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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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DAVID O. CALDER,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY DEC. 2.

VISIT TO THE PENITENTIARY.

It was stated in Saturday's NEWS that a kind of semi-rebellion had broken out among the penitentiary prisoners under the care of Warden Rockwood, and that the affair culminated in a petition to Mr. Rockwood, signed by fourteen of the prisoners, that being a little over half the number now in charge of the Warden. The document was in the handwriting of A. D. McAbe, his name also heading the list. It purported to set forth a number of grievances, of which they asked the removal. The first item was that the cook was obnoxious, because he was uncivil, did not cook properly, put on airs, etc.; the second was that they had not sufficient clothing to keep them warm when at work and that they had not had sufficient medicine when sick. Had the petition not been coupled with a threat the matter would have looked considerably better for the prisoners, but it was in reality not a petition at all, but an evident attempt at coercion, the document ending with a plain threat to the effect that if what they asked was not granted they were determined they would not work. Of the fourteen who signed, the paper, four did so for the removal of the cook only, and another, H. Gillem, retracted altogether. Mr. Rockwood sent word to the belligerent prisoners that if they did not retract the threat he should put them in irons, and they not doing so this course was resorted to.

Yesterday two of the three prison inspectors or directors appointed by the Legislature—Mr. Alexander Pyper and Bishop Kesler, visited the premises where the convicts are kept, at Agricultural Park, a short distance west of the city, for the purpose of making investigations. Their inquiries lasted about a couple of hours, after which they could come to no other conclusion than that the whole of the trouble had arisen from the course of the cook, Fred Stockfield, who is himself a convict, but who has been wearing citizen's clothes. The fault in him did not arise from his being an indifferent cook, as it was plainly indicated that he is clever and cleanly. The other evening, however, he went into the place where the cells or cages of the prisoners are, when one of the men remarked that he was "putting on a good many airs," and he retorted that he did not put on near so many airs "as you convicts do." High words ensued and threats and defiant utterances were hurled from both sides. In fact the prisoners were mad, and being mad they were mad at everything and everybody. When men are under the influence of passion they are more or less insane, the lower and more debasing qualities of their natures being excited, while the more redeeming characteristics are subservient, and one may readily imagine that it is by no means

difficult to arouse the worst passions of such debased characters as many of those convicts are.

If there had been any previous doubt with regard to the origin of the trouble the visit to the prisoners would have dispelled it. The notorious Jack Beegan, who has been sick for nearly a year, was not in a cell, but sat on a barrel by the window, made complaints in presence of the directors, the beginning and end of which was that it was more than the men could brook, to be "bossed" or "insulted" by a "thrice convicted thief," meaning the cook. Jack said, "You know I only signed the paper for the removal of the cook. If you give a convict a little brief authority, he will run it into the ground, and I guess I would do it myself." The writer asked Beegan if he did not remember telling him, on a previous visit, two months ago, that if a man behaved himself under Mr. Rockwood, he got as well treated as anybody could wish. "Yes," said Jack, "and I say so now."

The two who seemed to lead the malcontents and to be the principal inciters were A. D. McAbe and M. L. Scott. It will be remembered that the former was one of the men convicted of stealing cattle from the Bear River country, and who, when Sheriff Brown, of Ogden, and Constable B. Y. Hampton went to arrest him and companions in City Creek Canyon, seized his pistol to shoot them, when he was jumped upon by the sheriff and finally secured, and after sentence was passed on him, in the Probate Court, he jumped the railing of the Court room and sprang towards Andrews, the prosecuting witness, for the purpose of attacking him. He is a desperate, bold character. He is young, powerful and active, and his voice has a clear, hard, metallic ring to it.

When Scott was being put in irons the other day he said he wanted to kill one man and then he could die contented and comfortable, and several times afterwards he repeated the threat. It was understood that the man he intended to kill was Mr. Charles I. Robinson, one of the guards, who has charge of the prisoners in the absence of Mr. Rockwood.

On examining the clothing of the prisoners, the directors discovered that each prisoner had one pair of woolen drawers, two pairs of duck pants, one woolen undershirt and two cotton overshirts, besides a thick woolen overcoat, strongly lined, and shoes—some of them had boots—stockings and gloves; so it will be seen that they are as warmly clad as people generally.

The law provides that they shall receive good, wholesome food. They have, three times a day, all they can use of meat, bread and vegetable, the latter consisting of potatoes, beets, parsnips, and occasionally cabbage and onions, all of the best quality.

As to the complaint of the lack of medicine, it was discovered that there was no foundation for this at all. The bill for medicine for last month, November, amounted to \$40.65, and Dr. Anderson's bill for attendance, for the same period, was \$30.

