

A civil government was organized on Sunday December 22, at this place.
Hurrah for Statehood! Wm. B.

H. G. Whitney, business manager of the celebrated Mormon Tabernacle choir, and Evan Stephens, leader of that famous musical organization, are in the city arranging for a series of six concerts to be given in this city by the choir during April next, says Tuesday's San Francisco Chronicle. Since their success at the World's Fair, where they won a \$1,000 prize in competition, the members of the choir have been desirous of visiting San Francisco, and their wish is about to be realized. It would be too great an undertaking to bring the whole choir here, for it numbers 500 persons, but the excursion party will include 200 picked singers.

The choir was organized by Brigham Young soon after the Mormons settled in Utah, and has been in existence thirty-five years. During that time, under the best leaders obtainable, it has gradually increased in size and has been kept fresh by constant accessions from the best musical talent of Salt Lake City. The great Mormon Tabernacle is its home. Except for the trip to Chicago, which cost \$25,000, the choir has never been heard outside of the Tabernacle. It has not a professional singer in its make-up, all are young men and women of Mormon birth, who are members of the choir because they love music. Among the members are a number of children and grandchildren of Brigham Young. Evan Stephens, the leader, is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory and Organist Daynes is a pupil of Dudley Buck.

A Mr. Peterson, whose family lives in Salt Lake City, has been trying to improve a farm on Provo bench and has been living there alone. Some time ago a Chinaman in destitute circumstances came to Peterson and asked to be allowed to stay with him till he could find work somewhere. Peterson granted the request and the Chinaman has been left alone on the farm several times when Peterson has been called away, as Peterson believed he was honest and would look after the place. Last week Peterson went to Salt Lake and on his return on Monday he found his protegee gone. This did not particularly disturb him; but Tuesday he discovered that about seventy bushels of winter apples had been taken away from a haystack where they had been placed for protection from the frost. He now thinks that the Chinaman and some white thief have loaded the apples in a wagon and taken them to Salt Lake City or Park City—most probably the latter place, as the Chinaman wanted to go there. The Chinaman is about 25 years of age and "good looking for a Chinaman," and speaks fairly good English. An old brown spotted coat, with cuffs, is also missing from Peterson's home and is supposed to have been taken by the Chinaman. The matter has been placed in the hands of the officers and it is to be hoped the guilty parties will be found. Peterson is a poor man and a cripple and feels disconsolate over the loss of the fruit as it represented the available proceeds of his summer's toil.

The county court met in regular session Thursday and among other

things created the office of county auditor. C. F. Emery, the selectmen's clerk, was chosen to fill the office. County Attorney Whittemore rendered an important opinion on the salary question as follows:

Gentlemen: I herewith return the claims of J. C. McNally, probate judge, Charles H. Roberts and A. S. Gaudes, selectmen, for compensation for the month of December, 1895, and in relation herewith to report as follows:

The Territorial statutes require that the county court shall not credit or allow any claim or bill against the county unless the same be itemized, giving names, dates, particular services rendered, character of work done, etc.

That all claims against the county presented by members of the county court for per diem or mileage or other services rendered by them must be itemized and verified as other claims and must state that the services have been actually rendered. The compensation of probate judges and selectmen is fixed by the law at \$4 per day for each day actually employed in attending to business pertaining to the county court for mileage.

I find that the charges in each of these claims are made in conformity with the rate of compensation as aforesaid, but that the claims do not comply with the law in regard to the manner in which the charges are made in reference to the character of the work and particular services rendered. I have therefore prepared in each case a claim in a manner that in my opinion is in conformity with the laws of Utah and herewith submit them to this court for adoption.

The new City Council met shortly after 2 p.m. Thursday afternoon for the purpose of organization. The opening rounds were of a highly interesting character and were presided over by Councilman Wiscomb while Recorder Emery filled the duty incumbent upon him.

B. T. Lloyd was in the chair of Councilman Watson, deceased, and after being denied the rights appertaining thereunto, was permitted to make a speech in which he claimed briefly and emphatically that he was Mr. Watson's legal successor and that he proposed to act accordingly.

The chair held otherwise and on motion of Newell further consideration was postponed until Tuesday night next.

The chairman here announced nominations for president as telog in order and Stewart named Romney as a man who would see that the affairs of the city would be well looked after and its treasury carefully guarded.

Dale placed the name of Newell before the council as a man of ability and fairness. The first vote stood:

Romney—Diehl, Wiscomb, Buckle, Romney, Stewart, Callister—6.

Newell—Mulvey, Dale, Hayward, Morris, LeProhon, Allen, Newell—7. Absent—O'Meara.

The chair announced no choice—stating that eight votes were necessary to elect and on motion of LeProhon a recess of ten minutes was taken in which to allow the members to caucus.

On resuming regular deliberations and the taking of a second ballot it was ascertained that LeProhon (Re-

publican) had deserted the Democratic forces and allied himself with his own party. His vote was the only change from the first ballot, and made the result Newell 6, Romney 7. Absent—O'Meara.

A third ballot at 3:30 resulted in the election of Councilman Newell, who received 9 votes. Those Republicans who voted for him were Diehl, LeProhon and Wiscomb. Adjourned.

The fire fiend went out on a devastating tour Monday with the result that one man, George Barnard, of Brigham City, was burned to death, and other persons subjected to an experience that they will never forget. In all about \$25,000 worth of property was destroyed. Not one cent's worth of insurance was carried, and policy writers throughout the day have been solloctating themselves accordingly, while unfortunate owners of destroyed business blocks and contents are in dire distress and despair.

The fire, it appears, had its origin in a room of the Lewis hotel where an attache of the place was engaged in drawing off gasoline. From some unknown cause the fluid ignited and in a remarkably short space of time the blaze had enveloped several of the nearest buildings. Being lumber conceros the flames found easy burning fuel. The news of the calamity that had so suddenly overtaken the camp traveled even faster than the conflagration itself and miners appeared on the scene from every direction and worked as only human beings can under such circumstances. But proper facilities for fighting fire were not at hand and they made very slow progress.

When the flames had been beaten back and extinguished the hotel where the blaze started, Caldwell Bros.' butcher shop, the Golden Gate saloon, Joseph Lippman's recently purchased cigar store, F. M. Bishop's assay office and a number of other buildings with their contents had been reduced to ashes. The total loss, it is said, will closely approximate if not exceed \$25,000. The lamentable feature is that there was no guard against loss, all the insurance companies refusing to write policies until better provisions are made for extinguishing fires. But for the heroic work of business men and miners alike the loss would have been much greater. The Mercur hotel and immediately surrounding buildings were made special marks for protection and were overhung with wet blankets, kept so by continuous streams of water. Other buildings were torn down in order that the path of the devourer might be cut off.

George Barnard, a bartender at the Lewis hotel, and a resident of Brigham City, perished in the flames. His remains were charred beyond all human semblance. He was thirty years of age and unmarried. S. J. Moody, of Ogden, who occupied a room in the hotel near that of Barnard, had a very narrow escape as did also several other persons. Lewis, the owner of the hotel, recently went to Mercur from Bountiful, his former home.

The Sutro street car, San Francisco, it is now thought, will be running in about a week or ten days. The new Cliff House will not be opened, however, until the last of the month.