

spectators of the superb marching and dress parade of the First Connecticut regiment yesterday was Archibald Forbes, the famous war correspondent of the *London News*. He said to a reporter of the *News* and *Courier*, I am free to say that it seems to me that if there are a great many regiments like that of Connecticut I saw here on parade in the nation, it don't want any standing army at all, as they would constitute a far cheaper and more effective force than any standing army would be. I have seen all the armies in the world, I believe, from Afghan scalawags to Russian Imperial guards and I have never seen greater precision and solidity than these men manifested.

The grand jury indicted Captain Howgate for forging the name of R. H. Rochester, of the Treasury, to the amount of \$35,000.

ST. LOUIS, 26.—Secretary Windom formally declined to be elected United States Senator.

ST. LOUIS, 26.—The *Post-Dispatch*, Kansas City: Major Jno. A. Mix, 9th Cavalry, U. S. A., died on the Santa Fe train this morning, while en route for Fort Cummings, N. M. He leaves a family at Westminster, Conn.

KEOKUK, Ia., 26.—The river rose last night several inches and more expected before the water begins to recede.

The inundation is the worst ever experienced and is 12 inches above that of last spring.

UTAH.

ITS COUNTRY, CLIMATE, PRODUCTIONS, MINERALS, RELIGION, PEOPLE AND POLITICS.

[Correspondence Louisville Post.]

OGDEN, UTAH, August 21.—My former letter was confined to the educational and political view of this Territory; now other aspects will be presented.

Utah geographically is situated between 36 and 47 degrees of north latitude and 109 and 114 degrees of west longitude, and except an oblong square of 60 by 120 miles, from its northeast corner, included in Wyoming Territory, is a square of 200 by 300 miles, and as it contains 82,800 square miles, or more than twice the territory of Kentucky, and embracing the climatic variety of five degrees of both latitude and longitude.

This variety of climate is further enhanced by its numerous elevations of buttes and mountains, and the depression of its many valleys, surrounded as these are by high mountain peaks, clad with snow ten out of the twelve months of the year, and some perpetually, giving delightfully cool and refreshing nights, whilst the days especially in July and August are quite warm.

The Great Salt Lake, with its mean length of over 100 miles, and breadth of 40 miles, bisected, as it is, from end to end, with large mountainous islands, and water six times more saline than the oceans, has a great modifying influence over the climate of its great basin or valley, so that, although its basis is of much greater altitude than either Kentucky or Tennessee, yet the climate is both more regular, and milder, not having the same extremes of heat and cold.

Whilst its mean temperature is lower than that of Kentucky, lying as it does, between 40 and 42 degrees of north latitude, yet its winters are as mild as those of Tennessee.

Salt Lake City in latitude 40 deg. 30 min., has a mean temperature of 52 degrees, whilst Louisville in latitude a little north of 38 deg., has a mean temperature of 56 deg., and Nashville, in latitude 36 deg. has a mean temperature of 58 deg. Now this 6 deg. difference between Salt Lake City and Nashville is made up by the mild summers and cool nights therein.

There are numerous fresh water lakes in the territory, all influencing more or less the climate. From May to October rains are few and light, without much lightning or thunder. So there are many more days suitable for work here than east of the Rockies. The valleys, when irrigated, are exceedingly productive, yielding annually twenty to seventy-five bushels of wheat or barley, and oats and rye accordingly, and from three to ten tons of hay per acre. The lucern, or California Alfalfa, a variety of the clover, produces from three to four crops of from one to three tons per acre annually. At this writing the third crop for this season is being harvested. Vegetables common to mild climates grow in great profusion

here, and it produces fruits equal to the most favored regions of the continent, such as apricots, plums, pears, peaches, apples, and the small fruits, grapes, etc. Minerals of all kinds, including lead, silver, gold, iron and coal, are found in and along nearly all the mountain ranges, but are still in an exceedingly imperfect state of development.

Considering the variety and excellence of climate, superior agricultural and grazing capacity, extensive and rich mineral deposits, Utah contains more natural wealth than perhaps any other 82,000 square miles on the continent.

In 1870 it had 600 miles of railroads in operation; since, this has been doubled. Its population, by the census of 1880, was a fraction under 144,000, hence it is quite perceptible that there is yet ample room and opportunity for many more here.

