

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION.

Mr. President and Speaker, and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Joint Session:

GENTLEMEN:—Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of Irrigation of lands in the various counties of the Territory, have prosecuted their labors, conjointly, and therefore beg leave to present this joint report of their doings in the premises.

In order to obtain as complete and accurate information as was practicable upon this subject, your committee issued the necessary blanks to the various water-masters throughout the Territory in the early part of this session, many of which blanks have been filled and returned, giving the lengths, widths, depths, and inclinations of the various canals conducting water from its original channels to the fields irrigated, together with the cost thereof; a consolidated tabular statement of which from each county is herewith submitted, as part of this report.

Approximate estimates of the kinds and quantities of crops raised are also received from various portions of the Territory, but are too incomplete to afford an adequate statement of the aggregate of crops raised in the Territory.

By the accompanying statistics it appears that there has been constructed, at public expense, no less than nine hundred and twenty-three miles and one hundred and ninety-two rods of irrigating canal, at the average or mean width of five feet and seven inches and depth of two feet, conveying water for the irrigation of one hundred and sixty-six thousand, nine hundred and seventy acres of land of every variety of soil and at an aggregate cost of one million, five hundred and eighty-one thousand, nine hundred and forty-five dollars. Beside those already completed there are extensive works in Great Salt Lake county in progress, at an estimated cost of one million, ten thousand dollars, and in Davis county, as estimated, at three hundred thousand dollars, and also one in Utah county, estimated at sixty thousand dollars—all which are shown in the accompanying table.

From the information your committee have in their possession it is estimated that the cost of canals and water-ditches constructed by private enterprise for

the distribution of the water upon the lands and crops will nearly or quite equal the amount expended on the main canals.

Your committee have special pleasure in reporting the initiatory step for accumulating information upon this subject vital to the agricultural interests and the permanent prosperity of the inhabitants of this Territory, and respectfully recommend an appropriation of one thousand dollars, to be placed at the disposal of the D. A. & M. Society for the acquisition of such information on the subject of irrigation at home and abroad as shall best promote the agricultural interests of the Territory.

Commissioner Newton, of the Agricultural Department at Washington, in his bi-monthly report for September and October last, says, "During the present season there is no portion of the Union that has made returns indicating as favorable condition of crops as Utah." We ask by what means has the desert wilderness of the Great Basin of North America been brought thus to compare with the wealthiest and most fertile States of the nation? It is by irrigation—a system of labor and expense, of which the world are ignorant, and with which the people of Utah are yet but partially acquainted.

By irrigation, Utah is what she is: without irrigation she must soon relapse to what she was in 1847, when our pioneers first entered this Valley.

Concerning that portion of the Governor's Message, referred to your committee, suggesting a Memorial to Congress for an appropriation of waste lands, &c., your committee are at a loss what portion of the waste lands of Utah to petition for, as the whole Territory was composed of waste lands until rendered fertile by its present citizens, and most respectfully submit that, in their opinion, it would be more proper to ask Congress to appropriate the Territory of Utah to partially reimburse actual settlers for expenses already incurred in reclaiming its waste lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Council Committee { L. E. HARRINGTON, E. SNOW, JOSEPH A. YOUNG, WILFORD WOODRUFF. House Committee { FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS, JOHN VAN COTT, PETER MAUGHAN, JACOB GATES.

TABLE Showing the expense of the Main Irrigating Canals, and the amount of land irrigated by the same in Utah Territory.

