DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

Wednesday, - February 15, 1893.

A GRAVE WRONG.

If the News were opposed to the establishment of the copper works in this city—if it were even indifferent—it would see no occasion to lament the action of the City Council in refusing to give a bonus of $25,000 for the purpose, and in definitely overriding the Mayor's veto of the measure; for we should feel that such action constituted as effective a blow against the enterprise could be dealt. But for the reasons that we do most heartily desire the securing of the works, that we believe they will be secured, and that we hope every step toward obtaining them shall be above suspicion and grounded in the sense and good will of the people, we utter a note of warning against the course that appears to have been marked out for and is being heedlessly followed by the municipal fathers.

It is rarely that the illegal features of any enactment or proposed enactment are pointed out with greater perspicuity, terseness or force than was done by the Mayor last night in the matter of the bonus for these works. The authorities cited by his honor are exactly in point, the logic presented is vigorous and incisive, and the argument is unanswerable. The unlawful character of the proceeding is made so plain that anybody might understand it. What excuse, therefore, can there be for intelligent men like those composing the City Council refusing to see? Perhaps it would be wrong to say that they did not or do not see; no one would wish to offer such an insult to them. But what shall be said? To ignore the law as it is, to cast defiance into the teeth of the executive authority of the city, is surely neither special legislation nor common courtesy. Would it not have been better, for a time at least, to let the matter rest with the refusal to concur? Manifestly this was the duty of the hour; yet not only was the former course taken, but it was taken at once and with such indecent haste and impetuosity as if it were feared the work engaged in might be stopped by some other agency if any time were permitted to elapse. This conclusion is supplemented by the further fact that the warrant for the amount—$25,000—was so hastily drawn and then checks for $5,000 each as speedily as could be done were issued on five different banks, so that an injunction would not lie. What think ye of this, impartial reader, in this day of law and legal observance?

Look at it as we may, the whole proceeding wears a serious aspect. It is as dishonest to take money out of a treasury through the operation of legal machinery when the law itself is set aside, as it is to take it without authority under any other circumstances. The people were willing to give the smelter company all that was asked and had substantially signified their willingness to do so; a great many of them were willing that the city government should help out if such assistance were in consonance with law and propriety. The times are so dull and everything so listless in our midst that they or many of them were even willing to strain a point to secure the addition to our industrial pursuits, and if there were an ambiguity in the law controlling, to give such proposed enterprise the benefit of the doubt. But it is questionable if a number outside the City Council corresponding with the membership of that body would uphold the giving or doing of anything by the municipality when shown that such action involved an open, flagrant and defiant disregard of principle, precedent and every safeguard by which we are surrounded.

The action of the Council, to sum it up in one word, is anarchistic. To say that it is unprecedented might be right and it might not, since the record made by law-makers as law-breakers is a rather voluminous one. But to say that it is disappointing, that it is humiliating, that it is all but demoralizing, is not overstepping the matter in the least. To force the issue and compass an illegal action by means of which those who were formerly with them are now as decidedly against them, is an action fraught with such grave concern to the perpetrators of it that those who chose them for guardians of the public weal are apprehensive of the consequence whether the objects of such aggression realize the situation or not. Their action in any view of the case is lamentable and unjustifiable and to attempt to excuse it with the statement that popular approval embolden it is an insult to the law and a menace to permanent welfare. Is it less a violation of law because a certain element cheers for it? Would it be more illegal if the popular will did not approve of it? Who knows, if the laws are thus to be let down, but that at some future time the present Council or one of its successors may decide to do, and really do, an act no more unlawful than this and one that under those circumstances will call to receive any favor at all? How will present defenders be able to set a settler then? Expediency is a poor substitute for law, and demagogy is ever a public danger. Let it out of sudden enthusiasm, either in favor or hate, that rule, revolutions, lynchings and many of the atrocities grow that in men's cooler moments they would prefer to have to the law's operation. We repeat, a grievous mistake has been made, and either in its own consequence of those which will follow a similar error, there is certainly that all will see the day that they will rue it.

THE CLEVELAND CABINET.

