

# THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 22.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1863.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

Chicago, 7.

St. Johns, N. F., 5.—The London morning Post announces that the English Government is about, with regret, to decline giving its adherence to the European Congress. It says that the purpose of the Emperor is regarded with admiration, but the means proposed are not considered effectual.

The *Patrie* published a statement, under reserve, that the Emperor, without wishing to draw up a programme for the Congress, had expressed an opinion that it should be chiefly occupied with considering the questions of Poland, the German duchies, Rome and Venice, and of reforms to be introduced in the principalities of Rumania.

The Paris correspondent to the *Times* asserts that believers in the Congress grow fewer every day.

Active warlike preparations are progressing in Denmark; 110,000 soldiers have been called out, and 6 war vessels are being fitted out.

The Polish question still looks threatening; arrests in Warsaw are numerous.

New York, 7.

Officers from army, Potomac concur in the opinion that an attack could and should have been made upon the rebels at Mire Run. If one had been made at first the loss would not have been so great upon our side as afterwards, but success was certain at any time. Gen. Meagher, who was with the army as a visitor to his old brigade, was captured in citizen's clothes near Mile Run, during the recent engagement, and is now in the hands of the enemy.

Washington, 7.

A letter from Usher, special agent to confer with the Blackfeet Indians, in the vicinity of Fort Benton, says that from information obtained from miners direct from Stillwater mines, he learns that the Indians are quiet; no difficulty is apprehended with them during the winter, unless it be with the Mountain Crows, who claim all the territory on both sides of the Yellow Stone from its mouth clear to its source, and are determined the whites shall not occupy nor explore it. An expedition is being fitted out to explore this region, which abounds in precious minerals, and trouble is expected with the Crows.

New York, 7.

A special says that frauds to the amount of over a million dollars have been discovered in furnishing supplies to the army of the Potomac. On Friday night Capt. Stoddard and O. M. Alexander were arrested by order of the Secretary of War, and lodged in the old capitol prison.

On Saturday night Capt. Ferguson of the regular army and the chief Quartermaster at Alexandria were also arrested and sent to the old capitol.

These frauds have all been unearthed since Gen. Meigs went to Tennessee. These frauds, in which a number of other officers, some very high in rank, who are yet to be arrested, are to be implicated, consist principally in large purchases of oats and corn so confounded that Government is cheated out of twenty cents on every bushel.

Enormous frauds in the purchases of lumber and horses for the army of the Potomac are also discovered.

Washington, 6.

Culpepper is held by our cavalry. The enemy has two regiments of infantry at Fredericksburg. Hampton's cavalry are between that point and Orange Court House, guarding the lower fords of the Rapidan and Rappahannock.

The railway from Aquia Creek to Falmouth is in perfect order, with the exception of the bridge at Potomac creek and the single rails near Falmouth Station.

New York, 7.

The French were marching on San Luis Potosi, where a final concentration was to take place. Accounts through French sources look like a gradual breaking up of the Mexican plans of resistance.

Fortress Monroe, 6.

A Charleston telegram, 4th, says a slow fire is kept up to-day on Sumter, Sullivan and James Island. The enemy had not renewed fire on the city, but were mounting more guns on Wagner, bearing on the city, and have also unmasked a new battery.

Washington, 7.

The House met at noon; Ethredge, Clerk, called the House to order, and proceeded to call the roll, reading the names of all members from all the States, excepting Maryland, West Virginia, Oregon, Missouri and Kansas, the credentials of members from these States not being filed in accordance to act of March last. Motions that the names of the members from the States named be placed on the rolls were adopted, and the House then proceeded to the election of Speaker. Washburne nominated Colfax, Pendleton nominated Cox, Dawson nominated Mallory, and Stebbins nominated King; Blair was also placed in nomination.

The whole number of votes was 181, of which Colfax received 101. Cox 42, Dawson 12, Mallory 10, Stebbins 8, and Blair 2. Colfax was declared elected. Dawson and Cox were appointed a Committee to conduct the Speaker to the chair. On taking the chair the Speaker delivered a brief, eloquent and patriotic address, which was received with great applause.

The Vice President called the Senate to order at noon. Congress from California and Henderson from Missouri were qualified and took the oath of loyalty, as prescribed by the last Congress. There was some debate on the admission of the Senators from Western Virginia. Davis held there was constitutionally no such State, therefore there could be no Senators from such State; he believed the old State intact, and the whole thing was a flagrant violation. After the debate, by Davis, of the State question, the oath was moved to be administered to them, and carried, yeas 33, nays 5, the nays being Buckalew, Davis, Hendricks, McDougall and Powell.

Washington, 7.

Proclamation by the President, Executive Mansion, 7th. Reliable information having been received that an insurgent force is retreating from East Tennessee, under circumstances rendering it probable that the Union forces cannot hereafter be dislodged from that important position, and esteeming this to be of high national consequence, I recommend that all loyal people do, on receipt of this information, assemble at their places of worship and offer special homage of gratitude to Almighty God for this great advancement of the national cause.

[Signed]

A. LINCOLN.

Chattanooga, 7.

