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Wednesday,.....January 29, 1862.

STATE OF DESERET.

FIRST GENERAL ELECTION.

"FOR" THE CONSTITUTION.

FOR GOVERNOR,

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,

HEBER C. KIMBALL.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS

JOHN M. BERNHISEL.

FOR SENATORS.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES.

Constitutional Convention.

The Convention having completed the business and performed the duties for which it was convoked, terminated its session on Thursday, the 23d inst., and the members, mostly, practical business men, were soon after on their way homeward for the purpose of resuming their respective avocations. The proceedings throughout were conducted with great unanimity as well as dispatch. The delegates well understood the business they were sent to perform, as they had been thoroughly instructed by the sovereigns of their respective counties at the time of their election, and without wrangling or much speechifying, as soon as the organization of the Convention was completed, they went to work, in business style, accomplished the work assigned in the formation and adoption of a constitution which will unquestionably be unanimously ratified by the electors on the first Monday in March next.

There was a determination of purpose manifested by the delegates, collectively and individually, to carry out the designs and wishes of the people in the institution of a State Government, to supersede the Territorial form of rule, unconstitutionally imposed upon them by Congress, as all who were present will testify, and, that in the event of the request for admission into the family of States should be refused, they feared not the consequences of throwing off the Federal yoke and assuming the right of self-government, of which they have so long been deprived.

That the doings of the Convention, on being submitted to the electors will be approved, there is no doubt. They have spoken, and will speak again in a way and manner to be understood, announcing to the world that they are tired of Federal domination, and are able and willing to defray the expense of governing themselves—a measure which Congress should, and probably will readily accede to, as it will save to the government at Washington nearly forty thousand dollars annually, a financial consideration of no inconsiderable importance under the circumstances which now and will for a long time exist. However, it is a matter of but little consequence to the people of Utah whether Congress does, or does not, accord to them their constitutional rights, as they will assume and maintain them peaceably, unless force be interposed to prevent, in which case they will do, as heretofore, as best they can, and abide the result.

THE FLOODS IN CALIFORNIA.—It is announced that the loss and damage occasioned by the floods in California this winter, exceed that of all the floods that have occurred there before since the discovery of gold in that State.

FIRST GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

As will be seen in reference to Section 5, Article VII, the first General Election under the Constitution of the State of Deseret is to be held on the first Monday the 3d day of March next, and conducted in the same manner as prescribed by the existing laws of the Territory, regulating elections. The provisions of the statute are, that at least six days before the time of election, the county clerk shall cause notices of the time and place of holding the same to be put up in at least two places in each precinct in their respective counties, said notices must state the number and kind of offices to be filled, which in this instance will be a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Member of Congress, and as many State Senators and Representatives as each county would be entitled to elect Councilors and Representatives under the recent act "apportioning the Representation of Utah Territory" by the provisions of which, Washington county is entitled to elect one Senator and one Representative; Iron and Beaver counties jointly one Senator and each one Representative; Millard and Juab counties jointly one Senator and each one Representative; Sanpete county one Senator and two Representatives; Utah and Wasatch counties jointly two Senators, and Utah county three Representatives, and Wasatch one Representative; Great Salt Lake, Tooele, Summit and Green River counties jointly four Senators, and Great Salt Lake county six Representatives, Tooele county one, and Summit and Green River jointly one Representative; Davis and Morgan counties jointly one Senator, and two Representatives; Weber and Box Elder counties jointly one Senator, and Weber county two Representatives, and Box Elder one Representative, and Cache County one Senator and one Representative.

The justice of the peace in each precinct is the judge of the election therein; where there are more than one, the senior is the judge; and in the absence of a justice of the peace, the electors first assembled to the number of six can appoint a person to act as judge of the election. The judge appoints a clerk, furnishes a ballot-box, also a poll book in which the clerk writes the name of each elector as he presents his vote, and the number of the same as written on it by the judge before depositing it in the ballot-box. At the close of the election, the poll book is placed in the ballot-box, which, on being sealed up by the judge of the election, must be transmitted without delay to the county clerk.

