

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, - Oct. 27, 1880.

BIENNIAL ELECTION.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1880.

PEOPLE'S TICKET!

For Delegate to Congress,

GEORGE Q. CANNON.

RAILROADING IN COLORADO.

To Presidents of Stakes and their Counselors, and the Bishops of Wards and their Counselors, and to the Latter-day Saints generally:

WE understand there has been considerable feeling aroused in various settlements by reports which have come from Colorado respecting the terms upon which labor can be obtained in grading the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, and many inquiries have been addressed to us and the Apostles upon this subject, as to whether it would be advisable for men and teams to leave this Territory and go there, to perform the work of grading. The distance to the point where the labor is to be performed is about 450 miles, and the journey to and fro with teams will occupy at least six weeks. The counsel which has been given to the brethren generally in this northern country upon this subject is, that the distance is too great, and the weather at this time of year too uncertain to make this labor remunerative to those who engage in it, and that it is not advisable for the brethren to go there.

One or two companies, however, have been organized at points south, under the direction of Boards of Trade, who have sent their agents in advance to make contracts, and to examine carefully the route contracted for, and to do everything necessary to prepare the way for companies to follow them. This has been done at a moderate percentage, barely enough to cover the actual expense. The one or two companies who have thus organized have gone or will go under the direction of some man or men who will preside over them, and who will carry with them in their camps the observances of our religion. Under such circumstances, even if money is not made, at least good habits will be maintained, and our young men will thus be preserved from many of the contaminating and destructive influences which prevail in railroad grading camps.

We think it would be very imprudent for single parties, or for a few individuals, to go off in mixed companies to work on this railroad, as however much profit might be made from the labor, the probability is that the parties themselves who go would receive more injury to their morals than any amount of money could compensate them for.

We hope the brethren in authority will use their influence with the Latter-day Saints, and counsel them upon these matters. Wisdom would suggest that our young men especially should not be exposed to the temptations and the wickedness that abound at such points.

The Twelve Apostles will visit the various Stakes as soon as practicable, and from them counsel can be obtained as to the best method to be adopted in relation to this matter.

Your Brethren,

JOHN TAYLOR,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

MORE LIGHT—"HASTEN SLOWLY."

OUR citizens are still discussing the subject of the electric light, as a substitute for gas. About two weeks ago we offered a little advice on this matter, the heading and substance of which was, Don't be in a Hurry. We had nothing to say against electric lighting in general nor the Brush patent in particular. Neither did we make any attack on the person who is endeavoring to rush our city fathers into a contract for the adoption of the light for which he is agent. On the contrary, we commended his enterprise and admitted the plausibility of his arguments. We did not even criticize his sudden drop of \$2,500 per annum in his price for lighting the city from "an ornamental iron tower," nor touch on the fallacies that are presented in his latest offer to the City Council.

Yet this individual immediately rushed into print with an assault on the News, which our morning contemporary, the Herald, courteously published as a "Bundle of False Assertions in the Deseret News." We did not care at the time to notice the communication at any length, but waited for further information. The only statement in our article that could be properly designated as an "assertion" was this:

"There is one thing that gives room for doubt as to the adaptability of the Brush light to this city, and that is that Cleveland, where it hails from, has not adopted it, and that the large cities do not find its claims sufficiently imposing to utilize it in the place of gas. We understand that the reason offered why Cleveland does not use it is, because of the many trees in that city. If that is an objection in Cleveland, is it not equally an objection in Salt Lake City, or is this a place without trees?"

The answer to this which appeared in the communication to the Herald was as follows:

"The assertion that Cleveland has not adopted the electric light because of the shade trees is false. Cleveland adopted the light over two years ago and likes it so well that towers are being erected for a general illumination of the city."

We based our statement upon information which we considered reliable, and, judging from other remarks of the agent who is so anxious to hurry Salt Lake into a contract with him, we did not place implicit reliance upon his reply. We are now in a position to lay the facts before the public. Following are verbatim extracts from a letter written by a prominent business man of Cleveland, whose name we for the present withhold, but who stands in the front rank of Cleveland's leading citizens:

"CLEVELAND, Ohio,
Oct. 10, 1880.

Dear Sir—There is no truth in the statement that towers are being erected in this city for the purpose of erecting the Brush Light. So far as I am informed, last spring, when the contract was re-let for lighting the Park with the Brush Light, the Company agreed to light a short, wide street and charge nothing for it; i. e., to throw that in. They have not yet done it, but have made preparations by placing three posts, each about 30 feet high (the others are about 16) and I presume these are the "towers" referred to. There is no excitement here about the light. Some like it and some dislike it. A Councilman volunteered to tell me lately that he thought it a bad light."

The writer sends some further particulars which we reserve for the present, but adds:

"I have noticed the new posts, since writing the foregoing, and they reach about to the eaves of an ordinary two-story building, and are merely long lamp posts; when they have been tested I will write again."

