in violation of these rules and regulations within their respective land districts; and if they shall ascertain that there is any such violation, they shall immediately report the same to this office, giving in detail the facts, designating the location of the land, and if surveyed, giving description by legal subdivisions, giving the names and residences of persons who have violated the provisions of the act above referred to, or the rules and regulations prescribed thereunder, and also the names and residences of witnesses by whom the facts of such violation can be proven.

The Act of Congress which we have inserted above, and the instructions of the Commissioner in paragraphs 2 and 3 relate only to mineral lands, and the permission granted to fell timber thereon for building, agricultural, mining, or other domestic purposes does not extend to railroad corporations. Section 2461 of the U. S. Revised Statutes, referred to in the 1st paragraph of the Commissioner's instructions, and which relates to non-mineral lands, reads as follows:

"If any person shall cut, or cause or procure to be cut, or aid, assist, or be employed in cutting, or shall wantonly destroy, or cause or procure to be wantonly destroyed, or aid, assist, or be employed in wantonly destroying any live oak or red-cedar trees, or other timber, standing, growing, or being on any lands of the United States, which in pursuance of any law passed, or hereafter to be passed, have been reserved or purchased for the use of the United States for supplying or furnishing therefrom timber for the navy of the United States; or if any person shall remove, or cause, or procure to be removed, or aid, or assist, or be employed in removing from any such lands which have been reserved or purchased, any live oak or red cedar trees, or other timber, unless duly authorized so to do, by order, in writing, of a competent officer and for the use of the navy of the United States; or if any person shall cut, or cause or procure to be cut, or aid, or assist, or be employed in cutting any live oak or red-cedar trees or other timber on, or shall remove, or cause or procure to be removed, or aid, or assist, or be employed in removing any live oak or red-cedar trees or other timber, from any other lands of the United States, acquired, or hereafter to be acquired, with intent to export, dispose of, use, or employ the same in any manner whatsoever, other than for the use of the Navy of the United States; every such person shall pay a fine not less than triple the value of the trees or timber so cut, destroyed, or removed, and shall be imprisoned not exceeding twelve months."

Section 4751 of the Revised Statutes provides that all the penalties and forfeitures under the above section shall be sued for, recovered, &c., under the directions of the Secretary of the Navy; one half is to be paid to the informers and the other is to go to the navy pension fund. But the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to "mitigate, in whole or in part," any fine or penalty so incurred.

It may be thought that the section conferring this power upon the Secretary of the Navy is repealed by an Act of Congress for the sale of timber lands, approved June 3, 1878. But reference to it will show that the law only refers to the States of California, Oregon, and Nevada, and Washington Territory. Section 4751 is therefore still in force as regards Utah and all the other Territories except Washington.

The evident intention of section 2461 was to preserve the timber on United States lands that could be used for the requirements of the navy. The timber growing upon our mountain heights is not of this character. It is, however, absolutely necessary for the use and convenience of the settlers in the valleys, and any obstruction in the way of their obtaining it for fuel, fencing or building purposes, is a barrier in the path of the pioneer, and a stupid obstacle to the development of the Rocky Mountain region. It is true that the Act we publish herewith gives *bona fide* settlers liberty to cut timber from the mineral lands, but there are thrifty settle-

ments in all the Territories, adjacent to timber spots not designated as mineral lands but which are extremely difficult of access, and totally useless for agricultural purposes. This timber is of no value to the Navy, but is essential to the comfort, convenience and in fact the civilized existence of the settlers, and to whom the lands purchased from the Government for farms and homesteads would be of little benefit, without access to the timber in the rugged cañons and on the snow crowned peaks.

We publish the laws and regulations in reference to these matters for the information of the people of the Territories, that they may obtain a full understanding of the subject, and that wherein the law is obstructive and proscriptive they may be led to take proper measures for its modification or repeal.

## CHRISTIAN CONSISTENCY.

FROM an eastern exchange we learn that Schuyler Colfax spoke his piece on polygamy at the recent fair in Syracuse, New York. He told the assembly that all that was necessary was for "the sovereigns of the land to speak the word earnestly, firmly, decisively," and asked, "Will you do it?" Of course a great portion of the audience responded with a vote.

