

EDITORIALS.

THE CROOKED LAND OFFICIALS AND THEIR FAST FRIEND AND EAGER ABETTOR.

THE unprincipled sheet that egged on the late register of the Land Office in this city, and fully endorsed his tyrannical proceedings, now talks of him and his official and officious crookedness in this way—

"A considerable degree of interest is felt by our citizens in the recent removal of our land officers. Numerous complaints had been made to the authorities in Washington of irregularities in this office, and in order to learn whether these complaints were well-founded, a special commissioner from the Interior Department was sent here to investigate. This gentleman, Mr. Maurice M. Kaighn, has spent about ten days in Salt Lake, and during this time he has devoted himself zealously to the work of inquiry. That he has discovered gross irregularities is evidenced by the fact that his report to Assistant Secretary Gorham has been of a character to elicit an immediate order from the President suspending the Register and Receiver. This action, coming so soon after Register Patton's [tyrannical conduct in] the Wasatch, has led many of our citizens to believe that some sinister influence has been exerted to procure this result. But we do not believe there is any ground for this suspicion. Special Commissioner Kaighn is perfectly unbiased, and is a gentleman of undoubted integrity; his discretion and fairness are implicitly trusted by the chief officers of the Interior Department, and his report of the condition of affairs here is based upon facts as they have come to his knowledge. For many months complaints of irregular and improper proceedings have been quite frequent from those having dealings with the Salt Lake land office, and it would seem that the public interest demands that a change should be made.

"Many bitter complaints were made by parties doing business at the Land Office of arbitrary and tyrannical conduct of the Register, of irregular proceedings, and studied neglect of the public interest. It was a reproduction of Grantism on a small scale. The Register was a kinsman of the President, and seemed to hold the belief that he was master and not a public servant. But although frequently requested to pitch in and expose some of the delinquencies of that office we preferred to let it severely alone. It seemed unwise to get too much fight on our hands. President Grant displayed an infirmity for sending his most worthless material to the Territories, and as he had a preference for misrule, we deemed it wiser to possess our souls in patience and wait a change of hands.

"But now the culmination has been reached and Register Patton and Receiver Silva have been peremptorily invited to leave. We learn that the business of the office has been grossly mismanaged, that persons doing business there have been systematically fleeced, and that some of the delinquencies brought to light are really of a flagrant character.

"And so the people of Utah are happily rid of such unworthy officials.

"We cannot help but regret the sudden fall of Patton, just as he distinguished himself by [his overbearing, unjustifiable, abusive, and tyrannical conduct]."

It redounds greatly to the credit of the Utah people that their official enemies and persecutors are suspended for acknowledged crookedness in regard to their official duties, as proclaimed by the fastest friends and staunchest abettors of said officials.

FURTHER CONCERNING THE GRASSHOPPER CONVENTION OF GOVERNORS.

In the late Convention at Omaha on the grievous grasshopper question, Gov. Pillsbury's opening address was taken as a basis for discussion by the Convention.

Prof. Thomas, of Illinois, thought it might be necessary for Government to extend aid of some kind, though Illinois could not ask as much as other States could. The Government might gather information on the subject for the use of the people. Bounties in the States should be paid by the States, and in the Territories by the General Government. In the States, the Legislatures should first learn what could be done, and then devise means to do it. The Convention should recommend what the General Government could do. The grasshopper was a national insect, and the only national insect. The mere fact that for 1,000 years they had had the locust in Asia and Europe without being able to get rid of it, did not prove that it could not be destroyed. Having traveled all over these States and Territories for three or four years he felt safe in saying that the insect could be destroyed and driven out by concerted action. He thought it was not a permanent plague. About 1784 Germany had a plague of locusts for 11 years. He thought there would be no large invasion of Illinois. A commission should be appointed to tell the people how to destroy the brood next Spring.

Gov. Kirkwood, of Iowa, said the western and north-western portions of that State had suffered severely by grasshoppers. The eggs this fall had been laid in larger numbers than ever before. In the north-western part the people were saving their prairie grass to burn in the spring, with the hoppers while they were in it. On cultivated land they proposed to lay out old hay and straw for that purpose. In other places they were plowing the land six or eight inches deep, to cover the eggs, and thus make them rot without hatching. Some men even thought they could be caught, when young, in sufficient quantities to save the crops.

Gov. Pennington, of Dakota, could suggest no remedy, and he had little confidence in any physical means of destruction. He is thus further reported—

"In the quantities in which they came in Dakota, piling inches deep on the ground, houses and trees, so thick that horses would hardly go through them, and even interfering with the running of railroad trains, they were too numerous to be caught in any kind of traps or killed. He thought best to encourage the growth of crops which could be grown and gathered in spite of the plagues.

"Some men in Dakota said that the 'hoppers had always been there and others that they were a new thing. From his own knowledge, three years back, they had had them every year. In July, 1874, he had never seen a better prospect for a corn crop than they had had that year; but in that section, from Yankton to Sioux City, the corn was wholly and absolutely destroyed, and not a bushel was gathered for 60 miles. There was nothing left but a part of the stalk. Nevertheless, they had made a good crop of wheat, oats and potatoes. He was satisfied that the people of Dakota could prosper (even though the 'hoppers came every year) by planting only such grains as would be matured before the pests came.

