

the agent and general manager of the English Colonization Company. Scott is a royal engineer, a member of General Wolseley's army, stationed in India and came to Lower California on a two-years leave of absence. This leave of absence expired and he is now on his way to join his regiment, having been refused a second leave of absence. This is one of the prime factors in the failure of the revolutionary scheme.

"Major Scott came to my office in San Diego early last winter and introduced himself. He said that he had been recommended to call and see me. He told me further that he wanted to employ a man of brains and energy to raise a row in Lower California. Then he unloaded his plans. He wanted a number of Americans to locate at Ensenada, to take up their residence there and become citizens of Mexico. At the proper moment an uprising of the people would take place, arms and ammunition being previously smuggled into the territory from the United States. An independent government was to be set up in Lower California, with Ensenada as the capital city.

"I accepted Major Scott's proposition and at his invitation made a trip to Lower California. If the scheme had carried I would have made a clean \$50,000 by the operation. My printing office I intended to remove to Ensenada and start a daily paper there that would become the official organ of the new independent government. I was to be made Governor-General at a large salary. Before I visited Ensenada, at Major Scott's request, I met General Edward Hill at the Hotel del Coronado, where I was living with my family. General Hill was spending the winter at the hotel. He is from Michigan and was with the Sixteenth Regiment of Michigan Volunteers during the late rebellion. Being an accomplished man and an expert upon military affairs, I looked upon him as a valuable man for Major Scott's scheme, and he accepted my invitation to accompany me to Ensenada. I was anxious that he should look over the ground carefully from a military point of view. We visited Ensenada, examined the proposition with great care and were entertained for several days by Major Scott and the other officials of the English colonization company.

"Upon our return from Lower California we consulted with Ranford Worthing, the surveyor, B. A. Stephens who had traveled all over the peninsula and was well posted upon its resources, and the various other gentlemen who have since been named in connection with the scheme. We consulted them more especially to obtain their views upon the different propositions involved. It was our intention not to make a raid upon Lower California, but as I have stated, to take up our residence there and in six months to become lawful citizens of Mexico. We held several meetings in San Diego, but none of them were regularly organized or official. They were merely conferences, at which we discussed possibilities and probabilities.

"It is my opinion that Major Scott had other plans in view, with which we were unacquainted. I am satisfied that he made connections, similar to those made with us, in other quarters. In fact, he may have had half a dozen connections, so that in case of the failure of one or more he could fall back upon one of the others. The trouble with Scott was that he talked much and allowed too many men, some of them irresponsible fellows, to know

the inside secrets of his scheme to inaugurate a revolution and take possession of Lower California.

"Colonel Foster, the special agent of the Department of Justice, has carefully investigated the facts in the case. He called upon me and I told him what I knew about the affair. You will see that he will place the blame entirely upon the English Colonization Company, and will completely exonerate the Americans who were inveigled into the scheme by Major Scott."

AN ENORMOUS INCREASE.

THE taxpayers of this city and county are beginning to sense the effects of the danger which is coming over public affairs. The tax notices served are startling. The valuation put upon property is excessive. There is no substantial reason for it. A plain and rational interpretation of the revenue law does not justify it. The effect will be bad, and the whole thing is oppressive and hurtful to progress.

Holders of much real estate will find a big elephant on their hands. Sales will fall off, for buyers will be scarce, and we are of the opinion that quite a number of dealers will be caught in a bad snap. The taxes will have to be paid and will be held as a lien on the property. The cash must be forthcoming or the property will go under the hammer.

When the city tax is added to the territorial, special and territorial school, and county taxes, the hair of many a taxpayer in this city will stand on end.

An increase of taxes, notwithstanding the reduction in the rate, was to be expected, because of the actual rise in values and the notion which some of our county officers entertained as to the meaning of "a cash valuation." But such an enormous swelling of the taxes was not anticipated and it will create much unpleasantness.

We think the county court will have considerable labor to perform during the period between July 21st and July 31st, the time set for hearing complaints in regard to assessments. Taxpayers should take notice that this is the only time during which improper assessments can be rectified.

SINGULAR INCONSISTENCY.

THE editor of the Lamoni, Iowa, *Herald*, the organ of the "Josephites," has been taking to task the "Liberal" organ of this city, for "holding all of Mormonism to be bad." He says: "There is much that is true and good in the philosophy of the Mormons of Utah, and there are

some things in the people and their characteristics that are worthy of praise." Of course, this is, all true and indisputable. But these and others similar remarks are consequent upon a former statement of the same writer, as follows:

"The laws of Congress and of Idaho are based upon the definite command of God and are but human amplifications upon that of divine precept."

This was presented as a reason for the argument that the complaint of the Utah and Idaho "Mormons" of harshness in the Idaho laws and the laws of Congress is not well founded.

Does the aforesaid writer understand the nature and scope of these same Idaho statutes? Does he know that they are especially and particularly framed to disfranchise citizens who have not violated the laws of Congress? We will omit any argument or statement about "the definite command of God," because that would bring in matter extraneous to this issue. But the harshness of the Idaho enactments which is complained of is, in that they deprive people of the right to vote, hold office, and serve as jurors who—the Josephite editor admits, are as "industrious, frugal, hard-working and self-sacrificing, as settlers in new lands, as any other people can possibly hope to be." And this, not because they have violated any law, human or divine, or because it is even claimed that they have done so, but simply because they belong to a Church some of the members of which have broken the law.

Now what "definite command of God" is there which can be cited as a justification of the Idaho laws in this respect? Or, of what divine law or precept are they an "amplification?" Any person who believes in the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints and is baptized by an Elder of this Church for the remission of sins, is disfranchised and denied all political rights and privileges in Idaho. Any man born in this Church and in the United States, if baptized when eight years old, or after, even if he is unmarried, is disfranchised for his Church membership. Any person who, whether a member or not, contributes to the Church, for a poor offering or otherwise, is disfranchised by the laws which the "Josephite" editor says "are based upon the definite command of God."

And this is not all. No citizen, however innocent of lawbreaking, or even of the crime of belonging to the "Mormon" Church, can exer-