Our correspondent says, further:

"The ill success at Nantucket will probably give a quietus to a scheme for lighting Holyoke, Mass. If your Council are wise they will not fool away the people's money on electric lighting towers."

So far the letter from Cleveland. Our information about the trees in that city being the objection to the light, by the municipality, was obtained from a Cleveland who was here at the time when the Brush light was tested in front of Z. C. M. I. We learned that the very city

where the light hails from had not adopted it. That it had been tried in Monumental Park there and was not considered suitable for city purposes. We also by letter obtained corroboration of this statement, and the writer said:

"Cleveland is not lighted in the manner you describe, but mainly by gas lamps. There are in the outlying wards many oil lamps. Monumental Park is lighted by the Brush electric light, using globes placed say fifteen feet above ground. Some like the light others do not; there are about twelve lights."

From this it will be seen that a "bundle of false assertions" has not been made by the News but by the agent for the Brush Light now in this city. If we had been in error it would have been but a mistake; but that person has wilfully and intentionally attempted to deceive the public, and the City Council will do well to be extremely cautious how they receive any of his assertions.

So far as we have made inquiries—and we have not been asleep on this question—we cannot learn of any ornamental towers in use for the electric light by any of the great cities of the United States. Where the light has been tried it has either been erected on the summit of some building or on the top of a liberty pole, and, as we before remarked, it is still an experiment, and generally viewed in the light of a toy or a curiosity rather than a practical method of lighting cities as a substitute for gas.

The Nantucket trial referred to in the letter first quoted from in this article, is thus described by a journalist:

"On Nantucket Beach, near Boston, the Northern Electric Light Company erected three wooden towers, about 100 feet high, and mounted on each tower a circle of 12 Weston's electric lamps, each lamp being estimated at 2,500 candle power. The towers were only 500 feet apart, and formed a triangle, so that the light (computed) of 90,000 candles was concentrated within a limited area. The motive of the electric light company in arranging this costly experiment, was to prove the feasibility of their proposal to light towns with almost noonday brilliancy, from towers of similar design, numbering four to the square mile, and each mounting light aggregating 90,000 candle power. On the occasion under notice, the current was produced by three Weston machines, using 36 horse power, and the whole of the lamps burned well and steadily throughout the evening, with only one slight flicker. The light yielded was just sufficient to enable two sets of base ball nines to play in the centre of the triangle, but on account of the uncertain nature of the light, resembling that of a full moon, the games were poorly played, and there was little light given beyond a circle of one-eighth of a mile radius."

It should be observed here in fairness that the experiment at Nantucket was with the Weston, not the Brush light. But it serves to show that elevated towers for city lighting are not all they are "cracked up" to be, and to support our advice to the City Council, "Don't be in a hurry."

Now it is folly for any stranger or speculator to proclaim to the Salt Lake public that the DESERET NEWS is against the electric light. Files of our paper will show that we have repeatedly drawn attention to the subject of lighting by electricity, and expressed our conviction that it would be the light of the period. But while we have full faith in the ultimate triumph of electricity as a popular illuminator, it does not follow that we are bound to support every project that is put forward by active business men bent on making money. We say again, this thing is in its infancy. Great improvements will be made in it. The problem of its distribution will yet be solved. We did not assert—as this individual says we did—that "Edison has perfected his light," but after naming seven different processes, each claiming to be the best, we added:

"To say nothing of the Edison, which the wizard of Menlo Park now claims to have perfected, and which comprehends the division of the light, the great desideratum for a general illuminator, for, apart from household purposes, it is far preferable to have a divided light which will shine under the trees as our gas lamps do, than to have one big, elevated illumination casting great shadows in every street."

The claim to which we alluded

may be found in the *North American Review* for October. In view of the imminent probabilities of important improvements, is it wise to be in any great hurry to make the proposed contract?

Accuracy is one of the chief aims of the DESERET NEWS. If we make any misstatement—all persons and papers being liable to error, it is never from a desire to misrepresent, and we are always willing to rectify any error into which we may fall inadvertently. In this case it will be seen that we have made no "bundle of false assertions," nor even one incorrect statement either purposely or unintentionally. We oppose nothing simply because it is new, we support nothing for the reason that it is old. We have no axe to grind on this wheel; we have no interest in stopping any one else from grinding, except public interest. But we candidly confess that we do not wish to see any agent or other person using the people's water power and the people's grindstone, just to sharpen his axe for his own personal use, in hewing his way in other directions to big pecuniary profits for his private emolument, with very doubtful prospects of any permanent benefit accruing to the public.

There is no need of a rush. Suspicion is naturally aroused when an effort is made to hurry any one into a contract without due consideration and careful investigation. Take time over this project. Find out for a fact how it succeeds, if at all, in other cities. Popular petitioning is all right, but the popular mind is apt to run a little ahead of discretion sometimes. Wise heads will think deliberately, and wise public officials will follow the Latin proverb that we quoted in our former article, which in plain English is, *hasten slowly!*

QUESTIONS CONCERNING IRRIGATION COMPANIES.

