

the rights of the other; and certainly to trespass upon and waste the property of another is a right belonging to no one.

One word more: the less law, and the less complicated the provisions that are framed for this question, the better. The people of Utah are averse as a rule to haling their neighbors before courts. This aversion should be encouraged, both on the score of profit and of amiability. The simpler the enactment, the more satisfactory it will be. Of course it will take a master's hand to frame such a statute, but the NEWS thinks there are that kind of hands in the present Legislature.

CHANGES IN PALESTINE.

Rev. A. Ben-Oliel, who has been living at Jerusalem for some years and laboring as a missionary in the interest of the Presbyterian church, is at present in this country and attracting much attention among his co-religionists. Mr. Ben-Oliel is of Jewish descent, born at Tangiers. Since his acceptance of Christian doctrines and baptism he has labored in various countries among the Hebrews and is said to have organized not a few churches. So far, however, his efforts in Palestine have not been crowned with much success, if this be measured by the number of converts made among the Jews in that country.

Speaking of the Holy Land to a representative of the *Pittsburg Dispatch*, he says that he is confident that the prophecies concerning the Hebrews are being fulfilled today. A few years ago there were not over 8,000 Hebrews in Palestine. There are now 80,000, of whom 40,000 live in Jerusalem. They are coming at the rate of 10,000 a year. On the remarkable return in later years of the rain, without which the country is about worthless, Mr. Ben-Oliel remarks that this is another fulfillment of prophecy.

He might have added, if he were a believer in Mormonism, that both the gathering of the scattered people and the return of the early rains and later rains, which for centuries were known only through history, are a direct answer to the dedicatory prayer offered by Orson Hyde on the Mount of Olives in the early part of the history of our Church. Indeed, to a thoughtful observer the present condition of Palestine is almost an ocular demonstration of the truth of Mormonism. There is a work going on among Israel and Judah alike, and it is a part of that great and marvelous work which was announced and commenced by Joseph the Prophet, as he was directed by the great Ruler of the destinies of the children of men.

MISLEADING FIGURES.

During December there landed at Ellis Island, N. Y., 11,262 immigrants from nearly every quarter of the globe. Three thousand were ignorant and unable to read and write, and more than half without any trade or profession. They will add largely to the free soup-house list during the winter.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

The foregoing statement will doubtless have the effect intended upon the majority of those who read it, by giving

them to understand that the ignorant and pauper element of Europe are admitted to this country notwithstanding the strict immigration laws. But persons who are acquainted with the workings of the immigration commissioners' office will at once detect the fraud. An account is taken of every arrival at Ellis Island, down to the youngest babe. And as three thousand children under seven or eight years of age would not be over the usual proportion of the little tots among the immigrants, it is quite probable that the babies alone constitute the number classed as "ignorant and unable to read or write." Of the "more than half without any trade or profession," this includes the wives and mothers as well as the children who arrive, and as these constitute perhaps more than half of the total number of immigrants, there is really nothing to form a basis for the suggestion that they will add largely to the free soup-house list. The NEWS has had occasion recently to observe that "figures don't lie," and this gives opportunity again to remark that they are sometimes made the means of expressing glaring untruths. Such is the case with the *Inter-Ocean's* statistics. We do not deny that the immigration question is becoming a grave one and in the near future will require heroic yet careful treatment. But the case is not helped a bit by falsehood—no case ever is.

CUT THEM DOWN!

A reduction of some ten thousand dollars per annum in the official salary part of the running expenses of a city like Salt Lake is no very great stroke of economy, and can certainly escape the odious designation of cheese-paring. Still, it is an indication that is hopeful and promising. The City Council in this first ordinance may have only inserted the thin edge of the wedge. At some later hour they may again wield the ax of wise retrenchment with lusty vigor, and in a particularly consistent mood they may even vote to reduce their own stipend. Patience, dear public, yet a little longer!

An argument frequently used against low salaries is that they are an inducement only to cheap and incapable men. There is some truth in this, as there is in almost every sophistry—but not much. Some of the best officials the city ever had, worked for nothing. In fact, the best qualification we can think of in any office-holder is that he obtained and occupies his place without thought of the monetary emoluments. A man who seeks election or appointment to any place merely for the money there is in it, is a good man to defeat. That ideal political condition where the office seeks the man, and not the man the office, can rarely be attained where fat salaries are the rule. In such cases it is men's cupidity, not their desire to promote the public interest, that makes them hunters or occupants of place. We'll warrant that plenty of equally good men for the public service can be found any day at much less compensation than even this reduced salary ordinance specifies. Honor has still a high and fixed value among our citizens, and

patriotism is not altogether a lost attribute.

But is not the laborer worthy of his hire? Most certainly; we only urge a recollection of the terms "laborer" and "hire." Shall a man be asked to give his time and energies to the public without compensation at all? No; the public are able to pay their servants, and ought to do so. Isn't a good man cheaper at a high salary than an incapable man at a low salary? Yes; but high salaries are not always an assurance of good men, any more than low wages and a cheap coat mark invariably an ignoramus or a scrub.

We would have salaries so low that there would be no scramble for the places as a means of making a living and of feeding riotously at the public crib. We have seen too much of the practice, among party-workers and possessors of "influence," of scanning the list of offices, calculating the compensation of each, and then bravely and boisterously setting out to capture this, that or the other position—anything, so long as it pays so much per year. It is a disgrace. If the City Council under the pressure of heavy financial burdens and a sense of the need of rigid economy can help to correct this evil by removing a portion of its cause, well and good—we're with them. Meanwhile we yield the floor to the carping critic who now will doubtless want to say the NEWS is arguing that an experienced man is worth no better wages than a clown.

INTO SPACE FROM MONT BLANC.

One of the great scientific undertakings of the age, the erection of an observatory on Mont Blanc, was completed last year by the energetic efforts of the French astronomer Jansen. Three years previous he had made an ascent for the purpose of studying the solar spectrum, and by his report to the Academy of Science he succeeded in interesting such men as Prince Roland Bonaparte, who was recently in Salt Lake City, M. Eiffel and Baron de Rothschild for the project, and with their aid it was soon realized.

The first question was to find the rock for a foundation among the seemingly endless masses of snow and ice. The engineer charged with this task ran a gallery into the snow about forty feet from the summit, but although this was continued for seventy feet nothing was found but frozen snow. Another gallery was run in an opposite direction, but with the same result. Nothing then remained but to build the house in the snow.

The structure was prepared at Mentone. It was given the form of a quadrangular truncated pyramid, two stories high, of which the lower story was to be buried three-fourths in the snow, an arrangement necessary on account of the windstorms that sometimes rage among the Alps. The whole weighed fifteen tons. It was divided among carriers, who succeeded in bringing it to the summit. They commenced their work in the summer of 1892 and finished it the following summer. By the 8th of September 1893, everything was ready, and Jan-