

EDITORIALS.

BARBED WIRE FENCE.

We are in receipt of a letter dated February 4, signed by some farmers of Weber County, in relation to the petition concerning barbed wire fences. It appears that "Gilead," the humorous Salt Lake correspondent of the Ogden Junction, has been making some remarks in regard to the matter, which have angered the farmers considerably, for the letter makes many severe references to his manner of handling the subject. As we have no desire to make a personal matter of the discussion, we merely publish those parts of the letter which touch the main question, and which are as follows:

"Some of the signers of the petition are amongst the most extensive farmers and stock raisers of Weber County. Our Sunday School Superintendent, W. R. R. Stowell, at whose instance this is written, set the petition afloat in Weber County, having been at much loss through those inhuman fences, losing one valuable animal besides others severely mangled.

Sometimes about three wires loosely stretched along posts from 16 to 30 feet apart, so that cattle may easily get through, and when inside, with the terrier behind, they rush through the wires and are torn and mangled, not seeing the same for want of a substantial rail on the top and sufficient posts with a tough wire, that they may not spread them sufficient to get through."

The remainder of the letter contains merely some funny allusions to Gilead's remarks, and is therefore omitted as not pertinent to the main question, which is likely to receive fair and serious consideration from the Assembly. A wire fence is cheap and easily constructed, and is therefore coming into extensive use, but humanity, to say nothing further, seems to require something placed on the fence by which animals can see the enclosure.

PALESTINE FOR ISRAEL.

A SCHEME which has received the unofficial approbation of Lords Beaconsfield, Salisbury and others is being matured at Constantinople, for the organization of an Ottoman Company to colonize with Jewish subjects, the vast fertile and almost unoccupied tract of country lying east of the river Jordan. It is asserted that the Sultan's firman will shortly be given to the scheme, which is bound to be a source of profit to the government in its great financial extremity, and of strength to the empire at large. It will also afford the Sultan a fine opportunity of showing the sincerity of his desire to introduce reforms into at least one of the Asiatic provinces of his empire. The country intended for this experiment is that which formed the former heritage of the tribes of Gad and Reuben, and is said to be far superior in productive capacity to the territory on the west of the Jordan. The entire region, proposed for colonization, comprising an area of about 1,500,000 acres, would become the property of an Ottoman company, through whose agency, in conjunction with the Turkish authorities, it is proposed it should be administered, and is to constitute a separate province of the empire. The colony could be connected by rail with the port of Haitee, by way of the Valley of the Jordan, which has a good incline the whole way, presenting no engineering difficulties.

[COMMUNICATED.]

LEGISLATION.

In the halls of legislation everywhere there is a tendency to forgetfulness of the fact that all such assemblies are the creatures of the people, that the members are public servants, and sworn to protect the public interests. That there are numberless temptations to this forgetfulness none will deny. Many legislators are laborers for self, they have private interests to subserve, and in view of this fact, so long as human nature is human nature, even the best of such bodies will not suffer by general public scrutiny.

Probably not one of such assemblies in the United States is as free from jobbery as is the Legislature of Utah, but with the increasing wealth of the Territory, with the crowding demands consequent upon a rapidly increasing population there will be more disposition to enter into many speculations, and these needing certain powers from the Legislature may seek by means far from uncommon elsewhere to accomplish what they desire.

Lobbying and even bribery in one form or another appears to be pretty general, not only in Washington, but almost as a consequence, through all legislative bodies down to the municipalities of many of our cities. Men in office are often besieged for jobs which really mean the privilege of putting a hand into the public purse; and the cry of "Civil Reform" only shadows what is thought to be barely hidden from sight.

For methods to protect the public from consequences which have grown out of grants made valid by legal enactment, we have only to look to Europe, where the shameless and unblushing corruption of this free country is almost unknown.

Men may differ in their estimate of the limits wherein governments may control public needs, and where such needs may be supplied by private capital and individual enterprise; but all agree that when public interests are unheeded or not subject to much consideration by persons or companies holding special charters for special things, that there the grantee is justified in recalling the privileges and rights involved in those charters, and vesting them in the people for the public good. It is a well-known practice of British Legislation in the formation of gas companies to insist upon a continued reduction in the price of gas, whenever such company by virtue of its success shall have realized more than a certain specified interest for its stockholders. Railways have received charters with similar provisions, and though both may in many instances have evaded the restriction by the issue of new stock, and others by an enlargement of premises or more expensive buildings and stations on railways, yet the facts are evident that the legislative intent was to protect the public and to prevent monopoly, and in the meantime these improvements have favored increased local taxation which has inured to the benefit of ratepayers at large.

However, in the exercise of its powers, the British (or English) Government as I should say) has taken to itself the monopoly of telegraphy. These lines of public necessity and advantageous intercourse now belong to the people, and while they are not intended to be worked at a loss, messages are bound to come to the minimum, instead of being in the interest of stockholders working up to a maximum, and one question now agitating the public mind, is in regard to the railroad lines of England, whether they will not be better for the patrons thereof under the more immediate surveillance of the Government, finally becoming the property of the state or people. Nevertheless they are under so much compulsion as to provide third class convenience now on every train, with one exception, where privilege charter is yet intact.