WE are in receipt of the following communication, and as requested, proceed to answer the questions propounded, according to the best of our knowledge and belief:

"Information is desired on the following, which if given through the medium of your valuable paper might be of general benefit, to wit:

If the trustees of a duly organized irrigation company, either in consequence of absence or other inability, or oversight, fail to take the necessary steps at the proper time, (by advertising, posting up notices, etc., as the law directs), to secure an election to elect their successors, what are the proper steps to be taken by the stockholders of said company, to secure a board of trustees that would be duly empowered to legally transact all business devolving upon a board of trustees of such a company, and if nothing could be done to remedy the neglect before the time provided by law for holding elections to elect officers for irrigation companies, could the trustees under the above circumstances named legally and safely act or transact business for such a company?

Where there is an irrigation company duly incorporated, or organized according to law, that has indisputed control of streams of water for years and need all the waters thereof for irrigation purposes, have the County Commissioners any authority to hear or act upon the claims of said company to the control and use of said waters, and if so will said Commissioners issue their certificates to the company, or to each individual stockholder for his share of said waters.

Respectfully Yours,

J. U. E.

We know of no remedy provided by law for the condition of affairs described in the first part of the above letter. We think the law needs amending so as to provide for such a contingency. If the trustees do not call the election and designate the place, as the law now stands there is no means of holding an election until another year. By the act of 1878 amending the law in relation to irrigation companies, in section 5, it is provided that "All subsequent elections for company officers and for determining the rate of annual tax, shall be held annually on the Second Monday in October, at such time and place as shall be designated by the Trustees, etc." The conduct of such election and the manner of giving notice thereof, are designated in Section 4 which says, "Notice shall be given by the Trustees, at least ten days previous to the time

appointed," etc. This makes it obligatory upon the Trustees to perform that duty, and if they fail to do so, either by refusal or neglect, they can be sued on their bonds. And this seems to be the only protection the law affords the members of the company. A *mandamus* would be of no avail, for how could a court compel an officer to call an election for the Second Monday in October after that time, or the time for the notice, had passed? And no one could assume beforehand that the Trustees intended to neglect or refuse to perform this duty.

We are of the opinion that the old Trustees would continue in office until the next election, as the law provides that the first trustees shall hold office "till the next general election and one year after, and until their successors are elected and file bonds," and this may fairly be construed to apply to the succeeding trustees, being a necessary provision for the transaction of the company's business and the continuance of its existence. In this case the trustees could safely act in their office until the next election, and it is not likely that any member of the company would attempt to call their official acts in question by legal process.

We think that under the act of the last session of the Legislature, on Water Rights, the Water Commissioners are empowered to decide upon the claims of irrigation companies as well as of individuals; and that the certificate should be issued to the company as an organized body, and not to the individual members. Section 12 of that Act provides that "the term 'person,' when applicable includes 'firm,' 'partnership,' 'joint stock company,' 'association' and 'corporation.'" The company should obtain the certificate as proof of its water rights and proof of the several rights of the members can be regulated by the by-laws of the association.

While on this subject we may as well reply to a query in a communication from another source, which is as follows:

"Can a person, not a citizen, hold office as a trustee, secretary or treasurer in an irrigation company organized under the territorial law?"

We hold that he can. The law provides that no person shall hold "any office of trust or profit in the Territory," etc., unless he is a male citizen of the United States." But this applies to the various officers of the Territory which are either territorial, county, or precinct officers, whose position and duties are defined by territorial law. Private companies and associations and their officers do not come under this designation, and are not governed by the statutes relating to those offices, which are filled either by popular election, or appointment from some body or official acting under territorial authority. An irrigation company we suppose has as much right to elect or appoint a person not a citizen to transact business for it, as a railroad company, or any corporation or association for any purpose.

However, we should think that for as important an office as trustee of an irrigation company, men of standing and experience would be chosen, and, as a rule, we do not think much of the qualifications for position of a man who has been many years in the Territory without becoming a citizen. For this office at least it would be safest and best to choose citizens.

We trust that these replies will be satisfactory to our correspondents, and tend to settle disputes on the questions that have been raised.

THE BRITISH MISSION.

From the *Millennial Star* of October 4, we learn that up to September, the number of Saints who have left the port of Liverpool for this country during the present year, is 1,479. Another company will leave on the 23d of the present month, which will probably make the total about 1,800. They were of the following nationalities: British, 607; Scandinavian, 758; (including twenty Icelanders) Swiss and German, 108; French 6. Quite a number of these have been assisted by means privately forwarded from friends in Utah, and some by the Perpetual Emigrating Fund.

Baptisms are still frequent in various parts of the British Mission. Elder Edward E. Brain reports thirty-four baptisms into the Church in Bristol Conference since the 1st of last May, and says that he with