

EDITORIALS.

CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS.

THE custom of carrying concealed weapons is one that should be discouraged in every civilized community. It is the fruitful cause of homicides and argues a turbulent state of society. There is no need for men to go armed in this Territory under ordinary circumstances, and public sentiment if made active against the practice, would soon cause it to be discontinued. Among as peaceable and orderly a people as live in our settlements, it is needless for young or old men to go around with pistols in their pockets, and the custom should be treated as a barbarous one, denoting a low state of cultivation, a mark of rowdiness and an evidence of a violent disposition.

It might be urged that legislation would settle this; that a law ought to be enacted making the practice a punishable offence. But we are of the opinion that the general sentiment of reputable people, freely exhibited and expressed, would be of most avail. A law to this effect would be disregarded by the worst of characters, and there might be circumstances when it would not only be justifiable but ordinarily prudent for a law-abiding and respectable citizen to arm himself. Too stringent laws in this respect would place peaceable persons at the mercy of the reckless and the desperado. But the practice of commonly carrying a loaded revolver ought to be frowned down in society as thoroughly established as ours. Ladies and gentlemen, use your influence against it.

[For the DESERET NEWS.]

FISH CULTURE.

NO. VI.—CONSTRUCTION OF CARP PONDS.

Dr. J. D. M. Crockwell, a physician who is well known in this city, writes a very interesting letter from Clear Lake, Millard County, Utah, enquiring about carp, to replace "black suckers," chubs, and other fish in the lakes at that place. That gentleman has been at considerable pains to give a correct description of the public waters, by drawing out plans to a scale of proportions. He states that "The lake known as Clear Lake stands at the head of a cluster of lakes, and it is a beautiful body of water, as clear as crystal, cool and pleasant to drink all the year round. It is crescent-shaped and rock-bound along its eastern shore. The rock from the eastern shore extends into the lake, covering part of its bottom and forming shallows that the Indians, in bygone days, have thrown walls around, made of loose rocks, which make excellent hatching ponds, into which the fish go and deposit large quantities of spawn every season."

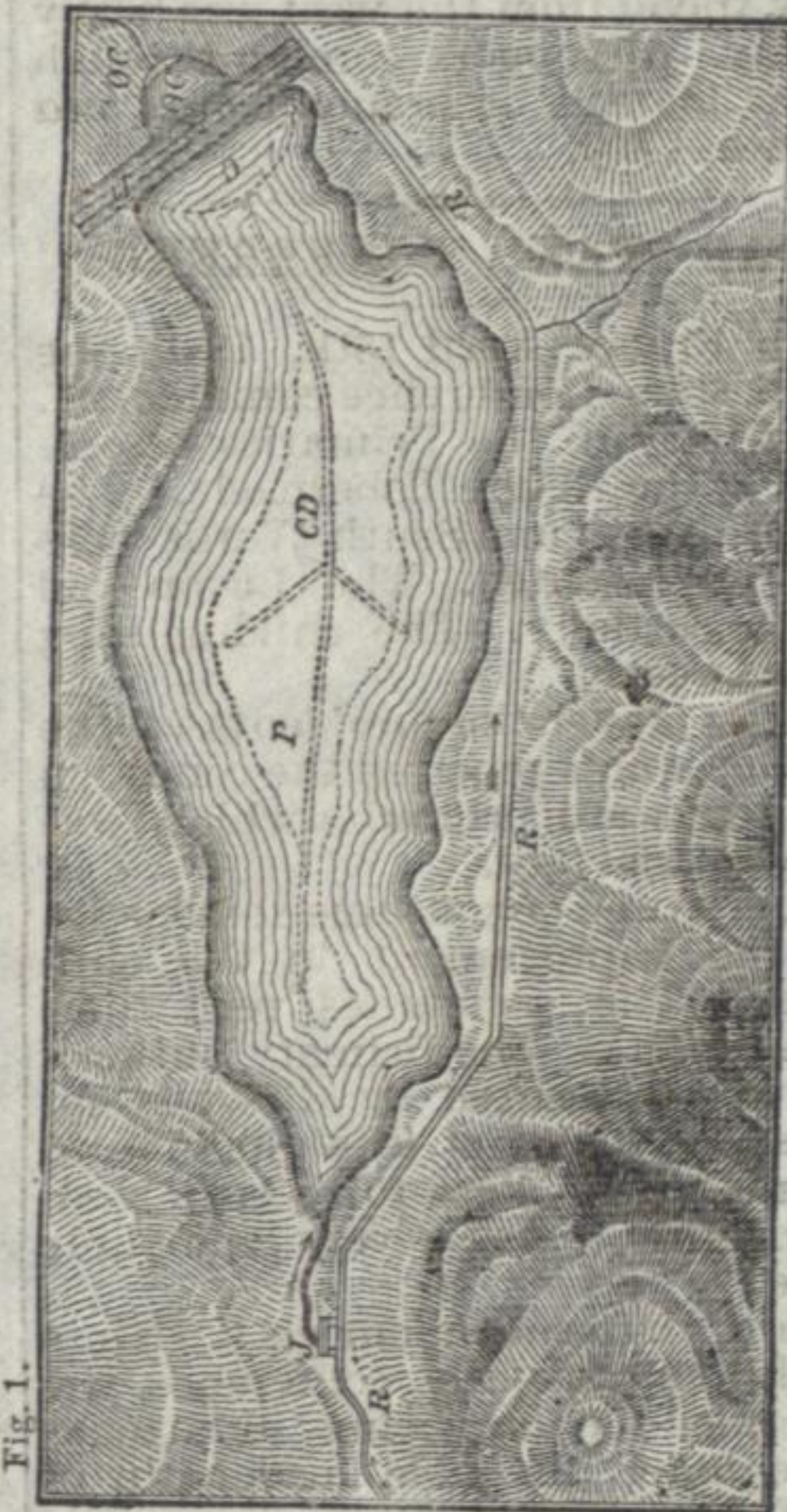
This is very important information, as it shows that artificial methods of fish culture were known by the inhabitants of this region before the advent of the white man. The Doctor also gives us an insight into the methods of catching fish by the present Indians. He says: "There is a band of Indians living near Corn Creek, under the control of Kanosh, that have been in the habit of visiting this lake, and they bring with them large cone-shaped baskets that will hold from three to four bushels. These they place flat on the bottom of the lake, and drive the fish, large and small, by shoals into them, and capture them." However, Dr. Crockwell did not approve of this "wholesale destruction of fish," and accordingly he has put a stop to the practice. It appears that Clear Lake is supplied by springs and that it supplies several other lakes by an outlet 84 feet wide with a depth of water averaging 13 inches and a velocity of 40 feet per minute. This large volume of water it is intended to utilize by the erection of dams, by which a large area of bottom land will be covered, and steps will be taken by the use of screens to prevent the young fry from getting away at the time of irrigation, at which periods, in times past many fish have been washed away into an alkaline lake that is very poisonous.