Polygamy ought now to consider itself disposed of. But somehow it does not appear to be much affected by either Schuyler Colfax' repetition of stale misrepresentations, or the momentary enthusiasm of audiences worked up by dramatic declamation. The unpopularity of a doctrine is no proof of its error, and the outcry of the populace against a custom or a community does not affect the righteousness of any cause, neither is it a sign or shadow of danger. That which may arouse the anger of a multitude to-day may be received by them as praiseworthy and of good report to-morrow, and crowds of scoffers are not unfrequently turned into zealous converts.

But we are amused at the remarks of some members of the press in places where the Colfax platitudes find public utterance. Here is a specimen paragraph:

"The time when polygamy in this country will be entirely rooted out and exterminated is not far distant, and the sooner this disgusting and disgraceful custom of the Mormons in Utah is abolished the better for the fair fame of the United States."

A terrible rumpus is raised over the marital relations of portion of a body of people mustering in the aggregate not more than one hundred and fifty thousand, and situated in the vales of the Rocky Mountains, thousand of miles away from the self-righteous souls who affect to be so dreadfully disturbed about the matter. Yet right under their piously elevated noses are positive evils, uncorrected and undenounced, which are eating away the very tissue and fibre of society. Persons whose lives are devoted to profligacy, numbering more than the whole population of Utah, may be found in a single State, and indeed within the limits of a single eastern city. Yet the snuffing Pecksniffs who are horrified because some men in Utah actually marry more wives than one, pass along without scenting a whiff of the festering corruption which is all around them and jostling against them as they move. Mighty is sleek humbug! Glib-tongued are the Christian Pharisees of the nineteenth century, of whom Mobilier Colfax is a smiling chief!

We do not mention the polygamy which they rail at in connection with the social horrors which they wink at because there is anything in common between the former and the latter, but merely to show the cant and pretense of the would-be destroyers of "Mormon" religious faith and practice.

But it is sometimes objected, social evils of vast extent and deadly effect prevail, it is true, in the great cities of the Union, but they exist in defiance of public opinion, while polygamy is countenanced and practised as proper and divine. The former exists in secret; those who indulge in it know that it is wrong, while the "Mormons" openly proclaim their right to live in plural marriage. Just so. If we did not believe and declare our social relations to be proper and in accordance

with our religious belief, there would not be so much objection. If we would follow the fashion of the world and indulge, in secret, unrighteous and forbidden lusts, our doings would be winked at, and we would pass muster with the outwardly respectable who mingle with the "best society." It is not the essential act that horrifies the anti-polygamist writer and lecturer, but the open justification of it in the heart and creed of the many-wived "Mormon." Thus the secret debauchee may go on unpunished, be received into the social circle, be honored by the respectable of both sexes, be elevated into the highest offices in the country, while the man who believes what he does is right, and is governed by the precepts and rules of his Church and society, is to be condemned, abused, prosecuted and imprisoned. Hypocrisy is thus exalted as a virtue, sincerity scouted as a crime.

This is all in accordance with the anti-polygamic Act of Congress. Marrying wives is made a punishable offence in Utah; cohabiting with women without marriage is left free and unreproved. Where do we read in the long lists of crimes which appear in the daily papers, of married "gentlemen" being prosecuted for keeping mistresses? Yet the practice is well known to be common all over the United States, except in Utah. And the very men and women who engage in or wink at these illicit relations, are those who raise the greatest outcry against the "Mormons" for marrying all the women with whom they live, and acknowledging, caring for and educating all the children of whom they are the fathers. And this custom of *marrying*, not of cohabiting with more than one woman, is the "disgraceful" thing that modern hypocrites, headed by the ex-Christian statesman, require to be "rooted out and abolished" for the "fair fame" of a country reeking with social and sexual corruption. So much for "Christian" consistency.

## THE TELEPHONE AND OTHER SOUND CONVEYERS.

WE see by the *Telephone Journal*, published at Chicago, that in many of the eastern cities a system of telephonic exchanges or district telephone companies have been established, for the convenience of almost every class of society. By the turn of a crank, any person may be put in direct verbal communication with any other person or place miles away, at a nominal cost per month or year.

It is proposed to organize a system of this kind in this city. From a central office somewhere on Main Street, the wires will radiate to all points desired to be reached by patrons. Then, if some one at Camp Douglas desires to communicate with the railroad depot or some merchant, he would so indicate, and the attendant at the central office would connect the camp wire with either of these places, in an instant; then the talk would be conducted as though the persons were in the same room, and no intermediate can hear what is said. Or at a small cost, through a messenger system at the central office, messages can be delivered to parties not in direct wire communication.

