

EDITORIALS.

RAILROAD LANDS.

THE public are not generally familiar with the laws in relation to the Pacific Railroads. Large grants of land were made to the Union Pacific Company from the sale of which an immense revenue has been derived, the amounts realized being from \$2.50 to \$10 per acre. But the third section of the act of Congress incorporating the company has a provision with which few are familiar. It reads as follows:

"That there be and is hereby granted to said company for the purpose of aiding in the construction of said railroad and telegraph line, and to secure the speedy transportation of the mails, troops and munitions of war and public stores thereon, every alternate section of public land designated by odd numbers to the amount of five alternative sections per mile on east side of said railroad, on the line thereof and within the limits of ten miles on each side of said road, not sold or otherwise disposed of by the United States, and to which a pre-emption or homestead claim may not have attached at the time the line of said road is definitely fixed. Provided, that all mineral lands shall be exempted from the operations of this act, but where the same shall contain timber, the timber thereon is hereby granted to said company. And all such lands so granted by this section which shall not be sold or disposed of by said company within three years after the entire road shall have been completed, shall be subject to settlement and pre-emption like other lands at a price not exceeding one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, to be paid to said company.

According to the records, the Union Pacific road with its branches was officially recognized as completed, October 19, 1874, hence the time when more than \$1.25 per acre could be demanded for the public lands granted to it under its charter, expired October 19th, 1877.

A settler on lands granted to the Kansas Pacific—a branch of the Union Pacific—by the name of Dudymotte, pre-empted a quarter section and the question of his right to do came up as a test case before the Land Commissioner at Washington, and finally went to the Department of the Interior. The decision made was that:

"Nearly all of the grants made by the United States, to, and in the construction of railroads or other works of internal improvement, have had annexed to them conditions, some of which are conditions precedent, and others conditions subsequent. Such conditions are found in this grant to the Kansas Pacific. It cannot be denied that Congress had the right to make the grant to said company absolute and unconditional, but in order to secure the objects for which the grants were made conditions were annexed. The company had the right to accept or reject the grant with the conditions therein made, and having accepted it, it is now estopped to deny their force or effect."

\* \* \* \* \* In making returns of money arising from the sale of said lands, local officers should be instructed to keep a separate account of the lands sold and the moneys received therefor on account of said company, in order that the same may be passed to its credit. In this case, inasmuch as it does not satisfactorily appear whether the lands applied for had been sold by the company at the time Mr. Dudymotte filed his declaratory statement, the commissioners of the land office will instruct local officers to call upon said company for a statement showing whether said lands had been sold by it at that time, and if it refuse or neglect to furnish such statement within 30 days after service of said notice, that they order a hearing to determine that fact."

This is a matter of great importance to people in Utah, and in the Territories and States contiguous on the line of the Pacific Railroads. Unless the companies can interpose some good and sufficient reason to the contrary, none of their lands will henceforth net them over \$1.25 per acre.

But we understand that a plea will be made when the case reaches the courts, that previous to the expiration of the prescribed three years, the railroad lands were actually sold to the holders of the land grant bonds, who held not a mere mortgage claim, but bona fide ownership of the lands. It is probable, however, that the courts will take a different view of this matter, and that the position of Secretary Schurz will be sustained, in which case millions of acres will be placed within the reach of people seeking for homesteads, and the country will be much more rapidly filled up in consequence.

Any persons in Utah who contemplate purchasing railroad lands will do well to watch the progress of the Dudymotte case, and not be in too great a hurry to pay \$5 an acre for land that may legally be purchased at \$1.25.

A HINT TO FARMERS.

THE Colusa (Cal.) Sun calls attention to the fact that there have been twice as many fires in the grain fields this year than were ever known before in any one year in the State, and says, "it seems as though there is occasionally a fire epidemic."

This suggests the danger that exists in some portions of our Territory where there are large fields of grain joined to each other and stretching for long distances, as in the new dry-farming region on the sand-ridge. A spark of fire, once gaining headway, would cause a sea of flame which would sweep over the whole country, spreading devastation and destroying stacks and improvements to the value of many thousands of dollars.