Sherman's cavalry arrived at Knoxville on the evening of the 3d. Longstreet raised the siege on the night of the 4th, retreating towards Bristol. Longstreet retreats on the north and south bank of Holston river; Foster's cavalry is following on the south and Sherman's on the north.

New York, 8.

New Orleans letters say that the rebel force interfering with the navigation of the Lower Mississippi, is estimated at 4,000, under Dick Taylor; it is a sort of flying corps which appears from time to time at different points on the river. Traders are generally seriously alarmed, and have applied to the military authorities to have all the river boats armed and manned by a few artillerymen.

A special to the *Times* says Maj.-Gen. French has been relieved from command in the army of the Potomac, and placed under arrest; his arrest is preliminary to charges of misconduct in the recent affair at Mire Run.

Cincinnati, 8.

A Chattanooga special, 7th, says that Hardee is slowly falling back from Dalton, with Bragg's whipped men. The mountains in East Tennessee are filled with rebel deserters and stragglers.

New York, 8.

The *Herald's* army despatch, dated Culpepper, 7, says our infantry are apparently going into winter quarters. The cavalry are busier than ever, scouting for guerrillas.

The Richmond *Enquirer* says Hardee is only temporarily in command of Bragg's army; Johnston will take the permanent command.

Washington, 8.

In the Senate a resolution was offered by Davis, of Ky., that the refusal of the rebel authorities to exchange negro soldiers and their white officers should not prevent the exchange of our other soldiers in the rebel prisons, on just terms. The resolution was laid over.

Wilson, of Mass., gave notice of a bill to increase the bounty for volunteering, and to make an appropriation for the same. Senate adjourned.

Arnold gave notice of a bill to prohibit slavery forever in the Territories included in the President's emancipation proclamation, and to repeal so much of the enrollment act as authorizes the discharge of persons drafted, on the payment of three hundred dollars.

The *Whig* adds, we are getting into deep waters, and a feeling of dread is shaking the souls of the people; there is nothing the President can do that will so reanimate their hearts as calling to his Cabinet the wisest and most experienced men in the country; the time is propitious, the occasion urgent, and the people anxiously expectant; for his own continuing capacity for usefulness and future fame, as well as on account of the sorely necessitous condition of the country, we earnestly press this recommendation.

New York, 9.

The report of the Secretary of War, after reviewing our victories, and paying a tribute to the bravery and skill of the troops, says the success of our arms during the past year, has enabled the Department to make a reduction of over two hundred millions in the estimates for the ensuing year.

The trouble is regard to the exchange of

prisoners is reviewed at length, and the blame for non-exchange is thrown entirely upon the rebel authorities. He alludes to the good treatment the rebel prisoners have received at our hands, and denounces the rebel authorities for the cruel manner in which they treat our prisoners in their hands. He then discusses the act of Congress, for the enrolling and calling out of the national forces, and says that the law has been enforced in twelve States, yielding 50,000 men, and ten million dollars for procuring substitutes. The three hundred dollar clause is alluded to, as are also the conflicting opinions in regard to its justice and injustice. He says a large proportion of the troops whose terms expire next year, will re-enlist, it being stipulated by the Government that they shall have at least one month's furlough before their present term expires; indications are that the force required will in a great measure be raised by volunteering and without draft. Immediate appropriation for bounties should be made. He pays a tribute to freed slaves and says they make good soldiers, are easily disciplined and full of courage. Fifty thousand colored troops are now organized, and the number rapidly increases. He gives a list of the principal ordnance material under the control of the Department at the beginning of the war, and the quantities of those articles on hand June 30, 1863; the figures are immense.

It is believed that the troops have been supplied with an abundance of wholesome food, and that, if in the movement of armies temporary want has been felt, it has not been due to any want of foresight or attention on the part of the Commissary General's Department.

The report concludes:—"I may be permitted to express a hope that the next annual report from this Department may announce the complete overthrow of the rebellion, the restoration of peace and the establishment of the Union on a sure foundation in all the bounds of the United States."

New York, 10.

A special to the *Times* says Meade's army is quietly encamped in Culpepper county, on the south bank of the Rappahannock.

Lee occupies his old position at Orange Court House, his advance lines guarding the Rapidan fords. The pickets are again on friendly terms, but little duelling between them, and but few casualties on either side. Bushwhackers are beginning to swarm again on our flanks and rear.

Jeff Davis issued his annual message to the rebel Congress on Monday, the 7th. The document is mournful.

Deserters say that Lee's army does not exceed 35,000, and is raising huts for winter quarters along the line of the Rapidan.

Washington, 10.

The report of Secretary Chase was delivered to-day. He recommends a duty of two fifths per cent on bank note circulation, two cents a pound on cotton, ten cents on crude petroleum, sixty cents a gallon on distilled spirits, twenty cents a pound on leaf tobacco, and five to twelve on manufactured.

The Secretary recommends the issue of no more paper money, but asks leave to borrow three hundred millions for the current fiscal year.

The rebel Congress met on Monday, 7th, at Richmond. Bills were introduced to prevent the employment of substitutes.

The Richmond *Enquirer*, 8th, protests against allowing any more provisions to come from the north to Yankee prisoners.