On the receipt of the returns from the several precincts, in their respective counties, the law provides that they shall be canvassed by the county clerk and Probate Judge or one of the Electmen, and an abstract made of the offices and names voted for, and the number of votes each person received, and a certified copy thereof forwarded immediately to the Secretary of the Territory, but in this case, as specially provided for in the constitution, the certified copies of the abstracts must be directed and forwarded to William Clayton, Esq., Secretary of the Convention, Great Salt Lake City, and canvassed or examined, as provided for by the constitution.

Each elector who is in favor of ratifying the Constitution, must have the words "for the Constitution" either written or printed on his ballot, and those not in favor of its approval, will of course have the words "against the Constitution" similarly expressed on their ballots, but we do not believe there will be a dozen opposition votes cast in the Territory on that occasion.

We have been thus particular in stating the provisions of the law regulating elections for the special benefit of the citizens of the counties and precincts recently organized, who have not been furnished with copies of the statutes. Judges and clerks of election and county clerks will, of course, conform strictly, in the discharge of their duties, to the provisions of the law, that a fair expression of the people may be had in relation to the important matter of establishing a State government, submitted for their consideration and action; and also in reference to the choice of rulers and representatives. That all will be vigilant there can be no doubt, and a larger vote by far, we predict, will be cast at the election on the third day of March next, than ever before in Deseret.

To enable the citizens of Wasatch and Morgan counties to vote at the first election, those counties should be organized without delay.

WAR NEWS.

Gen. Lander had so far recovered from the wounds he received in the battle at Ball's Bluffs, as to be able, on the first of January, to report for duty, and would soon return to his brigade in General Bank's division.

The steamboat Express between Old Point and Newport News was fired into by a tug-boat from Crany Island. The Express was unarmed, and had a schooner in tow, which was employed in bringing water from Newport News. The schooner was deserted by its crew, and cut adrift with only its captain on board, and was taken to Crany Island. The Express reported the occurrence to the flag ship, and four gunboats were sent out, but not till the tug with its prize had escaped. A few shells were thrown into Sewall's Point and Pig Point batteries without effect, except the killing of a rooster, as reported, and then returned.

A fight at Paducah, on December 30th, was announced without particulars, only that one Federal captain was killed. It could not have been a very sanguinary affair.

A Federal prisoner, who escaped from Springfield, Mo., the last of December, on his return to Otterville, reported that Gen. Price, with 8,000 men, had taken all the houses in Springfield for his troops, turning the women and children into the streets. He had unloaded his wagons, and was making preparations for a long stay.

On the 28th of December, as reported, General Prentiss, with 450 men, encountered and dispersed 900 secessionists under Colonel Dorsey at Mount Zion, Boone County, Mo. The enemy's loss was 150 killed and wounded, 35 taken prisoners, 95 horses, and 105 guns. Federal loss, 8 killed and 11 wounded.

Dispatches received at St. Louis, January 2d, announced the capture of the notorious Jeff. Owens, Col. Jones, and fifty of their bridge-burning gang, near Martinsburg, Adrain county, by Gen. Schofield, commander of the State militia, and the various guerrilla bands along the North Missouri Railroad had been thoroughly scattered.

A force of six thousand Confederates attacked the fifth Connecticut regiment, guarding the railroad near Hancock on the Potomac, January 4th; and after a slight skirmish, the Unionists retreated across the river to await reinforcements. The enemy then destroyed the railroad and telegraph lines, breaking communication with Cumberland. The loss in the fight was not known, but believed to have been not very great.

Reports from the Indian country, received at Leavenworth January 7th, stated that the war between the loyal Indians and the Texans and half breeds had commenced, and that in a fight in the Cherokee country, Cooper, a Texan general, and McIntosh, leader of the rebel half-breeds, were killed. The loss of the loyal Indians was fourteen.

A dispatch from Mobile stated that on Jan. 3d Gen. Butler was at Ship Island; also that the Federals had nominal possession of Biloxi, and it was believed that they would occupy all the towns on the coast in that region. It was said that they landed there from five to seven thousand troops, and that they expressed a determination to push forward their forces to Jackson.

Jordan Irrigation Company.

