



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

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TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

As readers will observe, this number closes the fifteenth volume of the DESERET NEWS WEEKLY, and, occurring so near the end of the year, it has been deemed best to avail ourselves of so favorable an opportunity and begin the next volume, as near as publication days will permit, with the beginning of a new year. This arrangement will accord with the most general date for the commencement of newspapers and other periodicals and, consequently, meet the time when the great majority are accustomed to subscribe or renew their subscriptions; and, what is of more importance, will accommodate the customary usage of closing accounts at the end of the year, preparatory to beginning anew with the new year.

We trust that our Agents, subscribers and others will bear in mind the usage alluded to, and, so far as possible, forward subscriptions for the News and payments for past and current volumes before the next begin, which will be on the 29th of December for Vol. II of the SEMI-WEEKLY, and January 2 for Vol. XVI of the WEEKLY.

The time from now until the dates mentioned, it is thought, should be sufficient to enable the News and its readers to enter upon a new year with accounts well closed up and liberally increased subscription lists, that it may be able to extend its sphere of usefulness as widely as at present practicable. As the News is printed by the Church and for the Church, it will be readily understood that all members of the Church are as proportionally interested as ourselves in its prosperity and circulation for the benefit of the great cause of truth, and we trust this fact will be borne in mind and produce a corresponding course of feeling and action in relation thereto.

THE DESERET NEWS WEEKLY, vol. XVI, will be furnished upon the same terms as vol. I, except that the circumstances controlling trade at present, and prospectively for a year to come, require us to change our figures for wheat from three to two dollars a bushel delivered at the News Office.

FACTS AND QUERIES.

We would wish to call the attention of the citizens of this City and Territory, and particularly of the old settlers, to a few facts which exist and to a few queries that we deem pertinent at the present time. That we may be the better understood, it will be necessary to go back nearly twenty years, and notice several historical points from that time until the present.

It is a known and admitted fact that we settled this Territory under very disadvantageous circumstances. Poor, and driven by the spirit of persecution from our homes in the eastern States, we came to these valleys and commenced anew to make homes in an untried land and in what was then an inhospitable desert. We did not receive aid or assistance from any source except that which the Almighty vouchsafed to us. We faced the difficulties that lay before us, and by the aid of Providence overcame them. But a short time after our arrival here, there was a rush of gold-seeking emigrants across the continent.

Starting in the east for what was then deemed the El Dorado of the west, to travel over a road made by the pioneers of Utah, and supplied with many of the means of comfort and facilities for transportation which those pioneers lacked, they came here worn out, hungry and almost broken down. Who cared for those emigrants, ministered to their wants, tended on them, and fed them out of the scanty store which had been with unceasing toil drawn from the wilderness that then existed here? Who sold food at reasonable prices, to those who could buy, instead of trading on their necessities and demanding exorbitant rates when stern want would have compelled them to pay whatever would have been asked? Who fed those of them that were too poor to buy? Who instead of returning evil for evil, returned good for evil, acting the part of Samaritans to those in distress? Who made the roads by which they came here, bridged the rivers, and proved that a country supposed to be almost impassable for strong men could be traveled by weak women, infancy and old age? thus opening up a vast extent of territory for settlement and practical use. These queries are suggestive; for every one who knows anything of the early history of this Territory knows that it was the early settlers who did these things.

Then, as now, the settlers in this and adjacent valleys were surrounded by the rugged mountains which rise east and west. Timber was there, but the canyons were apparently inaccessible. Who made the roads up into those canyons, that the timber could be reached, at an enormous expense of time and means? Who erected saw mills under disadvantageous circumstance, that lumber might be obtained? Who cut canals and water ditches here, that water might be brought from the mountain rivers and streams to irrigate the hard and arid soil? Who, after having to haul, a distance of nearly two thousand miles, every seed for tree, plant root and grain now grown here for the sustenance of man and beast, and every implement and tool for labor cultivated the earth, raised the grain and produce, built grist mills, planted orchards, and made a home of beauty in the midst of a desert waste? Did those who are so loud in their outcries against the Latter-day-Saints, or did the first settlers do these things.

Having to build houses without facilities, where there was nothing in the shape of a habitation superior to the wick-i-up of the degraded savage; having to make farms where the rains of heaven did not bless the soil, and bring the water from a distance to irrigate them; having to open roads between growing settlements and with the world outside; baying all the difficulties incident to a new country and many peculiar to this mountain desert to contend with; having no books except such as were brought at great expense from the far east; having in the midst of extreme poverty to wrest a living from the desert or starve; the early settlers did not neglect the education of the young. Schools were established and school-houses were built, and increased as the cities and settlements increased in number and size; until now, with from one to eight schools in each Ward, every child in the Territory has the opportunity of being educated. Who built those school-houses and established those schools? Who cheerfully paid taxes and liberally donated for that purpose? Was it those who talk of the ignorance of our young? or the early settlers—the Latter-day Saints, who in the multiplicity of their labors and duties did not forget the rising generation, but assiduously sought to impart that education and instruction to them required to make them intelligent, honorable and useful citizens? Who refused to pay taxes,

disputed the statutes made by every possible means, and would not do anything which they could help doing to aid in making the country, improving its prosperity, or fostering education? Was the early settlers? or was it those who talk of our backward condition and dilate upon the lack of effort made to educate our children?

