

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - APRIL 7, 1880.

A RUINOUS POLICY.

THE return of business prosperity to the United States, has been accompanied with the usual indulgence of the appetite for foreign luxuries. It is this that causes so much poverty in the midst of bustling trade and an abundance of money.

The official report of imports and exports for February will show a falling off of \$3,000,000 in the exports of the United States as compared with the corresponding month of 1879, with an unprecedented increase in the imports. This causes some alarm among treasury officials, as it is expected that when the official returns for February are all in that the balance of trade will appear against the United States for the first time in five years.

Similar causes operate in Utah, in a smaller degree of course, with similar results. Increase of money creates a desire for display, and home-fashioned goods will not satisfy it. So the cash which should under a wise system of political economy be kept in circulation at home, flows out to enrich foreign traders and pay foreign artisans, while our own workmen wait with their hands in their pockets for better times. When will Israel learn wisdom and the general good be studied above individual enrichment, personal vanity and paltry self-interest?

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPROVEMENTS.

THE discovery of the photographic principle caused a revolution in the world of art. It has proven a boon to the masses, and has placed within the reach of the poor those things of beauty which are "a joy for ever," while millions who could not possibly patronize the painter's expensive skill, can now secure portraits of their loved ones and valued friends, as well as faithful pictures of notable persons and places.

Improvements are continually being made in this popular art, and, although photographers pronounce it impossible, we yet hope that the principle of photographing in colors will one day come to light. We make these remarks simply by way of introduction to the announcement of a new thing or two in photography.

The Glasgow News says that William Morris, of Greenock, has devised a method by which he can photograph under water at a depth of ten fathoms. This will open a new field for the camera; sub-marine pictures will be a novelty for art galleries.

In the making of Japanese lacquer, there is a certain substance used which, when subjected to the influence of light, becomes almost as hard as stone. If some of this material be put on a slab and exposed behind a photographic negative for twelve hours, scraping will then take away the softer parts and leave in a low relief the hardened portions. This photographic printing process, as it may be called, is a new discovery of the Japanese.

Thus the Orient is moved by the spirit of the times as well as the Occident, and new discoveries are being made for the pleasure, convenience and progress of mankind.

A SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTION.

AMONG the most flourishing of the co-operative institutions of this Territory is the United Order of Hyrum, Cache County. The city is situated in the south-eastern part of the valley, and a good view of it may be had from the Utah and Northern train after it crosses the divide and spreads over to Logan. Quite a number of Scandinavians reside in the place with the mixture of Americans, English and persons of other nationalities. O. N. Liljenquist is the Bishop of the Ward, and he is an active supporter of industrial measures, that for several years have provided employment for a great

many men and boys. That Hyrum thrives may be seen at once by the numerous handsome and cozy dwelling houses which show themselves in all parts of the growing town.

A well conducted co-operative store is at the foundation of the Order, and the lumber business, with large mills in the mountains, is an outgrowth of the mercantile beginning. At the annual meeting of the members of the Order, held March 15, the following report was made for the year ending Feb. 28:

"The capital stock of the company, in fully paid-up shares, amounts to \$15,725, and fractional shares to \$797.75, making the total of stock \$16,522.75. The company owns in real estate, mill property, etc., depreciated to cash valuation, \$18,200, showing \$1,677.24 more property than the stock calls for. The available means on hand, as shown by our inventories, amounts to \$11,735.97, while the company owes \$6,827.77. After paying all expenses, loss by interest, and what we consider bad debts, we have still a surplus of \$4,908.20.

The directors, in reviewing the affairs of the company and being desirous of extending and improving our business in the future, have decided to pay a dividend of 10 per cent only; said dividend will amount to \$1,572.50, leaving for a reserve fund the balance, \$3,335.70, which will be used as soon as possible in starting blacksmith, furniture, tailor or shoe shops, and in giving employment to as many of our people as possible. The dividend will be paid as follows: One-fourth in merchandise, three-fourths in our productions, and payable December 1st, 1880. The reason for deferring payment is that we have just paid out a dividend of 15 per cent. previously declared.

