

There is no part of Utah where a union of labor could develop its agricultural resources more than Peoa. There is a bench between Peoa and the mouth of East Weber Canyon, of over 1000 acres, waiting for busy hands to cultivate it, and bring out a canal from the Weber River. The canal would cost \$3,000. We need all the faithful Saints from the old countries and the States.

EDMUND WALKER.

## EDITORIALS.

### A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THAT "IMPARTIAL" GRAND JURY REPORT.

THE report, it is manifest to all, was gotten up with one especial purpose in view—to endeavor to criminate, if possible, the city authorities and the principal authorities of the "Mormon" church. That is abundantly evident. It is the entire burden of the whole document, and the apparent aim of the whole affair. In the visible effort to accomplish this end the most unfair statements are made and the most unjustifiable inferences drawn. So that the document does not merit that respect and consideration which the really impartial report of a grand jury ought to merit and receive. It is so evidently unfair, so filled with partisan bias, as to be unworthy to influence any fair-minded person in the way it was manifestly intended to have an influence, but rather excites sentiments of disgust and contempt with such an apparent prostitution of the proper functions of a grand jury.

In regard to the city and the gas works, the letter of Mr. Ellerbeck, superintendent of the gas works, elsewhere published, shows the falsity of the report, so that we need not enlarge upon that point. The letter of Mr. Bates also exposes errors and misstatements of the report respecting moneys paid by the city for legal counsel.

The report mentions the church property of the "Mormons" or Latter-day Saints only as being taxed. Are there no other religions but "Mormons," is there no church property but that of the "Mormons," in Salt Lake City? If there is, why did this precious grand jury ignore all the other churches and religious denominations? Why this partiality in an "impartial" report? What was the animus for this invidious distinction? Could no political capital be made out of mentioning the other church property exempt from taxation? Or did the grand jury consider that the "Mormon" church property was the only church property that ought not to be exempt? Count the membership and the congregations of the various other churches and the membership and the congregations of the "Mormons," and estimate the respective property of the different churches exempt from taxation, and then see where this "impartial" report would be.

The report has much to say concerning the assessment of Brigham Young's property, and misrepresents the same. Only a portion of block 88 belongs to that gentleman, and not the whole of it, as stated in the report. Besides, the statement of the assessed value of a few pieces of property is a one-sided and catchpenny way of presenting the subject. There is nothing fair in such presentation, and it can hardly be made for the purpose of impartial information. It must be made for some ulterior purpose. Tax assessments upon real estate, etc., as is generally known, are made upon some particular scale of value, not by any means always upon what some may consider the full market value of the property assessed. It is usually considerably under that scale. City taxes are cash, and the relative cash value of property throughout the city, taking one lot with another, may be far less as regards any particular lot than that lot might be actually sold for under some circumstances. Because if a lot is bought because it may be desired, it may fetch a comparatively high figure, but if it is sold because it must be sold it may fetch but a very low figure. What the adopted scale of valuation in a tax assessment may be is of comparatively little moment, the important point is that the scale adopted be uniformly carried out. Cash is cash all the

time. There is no difficulty in assessing that. Stocks usually have their known market cash value. There is little difficulty in assessing them. Some few pieces of landed property have a market value tolerably well understood. But other landed property has no such definite and acknowledged market cash value. Thus in assessing landed property much must be left to the judgment of the assessor. House property is also of uncertain value. A particular house may be worth twice or three times as much to one person as it may be to another. Hence much house and other building property can hardly be assessed to satisfy everybody, and its assessment must be left in a great degree to the judgment of the assessor. The report does name the assessed value of a few pieces of property. But as to the scale of assessed values the report is silent and therefore worse than useless as well as unjust, for it virtually charges unequal assessment, but offers no evidence whatever to support the charge. This is a proceeding entirely unjustifiable in such a report. Assessment is a comparative work, and the real material question is this, Is such a piece of property assessed upon the same scale of value as other property, and does the tax upon the former fairly compare with the taxes upon the latter? Upon this all-important point this "impartial" report has nothing whatever to say. The report does say that with the exception of the "Mormon Church and Brigham Young," the grand jury believe that the assessor "has shown no partiality or discrimination between parties in fixing the valuation of property." This statement strengthens the prevalent idea that the "Mormon" church and the authorities thereof were the only parties the grand jury desired to hit, and further strength is given to the idea when it is considered that the statement quoted is partly made on the popular estimate of what property Brigham Young and that church own, while it is well known that popular estimates of the value of the possessions of various citizens are often of the wildest character, varying vastly from the actual facts.