To enable persons who have water facilities to use their natural advantages economically and profitably, a series of cuts have been obtained from the Smithsonian Institution,

Professor Spencer F. Baird having courteously permitted them to be used to illustrate such portions of the text as are adapted to this region in the U. S. Report of the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries. Thanks for this favor are also due to the editor of "Forest and Stream," who was in the first instance applied to for assistance in this direction, and who with great courtesy applied to the U. S. Fish Commissioner at Washington for the loan of plates for me in this Territory.

The annexed cut, representing a natural carp pond, will give a general idea of the requirements of the fish culturist in these valleys, where suitable bodies of water may be made available at little expense.

PLAN OF A NATURAL CARP POND.



P is a natural body of water, of say 100 to 150 acres. It is formed by a dam D, about 7 to 8 feet high, crossing the valley, and thus collecting the water of a run flowing there. Before D, is a collector, formed by deepening the bottom at C. In the dam D, there is an outlet leading to another deepening—the so-called outlet collector, OC. The purpose of this collector is to keep back fishes that may have passed when the outlet was opened. It is provided with a screen or netting crossing the pond, as seen to the left of C, D, the collecting ditch, which conducts the fishes to C, where the water is let out, and thus prevents them being caught in the mud. R is the run of water which, to prevent overflow, has to be conducted around the pond in a separate ditch, leaving an inlet at J, protected by a sluice with screens. The direction of the arrows indicates the course of the water. The next figure gives the profile of the bottom of the pond and construction of the dam.

CROSS SECTION OF CARP POND, FIG. 1.



F Surface of the pond; C, collector; D, dam; O, outlet; O K, outlet conductor; I, inlet; R, stream; D, the dam; R, the run or creek.

