

## THE DESERET NEWS.

ELIAS SMITH.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday.....December 14, 1859.

## Meeting of the Legislature.

On Monday, 12th inst., pursuant to resolution the Ninth Legislative Assembly convened at the Social Hall in this city at 10 a.m.

The following members elect were present and answered to their names on the calling the roll:

## COUNCILORS:

From Great Salt Lake and Tooele:

DAN. H. WELLS, A. CARRINGTON,  
ORSON PRATT, F. D. RICHARDS,  
JAMES FERGUSON.

Davis:

CHARLES C. RICH.

Weber, Box Elder, Cache and Malad:

LORENZO SNOW, LORIN FARR.

Utah and Cedar:

L. E. HARRINGTON, JOHN T. HARDY.

Juab and San Pete:

EDWIN WHITING.

Millard and Beaver:

AMASA LYMAN.

Iron and Washington:

GEO. A. SMITH.

## REPRESENTATIVES.

Great Salt Lake:

JOHN TAYLOR, A. P. ROCKWOOD,  
HOSEA STOUT, JOSEPH A. YOUNG,  
E. D. WOOLLEY, DAV. CANDLAND,  
H. B. CLAWSON, J. M. MOODY.

Davis:

JOS. HOLBROOK, THOMAS GROVER.

Weber:

C. W. WEST, CRANDALL DUNN.

Box Elder, Cache and Malad:

J. C. WRIGHT.

Tooele:

E. M. GREENE.

Utah and Cedar:

JOHN BROWN, ISAAC BULLOCK,  
A. K. THURBER.

Juab:

JOHN D. CHASE.

San Pete:

BERNARD SNOW.

Millard:

THOMAS R. KING.

Beaver:

C. W. WANDELL.

Iron and Washington:

SILAS S. SMITH, WILLIAM CROSBY.

The only member not present was S. M. Blair, Esq., of Great Salt Lake, who has been sick and confined to his room some two weeks.

The usual ceremonies and preliminaries were gone through with in the organization of both branches of the Assembly and a permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers:

In the Council,

Hon. DANIEL H. WELLS, was chosen  
President.

JOHN T. CAINE, Secretary.  
P. LYNCH, Assistant Secretary.  
J. S. FULMER, Sergeant-at-Arms.  
FRANCIS BOGGS, Foreman.  
S. L. SPRAGUE, Messenger.  
Elder P. H. YOUNG, Chaplain.

In the House,

Hon. JOHN TAYLOR, was elected  
Speaker.

THOMAS BULLOCK, Chief clerk.  
JOHN OAKLEY, Assistant clerk.  
H. S. BEATTIE, Sergeant at arms.  
LEWIS GRANT, Foreman.  
SEYMOUR B. YOUNG, Messenger.  
Elder W. W. PHELPS, Chaplain.

After the organization was completed, the two branches met in joint session and received the message from His Excellency.

On Tuesday, 13th, the following committees were announced by the President of the Council:

Judiciary:—Albert Carrington, George A. Smith, James Ferguson, L. E. Harrington.

Claims and Appropriations:—Orson Pratt, Lorin Farr, John T. Hardy.

Petitions and Memorials:—Geo. A. Smith, F. D. Richards, Lorenzo Snow, Amasa Lyman.

Revenue:—Amasa Lyman, L. E. Harrington, Charles C. Rich, Edwin Whiting.

Elections:—Lorin Farr, Edwin Whiting, L. E. Harrington.

Counties:—Charles C. Rich, J. T. Hardy, Lorenzo Snow.

Roads, Bridges, Ferries and Kanyons:—F. D. Richards, L. E. Harrington, Amasa Lyman, Edwin Whiting.

Education:—Orson Pratt, James Ferguson, Albert Carrington.

Engrossing:—Orson Pratt, F. D. Richards, Albert Carrington.

Printing:—Lorenzo Snow, James Ferguson.

Agriculture, Trade and Manufactures:—Geo. A.

Smith, C. C. Rich, F. D. Richards, E. Whiting, A. Lyman.

Militia:—C. C. Rich, James Ferguson, F. D. Richards.

Incorporations:—L. Farr, J. T. Hardy, L. Snow.

Library:—O. Pratt, A. Carrington.

Public Domain and School Lands:—O. Pratt, A. Lyman, C. C. Rich, A. Carrington.

Penitentiary:—F. D. Richards, J. T. Hardy.

The Committees of the House will appear next week.