Again as to unequal assessments. At certain definite and advertised times the City Council sits as a court to hear complaints of those who consider themselves unjustly assessed. Any person who feels aggrieved in this respect can prefer his complaint, have it heard and considered, and adjusted if the Council concludes that the complainant has been unfairly assessed.

Following out this popular assumption idea, the grand jury accept as fact the proposition that Brigham Young owns this and that and the other thing, and his taxes ought to be so and so. But no statements are made of definite property owned by him, except one, and that is incorrectly stated, being greatly exaggerated. Popular assumptions are not exactly the things upon which a grand jury should found statements, make insinuations, and virtually prefer charges, all of a serious nature, and which, so far as they are not true, are of the nature of slanders and libels. Brigham Young has property in stocks of various kinds, upon which he pays large taxes, in common with other stockholders, though not in his own personal name. On the other hand much real estate popularly assumed to belong to Brigham Young, might be found to belong to somebody else.

In regard to the docket of ex-Alderman Clinton it is stated, in a manner that gives it the nature of an insinuation, that the receipts entered therein correspond with his reports to the City Council. There is then no foundation for any insinuation, excepting a more or less prevalent assumption, to incorporate which in a report of a grand jury is very unworthy business.

Here is another insinuation. Referring to an amount of \$487.50 paid deputy marshal Jan. 27, 1872, the insinuation is made that Captain Evans, U. S. deputy marshal, was then holding Brigham Young in custody, the authors of the report evidently wishing to carry the idea that the conclusion ought to be jumped to that Captain Evans was bribed to that amount. The report gives no evidence whatever on which to found any such insinuation, and it is therefore purely gratuitous. There are deputy U. S. marshals and deputy city marshals, and an appropriation from the city to a deputy marshal would naturally be

taken to mean to a city deputy marshal, unless there was good evidence to the contrary. Without such evidence, an insinuation like the above in a grand jury report is altogether unjustifiable and severely censurable.

It is paraded in the report that a portrait of Brigham Young was painted for the city and paid for out of the city treasury, also that at certain times the city has incurred expenses in entertaining strangers and distinguished visitors. It is presumable that the city has authority to construct and furnish its own offices. It is customary for municipal halls to be furnished and adorned with portraits of persons distinguished as prominent citizens and officials. In other lands there may be in the city halls portraits of kings, queens, princes, dukes, marquises, lords, etc., and nobody be so mean as to complain of the expenditure therefor. It is quite natural that the municipal authorities of Salt Lake preferred seeing their city hall adorned with a few portraits or other pictures rather than go entirely naked. If so, who more proper as one of the subjects for such portraits than the man who was the founder of the city and Territory, the most notable citizen therein, identified with the history and prosperity of the city from the beginning? As to the matter of hospitality to distinguished visitors, every city is more or less given to it, and none but narrow minded carpers find fault with the practice. So far as Salt Lake City is concerned, it has erred in the matter of too close economy rather than of profuse liberality in this matter.

We may here remark that the particularity with which small sums, whether for liquor for celebrations, or for anything else, even to "\$4.25 for refreshments on Brigham Young's return," were charged and appropriations made therefor, and when some of them, as in the case of liquors, the city had the stock in hand, is prima facie evidence of a determination, on the part of the municipal officers, to have all things done decently and in order, and everything properly accounted for.

In the matter of Mr. Hempstead being paid for gas and water fixtures for the City Hall, he was then acting as attorney for Rumsey & Co., held stock of theirs recovered from a consignee, and disposed of the fixtures named on account of that firm.

We may here say that the grand jury committee could have readily obtained information that would have made a number of transactions more clear and appear more satisfactory to those who might not have understood them, but the committee acted as if that was not the kind of information they were in search of.

The Old Fort block was sold to Brigham Young because it was considered that it was not needed by the city. Of course after he had bought it, he could sell it, or transfer it to A. O. Smoot with the consent of the parties concerned, and A. O. Smoot could sell it back to Brigham Young if the parties desired, these being simple business transactions, of the nature of others of every day occurrence.