"The moral effect had been worse than anything else. The Territory had been damaged ten times more by the panic than by the grasshoppers. Newspapers and other frightened people had done more harm than good by applying for aid, in the east. He had stood out in 1874 as long as possible against the appeal for alms. The people who came there were poor and they needed help every winter anyhow, but the people of the Territory were able to succor their own destitute farmers without outside aid. In 1874, after all the harm had been done and they received the paltry sum of \$5,000 or \$7,000 there were hundreds of thousands of bushels of surplus grain shipped out of southern Dakota to Chicago. They were able to take care of their own.

"In 1875 the 'hoppers were as numerous as before, coming from the northeast and going south-east, but none came down, and he did not know of \$10 worth of damage done. They had the biggest crops ever known.

"They always go the same way. This year the damage to the wheat crop would not be 5 per cent., and the crop is very good. They had gathered good crops of wheat, oats and everything but corn, which

varied from one-fourth to one-half a crop. By fall breaking and early seeding, in the spring, wheat could be wholly saved without damage, and one object of the convention, he thought, was to re-assure the people. He believed that the people of Dakota could feed themselves and the grasshoppers too, and yet grow rich.

"In Dakota the 'hoppers were all foreigners, not natives, coming there full grown, and his people had had no experience with those which hatched out.

"He would urge fall plowing and early sowing, relying on small grains; and they could thus make a living."

He was not disposed to petition for financial aid. It demoralized the people and made mendicancy honorable among some classes.

Governor Hardin, of Missouri, came to learn. In 1874, many grasshoppers came and laid eggs in Missouri, and that State had a big lot in 1875, for a time there was great danger in thirteen or fourteen counties, but they left in June, and by late planting they raised one of the finest crops ever known, and they were troubled by no other varieties of insects. He thought Congress ought to do something, at least to appoint a commission of investigation. He should even suggest to his own legislature to establish commissions to call on the people to fight the pests in the afflicted districts, and make it a matter of police or military duty. He didn't know exactly what could be done. They had done everything practicable, but after they had destroyed millions upon millions, there were still millions upon millions to come.

Prof. Riley, of Missouri, saw no reason for discouragement. These grasshoppers were more properly locusts, totally different to the Asiatic species. The young insects did damage in Dakota, and hatched out near Pembina and Bismarck, in June, and obtained their wings in July. Prof. Riley is thus further reported—

"He thought that in 1875 the swarms were going back to the north, and had germs of disease and parasites in them which rendered them incapable of breeding and too weak to do much damage.

"Their native home was in the northwestern part of the country, and that when hunger, over-multiplication or other causes drove them out, they came south at a great rate; sometimes, when weakened, only at a rate of twelve or fourteen miles per day, but at other times, when assisted by a strong wind, they traversed 600 or 800 miles in a year. Between the time of hatching out and the acquiring of wings, there was a period of about one month.

"The two things to be prepared against were that they should not hatch out in our Territories, and to prevent them from immigrating to the south from their northern breeding places.

"He believed that against the winged insects there was no protection, but that much could be done against the unfledged insects. He thought that a small bounty offered for the eggs would have a very beneficial effect, for they would be gathered in numbers during the winter and spring; also for the unfledged insects. But much care was necessary, and it would be best to offer, say sixty cents per bushel for the young in March, and decrease the bounty from week to week, so that it would be an object to get them early in the season.

"The Professor suggested that a man for each State be authorized to travel all winter, learning the points where the eggs were laid thickest, and disseminating information as to the best methods of dealing with the plague.

"In judicious ditching was a thorough and positive remedy, and he believed that the first two weeks in the spring, if spent in ditching, would be of incalculable value. They could be driven right into these ditches and killed in myriads. He said that the action must be combined and directed from some centre of information.

"He agreed with the other speakers who believed that the Government should take some steps. He believed that this was the greatest drawback to the settlement of this western country, but Congress regarded anything with the name 'bug' attached to it as something to be laughed at.

"He did not think that the grasshoppers would be permanent, nor that they were an annual pest, but that within two or three years they might cease to be any more troublesome than the chinch bug and other kindred nuisances.

"He thought that a Government Commission for investigating the habits and exploring the breeding-places of the insect ought to be connected with one of the leading exploring expeditions of the Government, such as Hayden's.

"By running a spade a short distance under the ground, the eggs would be dislodged and the number could be determined by a microscope. If they were found in great number, a ditch one foot and one-half wide and of the same depth should be dug all around the field. Into this they could be driven and easily killed. There would not be more than one or two such ditches needed in a 100-acre lot."

After discussion it was concluded that the plans for protection against the winged 'hopper were exactly opposite to those to be employed against the young.

Gov. Garber, of Nebraska, would heartily advocate an appeal to Congress for a commission of investigation.