COUNTIES.	No. of Canals.	Mean Length, Rods.	Mean Width, ft. in.	Mean Depth, ft. in.	Total Length, Rods.	Cost of Construction.	No. of Acres Irrigated.	Estimated cost of canals in progress.	REMARKS.
Great Salt Lake	24	1973	6	2	47352	\$397958	31763	\$1010000*	*Deseret Irrigation and Navigation Canal South West Jordan West Jordan
Cache	19	2363	7	1	44897	302953	27448	60000†	†For to bring the water of Provo River to Lehi.
Utah	85	1359	7	1	47565	172542	32156	300000†	Davis county canal.
Weber	19	1374	6	2	26106	149377	10571		
Washington	11	1340	4	1	14740	126688	3496		
Sanpete	11	1897	4	1	20867	116268	20230		
Box Elder	11	1065	4	1	11715	54205	5599		
Juab	3	1706	4	1	5118	42500	2830		
Beaver	5	1520	4	1	7600	34769	2167		
Davis	11	887	4	1	9757	34305	6052		
Morgan	21	673	5	1	14133	34030	4650		
Millard	9	1777	10	2	15993	30760	5695		
Summit	4	545	7	2	2180	27450	5205		
Kane	14	531	2	1	7434	20700	904		
Tooele	13	2885	4	1	8655	18300	2019		
Iron	11	860	4	1	9460	17490	3383		
Wasatch	4	520	4	1	2080	1650	2798		
Green River									Not reported.
Richland									Not reported.
	215	23275	95	8	326552	\$1581945	166970	\$1370000	

TOOK IT COOLLY.—An elephant and bull fight took place lately at Saragossa, Spain. The elephant was walking quietly about the arena when the first bull was released, and rushed at it with all his might. The elephant received his antagonist with great coolness, and threw him down with the utmost ease. The bull rose again and made two

more attacks, which the elephant resented by killing him with a thrust of his tusks. The conqueror did not seem in the least excited, but quietly drank some water offered by his keeper, and ate several ears of Indian corn. A second bull was then released, and in a few minutes suffered the same fate as the first.

NEWS ITEMS.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENON.

WEST TWENTIETH STREET, N. Y. } Saturday, December 24. }

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WORLD:

Last evening as I left the opera, at eleven, there appeared a celestial phenomenon which seemed well worthy of something more than a passing notice. The southern skies were in a delicate yet rich glow, somewhat pinker and lighter than the usual display of the aurora borealis. One-third up the heavens the mass of roseate clouds converged into a rod of apparently twelve feet long and five inches broad; then a fleecy space of six feet; then another rod with a shifting nodus—generally, however, at a little to the left of the middle point; then a space as before, and a third similar rod or band; the whole slightly arching over the continued centre of Broadway, returning slightly to the right of it. This appearance was distinctly seen in the middle third of the overhanging southern hemisphere, and far outshone the stars, being of a color not quite that of iron at red heat. It attracted much wondering observation, and did not fade away until eleven-thirty, when the accompanying halos also took to flight. What bodes the visitant at the "eleventh hour?" and who else saw it? OBSERVATEUR.

DEC. 13th, Mr. Douglas, attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad, paid into the Illinois State Treasury, \$234,423.96, being 7 per cent. of the gross earnings of the road for the six months ending October 31st last. This is the largest railroad instalment ever paid for six months' earnings.

THE Providence Journal says that Mr. Russell Coggshall, who recently died at Newport, R. I., left fifty thousand dollars for the poor of that city, and twenty thousand dollars to the Women's Aid Society, besides sums for other charitable purposes.

A "WORK AND AID SOCIETY" has been organized in New Haven, Ct., to relieve extreme poverty, to prevent street begging, to expose imposture, to provide employment for, and otherwise look after vagrants, discharged or convicted criminals, and degraded children.

AN iron letter has been sent by mail from Pittsburgh, Pa., to England. The iron was rolled so thin that the sheet was only twice the weight of ordinary note paper. It is supposed to be the thinnest iron ever rolled in the world, and was manufactured by the Sligo Iron Works.

SINCE Admiral Porter assumed command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, (in September last,) his share of prize money it is said will amount to nearly \$200,000. Three thousand five hundred bales of cotton alone, to say nothing of other valuable cargoes and the vessels carrying them, have been captured since his assignment to that command. At a moderate estimate the cotton itself is worth seventeen thousand dollars.

THE national banking capital now amounts to \$70,507,840.

DREADFUL INUNDATION IN SPAIN.

A correspondent of the London Morning Herald, writing from Denia, Spain, November 11, furnishes the following details of the inundation in Valencia, which has been already referred to:

The news of the hurricane at Calcutta had just reached us by telegraph when a somewhat similar catastrophe befel one of the wealthiest and most populous districts in the province of Valencia. The river Jucar, which has its source among the mountains of Cuenca, flows through and fertilizes one of the most productive districts of Spain.