In the construction of ponds, care should be taken that the water is not too deep, as the water will be colder, and will have fewer insects, larvae and worms, which form part of the carp's food; besides, this fish does not grow rapidly in cold water. A depth of three feet in the centre of the pond is sufficient. Towards the outlet-sluice, it may be from 6 to 8 feet deep, but only for an area of 200 to 1,000 square feet, according to the size of the pond. In the depths of this "collector," the fishes seek their nesting place for the winter, and also in summer, when the water is too warm near the edge. The outer part of the pond near the

shores should be shallow, not more than a foot, for 70 or 100 feet; so that the water may be warmed more thoroughly by the sun. Towards

the centre of the pond, and in accordance with its size, a cavity of two feet extra depth should be dug, say from 20 to 50 feet in length; this will serve as a nesting place for the fishes, both in summer and in winter. This kind of cavity is called a "kettle," in some places, and its use will be shown further on. Ditches should be cut connecting these "kettles" with the "collector," so that when the pond is drained, the fishes may be enabled to pass along with the water. The "collector" is nothing but a place some 20 or 40 feet in length and breadth, near the outlet-sluice, and is usually a foot deeper than the remaining bottom of the pond. These precautions should be taken before stocking the pond, so that it may be cleaned out when necessary, as mud accumulating frequently becomes offensive by the decay of vegetable matter. As much care as possible should be taken to prevent the influx of decayed leaves and refuse from creeks, for which reason it is better to conduct the waters of such streams around the pond, and to let the inlet sluice be from the side of the brook. These inlet sluices should be of a strong practical construction, so as to prevent overflowing, by which other fishes might possibly get into the pond to destroy the carp, the rapacious pike for instance. The carp has also a disposition to swim towards inflowing water, and thus to forsake its feeding places. Arrangements may also be made for draining ponds periodically, so as to dry up the bottoms and plant them with grass, oats, wheat, etc., so as to alternately use them for agricultural and fish cultural purposes, a system that has been found highly beneficial in many places. "If the soil at the bottom of ponds has been freed from the humic acid by vegetation, after being plowed and exposed to the air thoroughly, fishes will thrive well in them." This is a suggestion of Herr Rudolph Hessl in his report of 1878, showing that "farmers who would wish to establish a pond of five or six acres, according to the soil of their lands, would not lose but rather gain by it." Although this is done in Central European countries only, it could be done here advantageously, especially in carp culture, that fish being very easily handled, on account of its intelligent habits and docility, it being readily transferable to other waters.

Before proceeding to lay off a fish pond the levels should be taken, so as to provide for the proper depth of ditches, "kettles," collector, and outlet to be dug in it. The dam should be made of the best material, so as to make it safe against the action of water. In this country, precaution should be taken that in the event of an accident by the breaking of a dam, no dwelling houses would be endangered. It should be three times as wide at the base as it is high, and at the top the width should be the same as the perpendicular height. The slope on the inside or the interior, should be less inclined than the outside or exterior one. Allowance should also be made for the sinking of the material which the dam is made. Although in our valleys almost everybody understands this kind of work, in the next article, one of the most approved methods will be noticed, and a plan exhibited showing the structure of an artificial pond.

JOSEPH L. BARFOOT,
Fish Commissioner Utah Territory.
Museum, April 18, 1881.

ONCE MORE.

OUR readers will remember the case of Edward Bird, a representative officer of the "Liberal" regime, in what was once known as "The Republic of Tooele." He was Treasurer of Tooele County during the brief and speculative reign of the "Liberals" who were to regenerate but who actually plundered the people of that county. He was also deputy Sheriff, deputy Assessor and Collector, deputy Recorder and deputy County Clerk. The story of his embezzlements has been told in the News and we only refer to him again because his case has been brought up in the Third District Court for the third time since his indictment, without any action but postponement, the witnesses being brought each time from Tooele to no purpose. On the 24th inst., the third time set for his case, he moved for another continuance. This was opposed by the prosecution

and the time set finally for April 28th. A witness, whom he claimed was material, was not present, hence the postponement. We hope that the parties interested will have continued patience and perseverance, and that Bird will get caged at last.

THE REVISED SCRIPTURES.

THE New Testament in its revised form is to be issued on May 17th, and will appear according to previous arrangement simultaneously in England and America. Much interest is excited in relation to this work, and we have been requested to express some opinions concerning it for the benefit of the readers of the News.

This is, we consider, rather premature. The new version cannot be properly criticized before it is published and carefully examined. It is true that comments have been freely made, and differences between the old text and the revised have been contrasted and compared in the public prints in both hemispheres. But we cannot rely on the advance quotations, as they may prove to be, in some respects, incorrect.

However, we are of the opinion from what we can learn of the new revision, that while in respect to some of its phraseology it will be plainer and simpler than the old, because obsolete and obscure phrases will be superseded by others in present use, yet in other respects it will not be so good as the old, because of the elimination of passages that, as we believe, properly belong to the text.

King James' translation has been the standard for so many years that, in spite of its admitted imperfections it has taken too firm a hold of the popular heart to be easily superseded. We believe it will retain its place for a long time, and that among the Latter-day Saints it will not be discarded for any other version, until the inspired translation or revision commenced by the Prophet Joseph Smith shall have been completed, in a form acceptable to the Almighty and suitable for publication.