Ex-Governor Furnas is thus reported—

"The primary object in view was the destruction of the young 'hopper, which was to hatch out next Spring. He believed that a long time would not be required if there was a combined effort. The 'hopper usually selected a clear, bare, dry spot, and, in his farm of 220 acres, he was satisfied there was not over one acre occupied as a laying spot, although the roadsides were full of eggs.

"His experience was that the young insect did not eat nor move much for the first ten days, and, therefore, they should be destroyed while very young. They could be killed in those first days with a hickory broom or a spade, as they huddled together; or a mere touch of coal oil would kill them.

"He believed that, with one day's labor in the fall and another in the spring, taking every man who labors, he could save the crops throughout the State."

Prof. Williams said in reference to the flying 'hopper—

"Some good has been accomplished by smoking them away, by sulphur and by ropes dragged over the grain. They had, however, taken most of the crops where they had been, for the reason that the people could not defeat the great numbers which succeeded each other, some thought they might keep the insects off for a time. In Professor Williams' locality they had usually selected ploughed ground, grass land or sandy land to lay their eggs in. It was also noticeable that, already this fall some of the eggs had hatched out, and many of the young 'hoppers had been seen; but they disappeared very quickly, from one reason or another, rain, birds and cold, and the people hoped that they might on this account be less troubled by them next spring. Near Leavenworth, a gentleman had saved a fine orchard by simply tying small bunches of cotton batting around the trunks; when the insects would climb up, they got entangled and fell back.

"The 'hoppers which came last year were a very debilitated race, many having parasites upon them, which were rapidly destroying them; while those which came this year were a very active and hardy species."

Prof. Wilbur, regarding his section, said—

"The people would surround a lot of, say, forty acres and would then drive the pests into one patch of prairie grass. This patch of grass would be burned and those 'hoppers destroyed, without using up much grass. A number of repetitions of this course could be made, and the insects kept wholly under.

"The flying 'hoppers were fought in a different way. Large 'smudge' piles were used to keep the insects from lighting. Again, one farmer had saved a large field of corn by using sulphur in long-handled pans on the windward side of the field. The Russian Mennonites had expected these pests when they came out here to settle, and they were not afraid of them. They were able to fight them successfully. The bet-

ter educated farmers knew how to fight the pest and were not afraid of it; but the ignorant were getting alarmed, and it was desirable to remove this feeling of alarm."

Gov. Osborne, of Kansas, said—

"In Kansas, last year, a very large crop was raised, about 15,000,000 bushels of wheat having been exported. This was raised in the western part of the State, the eastern grain having been eaten clean off. About 70,000,000 bushels of corn had been raised also. This year the hoppers had entirely run over the State and had laid eggs all through the country. Some weeks ago the people were somewhat excited, but they were now greatly encouraged. They were forming clubs and societies, and would fight the pests earnestly. They were, perhaps, looking to this conference to give them some information.

"The most important thing was to re-instil confidence in the minds of the people, so that they should be certain, when they put a crop in the ground, that they would raise that crop."

The following committee on resolutions were appointed—Gov. Pillsbury, Chairman, Gov. Osborne, Prof. Riley, Prof. Thomas, Prof. Wilbur, Gov. Pennington and Prof. Whitman.

The committee next day (Oct. 26) made their report, published elsewhere in the NEWS.

Gov. Osborne said the festive 'hopper was not a native of Kansas, Nebraska, or Dakota. Pennsylvania 100 years ago was eaten out by them. Maine and Pennsylvania had been eaten three or four times in succession in times past. He had read the reports of Prof. Dwight, of New England, and that they had done just as much damage there.

Gov. Kirkwood said the danger was not local, but national.

Prof. Wilbur said that all sections of the Union had at different times been afflicted.

Prof. Thomas said Illinois was not a grasshopper country, and he did not believe it ever would be. They had the chinch bug, which he believed had done more damage than the grasshoppers ever had done.

Governor Pennington said—

"The grasshoppers had gone into districts this year where they never appeared before. His opinion was that they were like a cyclone—liable to strike almost anywhere. We had no patent right on them; we have them this year and somebody else may have them next year. They said they would not hatch in a humid atmosphere; they said it was a scientific certainty, but they had had the most rain the last year they ever had, and contrary to the scientific men's orders they hatched out more than they ever did before."

The President and secretaries were appointed a committee to prepare a pamphlet, and embody in it a history of the ravages of grasshoppers in all sections of the United States. Ten thousand copies of the report of the committee to be printed for distribution.

The Governors of Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri, were appointed a committee to prepare a memorial to Congress.

Local and Other Matters

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 7.

Called.—Yesterday we received a call from Le Baron George H. Levi, of Florence, Italy, who is on a tour of pleasure and observation. He was accompanied to our office by President D. H. Wells.

Departure of Missionaries.—Yesterday morning Elders A. M. Musser and O. F. Whitney left for the eastern States, for the field of their missionary labors, in the Pennsylvania district.

Crash.—Late last night a shelf attached to the south wall of Barratt Brothers' furniture store became detached and, with the articles piled on it, came down to the floor with a crash, doing damage to the amount of \$200.

What is the Matter With His Eye?—In a late campaign speech Secretary Bane is published as say-