The best means to prevent this is for each farmer to plow a strip around his grain field, which would arrest the progress of a conflagration under ordinary circumstances, and be the means of saving much from the ravages of the fire-fiend.

There are, as intimated by the Sun, periods when it seems as though fires were contagious. No doubt, as in seasons of epidemic disease, atmospheric conditions are favorable to the spread of fire. Flames sweeping through forests have been known, when reaching a river, instead of burning themselves out stopped by the stream, to leap over the liquid barrier and pursue their career of demolition and horror. Under such a condition of affairs, we know of no natural means to stay the march of the fire fiend. But we think that where large and connected fields are unrealed, and around stacks exposed to danger, strips of the standing grain should be cut and furrows plowed, of sufficient width to ensure, under ordinary circumstances the safety of the crops. And even where the grain is cut but not hauled, a strip of plowed land might stop the spread of a conflagration that would run through stubble like a flash, and, leaping from sheaf to shock, turn into ashes the product of a season's toil. Think of it, farmers.

AN IMPOSSIBLE UNION.

"THE Omaha Herald has been contending for years that Christianity could only be saved against the inroads of Unbelief by a union of all religious sects and creeds in the world to battle for the common cause. It gives us some encouragement to know that Lord Beaconsfield, the foremost English churchman in the realm of her Majesty, and the foremost man in Europe, holds the same view."

The Herald is very sagacious and has a crisp way of presenting its theological as well as political ideas. The union of all "Christian" sects into one church would undoubtedly form a very powerful combination against the inroads of skepticism. So far so good. But will the Omaha Herald, Lord Beaconsfield, or some other ecclesiastical physician, be kind enough to formulate a recipe for the consolidation of the union proposed? It is very easy to say "unite," but there are certain elements that will not blend together. Many chemical compounds can be made, but the component parts must have affinity for each other or they will not amalgamate. The various parts of Christendom are in-

congruous. You may put them together, but they will "not stay put." Catholicism cannot unite with Episcopalianism. The Establishment cannot be one with Dissent. How is it possible for the Trinitarian to fellowship the Unitarian, the Calvinist and the Methodist to fraternize, or the Pope, the Czar and the Archbishop of Canterbury to form a holy alliance? The Romish, Greek and Anglican churches are essentially antagonistic, but not more so than other of the numerous sects which profess to be the church of the Son of God. They are in a state of natural repulsion and cannot be brought into Christian unity.

Much more rational than the cry for a union of creeds is the call for "a new religion." It is useless to "put new wine into old bottles," or patch new cloth on to the old moth-eaten garment of threadbare Christendom. Dissolution is foreshadowed in all its parts. For not only is each section at war with the others, but internal division is exhibited in each separate and discordant portion.

And the Unbelief which the proposed but impossible Union is to battle against, unfortunately holds the ground within the citadel. All the sects are honeycombed with unbelief. Scepticism is observable even in the pulpit and before the altar. Doubt is stamped on the reasonings of the preacher, and peeps out of the theology of the divine. No. Modern Christendom cannot conquer modern infidelity, for it is itself one of the principal breeders and feeders of latter-day scepticism.

The only help for the world against the monster Disbelief, is in a living faith with an actual priesthood and a genuine spirit of union and inspiration. Doctrines old as time, but revealed anew from heaven. Authority to declare them direct from God. The divine influence accompanying the administration, bearing witness to every convert and while linking them all together into a holy brotherhood, opening the way for each to commune with the Author of everlasting truth.

Such a religion is what the world calls "Mormonism." It is a re-development of the ancient faith adapted to the needs of the present age. It will gather into its fold the sheep that have gone astray. It will join the earth to the heavens. It will lift man up to his Maker. It will banish error and dispel darkness and, ultimately, drown the unbelief of the times in a flood of knowledge, which will spread till it covers the whole face of the earth. In it is true union and that faith which reaches within the veil, outside its division, dissention, the darkness of doubt and disbelief and the chaos of man-made systems of speculative and bewildering theology.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Engineers of the Northern Pacific Railroad commenced, on the 22nd ult., the survey for a road from New Tacoma, to Walla Walla.