It is to be hoped that the announcement just given out by Mr. Cleveland that he will shortly inform the public as to who will compose his official household as soon as the conferees invited signify their acceptance and willingness the such information shall go out, will place the matter in shape at considerable ease. In accordance with the delegation, we are advised that one-half of the executive family is already made up and their names and stations are made known officially. They are:

Secretary of state—Walter Q. Gresham of Illinois.

Secretary of the treasury—John G. Carlisle of Kentucky.

Postmaster-General—Wilson S. Bissell of New York.

Secretary of the navy—Daniel S. Lamont of New York.

The names most prominently occurring in connection with the other positions are Gray of Indiana, Bragg of Iowa, Herbert of Alabama, Morrill of Kansas, Francis of Missouri and Irish of California. However, the affability and obliging disposition of the President-elect make it unnecessary to engage in speculation, as we shall know all about it shortly after he does, and undoubtedly there will not be much more delay.

RUSSIA'S ENCROACHMENTS.

Karl Blind has an interesting article on the "Lands of the Czar" in the current *Lippincott's*. Looking at the immense territory Russia has overrun and conquered within the last twenty years, from the Caspian sea to the Afghan frontier and running even in to Afghanistan, the writer thinks that the most careless observer can see what the Muscovite is aiming at. It is mentioned that when Gladstone's immediate predecessor was asked to consider the situation and take decisive action, he laughingly asked the "would-be alarmists" to buy some maps of Europe and thereby might see how far the czar's dominions still were from the confines of India; but it is not believed he would make such answer today, nor would Lord Beaconsfield do so. Almost immediately after the last war against Turkey, says Mr. Blind, it came out that a secret envoy of the czar had pled the intercession of Afghanistan with a proposal of an alliance in view of a war to be waged some day by Russia against English rule in India. The documentary evidence is printed in a blue book. Nevertheless, the English government has allowed itself, year by year, to be deceived, or appeased in outward semblance, by the diplomatic assurances of the czar's government. "Khiva was not to be annexed. Barakat was not to be incorporated. Merv was not to be incorporated. Afghanistan was completely outside the sphere in which Russia intended exercising any influence." All these promises are recorded in so many words. All were successively broken without compunction.

These matters have often been discussed, and the question of India's future brought up with intelligent and representative natives of that land and other eastern countries, and all of them acknowledged that English rule, whatever may have been the errors of statesmen in charge, has of late years done a great deal of good. It has legislated away some of the worst superstitions, given better instruction and made great concessions in the matter of having natives participate in administrative affairs. It is not likely, from all we read and can hear, that those people are desirous of change, least of all such change as Russian rule would bring them, neither is it among the events likely or even possible that England will permit the czar to advance much farther toward the east without calling a most peremptory halt to the procession, and this, too, without regard to who may be present.

GARZA AS A MYTH.

The name of Garza, alleged revolutionist and bandit of Mexico, has figured in the newspapers at times as conspicuously and as uncertainly as that of any other man in his own or our country. He has had a price upon his head for a long time, but the best government remains where nature placed it for the reward has not even been claimed so far as the public are advised. Now comes the claim that all unfortunate experienced on his account was groundless, as there is and has been no such person. A dispatch to the New York *World* from Panama gives the account of a traveler who recently passed through there and then states that Garza is not a myth, he little more than that, the name being a sort of cabalistic cry by which refugees are scared and troops kept moving about both shores of the Rio Grande.

This account says that while signifying no actual personality today, there is said to be a name with which bandits and evildoers of all stripes endeavor and succeed in attaching to themselves an importance that is delicious in its verisimilitude. The original Garza, it is related, was a border ruffian of little consequence who was promptly scared away by the hue and cry that followed the flight of his baser escapades. Then came a care-devil band who traded on the fictitious reputation accorded the outlaw. Then were joined or followed by kindred spirits from across the border, and then ensued the long series of events for the most part most grossly exaggerated, that have given Garza a place in the history of Mexico.