On the night of the 3d there was a copious fall of rain, which continued on the morning of the 4th, and towards the evening, it seemed as if the windows of heaven had opened. Before midnight, the towns of Cullera, Alcira, Carcagente and Jativa, with many adjoining villages, were submerged in water.

In Alcira alone, upwards of two hundred houses near the banks of the river were completely swept away; others have fallen since, and many have had their foundations sapped. The poorer classes, whose houses were of one story only, were obliged to get on the roofs to save themselves from being drowned. Thousands from their house-tops anxiously looked for the morning. There was no escape.

The water had risen to a height of six or eight feet in the highest parts of the

town—in the lower part, whole houses were covered. In the convent of Carcagente the water was fifteen feet deep. Except cats and dogs, not a single domestic or farm animal has been left alive. Now that the waters have subsided, the streets and houses are full of the dead carcasses of horses, mules, donkeys, pigs, goats and sheep. On the first entrance into the town, twenty-one corpses were found in the streets; how many more are to be found in the houses that have fallen, how many drowned in their bed, and how many swept away with the flood, no one presumes to estimate. Already, above one hundred corpses have been taken to the church, but there is no place of interment for them; scarcely a vestige of the cemetery having been left.

About one hundred square miles—the most fertile and populous that the province of Valencia can boast of—have been inundated. From many places no information has, as yet, been obtained, and in this letter I have confined myself principally to what occurred at Alcira, as being the largest and most important town in the district. Albalat, a village near Alcira, was completely under water. From the nearest approach only the steeple of the church could be seen.

A royal decree has been issued by the Spanish government, for the opening of a national subscription in aid of the sufferers.

The Correspondencia of Madrid states that one thousand and two head of cattle, and one hundred and sixty-eight domestic animals have been drowned; two hundred and seventeen houses are in ruins, and six hundred and thirty-five are in a tottering state.

FRENCH PLOTS IN MEXICO.

You will remember that in a treaty entered into between Maximilian and Napoleon, soon after the accession of the former to the sovereignty of Mexico, it was stipulated that Mexico should secure to France the payment of the original French claims, together with all the expenses of the present war, and the maintenance of a stipulated number of troops for a certain length of time. It is now said that Napoleon, in order to secure this, has asked and received from the Mexican Government the entire right and ownership to the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Durango and Chihuahua. These States are to be consolidated into one Province, and is to be exclusively French, though under the protection of the Mexican flag. The most curious part of the story is, that after having expended this vast amount of money, incurring the risk of a war with the United States, Napoleon should turn the whole thing over to the sole management and keeping of an American traitor. Ex-Senator Gwin, it is positively asserted here by his friends, has the commission of Governor General, or Viceroy, and will leave Mexico for Arispe, Sonora—the intended Capital—in ten days. A code of laws drawn up by him while in Mexico last year, was submitted to Napoleon and approved by him. Five or six Americans (Southerners) arrived here last night from Mexico, to prepare the way for the new Viceroy; among them I notice a son a Major Henley, formerly Indian Agent for California; one Abbott, and a brother of General Beauregard. Judge Shattock, formerly of your city, and a host of Secessionists, are here in great glee. They say that their success in Mexico, under the French, compensates for the recent great victories of Sherman. If all this should be true, it will be the most glorious thing that has happened for California since the days of the Vigilance Committee, and like that great exterminator will clean your State of the most worthless population on the face of the earth. For yoursake I am afraid it is only Southern boasting.

If we are to receive the news of Gwin's accession to great power under French authority and protected by French bayonets, as a fact, then we may be permitted to assign a reason for such an extraordinary act of abnegation on the part of the usually tenacious Emperor. Either he is greatly deceived in the character of his newly pledged favorite, attributing to him and his followers qualities unknown to the Southern character, or he purposes, with some ulterior motive, to aid in the establishment of a Government antagonistic to our own, from the debris of the Southern Confederacy. In this ceding and trading of land in this country, we may also be permitted to inquire what is to become of the treaty, with General Stone, Captain Isham and others, by which they have, in justice and right, prior claims to one-third of all the public lands in these States?—[Alta correspondent, Mazatlan, Mexico, Jan. 14.