New York has two lepers. The sufferers are both men, and are placed in a hospital on Blackwell's Island.

The wife of Judge Thompson, of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, died suddenly, on the 13th inst., after eating some ice cream prepared in a copper vessel. Take warning.

The Chicago Journal of Commerce is about to change its form from its present unwieldy size to a five column octavo. It is a good paper in whatever shape it may appear.

Petroleum brings to this country from abroad more gold than any other commodity except cotton. Fifteen years ago not a barrel had been exported. In 1877 the value of the petroleum exported was \$61,789,438.

An exchange says that one little town in Denmark ships to London 2,000,000 eggs per year. Let's see, isn't there a saying about "Something rotten in the state of Denmark?" The cockneys had better investigate those Danish eggs.

Arsenic eating is becoming prevalent in the United States. Ladies think it improves their complexions. Instead of that it makes a watery deposit under the skin that bloats and gives a corpse like whiteness to the body and has an injurious effect upon the brain.

Transfusion of blood having failed in so many cases, cows milk has been substituted by some physicians as the next best liquid to employ, as it is so quickly converted into blood in the human system. Eight ounces is the maximum amount injected. It is said to be useful in all cases of depreciation of the vital fluid.

Australia is ambitious to go into rivalry with the Old World. Melbourne proposes to hold an International Exposition in 1880. The capital of the colony of Victoria was founded in 1837, and has now a population of about 250,000. It is the chief commercial city of Australasia, and shows a commendable spirit of enterprise.

Tucson, Arizona was visited with a tremendous storm on July 12th. The rainfall was 5.10 inches. The thunder and lightning were terrific. Water ran through the Main Street to the depth of five feet. Several persons were nearly drowned, and after the storm many adobe houses fell down. The damages are variously estimated at from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The Chinese Government has stopped emigration to Peru. The reason was the horrible cruelties to which coolies were subjected in that country. Here is California's opportunity. Set before the Chinese authorities the bad treatment of the pig-tailed Mongolians in Frisco and perhaps the same law will be applied to the United States.

Paris deals favorably with the Hebrews. Visitors to the Exposition found the military that attended at the opening under command of a Jew. The army has three Jewish Generals, there are two Jewish Prefects, and the presiding officer of the Court of Appeals is of the same extraction. There are Jewish synagogues that Roman Catholics have built, and the Government contributes largely to the support of Jewish schools.

It is stated that many Illinois and Indiana farmers have offered in vain as high as from \$2 to \$2.50 per day for harvesters. If this is true, it offers convincing proof that most of the tramps infesting the country are what is claimed, a set of idle vagrants who hate nothing so much as work, and whose object is to live from the labor of others. In every place where tramps are fed, they should be made to work for what is given to them.

The ways of Providence are mysterious. An exchange says: "A few days ago a Norwich, R. I. man bought a chest of tea in Providence, and on opening it, found a stone inside weighing nearly eleven pounds." We have heard of a man buying a chunk of butter in Providence, Cache Valley, and on opening it he found a stone inside weighing, we forget how many pounds. All of which goes to prove the truth of the proverb.

Reno, Nevada, has instituted a novel entertainment for the raising of church funds. Persons having canary birds have been solicited to take them to the Methodist Church on a designated evening for a concert. We have not learned whether bets were in order, on the rival feathered songsters, but the Methodist mind is truly fertile in methods of "raising the wind!" Indeed money-getting is the chief specialty of the average Western Methodist itinerant. What next?

This is the way the "Liberals" have "saved" Tooele County. Four years ago, or when they took possession by force of fraud, county scrip was worth 95 cents on the dollar. To-day it is refused at 30 cents on the dollar, and has ranged from 30 to 50 per cent, the latter being the "Liberal" maximum. Query: How much would "Liberal" Tooele paper be worth in 1882 if the county should be cheated into four years more of such salvation? We should think sensible "Liberals" would hesitate to vote their own ticket.