New York, 10.

By the *Etna*, Liverpool, 25th, Queenstown, 26th. Cabinet councils are being held daily; Earl Russell was present. Russia's reply to the invitation to attend the European Congress is received; it asks for the objects to be discussed.

*La France* says all the continental powers, except Austria, have acceded to the call for a Congress.

Chicago, 11.

The following is from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury:—The Secretary has much satisfaction in being able to say, in general, that the operations of the Department have been attended, during the last fiscal year, by a greater measure of success than was anticipated at the beginning. Notwithstanding the aid afforded by the additional issue of United States notes, under the joint resolution of January, the Secretary has found it impossible to prevent a gradual increase, during the session of Congress, in the amount of unpaid requisitions; those which were unsatisfied at the beginning of the session were indeed discharged, and large sums applied to new demands for current disbursements, but the aggregate disbursements remaining necessarily unpaid increased steadily, notwithstanding all efforts to prevent, until they reached at the close of the session, \$72, 171, 189. The loan act and the national banking act were followed by an immediate revival of public credit. Success quite beyond anticipation crowned the efforts of the Secretary to

distribute the five-twenty loan, as well as every other measure adopted by him for replenishing the Treasury; the result was that, within two months after the adjournment of Congress, the whole mass of suspended requisitions had been satisfied, all current demands promptly met and full provision made for payment of the army and navy.

Notwithstanding these great expenditures, the Secretary is gratified in being able to announce that the total disbursements did not greatly exceed, while the increase of the public debt did not equal the estimates submitted to Congress at its last session; thus, while it was estimated that the public debt on the 30th of June, 1863, would reach the sum of \$1,122,297,403, its actual amount on that day was \$1,098,793,181; and while the disbursements for the year were estimated at \$693,346,321, the real total was \$714,709,995. The receipts from the internal revenue have disappointed expectations; the estimate was \$85,456,303, while the actual receipts were only \$27,640,787; part of the deficiency is attributed to imperfect execution of the law, and part to changes made in the law by Congress, after the estimates were made; but it is not probable, had neither cause operated to reduce the receipts, that the revenue from this source would have exceeded half the estimated amount.

The following are the Secretary's estimate of receipts and expenditures for the next year:—Estimated balance, June 1, 1864, \$5,836,539; from customs, seventy millions; internal revenue, a hundred and twenty-five million; lands, one hundred thousand; miscellaneous sources, five million; making an estimated aggregate of receipts, \$206,838,539. Estimated expenditures for the year, \$753,815,088; from which deduct the estimated receipts from ordinary sources, as before stated, \$205,836,539, leaving to be provided by law \$548,978,548. The sum to be provided represents the increase of debt during the year, assuming, therefore, the correctness of the estimate which puts the debt on July 1, 1864, at \$1,683,956,641, it will result from these estimates that the whole debt will have reached, on the 30th of June, 1865, the sum of \$2,231,935,190. The limit prescribed by law to the issue of United States notes has been reached, and the Secretary thinks it clearly inexpedient to increase the amount, sufficient circulation having been already provided. The government must now borrow, like any other employer of capital temporarily requiring more than his income will supply, and rely for the credit, which will secure advantageous loans, upon the good industrial activity of accumulated though not immediately available capital, and satisfactory provisions for punctual pay of accruing interest and the ultimate reimbursement of the principal; to subscriptions for the remaining five-twenty and deposits for temporary loans, therefore, must be directed all the reasonable expectations of means for the service of the current year, except from negotiations under the act of the last session. Under some like act must be provided, in like manner, if the continuance of the war shall make it necessary, the sum of \$544,978,548, estimated as likely to be required from loans for the fiscal year 1865.

Louisville, 11.

The *Journal* has advice, which it credits, that John Morgan was in Cumberland county, on the 7th, enroute for Dixie.

New York, 11.

A special to the *World*, from army Potomac, 10th, says it is intended to keep the army here for a time, unless circumstances, not calculated upon, arise. Every where it is apparent the men are building comfortable quarters, and preparing for winter.

A *Herald* dispatch says, on reliable authority, Lee's army now occupies the following positions:—Hill's corps is around Orange Court House, where Gen. Lee has his headquarters; Early's division is near Summerville; Rood's is at Martin's and Tobacco fords; Johnson's division is at Mitchell; and Brown's is at Germanna fords. From the dense volumes of smoke arising from the woods south of Raccoon and Martin fords, it is evident the enemy is in force there.

The rebel authorities state that Lee had over 60,000 men in the last campaign, and that he was certain, of victory, had we had the rashness to attack him in position. It is stated that the enemy is building winter quarters.

Fort Monroe, 11.

Richmond papers have the following:—Charleston, 8.—A brisk fire between Morris and Gregg this morning. The Yankees have ceased firing on Sumter. Our batteries keep up a slow fire on the enemy's working parties at Gregg.

Bristol, East Tennessee, 8.

Our forces besieging Knoxville fell back to Morristown on Friday night, where a stand will probably be made. The work of putting the East Tennessee and Virginia railroad in running order is being pushed forward.

[Continued on page 172.]