The bedding was found to be amply sufficient also, every two men having a straw mattress and three pairs of blankets, and a fire is kept burning night and day in a stove in the building where the convicts are lodged. A plug of tobacco has been served out to each man weekly, an allowance that is most unusual.

Four of the youngest of the convicts have been provided by the Warden with books, slates and other educational materials and are undergoing a course of studies.

The directors express themselves well satisfied with Mr. Rockwood's treatment of the convicts. If his policy had been faulty at all, it was not on the side of harshness, but of too much leniency. In fact it would be patent to any observer that the prisoners have been treated with more consideration than any other convicts in any part of the world, being better fed, better clothed and better provided for in every way. And none know this better than the convicts them-

selves, if they were willing to admit it.

As before stated, however, the cook was the real originator of the trouble, having, as the convicts themselves stated, been "putting on too many airs." The directors advised the Warden to order him to at once don the striped clothing, and to forbid him to have any talk or communication with the prisoners whatever, only through the guards. He was advised, however, to retain him as cook, for two reasons, one being that he was a good cook and the other that no concession should be made to the prisoners merely on account of any threat made by the latter. Also that if additional clothing was really necessary, which, however, was not very apparent, they should be provided with it, and that those who were well behaved should be given coffee for breakfast in addition to what they had been receiving, but that this latter should only be given to those whose behavior was as unexceptionable as could be reasonably expected.

The present wards of Mr. Rockwood are the hardest lot he has ever had under his charge, and his position and those of his assistants are anything but desirable.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 10.

No Criminals.—Not a single criminal and but one civil suit in the police court to-day.

Weather.—Beautiful, sunshine overhead, but terribly muddy underfoot to-day, frozen hard this morning.

Arrived.—John W. Young, Esq., who has been on a visit to the States, and England, arrived last night, in good health.

Bad for Them.—It appears to be a very unfortunate thing for the "Mormon-eating" clique hereabout that there is such a grand justice dealing institution in this country as the Supreme Court. They don't like it much.

A Gem.—Mr. G. M. Ottinger has just completed a beautiful little oil painting, a view of Donner Lake. He has worked this picture up very finely. It can be seen at Savage's Art Gallery, where it is on exhibition.

Provo.—From Mr. Jesse W. Fox, who was in Provo a few days ago, we learn that some of the railroad depot buildings there are nearly finished, including the office and storage house. Some of the coal houses are completed and others are in process of construction.

Christmas Bazar.—On Monday, December 15th, a grand holiday bazar will be opened at the Eagle Emporium, and will continue till the year closes. The goods will be sold cheap, presenting a fine opportunity to invest a little cash for holiday presents. The Emporium advertisement will be found in another column.

Well Known Citizen Dead.—About twelve o'clock last night Mr. James M. Carter, formerly of the law firm of Marshal and Carter and latterly of Carter and Wilson, departed this life. The deceased resided in this Territory a number of years, was well known and, we believe, generally respected for numerous good qualities. The disease which terminated his life is said to have been brain fever.

Seasonable Hint.—It may be reasonably expected that ponds, lakes and ditches will soon be bound by the breath of winter, and then will be the time for the skaters. Young men commencing the art of skating should remember "Saxey's" advice to the beginners, which was to take with them in addition to the skates, a couple of feather pillows each, fasten one on the back part of the head and experience would teach them where to locate the other.

Awe-Stricken Miners.—About one o'clock on the morning of Dec. 6th, some miners at Virginia, Nevada, were awe-stricken by observing a column of phosphorescent flame, shooting up fifty feet out of a shaft near the old Ophir works, and the whole interior of the shaft

seemed to be at a white heat and glowed like a furnace, the timbers being particularly brilliant. A warm current of air ascended from the shaft, and there was a sickening, musty smell.

Art Union.—It will be seen by special advertisement that the Art Union drawing of prizes at Mr. C. R. Savage's Gallery will take place in one week from to-day. The prizes will include a large number of very fine pictures, including oil paintings, chromos, engravings, statuettes, &c. The first prize will be a splendid large oil painting of a scene in Big Cottonwood Canyon, by G. M. Ottinger.

Those desirous of being ticket holders should secure them early.

Unconditional Surrender.—On Friday night, after the investigation by the prison directors, the convicts who had manifested symptoms of rebellion sent word to Warden Rockwood that they had concluded upon an unconditional surrender. They chose M. L. Scott as their spokesman, and in making known the intentions of himself and companions he said that Gen. Robert E. Lee had surrendered, and surely it was no disgrace for them to do so. Who talks of "odorous" comparisons now?

Railroad Shops.—The improvements at the Utah Central depot are nearing completion. The foundry building was finished some time since and the new engine house and boiler shop are now nearly in the same condition. The new stationary engine, forty-horse power, is being fitted up and will probably commence running some time next week, and the foundry will soon be in operation also. Another new lathe was received in the machine shops a short time since.