The principal improvements made during the year are, our planing mill, 70x25 feet, and two stories high, a lumber shed, fencing the lumber yard; also rebuilding our shingle mill, burnt down the year before, altogether costing \$3,000. It was passed by resolution of the board of directors at our last meeting that we change our fiscal year to end December 31st instead of February 28th, and that the business meeting be held on the third Monday in January each year, with a view that all tithing paid by the company may be credited to individual stockholders at the proper time. The board recommend that the time of election of officers be changed from the third Monday of January, according to posted notice required by our by-laws. It is also proposed by the board that the tithing of all employed by the company be deducted out of their earnings monthly.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES UNSWORTH, Sec."

The gentleman whose name is appended to the report as Secretary is really one of its chief managers, directors and causes of success. He has been for a long time superintendent of the store and the acting agent of the Order, and is deserving of great credit for his indefatigable labors combined with good business ability and general shrewd judgement. The following were elected Directors for the ensuing year: O. N. Liljenquist, James McBride, James Unsworth, Ola H. Rose, George Neilson, H. E. Neilson, I. C. Thoresen, A. A. Allen, S. F. Allen, C. C. Shaw, Peter Christianson, Jens P. Jensen and J. G. Wilson.

We are pleased to note the continued success of the United Order of Hyrum, and wish that there were many more institutions of similar kind in various parts of this Territory.

SUGGESTIVE FACTS, FIGURES AND REFLECTIONS.

THE habits of a community are a fair index of their material prosperity. When these habits are simple and limited to necessities, it is, as a rule, because of poverty, or, in isolated cases, from inability to spend the means possessed.

In the early history of Utah there was a time when money was the least desirable kind of pay for any labor. Men would work for clothing, groceries, tools or stock, but as for gold, it was a drug in the community, and as a consequence was of little monetary value. Soon, however, overloaded emigrant and finally merchant trains arrived in the then young city, and so anxious were the possessors of coin to get rid of it,

that entering a little crowded store, they would throw their arms around a lot of merchandise on the counter, one saying, "I will take this," and another, "I will take that," irrespective of goods or price, until the merchant measured coin by the brass kettle-full, and soon sent it east for further supplies.

This was the gold era of the Territory; after this, or during the war, came the era of paper; it was as "thick as leaves in Valambrosa," and every possessor thought that personal financial salvation could be best secured by taking anything that could be had for this depreciated currency, in fear of the threatened bankruptcy of the United States.

Since the advent of the railroad and the consequent steadiness of supply, and also the absence of great fluctuations in money values, there is an exhibition of the voluntary tastes, the power of tradition, the inability to withstand temptation, and the great tendency toward imitation which pervades society greater than was ever manifested before. We have some here who (in a local sense) are wealthy; they follow the rich of cities and nations far away; the comparatively poor follow the local magnates, and indulge in many things which can be ill-afforded, because they are used by those who are able to bear the expense. This tendency to imitate is good, when good is the standard; it is evil when the standard is evil. But the disposition is manifest, whether the practice is good, bad or indifferent. The ostentation which marks some of our marriages, the display and expense which are seen at our funerals; the style of our dwellings, their furniture and surroundings; the costliness of our dress; the supplies upon our tables; are all gauged, in many instances, not by our incomes or even necessities, but by the example of those with more means, and to please the eye and ear of what Eliza Cook called, "That big fool—the world."

One thing is certain, that both rich and poor cultivate many tastes, indulge in many articles, and spend much money in directions which may be considered not as necessities but as luxuries, that is, things not really essential to health and comfort, and at the same time by many good authorities considered positively injurious!

