

GOVERNOR WEST'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

The following plainly worded message of advice and accompanying documents were sent by Governor West to both branches of the Legislature Thursday, March 1st.

To the Legislative Assembly:

We are confronted by a very grave and important situation, calling for our earnest consideration, and imperatively demanding such immediate action as will, if possible, afford relief. Hundreds of honest and deserving working men are without work, and notwithstanding their utmost endeavors are unable to obtain employment. In many instances they and their families are suffering for want of the bare necessities of life. The conditions are such that they cannot be wholly met and provided for by individual efforts, nor those of the charitable associations. These have been invoked and have nobly responded, but their utmost efforts have proved inadequate to meet the weighty and constantly increasing demands made upon them. Their efforts have been further supplemented and assisted by those of the city and county authorities. The distress, however, is so far-reaching that the combined action has been able to relieve but a small portion of the suffering.

The conduct of the working men during the present trying period has been admirable. Orderly and quietly they have registered at the employment bureaus and patiently waited for their work. No riotous or unseemly demonstrations have been made, but they have acted wisely and well, for themselves and the community, by their peaceable bearing and moderation. There is, however, a limit to human suffering and endurance and when reached men become desperate, and can no longer be guided by reason, or listen to the counsel of prudence and in their mad rage they sometimes sacrifice themselves to destroy others. Every effort should be made to prevent any such lamentable condition arising in our midst.

After the most earnest and serious consideration, I am of the opinion that a full and complete remedy can be had not only without injury, but with actual benefit to the Territory.

A capitol building is a necessity and must sooner or later be erected. That portion of it, commensurate with our present needs, if put under construction now, would give employment to many of the needy. It would make it necessary for the city of Salt Lake (which has already signified the purpose and willingness to do so) to grade and open all the approaches to and surrounding the Capitol; with the opening and grading of streets the car lines would extend their tracks, and from these sources work could be furnished to all the unemployed in the city. The money for the carrying on of this work could be taken from the general revenue and the Territory issue bonds for those of its liabilities it is authorized by congressional enactment to incur.

Five per cent bonds of the Territory can be readily disposed of at a premium. The introduction of this money from the outside into the Territory would have a healthful effect in giving an impetus to a revival of business that would inure to the benefit of all.

For your consideration, I enclose herewith letters from the president of the territorial board of relief, the chairman of the General Relief society, the superintendent of the Salt Lake county and city relief work, and the secretary of the Workingmen's association, which briefly outline our pressing necessities.

The requirements of the Territory, in the near future, will demand the doing of this work, and why not undertake it now when our citizens can be so greatly benefited by it? I feel assured that the generous people of Utah will heartily approve the just exercise of the power reposed in you, in providing this necessary and beneficial work for the Territory and its needy and deserving laborers.

CALEB W. WEST.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Salt Lake City, March 1st, 1894.

Copy of letter from the president of the board of relief. (Original sent to the Legislative Council.)

To His Excellency, Gov. Caleb W. West:

My dear sir—In answer to your inquiry of February 28th, having entered upon a systematic registration of the unemployed, bona fide residents, I beg to report 1,706 names upon our list. We are hourly adding to this number. Many gray haired men with families are pleading for days work, who have possibly been able to get along in the past without days labor; in addition to this, the relief committee has sent us calls for work for men whose families are sick and destitute, which we cannot reach. That you may more fully understand the situation, I call to your attention a case that has just come to our notice. A man is sick himself, whose family is sick and is in a destitute condition, who appears on our list as No. 1704, which we cannot hope to reach.

As far as we can judge scarcely a man has applied for work who is not deserving and in absolute need. Fully 80 per cent of those applying for work are married men with families; the amount of destitution in our midst is something appalling. The \$2,000 appropriation to be expended on the Capitol grounds will not give even temporary relief to the many who are actually suffering and are willing to work.

Very truly yours,
WENDELL BENSON,
President of Board of Relief.

Copy of letter from the chairman of the General Relief society. (Original sent to the Legislative Council.)

March 1, 1894.

Governor Caleb W. West, City:

Dear Sir:—The General Relief committee has given employment to 1,304 men up to this date. It has on its books the names of about 1,500 men who are out of employment, a large majority of whom are, in my opinion married and bona fide residents of Salt Lake City. I herewith enclose the statement of the committee showing the amount of donations received and the disposition of the same up to February 13th, 1894.

I think there will be need of aid being given to the unemployed for some time to come. Our committee has about exhausted all of its resources.

Very respectfully,
ARTHUR L. THOMAS,
Chairman.

GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Its statement of donations, cash and goods, and number employed:

Total cash donations received by the committee to February 13, 1894.....	\$1,531 85
(This does not include proceeds of Tabernacle concert.)	
Amount of drugs received.....	35 00
Amount of flour received.....	194 50
Amount of groceries received	165 00
Amount of meat received	93 00
Amount of clothing received.....	100 00
Amount of general merchandise received.....	460 65
Number employed—	
Men on boulevard.....	872
Women sewing.....	293
Amount paid to men.....	\$2,356 50
Amount paid to women.....	165 80

The committee has issued 1073 orders for coal, provisions, etc.

Yesterday the committee received \$300 from the public school teachers of Salt Lake City. They have also received \$120 from Mrs. George A. Lowe, the proceeds of her charity reception, and \$43.50 from Captain Richards, of Fort Douglas, the contribution of Company G.

Copy of letter from the superintendent of the Salt Lake county and city relief work. (Original sent to the Legislative Council.)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
February 28, 1894.

His Excellency, Caleb W. West, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Sir—in reply to your inquiry of even date, I herewith hand you statement of amount of money expended; number of men and teams to date; number of loads of gravel hauled, and number of men and teams on list awaiting employment.

Amount of money expended to date (pay roll of the 27 inst., approximated) \$10,611.10 for filling up Eighth Ward square.

Number of men employed up to date, 562 and 223 teams; a few of them have been working twice.

Number of loads of gravel hauled up to date, 8,253.

There are now 1,141 laborers and 100 teams on our list awaiting employment.

Hoping the above will meet with your approval, I remain,

Yours most respectfully,
HERMAN BAMBERGER.

Copy of letter from secretary of Workingmen's association (original sent to the Legislative Council.)

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 28, 1894.

To His Excellency Caleb W. West, Governor of Utah:

My Dear Sir—My attention has been called to Mr. Benson's letter to you. I desire to add the statements contained are substantially and wholly correct, and possibly fail to portray all.

Very respectfully,
J. B. RAWLINGS,
Secretary Workingmen's Association.
(Copy of letters attached to letter from secretary of the Workingmen's Association.)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
Feb. 26th, 1894.

J. B. Rawlings, Esq.:

This is Mr. Charley Parks, he has a team, he is hard up, has had no work all winter; he has a family of five. Please see that he is put to work, and oblige. Yours, etc.,

H. E. CARTER.

W. Johnson lives on Seventh street, between I and J; is a carpenter, has a sick wife and young babe, has been