Germany is also making estimates of the railroads in all her territory preparatory to their purchase as a means of deliverance from the grasp of legally chartered but not easily controlled monopoly.

On the water question which is another of the great necessities of any community, there is in England a growing sentiment in favor of a general consolidation and connection of all such companies, making the whole the property of the government, and consequently of the people. With a good government, honestly officered, there is no valid reason why all these great charters should not be revoked by purchase, and be manipulated in the interests of the consumers or users. That which is a success in postal matters, in telegraphy, might be and is capable of just as great success in railroads, gas and water control, and probably there may be other domains in which these mammoth companies, sitting as an incubus upon the energies and necessities of a people, and becoming powerful as rings, companies and corporations, and soulless as a granite rock, could be dispensed with at the instance of the power which created them, and thus practically revert to the good old idea that governments are made for and exist to give the "greatest good to the greatest number."

Wherever, whenever or to whom-

soever a charter or franchise is granted for any real or supposed public necessity, let its provisions be so rigid as to limit the amount of profits which shall be drawn from the patronizing yet helpless victims. This the people expect of legislators as their servants, this they have the right to require.

THE DUTY OF CAPITAL.

SOME few days ago there appeared in the News an article on "the duty of labor," in which it was suggested as a first necessity that labor should seek self-knowledge, should realize its own inherent power and capabilities, and through this intelligent understanding learn to depend more upon itself, and less upon those who in the community are so-called capitalists.

It would be unfair to infer from this that capital neither knows nor possesses any duties, for it has many, and duties too, in this section, and among this people, which should be of a far higher order than can exist elsewhere, this by virtue of a religious sentiment and thought connected therewith.

The majority (including these capitalists) are of one faith, they profess one purpose, and seek one end. Their faith is, claimed to be divinely revealed, their purpose is to labor for its diffusion, and the end sought is the establishment of divine order and government on the earth.

In a more than common sense, they are of one family, one house, a living brotherhood with interwoven conceptions of that special interest in and for each other which such relationship implies, and which was so aptly expressed by President Young when he proposed to supplant the ancient maxim of "Live and let live," by the more noble and divine, "Live, and help live."

Now, human interests are numerous in aspect, but one in fact, and physical subsistence is necessary as a ground work for all progress both secular and religious. And that religious life which gives itself to the "saving of souls," ignoring the "saving of bodies," lacks one of the grandest elements of the Divine.

But it may be asked, what connection is there between the duty of capital and the religion of the cross? Much every way. The spirit of the latter should be the saving element of capital, purging it from selfishness, leading it away from individual accretion, and endowing it with the momentum of a force working with a sublime idea.

It should not wait for coercion, or even the invitation of any authority to lead out in the interests of the brotherhood, but should be prompt in devising, quick in execution, and unflinching in practice, until provision is made for every willing laborer in the brotherhood to earn subsistence and attain independence for himself and family. It is very easy to understand that while labor is the creator of capital, when dormant it is a non-producer, and the nature of society is, and has been such (as a rule) that capital has provided for this labor, until labor waits without energy for its accustomed provision. Those who have means are the few who have escaped this condition, by reason of greater vitality, circumstances or intelligence, personally, or the accident of bequest. Then, again, a poor man's labor is his all. If in any enterprise, (even a good one) he invests his entire time, the wolf is at his door, while the man of thousands can invest in a long deferred and even finally unsuccessful scheme, and yet have of this world's goods in store, and in no serious sense is his life's enjoyment much curtailed.

These thoughts lay at the foundation of one of our largest institutions. Had that been an absolute failure (in a fundamental sense) the great weight of original investment would not have crippled its leading stockholders, yet when it became a success (had the original intent been carried out) those same leading capitalists would have said to the people, north and south, "We with our surplus means have taken what risk there was in the establishment of this institution, and now that it is a success, we invite you (men and women of small capital) to lift this from our shoulders, buy us out, and the same capital shall again lead forward in some other direction, open up some new industry, and create opportunities for more labor, thus constituting this surplus the pioneer in many industrial pursuits."

Suppose then that iron is the objective point of this now released capital, (and a magnificent industry it is,) there may be obstructions in the way, difficulties to be surmounted, but under the vigilant supervision of these practical, experienced business men one after another gives way, and soon iron runs into stoves, forms into nails, lengthens into bars, and triumph brings enthusiasm as the word goes forth to the people, north and south, "See, after the exercise of patience, after much experiment, sometimes 'cast down but never destroyed,' our iron industry is on a sure and permanent footing. Will you not buy us out?" And from every man who owns \$5, and from every woman who is an economist in eggs, comes the ready reply, "we have done pretty well with our little investment already and we are willing to try again!" Soon in dribblets gathered from every family the purchase money is on hand, and again the released and ready surplus capital goes forth to find in other avenues a field for its enterprise and power.

One after another these great industrial organizations spread from commerce to iron, from iron to glass, from glass to crockery, from that to railroads or something else, yet each in its successful issue becoming the property of the people, thus preventing the growth of plutocracy and class distinctions, as brotherhood indicates for ever.