After these preliminaries let us glance at three simple articles which enter into extensive consumption in this Territory. If we ignore the religious aspects of this question for the moment, in view of our mixed population, we can certainly inquire whether from a social or a financial point of view, it really pays for any community, composed mainly of workers and persons of limited means, to scatter its substance in a direction so unremunerative, when so many channels are open, and so many industries languish for the means thus thrown away. The articles to which allusion is made are the social trinity of modern times—Tea, Coffee, and Tobacco. A few facts and figures on their local consumption will serve perhaps to stimulate thought and demonstrate folly more easily than many words divested of such facts and figures.

From reliable data we gather the fact that the people of this Territory consumed last year nearly 500,000 pounds of Tea. Think of it, a half a million pounds! And they did this at an expense (first-cost) of between one hundred and seventy-five and two hundred thousand dollars. That is a pretty heavy brewing of tea for a supposed population of one hundred and fifty thousand; it is really three and a third pounds each for every man, woman, and child in the Territory! Our Coffee bill in addition to this is not very insignificant, either. There was imported and consumed in the Territory last year about three hundred and sixty thousand pounds, making a thousand pounds for every day in the year except Washington's birthday, the Fourth and Twenty-Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas days. This at first cost implied expenditure of near seventy-five thousand dollars for Coffee.

When we come to the consumption of Tobacco, probably our *pro rata* is below that of other sections of the country. But there is enough disbursed for the weed to cause much reflection and suggest reform. Whether the direction should be abstinence or local production, we will not at present stop to inquire but keep to facts and figures. There was imported last year over one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, exclusive of cigars, and this at a cost of more than fifty-five thousand dollars. The combined

cost of the three articles named, amounted to nearly three hundred and thirty thousand dollars. If to this we added for average wholesale and retail profit about twelve per cent., we have as the startling result, nearly three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars as the price paid for an indulgence, so nearly non-essential that the outlay appears almost like a local calamity. The freight is enough to load a train of fifty cars at twenty thousand and pounds each!

Compare this with what we spend on education. Think of it in connection with the building of school houses, railroads, and canals. Contrast it with what we do for libraries and Sabbath Schools. Compare it with our missionary labors and our efforts to gather the poor. And then ask if we are justified wholly in the course we have been taking!

The figures given are in round numbers for convenience, but they are rather under than over-stated. Close figures are come-at-able, but unnecessary in the premises. As they stand, they are evidence of temporal prosperity. But they belong to the habits of luxury, and while the Saints meet in Conference to celebrate their first grand Jubilee, they might ponder on the pertinent and pregnant questions: Has our half-century of revelation and blessing been as productive of good fruit as it might have been? Is our appreciation of "Words of Wisdom" as thorough as it should be? And would not all feel brighter and better if this great sum, annually spent for self-indulgence and to gratify perverted tastes and the spirit of fashion and imitation, was in future spent in developing the resources of our country, establishing new industries for our idling posterity, and pushing more rapidly forward that Kingdom which many so ardently profess to regard as the chief object of their desires and exertions?

THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

HOW IT LOOKS BY GASLIGHT.

THE INTERIOR OF THE BEAUTIFUL BUILDING BRIEFLY DESCRIBED.

Last evening, a News reporter, by invitation of Brother Henry Grow, superintendent of construction of the Salt Lake Assembly Hall, made a visit to the structure with the intention of making a few notes regarding the progress of the work and its present state of completion. During the last few weeks work on the interior has been prosecuted with great vigor, and, while much is yet left to be done, a commendable labor has been performed, and every one will be astonished at the progress that has been made since New Year's, when the public were last admitted to the Hall.

The building last evening was illuminated and heated up to the requisite and contemplated standard. Professor Careless and the choir held a practice, and during the evening the organ was tried. It is at present very much out of tune, and some of the pipes are a little leaky. The pipes are yet exposed to view, and it presents a naked and incomplete appearance, but when finished and encased as projected, will be an attractive ornament.

The stands, which are three in number, are in the west end, immediately in front of the choir and organ, and, as in the New Tabernacle, are ranged one above another at such an elevation as to be convenient for both speakers and hearers. The lower or sacrament stand is on a level with the floor, at the lower portion, and is handsomely painted and grained in imitation of walnut and California laurel. The upper stands have only received the first coat of paint, but are intended, when finished, to correspond with the lower one. Considerable painting is yet necessary on the benches and doors and in various parts of the elevated stands. The pillars supporting the gallery are in imitation of marble, and are graceful and elegant.

