

THE DESERET NEWS.

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Wednesday.....November 9, 1859.

To the Agents and Readers of the "News."

Arrangements have been made to send out a special agent to collect certain debts due this office, some of which have been due for a length of time, and it is confidently expected that all concerned will be on hand to give him a cordial welcome and be ready to pay up those old "scores."

It has been deemed advisable to take this course, that all may have the privilege of squaring their accounts without the trouble of making a journey to the city for that purpose. The ex-agents will do well to be on the alert and be ready to settle their accounts with as little delay as possible. Indulgence has been extended to them heretofore in consequence of the difficulties that existed in the years '57 and '58, but now there can be no further excuse for not having things made right and it is not anticipated that any will be made.

The agents for the current volume have, in most instances done well, and unquestionably there will be but few or no delinquents at the close of the year.

School Books.

We have lately received a communication from Mr. Charles D. Evans, a school teacher, of Springville, Utah county, on the subject of education, in which he complains, as others do, and have done about the almost endless variety of school books in use in the common schools in the Territory; and says, that if something could be done to obviate the difficulty under which teachers and pupils now labor in consequence of having about as many kinds of reading and other books in a school as there are scholars, it would be of incalculable benefit to all concerned, far more than many who have not had experience in such matters might suppose. He says that the duties of a teacher are more arduous and the progress of scholars not so great, as in places where there is a uniformity in such matters, and suggests that some salutary measures ought to be taken in relation to a subject of such vital importance to community and especially to the youth who ought to make good improvement of what time is allotted to them to attend school for the acquisition of useful knowledge, which, in this country, is often too limited, owing to the peculiar circumstances by which the people are surrounded.

Many complaints of the same nature have been made from time to time by individuals who have been engaged in school teaching, and there is not a person in the Territory that has had any experience in such matters who does not know that it would be a great advantage to preceptors and pupils if there was more uniformity in relation to school books than there is now, or will be for a time to come, unless some energetic measures be taken to bring about the object in question by those, if any there are, whose duty it is or should be to regulate such matters, and make such recommendations as will, if followed, obviate the difficulties that now exist.

In the absence of any general regulations in relation to such matters, we know of no better way than for all to do the best they can under the circumstances; but would suggest that teachers and trustees of school districts might remove the difficulty complained of, to some extent, by ordering from the east, if they cannot procure them here, a sufficiency of such books as they may choose to introduce into their schools. Some have already taken this course, and thereby have obtained a selection of books for their schools at a far less price than they could have been bought for here, and thus have secured a uniformity so far as their respective schools are concerned. Others can do the same if they are so disposed and, in our opinion, it would be no difficult task for a teacher, if he could not do it himself, to induce the trustees and inhabitants of the city, town or district, where he may be teaching, to make a wholesale purchase of school books, such as may be deemed the most suitable for his school, and thereby do away with the variety now in use. Until some general move is made in the premises, one has as good a right to say what books shall be used as another, and all have an equal right to do what they consider best for themselves, but the more union there is in their operations the more good will result from the course pursued by those interested in the matter.

We trust the time is not far distant when a series of books will be introduced or made here suitable for the schools and institutions of learning in the Territory, such as will be approved of and generally used; but till that is done, teachers, trustees, parents and guardians will have to do the best they know how in relation to the subject, and if they can do anything to produce a better state of things, do it at once without waiting for others.

BY EASTERN MAIL.

The Eastern mail arrived yesterday, a little before noon, by which we have New York dates to Oct. 15. The latest dates from Liverpool are to September 28.

The screw steamer Fox, sent by Lady Franklin to the Arctic regions, in search of the traces of Sir John Franklin's expedition, had returned to England, having been successful.

The American occupation of San Juan was attracting considerable attention in the English journals.

A thousand marines from detachments of rifle men and light infantry were to leave England for China, by the overland mail route. The first of the squadrons for the service against China had already sailed; the government intended dispatching fifty gun boats, besides frigates and other vessels.

The latest reports from the Peace conference are that a definite treaty of peace will be signed by the three Powers, when another treaty will be drawn up, by which Austria will cede Lombardy to France, who will transfer it to Sardinia.

The repairs on the Great Eastern were going on actively. It was doubtful about her getting ready for sea till some time in November.

The Bey of Tunis is dead.

Dates from China were to August 10th—nothing new had transpired there since the affair on the 25th of June.

The French Government were to send from twelve to fifteen thousand troops to China.