Then we are coolly informed that the next chapter of this history as given out is not exactly complimentary to our American newspaper representatives beyond the border. It is in effect that when the army of reporters of northern newspapers arrived at the scenes of gory strife, arrant brigandage, active rebellion, or whatever else the reportorial fancy may have conjured up to call the situation, they made the discovery to their great disappointment that there was not much out of the ordinary going on and no signs whatever of a revolution. But having gone on a errand requiring something of a sanguinary hue reported from their field of labor, it became necessary to discover a war somehow, and that in this emergency the correspondents combined force—"pooled issues," so to speak—made common cause against the peace of Mexico and kept the border in a constant state of revolution—on paper, all of which was very wrong.

We are further interestingly advised that the news of the revolutionary movements of "Garza" in the northern Mexican provinces caused the prompt massing of troops in that section. The arrival of these troops occasioned no end of local ferment, until the inhabitants began to believe there was "something in it." When no revolutionists materialized, the natural inference was that they had fled beyond the border, and the actual flight thither of one or two bands of brigands who had no time to evade this sudden and unlooked for appearance of national troops gave color to the assumption. Our government was then coaxed upon to give an account of the "revolutionists" from the other side who had "violated our neutrality." Troops were sent out to hunt them up, and for a long time the armies of both countries were engaged in the fruitless work, and this seems to be all there is of war of the affair. According to this story, another sensational bubble has collapsed and leaves all of us who believed what we hear from Mexico for the present at least looking rather ridiculous.

GOOD OUT OF APPARENT EVIL.

The Helen school district is in a sparsely settled section near the desert, close to the eastern line of California. The people there have been very careless about sending their children to school, and recently the number of pupils in attendance dwindled down to five. With two more gone, the state school law would close the schoolhouse doors, and the teacher be out of a job. This fact was not in harmony with the notions of the principal of the education department, Harry Shaw, so he proceeded to enlarge his school from among the Indian children in the neighborhood. He succeeded in inducing fifteen young savages to become regular attendants, and they now engage in their studies with as much energy and earnestness as do the white children. Besides this, the school district draws $100 annually from the government, this being the yearly appropriation of $20 for each Indian child in public schools outside of reservations and in localities where an Indian schools are maintained.

JUST WHEN everybody was beginning to indulge in congratulations over the prospect of friendly relations between capital and labor, comes news of uneasiness in railway circles over rumors of an impending strike which will be the greatest ever known. It is stated that all the railway brotherhoods will enter the contest, thus bringing into the position of strikers upwards of 100,000 men. The issues immediately involved are neither hours of work nor wages. It is claimed that the life of the various organizations among railway employes is placed at stake by the combination of the prominent railroad corporations throughout the country to compel all employes to renounce their allegiance to established labor unions. This policy was to be gradually enforced, so as not to provoke general hostility from the men, but the various brotherhoods propose to fight it from the outset. The date named for the inauguration of the colossal strike is during the progress of the World's Fair.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS, the eminent semi-African, is said objects to any other term than "negro" being applied to his race. Apropos of this the New York Sun tells one cold night during the civil war when Frederick Douglass got out to a train at Jersey City. He wore a big shawl on top of his overcoat, and a New York reporter, seeing the dark skin and towering form of the traveler, stepped him with the question "Ladies?" "No!" shouted Douglass, "Sugar!"

THE CHICAGO *News* a minister in 1894 count, and a nosy person shows it to be up to the standard of that exceedingly patronizing to the past years. It is model of convenience, a repository of ready information indispensable to the journalist, the man of affairs and those who must keep posted.

IT IS reported that a Wall street jobber divided up $1,000,000 profit last week. Of course somebody else lost to the correspondingly, but that don't count.

The Hotel Temperance is opposite Temple Square, Tribune Office, Eagle Gate, Bankers' News Building and points of interest in Salt Lake City. 2

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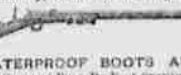
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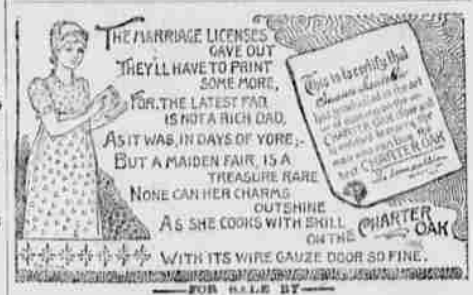

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