The Jordan Irrigation Company met in the seventeenth ward school-house on Monday the 27th inst., and organized by electing Wilford Woodruff, President, Robert L. Campbell, Secretary, and George A. Smith Treasurer, also a Board of five directors, viz., Alonzo H. Ra'leigh, Enoch Reese, Geo. B. Wallace, John H. Rumell and Hiram B. Clawson.

Messrs. A. H. Raleigh and G. B. Wallace were appointed a committee on claims.

Messrs. E. Reese and J. H. Rumell were appointed a committee to draft by-laws for the regulation of the Company.

A report was read from the Committee, appointed at a former meeting, to estimate cost of canals or water ditches to be made to the several fields to be watered by the Dam.

THE WEATHER.—On Thursday evening last, the frost which had not for several days previous been very tenacious of its right of sovereignty resumed dominion, and the mud abounding in profuse abundance, had, shortly thereafter to "dry up," since which the weather has been cool but pleasant and the streets and roads have been quite passable.

Miscellaneous News Items.

The latest dates from the Eastern cities, received by mail, are to the 9th instant. The news is not very important.

The suspension of specie payments by the New York banks produced a deep impression throughout the country in financial circles; and on the 29th of December, the banks of Boston, Philadelphia, Albany, Cleveland, and many others suspended. The Treasury Department also refused to pay out specie as a precautionary measure as alleged.

On New Year's Day in Washington, as reported, the foreign ministers and attaches, in full court dress, and afterwards the army and navy officers in uniform, formally paid their respect to the President at noon. Calls were made on the heads of departments, and many citizens and distinguished sojourners also keep open house.

The members of the Cabinet and Judges of the Supreme Court were among those who, at an earlier hour, paid their respects to the President. Major Army, successor to Kit Carson as Indian Agent in New Mexico, dressed in a full suit of buckskin, made in Mexican style and neatly embroidered, is said to have been a very prominent individual in the crowd at the White House, and "privately presented to Mrs. Lincoln a splendid blanket as a New Year's offering." The blanket is said to have been made by a squaw of a Navajo chief, who was employed upon it five months. It was of wool, of large size, the figures on it being of white, red and blue. The major reports that there are about 10,000 Navajoes in New Mexico, who own with the Mexicans in the territory probably a million of sheep, which are used principally for food. The animals remain unshorn of the wool, which would make good blankets and clothing for troops.

Serenading by the military bands in and about Washington City, it seems, has been practised to that extent that it has become more of an annoyance than a compliment to those thus honored; and an order has been issued prohibiting any bands in the service of the United States from going out on serenading parties, unless by previous permission of the provost marshal.

There were, as reported, on the first of January, one thousand and forty-five soldiers sick in the hospitals in Alexandria, Georgetown and Washington.

On January 1st, at 11 a.m., the steam tug Starlight left Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, with Mason and Slidell and secretaries, for Provincetown, where they were transferred to the British gunboat Rinaldo, which sailed immediately for Halifax, at 5 o'clock that afternoon. The departure of Mason and Slidell is reported to have been conducted very quietly. The garrison, excepting the guards on duty, were kept away from the prisoners' quarters, and there were but few persons on the wharf when they embarked. Mason is represented as being in good humor, but Slidell somewhat sulky and displeased at the unostentatiousness of their departure and the diminutiveness of the vessel.

There was a terrible gale on the night of January 1st, along the coast of the Eastern and Middle States, doing much damage on land and sea. It is announced as "the first gale of the year," and is reported to have been the most severe known for years. What the future gales of the year may be, the editorial fraternity in the East do not seem to know.

Military Dress Balls.

Many and various have been the kinds of parties and festive entertainments that have been given in this city since the commencement of winter, and of late the military seems to take the lead in getting up dancing parties. On Monday evening there was a grand military dress ball at the Fourteenth Ward New Buildings, which we attended by invitation, although invested with ermine and not lace.

There were a goodly number of officers in attendance of high grade, at least titles thus indicated, but with our limited knowledge of military matters we could not designate a general from a corporal by the badges worn. There was a strong representation of the civil power also there, and all mingled in the dance, moving in strict subordination to the prompter, whatever might have been his rank.

There was a second military party in the same ball last evening, and there is to be still another to-morrow evening, without any assurance that it will be the last of the season.