

ogy given follows the Hebrew text in every particular from Adam to Abraham.

It is, as Questioner states, now quite generally supposed that the birth of our Savior actually occurred four years before our era. This is, of course, not established beyond controversy, as many investigators incline to the view that there is no miscalculation of four years; but even if it were established beyond a doubt, the fact would not contradict the statements in the Doctrine and Covenants that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was founded in the year 1830, A. D., since neither section 20:1 nor section 21:3 can be supposed to enter into the controversy as to the correctness of the accepted chronology. In both passages the fact is recorded that in the year of the Christian era universally accepted as the 1830th the Church was organized. For historical purposes it was necessary to note the universally accepted reckoning and not one which is officially recognized nowhere.

A BUSINESS NEED.

The members of the Chamber of Commerce have done well, we think, in the selection of officers for the ensuing year. But so also did they last year and during previous years, and so also will they probably do next year and in later years to come. On this score there is nothing to be complained of. But the past and present high standard of officials may be maintained and continued to the crack of doom, and still will the Chamber of Commerce fall far short of fulfilling its legitimate part in the city's business advancement, unless cordial assistance, encouragement and actual energy on the part of members shall be made more manifest than has been the case in the past.

We regard it as an unfortunate omen, for instance, that at the recent meeting for the election of officers, almost two-thirds of the votes cast should have been proxies; and even these representing not so much the members who were absolutely unable to be present in person and who therefore selected fellow-members in whom they had confidence to cast their ballots for them, as members who cared little or nothing about the election and gave their proxies to soliciting friends of candidates for election who asked and secured the right to cast additional ballots for their particular ticket. An institution carried on in this supine and apathetic way cannot expect to prosper, and has no particular claim upon that degree of public notice which would otherwise be readily accorded.

We speak of the matter plainly because of a sincere desire to see the Chamber of Commerce grow strong and influential, as it ought to be, in defending the city's business interests and pioneering new paths for their establishment and advancement. The only way this can be brought about is by a new birth or a revival of interest on the part of members. The officials alone, were they twice as capable as they are, cannot do it alone. Every business man in the city should become a member, and, having once joined, he should be as punctual and

as regular in attending the meetings as he is in reaching his own desk and opening his mail of a morning. In that way, and that way alone, can the institution become the leader and champion and wise adviser in all that pertains to commercial progress and business safety.

COUNTY WARRANT BUSINESS.

Inquiry has been made as to whether the proposition to validate excess warrants and indebtedness of the counties is a proper step in the interest of persons who have furnished supplies to or have done work for counties in good faith, not being aware that the limit of legal indebtedness had been passed. In reply we will say that it is not; no necessity exists for the proposed step on that plea. There is no reason why, under the prevailing statute, each county shall not meet its honest obligations as fast as there is money in the treasury to do so.

A case has been cited where a good claim was made against a certain county, and warrants were issued which were held to be invalid, because of their exceeding the limit. In this case the warrants are void, but the claim is not shut out. The business of the county court is to audit that claim and, when the money comes in, as it does regularly from taxes, etc., allow and pay it. Or, if this is refused, the claimant has a good cause of action against the county, and may secure judgment against it in court, to be satisfied whenever funds are available in the county treasury to do so, and to the exclusion of subsequent claims. There is no court in the State which is going to shield any county from a just action for debt upon the plea that the person making it should have ascertained whether or not the county had exceeded its legal limit at the time supplies were purchased or work done. The State courts administer justice even in applying cold law; and it would be contrary to both to say that someone else than the county officers selected for the purpose must act in the capacity of official guardians.

As to just claims against a county, there is not, and must not be, any thought of repudiation. Parties have received warrants, and have parted with their money therefor in good faith, fully believing the debt would be paid; and in honor the county must pay it. There is nothing in the way of these claims being approved and met in regular form by the county courts. These cannot hide behind the plea that the warrant is illegal; the claim is just, even if a particular warrant representing the amount asked be void; and the payment of a just claim is a duty which the officials can be compelled to perform. If the bill provided only for that, it might be passed in the interest of honest claims. But our objection to it is that it goes farther and allows the very officials who issued the excess warrants that have caused the trouble to spend current funds in other ways while the indebtedness thus validated is permitted to remain, augmented by eight per cent interest; so that a year hence the county affected will be in a worse state

than ever. That is a wrong method of dealing with the situation.

Thus the proposed measure would not help or hinder those who have just claims against a county, except to leave them in possession of undisputed eight per cent notes, instead of claims to be allowed in regular order and paid upon receipt of cash by the county. But it does impress the vicious rule of approving disregard of law in officials, and adds a burden to the taxpayer by giving those officials opportunity (whether or not they would avail themselves of it) to let any indebtedness represented by outstanding warrants now invalid remain there, while incoming funds are devoted to another purpose than liquidating bills that have accumulated. In other words, it appears to us to be susceptible of a construction whereby to "bridge over" by increasing the debt-contracting power of counties against the spirit and letter of the statute and the expressed will of the people in the locality which would be affected. Most of the county courts have kept within bounds, and the rule which has been observed in Beaver, Box Elder, or any other county which has followed the law should be applied also to Salt Lake and the rest. Making "fish of one and flesh of another" is not good statecraft.

BET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The probabilities are that the present year will witness a long stride in advance in the way of preparations for if not actual starting in upon additional beet sugar factories in the United States, for the control of a market which is now supplied by Germany, France and other countries. In California a plan has been adopted to make systematic tests of beets grown in various sections of the state, with a view to ascertaining the most suitable localities for sugar beets and the farming districts with the most skilled cultivators, that new sugar factories may be constructed to give opportunity for local producers; and from Nebraska comes the suggestion of other works in that state to extend the business of sugar manufacture.

In Utah a lively interest is also being manifested in the subject among those on whom falls the duty of cultivating the beets. An illustration of this is given in the following note from the last issue of the Lehi Banner:

Beets, beets! There is such a cry to raise beets for the factory this season that the manager, Mr. Cutler, hardly knows what to do to keep good feelings among the raisers. He could get enough beets to run two factories, and this fact should be enough to cause the directors to think the matter over of how they can enlarge the capacity of the factory as soon as possible.

The beet raisers and their neighbors have come to recognize the fact that, at the prices the factory pays, while there is not a very large profit to the cultivator who raises beets that carry a high percentage of sugar, there is the certainty of a fair return in cash for the labor performed. This certainty makes sugar beet growing a satisfactory business, especially since a careful and experienced grower has little fear of his crop failing to come up to the required