And that which is true of the parent is true of all its children, in every settlement of our Territory. They were instituted as a means, they have become the end. They were meant for freedom, in far too many instances they became monopolies and provoked division. Meant as the stepping stones to independence, they have faltered as a whole, and, in isolated instances only, have dividends and increased capital been used to further the once grand aim of industrial independence.

Pioneers, they have not discovered the land they sought. Breakwaters against the encroachments of middlemen, they have created a new class, in places, whose "little finger is heavier than the father's loins." Dispensers of imported merchandise, they have become the great patrons of foreign labor. May we not quote here: "He that neglecteth to provide for his own, especially those of his own household, hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

These organizations have been sustained because it was better to uphold them than to sustain an avowed enemy. But there is great scope for repentance, and great need for rebaptism, ere the seed of professed co-operation will fruit in home industries, and prepare the way for that unity of interest so thoroughly necessary in the fulfillment of the mission given to us, or mistakenly assumed. Will our capitalists think on this? Will they heed the cries of the Saints for a chance to work, or will they place an embargo upon the gathering, and measurably frustrate the deliverance of Israel from the bondage of modern Babylon?

FORCIBLE EJECTION.

PROVO CITY,
February 3d, 1880.

Editors Deseret News:

Is it lawful for delegates elected by the people in convention assembled to sit with closed doors? and in the event of a citizen being forcibly ejected, are the persons ejecting him liable to punishment by law for so doing?

A DELEGATE.

In answer to the foregoing, being requested to reply through the News, we will say that it is very unusual for conventions of delegates chosen by the people to sit with closed doors. Such assemblies are generally considered open to the public. The delegates are the servants and representatives of the people, and their acts and sayings as such are open to scrutiny and criticism. Popular assemblies should be free to the people under ordinary circumstances. Some legislative bodies sit with closed doors when in executive session, but usually the public, under certain regulations to preserve order, have access to their meetings.

The second part of the question it too broadly put. It does not state under what circumstances the ejection took place or is supposed to have occurred. If a citizen present as such a Convention conducts himself in a disorderly manner, or interferes

in any way with the proceedings—in which he has no voice unless a delegate—the ejection might be perfectly right and indeed necessary. But if the citizen should be forcibly ejected merely because he was peaceably determined to be present, we think his ejection would be illegal and that the persons using or ordering the exercise of force for his removal would be legally liable for such improper action.

Not knowing the circumstances of the particular case to which our correspondent evidently alludes, we cannot return any more specific answer than this to his queries.

THE NEW CANAL.

SALT LAKE CITY,
Feb. 6th, 1880.

Editors Deseret News:

As there seems to be a difference of opinion in regard to building the Salt Lake and Jordan Canal, and exempting the bonds proposed to be issued by the city, from all taxation, perhaps answers to the following questions would serve to enlighten the public mind in regard thereto.

1st. From whence does the City Council obtain the right to build said canal (giving the language of the statute)?

2nd. Is it right to tax the whole population of Salt Lake City to benefit only a portion, or how is the whole of the people to be benefitted if taxed?

3d. The irrigation law seems to be sufficient for the inhabitants of Salt Lake and other counties to build canals for their own use, and they have built miles of the same, without such special legislation as asked for now. Why cannot those who expect to be benefitted in this case do likewise?

4th. Would it not be more republican in principle to submit a question of such great expense both in the building and maintenance of such a canal, to the people of the city for their vote, and thereby test the feelings of the people, so that the council could be assured of their support or not?

5th. Where does the City Council get the right to divert the waters of the Jordan River or any other stream (to the injury of other citizens of the county) from its natural source, or spend the revenue of the city 15 or 20 miles outside of the limits of the city? Give language of statute, if any.

6th. Would it not be better for the Legislature, Salt Lake County and City to make special appropriations out of their respective treasuries in aid of the enterprise, if it is really needed?

7th. Should not the bonds issued by the City be taxed in preference to railroad bonds, whose property of every description is taxed which the bonds represent?

8th. If railroad property and its bonds also are taxed is it not double taxation?

9th. The issuing of a quarter of a million dollars in bonds untaxable would take one quarter of a million dollars worth of taxable money from the capitalists and they would get value received while the Territory, county, school and city would suffer the loss of this amount of taxable property. Would this not be unjust to other property holders?

10th. Will not the keeping in repair of this canal and the necessary protection of the rights of the citizens of Salt Lake in summer require a mounted regiment of watchmen to traverse the distance of the canal, about twenty miles, be a terrible expense to the city?

11th. Will not the greater part of water run into the canal be wasted by seepage, leakage, evaporation and stealing during the extreme heat of summer?

Respectfully,

A CITIZEN.

[Several of the above questions are not pertinent to the subject because the measure before the Assembly has been very much modified since its introduction. The others are open for replies by those who are interested on either side. At present we do not wish to discuss the matter but would prefer to hear from the advocates and opponents of the project.—Ed.]

WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOTTOES.

At the twelfth Annual Meeting of the Woman Suffrage Association, held January 21st, in Lincoln Hall, Washington, D. C., the following mottoes were hung upon the walls, which were decorated with flags, flowers and evergreens: