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A SLENDER HOPE.

A WASHINGTON special to the "Liberal" organ states that Governor Thomas has been working hard to save the Utah Commission, and had hopes of it being retained "on a per diem compensation." The compensation seems to figure conspicuously on both sides of the question of the retention or abolition of this useless body.

If Mr. Thomas really has any such hope as is attributed to him, we do not believe there is more than a shadowy foundation for it. The action of Mr. Holman, chairman of the committee on appropriations, in having the item for the compensation of the Commission stricken from the appropriation bill, will bring the subject squarely before both branches of Congress. This means that the uselessness of the Commission will be made as clear as daylight. The result must be that the National legislature will perceive the folly of longer paying out a large sum annually without any reason or receiving any adequate service in return. The hope of retention is also against the general disposition to afford Utah some relief from the political thralldom in which she is held.

If, however, by any possible means, the result should be different to what we anticipate, the Commission would be placed in a delicate position from a financial standpoint. The members have had so little to do, have consequently spent so little time in attending to it, and resided only at brief intervals in the Territory that the per diem system would scarcely bring them a pittance. If, in order to maintain the amount at anything like a respectable figure, longer time should be consumed in doing next to nothing, comparisons with previous years would throw the matter into an unenviable light.

The existence of the Commission is as absurdity. It has not the merit of consistency from any standpoint. Its only utility is in the fact that it supplies easy posts for a number of placemen. We believe it is doomed to extinction, and is now in fact almost practically defunct.

USE-A LITTLE COMMON SENSE.

THERE are many city ordinances with which the public are not familiar, because they have not been published in such a way that the majority of the people will see them. One of them at least should be understood by citizens generally; it is as follows:

"SECTION 1. Section 6 of chapter 25 of the Revised Ordinances of Salt Lake City, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 6. No cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats or swine shall be allowed to run at large, or be herded, picketed, or staked out upon any street, sidewalk or other public place within the limits of the city; and all such animals so found may be taken up and driven to the estray pound, provided, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent any person from driving milch cows, work cattle, horses, mules or other animals from outside the city limits to any enclosure within the city limits; or from any enclosure in the city to a place outside of the city.

"Sec. 2. This ordinance shall take effect in two weeks from its publication.

"Passed March 18, 1890."

That the city should not be made a herd ground, and that animals ought not to be turned loose in the streets; must be evident to everybody. Also that when an ordinance is passed it should be enforced, whether its provisions be the essence of concentrated wisdom or not. And the citizens of Salt Lake should all take notice that animals must not be "herded, picketed or staked out" on a street, sidewalk or other public place in the city. Indeed, if the ordinance is to be taken according to the letter thereof, animals must not be driven from one enclosure in the city to another enclosure in the city. They may be driven from outside the city limits to an enclosure inside the city, or from one inside to a place outside the city, but not otherwise. However, we suppose the spirit instead of the letter of the law should be the guide.

But there are mounted police in the city, who draw each \$110 a month for riding around eight hours a day, and whose chief service appears to be to pick up some poor woman's cow or other animal which, by the strictest construction of the letter of the ordinance or by stretching it a little, can be adjudged as liable to capture. We have heard of several animals being taken by these officers to the estray pound which were doing no damage, but still were, technically, perhaps, subject to seizure.

For instance, a lady had her horse tied to a tree in front of her residence in the eastern part of the city for a short time. The mounted police, who we understand hunt for such chances in couples, unfasted the horse and took it to the estray pound. At another place a horse was so tied while the owner went to get the harness in order to take a drive, and before she could return the animal was seized by the patrol, and was at once impounded. In another part of town a cow was tied to a tree in front of the house, the lady who owned it, an invalid, watching the animal from the porch to see that it did not get away. Two mounted officers swooped down upon it, untied it, and in spite of her tearful request that she be allowed to put it in the barn, and her promise that it should not be placed outside again if contrary to law of which she was not before aware, the cow, after sarcasms and sneers from the "gallant" cowcatchers, was driven to the pound. One dollar in each case had to be paid, of course, to obtain the release of the animals and more if not taken away before being fed. These

are only sample cases. They all occurred in places remote from the business part of the city.

Now, we suggest to the City Marshal that this sort of thing is not exactly what was intended by the wise men, or otherwise, who passed the ordinance. "There is reason in roasting of eggs," and there should be some in the execution of the law. If the object is to keep the streets clear of animals, there is no need to loose them when securely tied for a temporary purpose, and drive them to the pound when the owners are willing to comply with the law as soon as they understand it. It is also a question whether the law is actually, or even technically violated, if a horse or a cow is tied to a post or a tree while its shed is being cleaned out, when it is not "herded, picketed or staked out." When officers are so very technical they ought to be careful that they do not strain the law until they break it themselves. In the cases we have cited, we believe they were in the wrong.

Another thing. We only voice the sentiment of the public on this question when we say that if a little more vigilance was used in the enforcement of the laws against gambling, Sunday liquor-selling and other and worse practices, at which some folks think the police quietly wink while they pass by and do nothing, and a little less eagerness to fill up the estray pound and make fees for the keeper, by seizing animals not running at large, there would be greater consistency and more satisfaction with the police service. We have no wish to find fault with officers in the discharge of their duties, but we agree with those citizens who think that policemen ought to have some sense and that if they haven't any of their own their superiors ought to drill a little into their craniums.

DEATH OF LEO HAEFELI.

YESTERDAY, the mortal remains of Leo Haeffeli were laid away to rest. We are sorry that information as to the time and place of the funeral was not more widely circulated. If they had been known there would have been, no doubt, an attendance of many members of the press in order to show their sympathy with the bereaved and render a last tribute to the memory of the deceased. Professor Haeffeli was a man of more than ordinary learning and culture. He was proficient in several languages, a writer of considerable ability and a bright and original thinker. He was unfortunate in financial matters and had failings which hindered his progress materially. But he was of a generous disposition and genial habits and was exceedingly sensitive to kindness or a slight. If he had been made of sterner stuff he would probably have been more successful in life. We grieve for his afflicted wife and children, and hope that they will be comforted by kind friends in their hour of trial. They should not be left destitute, nor should the faults of the departed obscure his virtues in the eyes of the living, or cramp the hand of charity in extending needful help as well as kindly sympathy for those whom he has left without provision for their support.