

of a member of the Church who brought in a load of grain, insisting that the Bishop must take it for tithing, as the man's own granaries were full and he had no place to put it. Another of the speakers was Bishop Wm. West, one of the thirteen persons called as missionaries to settle the Bear River valley. He recounted how these severe frosts destroyed their grain and vegetables in the years from 1870 to 1873, and how in the latter year, in the month of June, the frost was so sharp and heavy that it killed the leaves of the hardy cottonwood trees. "But," he adds, coming down to the present, "under the blessings of God this year we have raised over sixty thousand bushels of grain; we have potatoes and other vegetables in abundance;" and these facts he points out as evidence that the Saints of Randolph are a tithing people—that they have kept the conditions and the promised blessings have accrued to them.

The Saints will recognize that this is but one of a multitude of instances of similar character, many of them of vastly greater importance in their general experience than the incident related. But it will serve to illustrate a principle, and perhaps to impress it anew upon the minds of the people. Certainly the Saints of Bear Lake Stake need no urging to learn the lesson presented; they have the lamp of their own experience so freshly lighted and so newly filled with oil that its rays must shine brightly to guide their future operations under a principle which brings them rich reward. And a record of similar experiences throughout all this region, where the elements have undergone, by the control of an Almighty hand, changes or modifications in their action to better suit the conditions and needs of the people, should bring to Saints a realization of their duty in the present hour; how that their tithes and their offerings should be made in due measure and season, that the voice of the poor and afflicted may not be heard in vain, and that the law of the Lord may be observed in its letter and spirit. If this requirement is conformed to by the Saints, the future, even more strongly than the past, will bear witness to the fulfillment of the Divine promise that to those who observe the law of tithing there shall be a land of plenty, of peace, of happiness—truly a land of Zion.

THE WATER RATE TROUBLE.

The general protest called forth from the people at the new assessment of water rates in Salt Lake City brings up a subject that should receive the prompt and careful attention of the City Council. It points out that in the matter of water rates in this municipality, the adoption of a close and well defined rule of assessment is a present necessity, and further that that rule should be the very opposite of exorbitant in its charges for the regulation of the water supply. The broad discretionary powers that have been exercised heretofore by officials who made the assessment have been well suited to the past, so that no complaint need be made in that direction; but the latest instance of applying that discretion gives overwhelming

proof of the necessity of immediate change, and perhaps the event has come none too soon. Without any thought or intimation of blame on any one, it may be said that it is due the people that they be given to understand precisely what they may expect in this business from year to year, and that the uncertainty suggested in the present proceeding be removed.

On behalf of the officials who have made the assessment, it is set forth that they have merely conformed to the ordinance, and in doing so have done only that which was their plain duty. No doubt this is true from their standpoint, and we have no inclination to question it. We believe they are seeking to enforce the law rigidly all around, and for that are entitled to credit and consideration. We like to see a man with an upright carriage and dignified bearing; but when in trying to stand erect he leans over backward, it makes him look awkward, besides placing him in danger of losing his equilibrium. So when there is a discretionary power given to assess in a certain class of business a water rate of "\$10 to \$20," when the maximum sum is charged against the smallest kind of business in that class, as is the case in some instances at least in the assessment complained of, it is leaning too far back, and the equipoise should be restored. The very fact that the officials are making a strict enforcement of the ordinance, while it speaks well for the officer, presents a conclusive argument why the ordinance should be made so clear and just in its terms that it cannot be enforced with severity.

Notwithstanding the fact that the City Council has declared against the sale of the waterworks, and we believe honestly and sincerely so, there comes up in the minds of the people a new doubt on the subject in connection with the present occasion of complaint. It is that with a rule of exorbitant water rates the people will become so weary of the burden that when a private company offers to take the system and tenders a guarantee that only high rates will prevail, it will be caught at as a very tempting bait.

There is one feature that should be kept in view in dealing with the city's water supply. This is that it is not to be handed by the corporation as a gigantic monopoly or trust handles some article of commerce. The sugar trust or coal trust probably have a legal right to charge as much as they can get for sugar or for coal. But the corporation has no legal or moral right to conduct a water trust on the same lines. It holds title to the control of the water supply for the benefit of the inhabitants of the city, not for their oppression and injury, and we believe that the City Council will deal with the matter in that view of the case. As representative men in control of the municipal government they must realize that one of the most serious set-backs Salt Lake could receive would be to have the idea go forth that in the matter of rates for water—that indispensable element in this region—a policy burdensome to the investor and property-holder was being pursued. In view of the situation, therefore, the NEWS suggests that while it is desirable for the people to present their grievances fully

and fairly before their representatives, there is not the slightest occasion for indulging in denunciation or harsh criticism of the City Council or other municipal officers. Let the matter be handled promptly, but with calmness and deliberation, and the questions which have arisen no doubt will be settled to the general satisfaction of the public.

AS TO FOOTBALL.

Even the professors of Yale college are disgusted with football, so the dispatches inform us, although they may not have the courage to come out and forbid the students from participating in the game as a college organization. And good reason they have for this feeling of disgust, if only from a humanitarian standpoint; for the injury which results in every instance of a closely contested football game, and the imminent peril to life that always is present, should remove it from the practices lawfully permitted among a civilized people. It is no less barbarous among the students of a well conducted educational institution than is the brutal practice of hazing, now severely condemned, and deserves similar antagonistic treatment.

At the best, the game is a relic of the days of semi-civilization in Great Britain, and its introduction into this country among the students in schools and colleges is the reverse of complimentary to the intelligence of the period. It is true that among many of those who have come from England there is a sort of sentimentality in favor of a game once popular in their mother country. But those with whom this feeling exists have not kept pace with the advance of thought and civilization in the United Kingdom. Notwithstanding the fact that football is a largely patronized game in England today, it is under the ban of intelligent minds and leading educational society there, and is steadily and surely losing ground. The turning-point from whence the public sentiment was directed against it was in the culminating circumstances of "the season" in 1892, when the league games in Britain closed with a record of 23 men killed. This caused the appointment of a government commission, the modification of rules, and an anti-football agitation by which the game was stopped in many places, and a check given to it along almost the whole line.

As a matter of self protection, the football fever in this locality ought to be overcome. In this community parents have a marked interest in the mental and physical welfare of their children. This element and the practice of indulging in the game referred to are sure to come in conflict; and the result will be that as parents learn to realize the danger which it threatens to their sons, it will be placed in the category of forbidden games. No parent who fully understands the peril of the situation, and has due regard for the safety of his child, will fail to discourage football playing. And in this connection it may be timely to suggest that public school boards, one of whose duties it is to shield pupils from harmful practices while