The first thing which attracts the attention after entering the building, is the magnificent ceiling, an adequate description of which cannot be expressed in words. It is divided off into panels, sixteen in number, by a plain but elegant moulding and border. The panels, of course, are not all of a similar shape nor size, but, to accommodate the peculiar shape of the roof, are triangles, squares and parallelograms. The ground work

appears by gas light to be of a straw color and the moulding and painting to be done in a rich, bright brown, that has nothing of a sombre or gloomy character in it. The frescoes and ornamental pieces which fill the panels of the ceiling are the work of Brother Wm. C. Morris, and are clear and beautiful. They were done under the direction of Supt. Grow and with the approval of President Taylor. The large triangular panel over the west and elevated portion of the Hall, contains the All-seeing Eye, those of Deseret, and in the two lower corners, the Nauvoo and Kirtland Temples. The next panels east contain on the north side a representation of Peter, James and John conferring the Melchisedec priesthood upon Joseph, and on the south side Joseph and Oliver receiving the Aaronic priesthood from John the Baptist. The next and largest panels are in the main central division, and contain on the north side the Salt Lake and Logan Temples, and on the south side those at St. George and Manti. Over the temples are representations of the Savior, Moses, Elijah and Elias. The triangular panel over the east end of the building contains a historical fresco painting of large dimensions, representing "Moroni showing the Prophet Joseph where the plates were hid in the hill Cumorah." The smaller divisions contain merely ornamental frescoes of no particular significance.

Over the alcove on the north side and above that entrance are the words: "Pioneers entered this valley July 24th, 1847." In the similar alcove on the south side is the inscription: "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, organized April 6th, 1830."

The great amount of work expended on this upper portion of the building and the excellent and artistic manner in which it has been done can only be appreciated by observation, and is justly a source of pride to those having had the work in charge.

The heating and illuminating properties were arranged under the personal direction of Mr. David James, of this city, who has proved himself, by this labor, a thorough master of his business—a plumber and gas fitter of ingenuity and ability. The heating apparatus consists of two low pressure steam boilers, manufactured by W. H. Warner, of New York, under the Gold patent, and the whole system of pipes and radiators comes under the same patent. The boilers are in the west end of the building, underneath the stand, and the steam is carried to all parts of the building by pipes, which run under every alternate bench in the body of the hall, and by twelve radiators, placed in various portions of the building. A pressure of a pound and a half will produce sufficient heat to comfortably warm the building, and this low pressure is maintained by means of an ingenious automatic arrangement, which, when a greater pressure is attained, shuts off the draught and opens the door of the furnace. This is a most effective safety valve. Accident, therefore, from too great heat is made impossible, and the pound and a half pressure surely ought to alarm nobody. It has been found by experiment that when the boilers are filled, only five gallons of water will be consumed in heating the hall twenty-four hours. Should it be found necessary to increase the temperature beyond its present limit, by comparatively little extra work pipes can be hid under every seat in the building and the heating capacity will thus be nearly doubled.

The building is lighted by one chandelier of twelve jets, hanging from the centre of the building; four of six jets, one hanging from each corner; two pillar lights, four jets each, on the middle stand; and fourteen bracket lights under the gallery. All these chandeliers are silver mounted, handsomely ornamented with pendants of cut glass, and were made by Thackara, Buck & Co., of Philadelphia, after patterns altered especially for this building. The burners, proper, are the finest in the city, and were sent from England to Bro. James by his brother. They were manufactured under the Bray patent, and produce a beautiful and steady flame of light.

There are three entrances to the building, one each on the north, east and south sides, and at each entrance, stairs lead to the commodious gallery. From the gallery at the north entrance, a narrow winding stair leads to the roof and tower, from which a grand view of the city and valley is obtained. The building