It is well known that Joseph the Seer, under divine inspiration, went through the whole volume of the ancient scriptures, re-translating or revising the text by inspiration, restoring many passages that had been expunged and portions that had been lost. But this important work was not fully completed, and it was his intention to give it a careful examination, correcting all errors that might have been made by scribes or other inaccuracies that might have occurred, and preparing it in such a shape that it would be a standard for the Church, before it should be published to the world. The work not being thus completed its publication has not yet been authorized from the proper source.

The King James translation has been the Bible in use up to the present time by our people, and we think will remain in its present position, notwithstanding the many different versions that have been given to the public. However, the latest version of the New Testament will doubtless be largely circulated in Utah, as well as other parts of the world, and our people will read and compare it with the old familiar book. So with the Old Testament, when it is issued from the press. But it must be remembered that these revisions have been made by the learning and wisdom of this world, not by divine authority or divine inspiration, and that the dogmas of apostate Christendom must have had their influence on the minds of those engaged in the work of revision, no matter how honestly and impartially they may have desired to perform their labors.

The Latter-day Saints have the advantage over most readers of the ancient scriptures, in the possession of a measure of the same spirit as that by which the Prophets and Apostles of old wrote and spoke concerning the will and purposes of the Almighty. Also they have in their midst the living oracles, to whom they can apply for knowledge on any doubtful matter connected with the Scriptures. And this is more and higher than the dead letter, no matter how or by whom translated or revised. The living word of God is the pearl of great price, the rich treasure of knowledge and revelation. The letter killeth, the spirit maketh alive. We may and in duty should "seek out of the best books words of wisdom," but above all must watch for the whisperings and the

light of the living spirit that guides into all truth, and the words of life from the present authorized exponents of the divine word, and then we shall never go astray nor be deceived by the errors of men.

WEBER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly Conference of the Weber Stake was held in the Ogden Tabernacle on the 16th and 17th inst.

On Saturday morning there were present on the stand: Of the Presidency, President Jos. F. Smith, of the Quorum of the Twelve, E. Richards, Lorenzo Snow and B. H. Young; the Presidency of the Weber Stake, Bishops and Counselors, and others.

At the morning meeting President D. H. Peery made a few appropriate remarks on the object of present meeting, and called for reports of the Bishops, which reports continued till noon.

AFTERNOON.

The Bishops—17 in all—finished their reports, which, generally very good, and evinced a disposition on the part of the people to sustain the various interests of the Church of God in every Ward. Day schools are well attended, and the advancing in the various branches of knowledge. The Mutual Improvement Associations of both sexes, devoting much of their time to acquirement of knowledge in theology, history, science, and general literature; and the primary classes are making satisfactory progress. The Sabbath schools are doing well, the number of attendance is gradually increasing. New schoolhouses have been erected recently in several school districts. They are commodious and comfortable.

Apostle Brigham Young spoke of the evils resulting from indulgence in the use of tobacco, intoxicants, etc., and of the benefits and blessings to be derived by a strict observance of the "Word of Wisdom." He pressed upon the minds of the Saints the necessity of their being pure and faithful in paying their tithing. Spoke at length of the labors in the United Order of the people of Orderville. The speaker believed that, if this whole people had been united to carry out the instructions of the Authorities of the Church, they would have been almost, if not quite, self-sustaining, and under little or no necessity of importing goods from foreign markets. He bore a strong testimony to the truth of the work of God, and exhorted the Saints to live their religion, and faithful to the covenants they had made with God and each other.

Elder F. D. Richards counseled the Saints to so live, day by day, that they may enjoy the blessings of God continually. Spoke of the great importance of building temples, wherein the Saints can receive the blessings, and administer in ordinances for the living and the dead. Said the work on the Salt Lake Temple had been raised eight courses the past season. He urged the necessity of every Ward continuing to send and support a man to work on that Temple. He believed the walls of the building will be up four years from this time. He spoke of the Ogden Herald, and urged upon the people to sustain it by the means and influence. Adjourned till Sunday morning.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

At seven p.m. Saturday the Sunday School Union held its quarterly meeting in the Second Ward Assembly Room, which was densely packed with eager participants. Supt. R. Ballantyne presided, the Plain City choir and the Organ band furnished the music. After a few opening remarks by Supt. Ballantyne, Supts. George Gold and William Willes addressed the meeting in their usual happy and instructing styles.

President Joseph F. Smith made a stirring address upon the importance of educating our youth in the ways of the Lord and keeping them from adverse influences and temptations. Apostle F. D. Richards spoke of the impressions of his youth and revival of them in visiting his place and the school-house where he first heard the gospel. Spoke of the port of Sabbath schools.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Conference met in the Tabernacle, which was filled to its utmost capacity of seating and standing room, and many were unable to gain admittance.