Affairs in Japan have assumed a very unsatisfactory position.

From the States we have not seen anything of much importance. The elections in Ohio and Indiana had resulted in favor of the Republicans. The same result was claimed by the Republicans in Iowa, but the *Tribune* considered the result doubtful. Pennsylvania had been carried by the opposition.

The Post Master General had received a dispatch from Mr. Hall, Missouri, Mail Contractor on the Santa Fe route, stating that the mail which left Fort Independence was attacked by the Kioway Indians on the 24th of August, and conductor Smith and his brother were killed, and William Cole badly wounded. The troops on the Arkansas had gone to Fort Riley, and that the mail cannot run unless troops are stationed at Pawnee Fork, with an escort to Cold Spring. The in-coming Santa Fe mail due on the 4th of September did not arrive till the 10th.

The report of the attack on the outgoing mail confirmed. The Indians took all the clothing, provisions and mules, but did not molest the mail which was taken forward by the next outward bound party. The incoming party found the dead bodies of four men, supposed to be returning Pike's Peak, who had been murdered by the Indians two days subsequent to the attack on the mail.

The latest dates from Mexico stated that Miramon was preparing for a vigorous campaign. General Alvarez had received munitions of war from New York and California.

By California Mail.

The mail from the west, after a delay of some two weeks, arrived on Sunday evening last, by which we received a few of our exchanges, but none of a later date than Oct. 8.

The official vote for Governor of California was for Latham, 61,455; for Curry, 31,302; for Stanford, 10,139. There were 1212 votes cast in the six southern counties for a division of the State and the forming of a Territory out that portion of it, and 2158 against that movement.

Col. Lander had completed the South Pass Central Overland Wagon Road to Susan river, near Honey Lake, or the eastern boundary of California, and was over the mountains, the last of September, making arrangements for the disposal of the Government property, mules, horses, etc., in his charge.

Judge Terry had been admitted to bail by Judge Blake, of San Francisco, in the sum of \$10,000 for his appearance to answer for the

offence of shooting Mr. Broderick on the 13th of Sept. Subscriptions were being solicited throughout the State for the erection of a monument, in San Francisco, in memory of the deceased Senator.

The towns of Todd's valley and Monte Christo have been destroyed by fire. Diamond Springs has been nearly burned up.

A Pacific Railroad Convention was held in San Francisco on the 23d and 24th of Sept., and adjourned to meet in Sacramento on the first Monday in February next.

It is estimated that three hundred thousand head of cattle have been driven across the plains to California this season.

Flour is quoted at from \$5.75 to \$6.75 per barrel in San Francisco.

The *Mercantile Gazette*, of San Francisco, gives 1,268 as the number of vessels arrived at that port during the past nine months of the present year, with a capacity of 461,762 tons. The same paper says the number of passengers arriving in the same period was 27,762, whilst the departures were 18,810, leaving a gain of 8,952 persons, independent of the thousands who have immigrated via the plains.

A heavy earthquake was experienced in San Francisco on the 5th of October.

The most prominent candidates and expectants for the office of United States Senator, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of D. C. Broderick, are said to be John Nugent, J. L. English, J. G. Baldwin, J. W. Denver, Judge Terry, W. S. Long, T. J. Henley, J. A. McDougall, R. A. Thomson, J. P. Hoge, B. F. Washington, V. E. Howard, H. P. Haun, N. E. Whitesides, Gov. Weller, S. W. Inge, W. T. Barbour, A. P. Dudley, F. Billings, H. P. Barber, M. Kirkpatrick and E. J. Lewis. How many more there are in that State who consider themselves qualified for the station does not fully appear, only some forty having applied for the office.

Gen. Scott had not arrived at San Francisco. The difficulties at San Juan remained in statu quo.

Twenty State prisoners made an attempt to escape from the State Prison wharf Sept 27th, when they were fired upon and two killed and eight wounded, two of them mortally. The ten who were unhurt were retaken and placed in close confinement.

Judge Cradlebaugh had returned to Carson on the 8th of October and was intending to commence his court on the 10th. There were plenty of cases on the docket, but some of the people had strong objections to his holding court there, and the term may be of short duration.

An election was talked of, to elect a member to the lobby of Congress in place of Judge Crane deceased. Col. F. W. Lander had been proposed as a candidate. If he does not accept they certainly can find some one that will in California, after the election by the legislature of a United States Senator takes place.

The Indians in the vicinity of Walker's river were committing depredations, as reported, stealing provisions from the miners, and killing cattle. Major Dodge had started for that region to settle the difficulties.

