

Iron and Steel Company. As the price of manufactured steel is supposed to be governed by the price of pig-iron the following figures may be of interest. They are taken from *Bradstreet's* an acknowledged authority on trade particulars. In 1889 pig-iron sold for \$18 per ton, in 1890 \$18.85, in 1891 \$15.95 and in 1892 \$14. The price of steel rails for these years were, respectively, \$29.25, \$31.75, \$29.92 and \$30. That is, during the current year when pig-iron is selling for \$14 a ton, steel rails are selling at \$30. In 1889 pig-iron sold for \$18 a ton but steel rails were sold for \$29.25. According to these figures manufacturers have no need to lower wages. They say their profits are only \$2.00 per ton. This seems anomalous. They are buying pig iron for \$14 a ton and selling steel rails for \$30, whereas in 1889 they paid \$18 for a ton of pig iron and sold rails for \$29.25.

The price of English rails, delivered in America, is about \$35 a ton, so that competition from that quarter is out of the question.

### SALTON LAKE.

ABOUT two years ago the mysterious formation of a lake in the Colorado desert occasioned a great deal of comment. It was generally supposed that the water came from the Colorado river, but it was not practically demonstrated until within a few days ago. The following special dispatch to the *San Francisco Chronicle* explains the "mystery."

"SALTON, July 10, 1892. — Charles Thielson will long be remembered as an explorer of the Colorado desert, for within the past few weeks he has made an involuntary trip from the mouth of the Colorado river to Salton, a distance of over 600 miles, and the greatest wonder exists how he lives to tell the tale. On May 10th he left Yuma in an eighteen-foot skiff, going down the Colorado river to the mouth of Hardy's Colorado to hunt for the plumes of the little white crane, which are plentiful there. Not meeting with success, he went up Hardy's Colorado to Volcano mountain, there camped and hunted for plumes.

He then determined to follow up the new river, which comes into Hardy's, Colorado, two miles northwest of Volcano mountain, which place he left June 15th. Entering up the New river, he found a slow current running northwest, and after proceeding fifteen miles came to a laguna with an increased current; from that into a channel with quite a rapid current, and thoughtlessly went on, cutting his way through the mesquites until he came to another laguna. Then, realizing his dangerous position, he made camp and concluded that it was impossible to return by boat to Yuma through the channels on account of the rapid currents.

"The thought then occurred to push on and endeavor to reach Salton. After passing through seven lagunas he came to a channel which he estimates to be seventy-five miles long, the water running from four to five miles an hour, but with no great depth or width to the channel. This distance, he says, he made in two days, arriving July 6th at the south end of Salton lake, about opposite Volcano Springs.

"Here he found the water to be two inches deep and was compelled to push his boat some eight miles over the mud and shallow water, hunting for a channel that would lead to Salton, but was com-

pelled to abandon the journey. He moored his boat and made for the railroad track barefooted and without water, walking the distance of eight miles through the hot mud and salt. He arrived at Durmid half dead, remaining there one day resting himself.

"The next day, thinking the water would rise, he went back to his boat and found, to use his own expression, that 'the water was being licked up by the sun.' There being no sign of a rise he went back to Durmid, and, not being treated kindly, started for Salton afoot to advise G. W. Durbrow of his trip. At Salton he was taken care of, and today he was fitted out with provisions and water to return to his boat for his gun and baggage. Mr. Thielson will return to Salton and will be the guest of Mr. Durbrow.

"The water shows on the margin about four miles from the track at Salton, but with the great evaporation there is but little increase to the water, which is accounted for by the fact that only one stream is running into the lake, and as the river will be falling every day it is not probable that the water will attain a depth of over six inches on the marsh, which Mr. Durbrow says 'will be very acceptable.'"

### AGITATING A CARCASS.

WHAT is the use of arguing with a person or a paper that does not seem to understand a simple argument or the signification of its own words, and that not only falsifies the position of an opponent but denies one day what it said the day before? That is the common course of the *Salt Lake Tribune*. It is exemplified in today's issue, which contains another column and a half of abuse of the *NEWS*, coupled with an effort to evade the logical deduction of its own argument and a denial of its own utterances.

Speaking in reference to the unlawful registration of 1890 it said on Wednesday:

"We leave it to the honor of the *NEWS* to state whether to the knowledge of the editor there were not twice or three times as many men registered right here who had no more right to vote than so many Fiji Islanders."

To this we made reply, showing how that registration was conducted, and asking whether that illegal and criminal registration, unwittingly admitted by the *Tribune*, was not the work of "Liberal" registrars? Now it says:

"There has been no admission, wittingly or unwittingly, of any such registration, except on the part of the People's party, and that by a deception."

If the first paragraph we have quoted is not an admission that a large number of persons were unlawfully registered, what does it mean? And as there were no registrars but "Liberals," who but they could be responsible for the unlawful registration? The *Tribune* scribe must be suffering from softening of the brain, or he would not reel off day after day columns of such "reasoning."

We repeat, on our honor, to the knowledge of the editor there were a great many men registered who had no right to vote, and a great many others who were refused registration who had a perfect right to vote. That this criminal conduct was the work of the "Liberal" registrars, and that the lawful voters who were

defrauded were People's party citizens, and the illegally registered were "Liberals" or persons expected to vote the "Liberal" ticket. We will say further that the test was satisfactorily made that when a man was supposed by the registrars to be a "Liberal," he could be registered whether he had resided here but three months or did not reside in the city at all. Also that by changing a People's party badge for a "Liberal" badge, a rejected voter could become an accepted voter.

The *Tribune* need not think by bluster and personal defamation of the editor of the *DESERET NEWS* it can accomplish what it fails to do by argument. The proofs are too clear and conclusive of what we assert. And as to the Utah Commission, we know that the majority of that body did not want the proofs when they were ready to be offered, and would not investigate the criminal conduct of the since disgraced men who were the chief conspirators in the plot. But that body is nearly defunct and we do not want to stir up a carcass. However, this seems to be what we have been doing for several days, judging by the emanations from the *Tribune*. That is all at present.

### THE UTAH COMMISSION DEBATE.

THE result of the contention between the two Houses of Congress over the Utah Commission has resulted as all anticipated. The conferees have agreed to the proposition to retain the Commission but cut the salaries down from \$5000 to \$2000 each per annum, and to reduce the contingent fund from \$8500 to \$7000. This was adopted by the House by a vote of 160 to 65, and no doubt the Senate will agree, so that matter may be considered as settled for the present.

Hon. John T. Caine made a gallant fight for the abolition of the Commission and was ably supported by Mr. Washington, and both made speeches against the adoption of the conference report. We defer producing either until we can obtain the full text.

When the subject was debated after the Senate amendments were presented to the House, Mr. Henderson of Iowa spoke in favor of retaining the Commission with reduced salaries, and Mr. Washington of Tennessee replied. We take the following report of their remarks from the *Congressional Record* of July 10:

"Mr. Henderson of Iowa said: Now, as to the Utah Commission. This matter was discussed here yesterday to some extent; but I want to bring up especially the financial situation. The provision for the Utah Commission was struck out entirely by the House, our proposition being to abolish the Commission and select another body, consisting of the Governor, Chief Justice and the Secretary of the Territory to do the work which had been done by the Commission—the conduct of elections, etc. There was a contingent fund of \$8,500 given by the current law for expenses of conducting elections by the Utah Commission. The estimate for the next year was \$10,000. The House cut that down to \$3,000; the Senate proposes to increase it to the amount appropriated in the current law; so that there is a difference of \$5,500 between us in regard to this matter.

With reference to these contingent expenses I wish to say that the whole ex-