Collecting Newspaper Debts.—This is how Nevada newspaper carriers get rich on old debts, according to the Gold Hill News of Dec. 6—

"John Lambert and Charley Watson were conversing on the sidewalk in front of Gobey & Keeley's saloon, Virginia, yesterday, when a newspaper carrier came along and said to Lambert, 'I've got a bill against you of two dollars.' 'That's right,' says John; 'I always pay my newspaper bills.' He handed Mac a \$20 piece, and Mac deliberately but inadvertently gave him \$19.50 back. John smole a sunny smile, and says he, 'Now look here, Mac, don't you think it's about time you treated on this arrangement?' Mac agreed, and all three went in and took a drink, costing Mac 75 cents. Charley Watson fails to see where Mac's margin for profits comes in, and Lambert promises to treat next time. Mac don't know of any blunder."

Mails.—Here is how a correspondent writes from Springville, Dec. 8—

"There is a great deal of complaint about the irregularity of the mails in Utah Co. Under present arrangements it requires about five days for a letter, mailed at Provo or this place, to reach the party addressed at Salt Lake."

In addition to the above item a letter was returned to us this morning, which was mailed in this city, November 12th. It was addressed to a gentleman in Alta City, and it comes back to us with a statement on the envelope that it had been on a voyage of discovery, probably in search of a warmer clime, having been on a visit to the capital of "Dixie," St. George.

"Mistakes will happen in the best regulated families," but they shouldn't occur too often, or a suspicion of wilful neglect will be aroused.

Will the gentlemanly individuals who have the supervision of mail matters be kind enough to see to the rectification of the Springville affair?

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 11.

Four Cases.—One inebriate, two individuals of pugilistic proclivities and another "without visible means of support," were the cases

disposed of by Justice Clinton to-day.

The circumstances of the man who had no means were improved by the imposition of a fine of \$15.

Shooting.—This afternoon an Indian woman of the town, named Susan Vance, fired several shots in her room, in a Commercial street alley, some of which went through the wall into the street. Capt. Burt visited the place and tried to induce her to open the door, which she refused to do. While the Captain stood at the window she produced and presented a six-shooter. He seized the hand that held it, while a couple of bystanders burst open the door and rushed in and seized her from behind. The weapon was taken from her and she was arrested and placed in jail.

The Concert.—Last night the 8th Ward Assembly Rooms were filled to overflowing on the occasion of the concert given by the members of the choir of that Ward. The pieces were, generally speaking, well rendered, and drew forth repeated expressions of approval. The recitations by Mr. P. Margetts, jr., were loudly applauded, as were also the comic trio and catch, by Messrs. Owen, Lewis and Smyth. The ladies also deserve credit for their successful efforts to please. The French song, although, understood by but few in the audience, was well executed. The concert closed at the reasonable hour of ten o'clock.

Arrest under a Grave Charge.—On Monday Captain Joab Lawrence, late president of the Eureka Mining Company, was arrested in New York, and on the same day Mr. John N. Whitney, late vice president of the same company, was arrested in this city, and borne eastward, in charge of a U. S. deputy marshal. Captain E. B. Ward, of Detroit, and Mr. Packard, both connected with the company, the former being its present president, are the complainants, they claiming to have been the victims of a huge mining stock swindle at the hands of Messrs. Lawrence and Whitney. Both the latter, so far as we are aware, have been considered hereabouts to be highly respectable and honorable gentlemen, and it is to be hoped that an investigation of the charges will prove them to be without foundation.

SPECIAL TO DESERET NEWS.

TERRITORIAL DISPATCHES.

PER DESERET TELEGRAPH LINE.

Snow at Kanab.

KANAB, Dec. 10.

Editor Deseret News:

We have had about thirty inches of snow fall, it is still snowing and thawing; the depth of the snow now is thirteen inches.

LEVI STEWART.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

Frozen to Death.

FORT BRIDGER, 10.

A party of ladies and gentlemen left Piedmont yesterday p.m. to attend a dance here last night. Their team got exhausted and they camped. One of the party, H. M. Mitchell, an agent and operator at Piedmont, started alone to find the Post and get aid, got lost and was frozen to death. The rest of the party, among them the wife of the deceased, arrived here safely this morning.

DIED.

In this city, Dec. 13, EDWARD H., infant son of Thomas E. and Emma G. Taylor, aged 3 months and 10 days.

Funeral services at residence of parents, 14th Ward, to-morrow, Sunday, at 1 o'clock. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

In this city, December 13, of lung disease, AGNES, wife of Robert McKay, aged 95 years, 6 months and 28 days.

Mill Star, please copy.

At Farmington, Davis Co., Utah, Dec. 9th, of scarlet fever, MARY ELIZABETH, only daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Walker, aged 2 years, 11 months and 19 days.

Mill Star, please copy.