A COUNCIL GARNISHEE.

Lawson Says He Cannot Understand Why the Mayor and Fire Chief Should be "Enforcers of Dead Beats."

Some time ago, it will be remembered, that Councilman Lawson garnisheed the wages of an employe of the fire department for a certain amount of money alleged to be due as rent on a house occupied by the aforesaid employe and his family. His honor, the Mayor, apparently considered the fireman a victim of cumulatable injustice and accordingly sent a representful and sarcastically worded document to the City Council which reflected on the actions of Mr. Lawson. The reading of the paper created a sensation at the time and there was high sounding talk by the solons about the traditional "pound of flesh," the exacting and cruel "shylock," and so on.

Finally the matter was referred to Mr. Lawson as a committee of one to report back to the Council an explanation of the whole transaction. After the adjournment of the Council the document containing the charges was taken from the table by the accused councilman who proceeded to pocket it when he was interrupted by Deputy City Recorder Dennis. The result was a war of words between them. The exchange of compliments became contagious and several councilmen were drawn into the row which threatened to become general. In explanation of his conduct in the difficulty with the firemen, Lawson says in his report that he was exasperated beyond endurance and was perfectly justified in what he did. In the matter of collecting rent he says in his report:

"Now, the question presented by the Mayor seems to be whether or not such a determination of a judicial tribunal shall, before this council, have any weight, whether or not a solemn judgment, the highest obligation known to the law, is entitled to any respect. The Council is not a court of appeal, nor should the Mayor appear in this chamber as the attorney for dishonest debtors and against the best interests of the business community.

* * * It would be an anomaly in business and honest dealing if merely should compel the officers to pay money into its treasury and then turn the same over to their debtors without giving permission to ask payment of debts. It would certainly be a misgoverned government that would shield any one from the payment of honest debts, and such a government would be entitled to no respect from honest men. That his Honor, the Mayor, and Major Stanton should appear as endorsers of dead beats cannot be explained, I hope, on the theory that there is any community feeling or interest between them and persons who desire the statute of limitation to run against their debts.

"As to the city's legal obligations, your committee find that courts of undoubted respectability have held under language no stronger than that in our own statute, that garnishement will lie. The city can voluntarily submit itself to garnishment and be released from all responsibility, but if the city seeks to avoid the garnishment and it should finally be determined that the process lies against it, then all costs and expenses, together with the amount of the debt, would be a valid claim against the city."

MRS. KLESEY.

The First White Woman to Cross the Sierra Nevadas.

Under the above caption the *Mining Age* of the 13th inst., contains the following story of an aged pioneer: Living in a nook in the Cuyamas mountains in San Diego county, Cal., at the age of seventy, is Mrs. Benjamin Kelsey. She was the first white woman to cross the Sierra Nevadas. That was in 1841, long before the gold excitement, when she was eighteen years of age.

A native of Barren county, Ky., Mrs. Kelsey moved to Missouri, where she married. With her husband and thirty-one others—all men—she started overland for the Pacific coast. In the party was a boy named John Bidwell, who was the prohibition candidate for president in the last campaign. Some of the other members of the party were Captain Webber, who founded Stockton and became rich; Colonel Barleson, Colonel Richmond, Captain Joe Childer, Josiah Belden and Charley Hofler.

Wagons were abandoned near where Salt Lake City now stands, and the rest of the journey made on horseback. Mrs. Kelsey carried her baby in front of her saddle. The Sierra Nevadas were crossed at the headwaters of San Joaquin river and camp made on the summit, three months after setting out, on August 1, 1841, which was Mrs. Kelsey's birthday. She and her husband went up to Butler's Fort in a leaky rowboat propelled by Indians. They reached the Bolsom spot on Christmas day of that year. Joel Walker had just arrived at the fort where gold was discovered only a few days prior to the Kelseys, accompanied by his wife and five children.

Going to Oregon in 1845, the Kelsey family returned to Napa valley the next year. They were there when the revolution broke out and went to live at the fort at Sonoma after Captain Merritt captured it.

Kelsey and General Vallejo built a sawmill on Sonoma creek.

To a correspondent of the San Francisco *Examiner*, who visited Mrs. Kelsey in her mountain home not long ago, she gave these reminiscences:

"In the spring of 1849 my husband went to the mines from Napa. We saw much in the reported gold discovery. He was gone ten days and brought back $1,000. The next time he went he took a flock of sheep to sell to miners and brought back $10,000.

"He bought Salvador Vallejo's stock and applied for a grant of mine adjoining Clear lake, but the grant was not completed when the Mexican war broke out and he eventually lost it.

"In 1853 we went to Humboldt overland and shipped our things by water. We sold our stock on our last ranch from which the town of Kelseyville took its name, and received only $13,000 from it, and never got the rest, excepting only our trip to Humboldt did not turn out as profitably as we expected. We assisted in starting the lumber of Eureka, in America. In 1861 I returned to our place in Sonoma. I came through by water, and my husband went through to Shasta and down the Sacramento with Colonel McKee as Indian agent. I came down on a little boat called the Sea Gull.

Starting for Mexico to buy cattle the Comanches attacked Kelsey's camp in Texas, and Mrs. Kelsey says:

"They succeeded in carrying my girl because her dress got entangled in the brush. She was twelve years old. The other girl reported that she could hear the blows and her screams as they struck her.

"We all returned to camp and heard the girl's story, but did not find my girl, as she had recovered sufficiently to wander around in search of help. We found her next day, and my anguish was horrible when I saw she was crazed. She had been scalped and was partially deranged. My husband and seventeen men followed the Indians 200 miles, but never caught up with them. My husband died in Los Angeles in February, 1868. My daughter died in Fresno where we was eighteen from the injuries she received six years before."

These comments are made by the Examiner correspondent:

"Mrs. Kelsey, though burdened with years and care, has all her pioneer pride undiminished and asks for nothing but to be left in her mountain retreat, but as one who knows her said when she set out for her mountain home:

"The generous men who have made their fortunes in the Far West, and were assisted to do it by the thousands as here, might well extend their generosity sufficiently to enable that modest old heroine to live in a comfortable cottage and free from want and care during the few days that are left to her."

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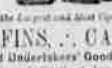

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