

# THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY

THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . . \$2.50

Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . . 1.50

IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . . January 23, 1892

## THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

We publish in this issue the message of Governor Arthur L. Thomas to the Utah Legislature at its thirtieth session. The document is very comprehensive and embraces a great variety of subjects and they are all treated in a judicious and intelligent manner. The language is plain and forcible and may be understood by all who read it.

The message is free from anything that can offend a sensible person however sensitive. The recommendations are, in the main, such as all parties will agree to be worthy of adoption by the Assembly. Among them is the suggestion that the deaf mute institution be separate from the University. This we think ought to be attended to without delay. An asylum for the blind is also becoming a necessity. The needs of the -Insane Asylum should be met, although this is becoming quite an expensive institution; it is worthy of public support and should not be crippled for lack of needed means. The Agricultural College also should be encouraged and sustained. The D. A. and M. Society's propositions are worthy of consideration; either of them would be an improvement and we hope the matter will receive proper attention.

The recommendation concerning the World's Fair needs to be carefully considered. A hundred thousand dollars is a large sum, considering the condition of the Territorial finances. Still we must not be niggardly and Utah ought to be properly represented.

The Governor's recommendations in reference to the school law seem to be all reasonable and most of them essential. In view of the many discrepancies in it and the numerous changes proposed, would it not be well to make a new law, embodying all the good features of the present statute and including the changes which are needed and thus simplify the matter for the benefit of all concerned? Patching and mending a law so extensively as appears to be necessary makes great confusion and necessitates reference to

both statute books with comparisons that consume both time and patience.

The suggestions about county and city assessors are good and timely, and we cordially endorse the proposition to pay them by salary instead of by a percentage, which encourages exorbitant valuations. The cost of our assessing and collecting of revenue is altogether too great, and any plan which will reduce it and at the same time ensure thorough assessment will be a great improvement on the present system. The powers of the Board of Equalization also ought certainly to be enlarged.

The recommendation that elections—excepting school elections—shall all be held on the same day and that in November, is one that has often been considered. We believe that it would be found beneficial for all elections but for municipal officers and the exception named. It is better in our opinion to keep both school and city affairs separate from those strongly partizan contests that arise on more general matters, and hope they will be left out of the bill that may be prepared on this subject.

The powers of City Councils in reference to the control of the liquor traffic ought certainly to be enlarged where necessary and made clear beyond dispute. Also if the city charters do not confer power to prevent the union of saloons and theatres and show houses, they should be amended so as to do this. There is already a Territorial statute that forbids liquor to be sold in theatres, dance houses, etc., and city ordinances should be passed in conformity with it. If they have not the power it should be conferred upon them.

That we are under "changed conditions," is evident from the Governor's recommendation for a militia law. We had a good one for many years, but it was rendered migatory by a silly gubernatorial proclamation and so the militia organization died out. However, we think the Governor's suggestion is good and we know of no reason why we should not have a first-class militia in Utah.

A board of pardons is wanted here. There should be some one to advise with the Governor on the important matter of releasing criminals. But whether this would be fully in conformity with the Organic Act, which vests the power of pardon in the Governor, we think needs considering before such a board as proposed is created.

The eight hour law for labor on public works so long as it does not restrict or regulate any private concern, is a good thing in our opinion. The encouragement of home industries within proper bounds is eminently

proper, and there are other hints and suggestions given by the Governor which, with the information he imparts, makes his message both interesting and profitable and worthy the careful attention not only of the Legislature but of the general public.

The closing words, showing that past differences are vanishing and that a happy blending of all interests is in process for the welfare of the Territory, are indicative of a desire on the part of our chief Executive to promote harmony and prosperity, and we trust and believe they will be endorsed by all who read them.

## STILL THAT BILL.

As attempts are still made to show that the Utah bill bears "the brand of the Church," and that if it should pass, Congress would only have "just such control over this Territory as it has in a State and no more," it is necessary that we should say something further on the subject.

We have already expressed our firm belief that the bill will not pass. We have also explained why we object to the measure. And we have quoted the laws of Congress and some portions of the bill to show that the power of Congress over the Territory, both as to annulling the acts of the Legislature and direct legislation for the Territory, would remain intact if the bill should pass. How then can it be gravely reaffirmed that Congress would only have "such control as it has over a State and no more?"

Can Congress annul a law passed by a State Legislature? Can Congress pass laws to regulate the local affairs of a State? Certainly not. But Congress can and does pass laws for Utah Territory, and annul such laws as our Legislature enacts which are not approved by the Government. Now that power would remain unchanged if this bill should pass. That cannot be denied. And that settles the dispute.

But we are asked to show "what that amounts to if true." It amounts to just the same as it amounts to now. And that is the chief objection we have to the movement. The only advantage it offers is the election of officers who are now appointed and that would cost us from eighty to a hundred thousand dollars a year. At the same time we would not be a State, and Congress would still exercise that supreme control over the Territory which it claims today.

The Times starts out to reply to our request that it show what it calls "the brand of the Church" on the bill, but it shows nothing and entirely begs the question. It is not