With these telephonic facilities, the miners, bankers, smelters, hotels, liverymen, railroaders, lumber dealers, merchants, doctors, druggists, patients, lawyers, clients, mechanics, breweries, saloons, factories, gas works, etc., can be placed in immediate communication with their different business interests and their families, without going out of doors; and these conversations may be maintained without skill; any person can talk through the telephone. In Chicago about a thousand houses are now connected in this manner.

In a communication to the *Journal* the Hon. Gardiner G. Hubbard, President of the Bell Telephone Co., says—"The company will shortly introduce the 'Microphone Telephone,' by which a much louder sound can be transmitted when required, than through the ordinary telephone."

In *Nature*, a London paper, Mr. Jas. Blyth recounts some experiments on a new form of the Microphone, which requires neither battery nor telephone. He says:

"The following experiments were suggested by the description, which appeared recently, of a Microphone lately invented by Prof. Hughes. Instead of the pointed piece of carbon supported between two pieces of the same material, as used by him, it occurred to me that ordinary gas cinders would be likely to answer the purpose tolerably well. To test this I included in the circuit of an ordinary Bell Telephone, a single Leclanche cell, and a small jelly can half filled with cinders, broken into pretty coarse fragments. The connections were made by slipping down at opposite sides, between the cinders and the sides of the jar, two strips of tin, to which the circuit wires were attached. When the simple instrument was used as a transmitter, articulate sounds were heard very loud and distinct in the distant Telephone, though occasionally marred by what appeared to be the rattling of the cinders in the jar. With this transmitter sounds were also quite audible, even when the speaker stood several yards away from it.

"I next took a shallow box, made of thin wood, about 15 inches by 9 inches, and filled it with cinders, taking care, in the first place, to nail to the inside of its ends two pieces of tin to which wires could be attached. Having nailed down the thin lid of the box, and included it in the circuit of the Telephone, along with one Leclanche cell, I found that it made both a very sensitive Microphone as well as an excellent transmitter for the ordinary Telephone. With three of these boxes hung up like pictures on the walls of a room, and connected in circuit, almost any kind of noise, made in any part of the room, was revealed in the Telephone. Speaking was heard distinctly, and a part-song by two voices in the middle of the floor was rendered with surprising clearness and accuracy."

A new machine has been invented by Israel Jewett, of St. Omer, Decatur County, Indiana. It is called the Agaphone, that is, a sound-gatherer. He claims that it is simpler than the Edison instrument, as it dispenses altogether with the electric current; also that it will hold and convey all the sound that it receives as well at a long distance as a short one. Tests, however, have only been made at a length of a little over a mile.

It is thus described—  
"A cubical box, say of five inches, has a thin sheet of metal for its back, while the front is open. This thin sheet of metal is the diaphragm of the instrument, and to it is fastened a small brass wire no larger than a grandmother's knitting needle, which transmits the sound current, and this is all that can be seen, though the inventor claims that at each end of this wire he has a sound collector, which, however, he declines to explain, as also the nature of the metal which forms the diaphragm. The latter, however, is open for inspection, and though painted black on one side, the other bears a close resemblance to a sheet of tin or platinum."

At a trial of the Agaphone, conversation was carried on in an ordinary tone, the speakers being stationed, one in Mr. Jewett's drug store, and the other at his residence more than a mile distant. They did not speak into the instrument, but stood several feet away. Noises made by tapping on the door of one room were distinctly heard in the other, also music on the organ, and the ticking of a watch laid on the box at one end of the line was immediately recognized at the other.

What with telephones and microphones, agaphones and other phones that will be constructed as improvements on the inventions of Edison, the world will soon be able to do without the ordinary telegraph, which but a short time ago was considered the wonder of the age, and verbal communication become as easy at immense distances as the conversation of two persons in the same apartment. Thus nations, firms, societies and individuals may receive information from each other, tending to general progress and helping to form that universal brotherhood which will one day bind all mankind together in the bonds of amity and peace.

## CIPHERGRAMS AND CORRUPTION.

THE telegraph has had a great deal to say lately about certain cipher dispatches, said to have been for-