## The Territorial Secretary and Retrenchment.

G. S. L. CITY, Dec. 10, 1859.

EDITOR OF THE NEWS:—Sir:

I noticed in your last week's issue some rather severe animadversions on the secretary in relation to the mode that he adopted in furnishing the Legislative Assembly during the last session. You will please excuse me, sir, but is it not better to encourage retrenchment and reform than a lavish use of means in our legislative expenditures? We are here in a new country and not much bedizened with the glitter and parade of the outside world and if in our legislative equipments we do not quite come up to the standard of Congress or some of the wealthy States or more favored Territories—would it not be better to bear with rather than cast reflections upon an honorable appointee of his Excellency the President of the United States?

Furthermore I believe that his Excellency Gov. Cumming is making every reasonable preparation to supply the wants of the legislature during the absence of his hon. the secretary.

Respectfully, etc.,

AN OBSERVER.

In making the remarks last week in relation to the course pursued by the Government appointee in furnishing the Legislative Assembly last winter with stationery and other things necessary for the use and convenience of the members during the session, which "Observer" is pleased to call "severe animadversions," we used as mild language as was possible under the circumstances, to convey, in some slight degree, our contempt for such meanness, and did not wish to be understood in the least, as advocating a lavish expenditure of the money appropriated by Congress, for the purpose of paying the contingent expenses of the Legislative Assembly. There is a wide difference between an economical use of what has been provided for a specific purpose, and the parsimonious, niggardly withholding nine tenths of the amount deemed necessary by competent officers of Government, appropriated by Congress and placed at the disposal of the appointee of the President for the purposes indicated.

When Congress appropriates twenty thousand dollars "for compensation and mileage of the members of the Legislative Assembly, officers, clerks, and contingent expenses of the Assembly," which is the usual amount appropriated annually to each Territory, it is certainly done with the expectation that it will be needed and used for that purpose. The compensation and mileage of the members, and the compensation of the clerks in this Territory does not amount to one half of the sum appropriated, and if the other half is not intended to be used, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of supplying the members with comfortable seats and desks, and with other things indispensably necessary, in order to facilitate business and subserve the purposes of legislation, for what is it designed?

The secretary of the treasury of the United States, whose duty it is to make the estimates for the expenses of Territorial Legislatures, would not recommend to Congress to appropriate so large a sum merely for "pickings and stealings," as four or five thousand dollars would be considered ample for that purpose, unless some favored partisan was to be benefited thereby.

However, this is a matter of minor importance, hardly worth talking about, as there have been so many other impositions practised upon the Government of the United States and upon the people of this Territory of greater magnitude than the withholding from the Legislature that which has been appropriated for the use of its members and that, too, by an "appointee" who does not and, in all probability, never can, from constitutional disability, be made to understand the duties of the office of which he is the incumbent, that the non-disbursement of the sum of a few thousand dollars and the consequent inconvenience experienced by the members of the Legislature last winter, seems but a trifling affair and we do not wish to give it undue importance by referring to it unnecessarily.

It is true that we felt indignant on visiting the Legislative Assembly last winter and seeing the members sitting on old, unshapen benches, with some old rickety tables before them, on which was seen an inferior inkstand and a sheet or two of paper, and to which their lights, when holding evening sessions, were attached by means of melting off a part of each candle, enough to make a small pool into which the balance was placed and held till the melted tallow or sperm became sufficiently congealed to cement them to the table on which they were thus placed. We looked at the picture with disgust, but when we thought of the cause that had produced it and considered all the circumstances—the imbecility of the appointee and the narrowness of his soul—we irresistibly came to the conclusion that he ought not to be blamed much and thereafter plead for mercy in his behalf, wherever he was unjustly assailed.

In making this statement we do not wish to be understood as casting any reflections upon the President of the United States, in consequence of his having had the misfortune to appoint an incompetent man to office. Many such occurrences have transpired and others may be expected.

Retrenchment in expenditures is only a politician's hobby, and exists only in name in these days, so far as government officers are concerned. It would be impossible to apply the term in the case to which we have referred, as there can be no retrenchment where there is nothing to be curtailed.

As to Governor Cumming, he will no doubt do all that can possibly be expected of him, under the circumstances, to have things go off right during the present session, after the wheels get fairly in motion; and more than that, if measures, ere long, are not taken in another quarter to correct some of the abuses that have existed for many years, there is certainly nothing to be gained by observing "the signs of the times."

## The Thirty-Sixth Congress.

No doubt there have been lively times at Washington since the meeting of the thirty-sixth Congress on the 5th inst., but, in the absence of a telegraph line from western Missouri across the continent to California, via Salt Lake City, the doings of the National Legislature will not soon be made known here.

The election of a Speaker in the House of Representatives has often been very exciting and, since the result of the late elections in the several States has been known, there has been a strong probability that the organizing of the House this time, would be attended with much difficulty, as neither the Republicans nor the Democrats have a majority, and without the co-operation of the the Opposition Party, neither faction could elect a Speaker.

