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Saturday, . . . September 12, 1891.

THE EAGLE GATE.

THE generous protests that have gone up from every quarter against the destruction of Eagle Gate have done their good work. The foundation for a reconstruction of this cherished landmark is being laid. This will be gratifying news to a large number of people in this Territory. It will be gratifying, or ought to be, to every resident of Salt Lake City irrespective of his religious sympathies.

We are glad to know that when certain would-be evangelists of civilization here endeavored to discourage the rebuilding of the structure, their endeavors met with a vigorous rebuke from their own partisans. Moreover the organ that, as a leader of the crusade upon Utah, is responsible in great part for many of its evil results, generously united in the protest against the destructive spirit that urged the demolition of this mark of the enterprise and leadership of President Brigham Young.

There have been and still are among us a class of men who feel that they have a special mission to destroy anything and everything that "Mormons" have touched. We take this occasion to say to such people, whose numbers we are happy to say are not large, that the destruction of pioneer land-marks and the spoiling of history, because it was not made by their approval, is not the mission of civilized men. To destroy the land-marks of history is the trait and passion of the barbarian, and we can assure the persons who advocated the tearing down of Eagle Gate and those who not long ago called upon the City Council, because it was "Liberal," to abolish the names of the streets of Salt Lake which have from its founding been a distinguishing feature of the city, that had they succeeded in their petty vindictiveness they would have been rewarded with the utter contempt of every intelligent man acquainted with their peculiar efforts.

The German patent law provides that inventions shall be considered new if they have been lost sight of for one hundred years.

CONGRESSMEN AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE question of the champion spoils organ asking "why should not congressmen have a voice in the appointment of civil service officials," the *New York World* thus answers:

"A spoils organ derides Commissioner Lyman's suggestion that Congressmen ought to have no voice in civil service appointments, and asks, 'Why not?'"

"The answer is simple and conclusive. Congressmen ought to have no voice in such appointments:

"(1.) Because it is none of their business. Appointment to office is an executive, not a legislative function.

"(2.) Because office-brokerage by Congressmen absorbs time and energy which should be given to preparation for and a proper discharge of their duties as Senators or Representatives of the people in the most important legislative body in the world.

"(3.) Because the custom leads to nepotism and favoritism, which are abhorrent in a republic, and tends to the demoralization both of politics and the public service. Mere office-brokers climb into Congress and clerks are not amenable to discipline when protected by powerful 'influence.'

"Congressmen should not peddle patronage."

✓ THE VEXED TAX QUESTION.

THERE never was so great a protest against excessive valuation as that now now pending before the City Council. The valuations are without doubt excessive. There should be a remedy for every wrong. The remedy in this case is in the hands of the City Council. That body can give relief to the suffering taxpayers if it will. We hope it will not turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the people.

The Council is in a difficult position. Improvements are demanded commensurate with the needs of the city. The public debt has almost reached its legal limit. Money is wanted, no doubt. But the public are very much aroused, and it seems to us that the Council should pay proper regard to public opinion. If there is not money enough to carry out projected improvements providing the valuations on property are lowered, the Council will not be blamed. But it is the general opinion that an abundance of funds will be raised for current purposes by a reduced tax, and that there is no need, as there is no justice, in these exorbitant assessments.

On the question of a reduction of the rate fixed, we suppose there is no use to say much. The Council decided last year that after it was fixed it could not be changed. It was an absurd conclusion, we think, but it was arrived at, and probably the majority of the Council would not change their opinions concerning it.

A reduction of twenty-five per cent.

all round in the valuations is asked for and with a good show of reason. It would give great relief. But there are so many cases in which this uniform reduction would not meet the wrong complained of, that we think each one will have to be viewed on its merits.

The county assessment appears as a rule to be more in accordance with right and fairness. As a general rule a reduction to its figures we think would meet with general favor, although they are considerably higher than the present condition of the real estate market would warrant. And if that were done there are individual instances which ought to be specially considered.

We trust the city authorities will approach this important matter with due respect for the rights of the people, and that they will not ride a high horse and overlook their duty to the public and a proper regard for public opinion. There is a grievance of no small importance to meet, and if it is considered in a proper spirit, it may save a great deal of trouble and prevent a far greater obstruction to the growth of the city than would result from the loss of a few thousand dollars of expected revenue. Let the City Councilors be wise and not run their heads against the strong wall of public indignation.

THAT POLICE SCANDAL.

THE long delayed report of the committee of investigation into the charges made by the policemen was presented to the City Council September 1st. A minority report was also submitted and adopted by a majority vote of the Council. It exonerated the Marshal from the principal charges against him, and recommended that Captain Parker be relegated to the ranks and that Sergeant Glenn be dismissed from the force.

The action taken would have prevailed but for a muddle which arose over a misconception of the powers of the Council and of the Mayor, and also of the exact bearings of the minority report. It is true that the City Council cannot remove any officer or member except by a two-thirds vote. But the Police of the city are appointed by the Mayor and he may remove them "at pleasure." This is provided for by ordinance and the amendments to the Charter provide:

"The Mayor shall have power to remove any officer appointed by him, whenever he shall be of the opinion that the interests of the city demand such removal, but he shall report the reasons of such removal to the Council at its next regular sitting."—Article 2, section 6.

Under these provisions the Mayor