These and similar queries demand reflection, and lead to others which bear directly on points that are at present the subject of agitation. We will continue the inquiry.

FACTS AND QUERIES CONTINUED.

We feel to continue the statement of facts and the prosecution of our inquiries, with regard to who have and who have not been actively engaged in promoting the welfare of this Territory, and who have labored to retard its progress and drain it of its sources of prosperity?

With the growth of the Territory came increased labors and increased responsibilities of the people. Municipal organizations were formed; works of a public nature became imperative; public buildings increased in number and size; new roads were demanded; city improvements in various places became requisite; and taxes were assessed, under legitimate powers, to meet them. Who paid those taxes? Was it the early settlers? or was it the persons of migratory habits who came here to make money that they might carry away to build up some other State or Territory? Who was it with whom the properly appointed and legally authorized officers had to compromise taxes, so that a part might be got, sooner than enter upon vexatious and expensive litigation? Was it not with some of those who had taken up a temporary habitation here to make wealth out of early settlers? Who met the taxes assessed in a responsive spirit, paid them freely and willingly, and have thereby made the public improvements which mark the growth and prosperity of the Territory? Was it, or was it not, the early settlers—the Latter-day Saints? Who was it that contested the late law empowering the assessment of a tax for educational purposes, dragging the trustees of a school-district into court, opposing them by every available means, and positively refusing to pay the tax? Was it not those who are among the loudest in their denunciations of "Mormon" ignorance, and the lack of educational facilities here? Who was it that would spend a thousand dollars in opposing that tax, assessed by due authority of law, sooner than pay one tenth of that sum that education might be promoted, while they were drawing from the people the very means by which they opposed the law?

While speaking of law we might further ask;—Who was it that strove to evade the law and wrest it from its purposed ends? Was it men appointed by the representatives of the people here? Was it not men who were empowered with Federal authority to administer the law? Who was it that carried on secret traffic, contrary to law, in articles which are required to pay duty, thereby robbing the municipality of this city and the general Government? Who was it that took shelter under extended judicial protection, continued and prolonged, while engaged in such traffic? Who was it that continued this system of defrauding the general Government and the municipal government, in violation of all law, and prided themselves upon so doing? And who was it that fostered and encouraged them, organized secret associations for the purpose, involving extra expense and causing increased taxation on the people who were being thus doubly wronged? Were these things not done by those who were and are strong in their accusations of "Mormon" rapaci-

ty, yet who are living and growing wealthy upon the labor of the people? Were they not done by those who cry out against the "Mormons" and their ignorance, while refusing to aid in any way the furtherance of education? who call for armies to be sent here that citizens of the United States may be protected, while actively engaged in a course to make life and property insecure where they have been fostered and courteously treated?

While on the subject of citizens, we may ask, Who are called citizens of the United States in this Territory by the class of whom we are speaking? Is not every poor, miserable, drunken foreigner, who refuses to pay taxes or do anything useful and good in the community, honored with the title of American Citizen, which he would disgrace if he had been even born under the Government to which he has never owned allegiance? Are not Irish, Scotch, French, Germans, English and natives of other countries, at times, found drunk in our streets, a disgrace to humanity,—men who have never in any way done anything to aid the Territory or develop its resources, except to hunt a little for gold, which some of them were not particular whether they found in the gulches of the mountains or in gentlemen's pockets? and are not these foreigners, who disregard the law and live in constant violation of it, called United States citizens by those who demand that an army should be sent here, while men whose fathers fought and bled for the independence of the nation are spoken of as aliens and foreigners.

Have we not had in this Territory, since the time when communication was opened up between this inland wilderness and the outside world, one class of people of peaceful habits, orderly and industrious, real settlers, who have done all that has been done for the development of the country and the growth of the Territory? and another class that numbered in it many who disregarded the law, sought to stir up strife and engender bitter feelings, maligned the people, and persistently refused to aid in furthering any work of a public and desirable character? And was it not the first of these classes that tilled the soil, made the country habitable and inviting, made the improvements which increased the value of property, and thereby swelled the territorial and municipal revenues?

But there has been another source of income in the Territory, furnished by the early settlers, through which much has been done to increase the real and material prosperity thereof, and by which public buildings have been erected and works of a public character have been accomplished. To this source of income we may refer at greater length again. It is well known that the people of this Territory have freely paid one-tenth of their increase to be devoted to public purposes,—to caring for the poor, the execution of public works, the aiding of the deserving and industrious to come from other lands and settle here, thereby directly and extensively aiding immigration, one great means by which the United States has so rapidly risen to the first place among the powers of the earth. By every dollar expended in aiding an honest, industrious population to come and develop these western countries, thereby enhancing the greatness and prosperity of the nation at large, the material prosperity of the Territory has been promoted and increased; and in proportion, its available resources are developed; while the number of those from whom the non-tax-paying class derive their wealth is increased, with an increase of their ability to supply themselves with the wares which this same class offer for disposal. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been directed and expended to aid this immigration; and this means has been