The so-called Calendar Stone, which has long been considered by archaeologists a striking monument of Aztec civilization, being viewed as an astronomical instrument, showing considerable advancement in the science of the heavenly bodies, is now pronounced an altar slab used for human sacrifices. Professor Valentine has given a new translation of the hieroglyphics on the stone, and has shown

the above, and that it serves as a chronological record, making A. D. 231 the starting point of the Mexican era. Scientists, it appears, make egregious mistakes sometimes as well as common mortals.

In England they are adopting a horse-shoe made of cowhide, and known as the Yates shoe. It is composed of three thicknesses of cowhide compressed into a steel mould, and then subjected to a chemical preparation. It is claimed for it that it lasts longer and weighs only one-fourth as much as the common iron shoe; that it will never cause the hoof to split, nor have the least injurious influence on the foot. It requires no calks; even on asphalt the horse never slips. The shoe is so elastic that the horse's step is lighter and surer. It adheres so closely to the foot that neither dust nor water can penetrate between the shoe and hoof.

Public performers rarely do all that is set down in the bills. But a lecturer at Capron, Illinois, a week ago, set an example which, if not worthy of imitation in all its parts, was certainly so in its fulfillment of promise, and if completely followed, the world would be relieved of many public nuisances. George W. Burleigh advertised that on the 23d inst. he would deliver a lecture, and at the close gratify the audience by shooting himself through the head. The price of admission was set at one dollar, and the proceeds were to defray the funeral expenses, and the balance to be expended in Huxley, Tyndall and Darwin's works for the town library. The hall was crowded, an infidel lecture delivered, and Burleigh, placing a derringer to his forehead, fired and fell dead into the arms of two men. His brain was torn to pieces. He has found out by this time what a fool he was.

M. Reyner's new electric lamp is receiving very favorable notice, and as it is easily managed and inexpensive, it is likely to come into use in workshops and private houses. The battery can be put in any convenient place, and no engine or magnetic machine is required. Following is a description of the apparatus: "A rod of carbon, from 20 to 30 centimetres long and from 1 to 2 millimetres thick, is held at one end by a metal rod which tends to descend by its own weight, and at the other by a carbon wheel in a vertical position. The carbon is pressed strongly against the wheel, which is made to revolve slowly. A current of electricity from a battery of from four to six of Bunsen's elements raises the carbon to a white heat at the point of contact of the rod with the wheel. A splendid light is produced. If a high degree of luminosity is required, the heated portion of the carbon may be increased at pleasure. Break the current and the lamp is extinguished. Restore the connection by turning a knob and the light flashes forth."

[For the DESERT NEWS.]

ARE WE OF ISRAEL?

BY ELDER GEO. REYNOLDS. CHAPTER III.

The Land of the North—Jeremiah, Ether and Esdras' Testimonies—The Course of the Israelites Northward—The Jordan, the Don, the Danube, etc.—The Land of Mesia and Dacia—The Geta-Zalmoxes.

Having traced the ten tribes to Media, the next question is, what has become of them, for they are not to be found in that land to-day. Many attempts have, at various times, been made to discover the ten tribes of Israel as a distinct community, but all have failed. Josephus (Antiquities xi, 5) believed that in his day they dwelt in large multitudes somewhere beyond the Euphrates, in Asareth, but Asareth was an unknown land to him. Rabbinical traditions and fables, committed to writing in the middle ages, assert the same fact, with many wonderful amplifications. The imaginations of certain Christian writers have sought them in the neighborhood of their last-recorded habitation. Jewish features have been traced in the Afghan tribes; rumors are heard occasionally of Jewish colonies in China, Thibet and Hindostan (the Beni-Israel), whilst the Black Jews, of Malabar, claim affinity with them. But none of those people would, in