If the Opposition members refuse to join with either of the other parties, in the election of a Speaker, the House of Representatives will not soon be organized and, unless the President follows the example of Mr. Pierce, in 1855, and sends in his annual message before the house is organized by the election of a Speaker, that document may not soon be read in this inland and secluded portion of the Union.

ADJOURNMENT.—The December term of the county court for this county was, on the 7th inst., adjourned till Monday next at 10 a.m.

Those having business matters which they wish to present for the consideration of those who, by virtue of law, have the management and control of the financial affairs of Great Salt Lake county, can, if they wish, present them on that day, that proper action may be taken thereon.

PROBATE COURT.—The December term of the probate court for Great Salt Lake county commenced on Monday last, the 12th inst., pursuant to the "statute in such case made and provided." Some three or four cases were disposed of and the court then adjourned till Saturday next, Dec. 17, at two o'clock, p.m.

THE WEATHER has been very cold during the week and so cloudy or foggy, some of the time, that it has been very dark and gloomy, even when the sun has been above the horizon. Shade and fruit trees have, for the last two or three days, been clothed with a thick, heavy frosty covering, accumulated from the humid atmosphere; and all out door things, whether they belong to the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom, have decidedly a wintry aspect.

NO WESTERN MAIL.—There was no mail from California last week. The last arrival from the west was on November 24th.

## IMPROVEMENT.

It gives us pleasure to announce, on all proper occasions, when it can be done truthfully, every improvement that is made from time to time by our fellow beings, whether old or young; particularly such as will be of lasting benefit to themselves, and to the community of which they are or may become members.

Improvements in agriculture, manufactures, in trade, in science, in art, in their habits, manners and customs and in whatever is necessary to their existence, comfort, happiness and usefulness, while they sojourn on the earth, should be hailed with delight by every person who is not an enemy to his race.

Among the things that are worthy of commendation, which every observer must have seen of late, is the increased anxiety manifested by many of the youth of this city and others of maturer years, to improve their minds and increase their store of useful knowledge, by every means at their command. Instead of spending their time in idleness, hopping, jumping and skating about, during the winter, as too many boys and young men have done in by-gone days, they are now generally attending school and, from the report of their instructors, most of them are making good progress in those branches of science to which they are severally devoting their time or giving their attention. That they may continue to do so is the earnest desire of all who have witnessed with regret the indifference that has been manifested by some in relation to a subject of so much importance as the fitting and qualifying the rising generation for the duties they will have to perform in after life; and we trust that the spirit of improvement that seems to have been awakened in respect to schools and the acquisition of knowledge by those who will shortly be required to fill responsible stations in community, will continue to increase till the people of every city, town, village and settlement in the Valleys of Utah—old and young—become alive to the subject and take such measures as may be necessary, so far as their circumstances will permit, to have the youth properly instructed in the principles of science, which will be of more value to them in days to come than any pecuniary legacy their parents can leave or bequeath to them.

Not only the young, but some of more mature years, who have not had opportunities to acquire a competent knowledge of those principles which are necessary to be understood in order to perform correctly the every-day duties of life, are turning their attention to the acquisition of such knowledge as they may thus be deficient in, severally, which is praiseworthy and truly commendable.

Men and women are never too old to learn; and if those persons who, from some cause, have not learned to read and to write, are more or less unacquainted with the science of numbers, and have but a limited knowledge of geography, history and philology, would spend but one hour each day, in acquiring a knowledge of those principles, if they are so situated that they cannot devote any more time to the improvement of their minds, they would soon realize the benefit derived from it. Those who will pursue such a course will never regret the loss of time thus appropriated, but in after years they will look back and refer with pleasure to the day in which they made the commencement, having first resolved to overcome that diffidence which too many possess who have been deprived of the privilege of storing their minds with a competent knowledge of those things in early life.

The idea that any human being of sound mind can ever be too old to learn, has long since been ignored and thousands who, at twenty years of age, did not know one letter from another, have, by diligence and perseverance, often under adverse circumstances, elevated themselves to the highest rank in point of literary attainments and many such have become eminent philosophers and statesmen, and have immortalized their names as benefactors of the human race.

Then why should any who are not in possession of what is essential to make them useful members of society, neglect any opportunity that may present itself for the attainment of any thing that will raise them in the scale of intelligence and make them a blessing, instead of a disgrace, and perhaps a curse, to those with whom they may be associated in life.

The partial change that has taken place in relation to the subject of education has already had a tendency to improve the character of many of the schools in this city. Several competent teachers, who, for years, have