A field of wheat near Genoa, Carson valley, is said to have yielded, this season, some one hundred and fifty bushels to the acre.

Honey Lake is fast filling up with immigrants, who are settling on land with a view to a permanent residence.

Several tons of silver ore from the Washoe mines have been tested in San Francisco. The value is between \$2,500 and \$3,000 per ton.

Gold bearing quartz has been discovered in the hills a few miles from Carson city. Rich discoveries are also reported in Steamboat valley.

John S. Childs, Probate Judge, has issued a proclamation, calling an election upon the 8th of October, for the purpose of electing county officers.

A. Curry, of Carson city, was burning a brick-kiln, containing 100,000 bricks. Adams, of Genoa, had just finished burning one containing the same number.

HOUSE BURNED.—On Saturday, 29th ult., the house of Mr. J. G. Brown, of Draperville, took fire and was nearly consumed before the flames were extinguished. The family were at dinner at the time; the children in the parlor, where the fire originated, gave the alarm as soon as it was discovered, but it spread so rapidly that most of the furniture, bedding, clothing, &c., was destroyed with the building, notwithstanding the exertions that were made to save them. Loss estimated at \$1,000.

Cleaning the Ditches.

For some considerable length of time, the water ditches in all parts of the city have been in a most deplorable condition, filled with all kinds of filth, and it is with a degree of satisfaction, that we have seen of late some disposition manifested to have them cleaned out and put in proper condition before the commencement of winter. The city water master one day last week caused one of the ditches in East Temple street to be partly cleaned of the filth that had accumulated in it, till the water was unfit for use, and probably the other will receive his attention ere long, if the property-holders who are the most interested in the matter, do not take the work in hand as some have done and each clean out the ditch in front of their respective shops and residences.

A few hours labor on the part of each citizen would thoroughly clean out every water course running through the city, and thereafter they could have the privilege of using good, clean, wholesome water, instead of the filthy kind now generally in use. In many places the ditches are badly out of repair and should be fixed up before the commencement of the extreme cold weather that may be shortly expected, otherwise the water will soon be overflowing the streets, and they will be filled with ice as they were in many places last winter. Every useless, temporary dam, of which there are many, should also be removed, so that the water can have free course to run without overflowing the side walks as it will, soon after freezing weather sets in, if these obstructions are permitted to remain.

Much damage was done to dwellings, gardens, etc. last winter by the overflowing of water needlessly, and the same may be expected again if the ditches are not fixed so that they will carry off the water, which can be done at a trifling expense if attended to in season.

SAVE THE FLAX SEED.—There has been a large amount of flax raised in this part of the Territory this year, and in more than one instance, proper care has not been taken of it, and much of the seed has been wasted. This should not be, as all the seed ought to be carefully preserved and made subservient to the wants of the community.

President H. C. Kim all is erecting an oil mill which will be in operation early in the spring, and every bushel of flax seed, not needed for sowing, can then be manufactured into linseed oil, for which there is, and will be, a great demand in this country; and unless produced here, it will, of course, have to be imported from the States, as heretofore, at a ruinous expense.

GAMBLING.—For some weeks past, there has not much been said about gambling in this city, and there has not been as many of that class of men here of late as there was during the summer. However, within the last few days, report says that there has been a considerable amount of money lost and won by gaming and that one of the transient traders in this city has been trying his hand unsuccessfully and, not being willing to fork over, some threats have been made which has induced him to keep out of sight for a time. If true, such proceedings on the part of an individual who wishes to be considered honorable, to say the least of it, is highly reprehensible. When merchants gamble, their creditors, if they have any, soon become apprised of the fact.

THE INDIANS.—By letter from Brigham city, we learn that since the troops left that section of country, some of the Indians that used to wander about in that part of the country, came in and wished to trade with the people as formerly, but on being told that they had done wrong, and that the former friendly relations existing between them and the whites could not be resumed until the matter was properly settled, they went off again.

We do not know what course is intended to be pursued towards them by those having jurisdiction of such matters, but could not a treaty be made with them now to as good advantage as at any time hereafter?

STEALING.—Some very extensive operations in mule and horse stealing have been reported of late in this and adjoining counties—ten or more changing hands in that way in one night, in several instances. How long this Territory is to be cursed with thieves no one seems to know, but an Irishman says that after the thieves are all dead and gone, there will be no more stealing done. May that time be hastened.