In regard to Union Square block, if the city had presented it to the railway, it would have been doing a similar thing to what many other cities have done, and with general approbation. But Union Square still belongs to the city, and is in process of being converted into ornamental and pleasure grounds for the use of the citizens.

There are other portions of the report which can be very easily answered another day.

**A GERMAN TORPEDO VESSEL.**—The strength of the German navy has been increased by the launch at Stettin of another torpedo vessel called the *Uhlán*. This the second vessel of the kind which Germany possesses, the *Ziethen* having been already constructed in England; but the latter vessel is of a different type from the *Uhlán*, the torpedo being discharged by mechanical force from the mouth of a cannon projecting from its bows. The *Uhlán* carries immediately under its bows a torpedo which will explode within the vessel at which it is directed, and the force of the charge of dynamite which will be exploded by the collision is calculated to be sufficient to blow the other vessel to pieces, though the torpedo itself is no bigger than a

football. The most remarkable point in connection with the ship is the enormous power of its engines as compared to the vessel itself. They are 1,000 horse power when at high pressure, and take up so much room that there is little space left for the coal bunkers and berths of the officers and seamen. This unusual proportion of steam power has been given in order that the vessel may be able to travel through the water very rapidly.—*Ex.*

### 'Squire Osbaldeston's Feat.

The New York World, in an article on the mustang race, at Fleetwood Park, says while it may be justly considered extraordinary, will not be regarded as so very remarkable by those acquainted with the annals of the English turf. Whyte, in his "History of the British Turf," thus describes 'Squire Osbaldeston's feat, which has justly been regarded as the most remarkable test of the endurance both of the rider and the horses used. The contest took place at Newmarket on Saturday, the 5th of November, 1831, and was for a bet of 1,000 guineas a side, between Col. Charite and the 'Squire, the latter undertaking to ride 200 miles in ten hours, with an unlimited number of horses. The course selected was a part of the famous Beacon Course, at Newmarket, measuring exactly four miles. The feat was performed with twenty-eight horses, and as the 'Squire weighed 156 pounds, and the match was begun in a heavy rain, which continued with little intermission for three hours, after which the weather was raw and cold for some time, improving for the last twenty miles but one, and during the last twenty being most stormy, it was more remarkable than anything of a similar nature since attempted. In addition to this, on the thirty-first round Mr. Osbaldeston was thrown, but without serious injury. Twice his horse bolted, which on a course like the Beacon involved a serious loss of ground; and twice his horse pulled up lame, which on a four-mile course was a serious casualty compared with running a similar race over a mile track. The total time of running was, therefore, eight hours forty-two minutes, of which one hour twenty-two minutes fifty-six seconds was consumed in stoppages and changes, making the actual running time seven hours nineteen minutes and four seconds.

"What do you take for your cold?" said a lady to Mr. ——"Four pocket-handkerchiefs a day, madam," was the answer.

"My lord," began a pompous young bar-baster, "it is written in the book of nature—" "On what page, sir—on what page?" interrupted the judge with pen in hand.

An Irishman recently soliloquized: "What a waste of money to be buying mate when you know the half of it is bone, while you can spend it for whiskey that hasn't a bone in it."

Elderly agriculturist to season ticket-holder in the train—"You don't have no ticket?" "No, I travel on my good looks!" "Then," after looking him over, "probably you ain't goin' very far!" General smile.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A young man in Wisconsin, who was about to be married the other day, suddenly remembered that he hadn't fed his horse, and the ceremony had to wait until the horse had been cared for. He explained that a good horse couldn't be found every day, while thirteen different girls wanted to marry him.

"A great deal of good is often done in this world, by people who don't know that they are doing it," was the remark of an agriculturist, as he observed a western statesman leaning against his fence, and carelessly squirting tobacco juice over his tomato plants.

### Testimonial to Dr. E. L. Plant.

About six weeks ago I was perfectly cured of a cancer in my tongue. The suffering through which I passed previous to its removal, cannot be described. The cure was effected without any surgical operation, and I gradually experienced great relief from the commencement of Dr. Plant's skillful treatment. The entire cure was performed in six weeks. I am sixty-one years old, and am prepared to answer any or all enquiries in relation to the matter. But the case, to myself, seems so wonderful that I think it my duty to take the present means of communicating the fact for the benefit of others.

MRS. MAY,

14th Ward, Main St.  
S. L. City, May 22, 1876. d&w 3te

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