Its people are orderly and law-abiding, frugal and friendly toward all who treat them respectfully and observe their rights, except some of them will engage in a little too much marrying, predicated this, however, upon the recognized habits of the old "fathers in Israel," from Abraham down through many generations, and, indeed, until the times of the crucifixion, claiming that one of the apostolic churches indulged in this luxury without condemnation of, or remonstrance by, the Nazarene. They are, however, sensitive as to their religion, which they have espoused—with an earnestness, zeal and devotion not excelled by any other class of worshippers. Their church organization is founded on the revelations as found in the Bible, New Testament, Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, this latter as delivered to their prophets, seers and revelators, beginning with Joseph Smith, their first prophet, and founder of their faith.

Their organization has much inherent strength, beginning with the head, or highest church tribunal, and descending through its various gradations; order is preserved from a common center to the circumference all around.

The First Presidency, or Supreme Church tribunal, consists of a President, now John Taylor, and his two Counselors, Hon. George Q. Cannon, the delegate in Congress, and Joseph F. Smith, a nephew of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Next comes the quorum of Twelve Apostles, selected from their most sagacious, solid men of character for wisdom, sobriety, morality, firmness and devotion, and these are selected from the various sections of the Territory of the Church, and not only fill the places of Apostles spiritually, but in all financial matters pertaining to the Church they act as a board of directors for a bank. The Church territory is divided into "Stakes of Zion;" a Stake is generally, but not always, formed of a county, and these Stakes are again partitioned into Wards.

Each Stake has a Presidency, consisting of a President and two Counselors, and has also a Grand Council, consisting of twelve Elders, selected because of their character for probity and intelligence, and over each Ward there is a Bishop, with his two Counselors, and then there are at least two teachers to every congregation.

The Church has also a Grand Council of twelve Elders, men of like character, which sits at the head or center Stake at Salt Lake City.

The Teachers and Bishops and their Counselors must at least be of the Aaronic Priesthood, and the others of the Melchisedek Priesthood. Besides these there are the Seventies and numerous other Elders, all belonging to the last-named order of Priests. It is a cardinal principle with the Mormons, as taught in the Bible, that one brother should not go to law with another, but that all matters of difference, and all controversies, should be settled within the Church; hence, this regular gradation of Church tribunals—first, the Teachers in the congregation; second, Bishops' Courts; third, appeal to the Grand Council of the Stake, and then to the Grand Council of the Church. In the meantime the Presidency of the Stake, or the Supreme Presidency of the Church may reconcile matters and restore harmony and good fellowship.

But the humblest lay member may arraign the most exalted official of the Church before some one of these Church tribunals, and have his grievances inquired into and adjudicated. The wisdom of this strength and unity becomes the more apparent as its working is the

more clearly observed. And this may be said of the financial and political aspect of the institution.

When a County or Territorial election is to come on, it is made the duty of the Bishop of each Ward to ascertain the public sentiment of his people, and the Presidency of the Stake, Bishops and their Counselors and the Elders hold what is called a priesthood meeting, at which the favorites of the people for the various offices are ascertained as far as practicable, and selections for the various offices are made, to be presented to a County Convention, to consist of such delegates as each Ward may select, each Ward having a given number of votes, according to numbers.

This County Convention meets at the appointed time and designated place, in public consultation, as other conventions are held by other people, and in a very large majority of cases it nominates the ticket before selected at the priesthood meeting, for if the Bishops and Elders have diligently ascertained the wishes of their several wards, this ticket is the true reflex of the people's sentiment. Sometimes, however, they make a mistake, and then the convention overrules the Priesthood recommendation as was recently the case in one of the stakes for the office of sheriff, and over the opposition of the Presidency of the Stake, the convention nominated the people's favorite, and he was elected.

These instances are referred to for the purpose of showing that the masses are and must be consulted, no matter what the machinery employed. And this fully explains why the tickets selected by the Priesthood meetings are so generally adopted and elected without complaint. It is because the Bishops are generally diligent and faithful in ascertaining the wishes of his people, and the Priesthood are careful to respond to the public sentiment of the people, else their recommendation will be overruled in the County Convention.

Now, whilst this machinery is a mighty lever in keeping the majority intact and available, suppressing discord and discontents and preventing divisions, its wisdom and strength must be admitted by all fair-minded and candid men. Political machinery, whereby the majority will tell at the polls, is not only approved, but practised by all people having political rights and universally advocated by that party that has the majority.

To say that the Marmon people are governed by their priests in the selection of their officers, betrays either an ignorance of the workings of their machinery or a misrepresentation of them; for, as is seen, the priests are governed by what they believe the sentiments of their people demand, and this is the true reason why the masses are content, and why all the denunciation of the press, and pulpit and public rostrum make such little impression and head way and innovation upon what they please to term the power and influence of the priesthood, for in reality it is but the power and influence of the *vox populi*.

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