

**AN INCONSISTENT POSTAL LAW.**

In previous articles we have referred to our postal laws, and the injustice they perpetrate on the people of these Territories. As the law stands at present the residents of these Territories are not the only ones who suffer from this injustice. The law discriminates between American and English and other European publishers, and gives the latter every advantage over those of our own country. An instance which illustrates this has lately been brought to our notice.

A package from England, weighing twenty-one ounces, and registered, was received at the Salt Lake City Post Office, the postage on which, including the registration fee, was forty-four cents. A package from New York, weighing sixteen ounces, not registered, was also received at this Post Office, and the postage on that cost ninety-six cents! The English package weighed five ounces more than the New York package, and the postage cost fifty-two cents less; had it not been registered it would have cost sixty cents less! If the package from England had been a registered package from New York, the postage would have been one dollar and sixteen cents, including the registry fee!

This brief statement shows up the injustice of the present law in the clearest possible manner, and such instances as the above are of constant occurrence. Who, that is familiar with the law as it stands at present, would send to New York, or to any eastern city, for a book, and pay the American postage, when he could send to England and obtain it so much cheaper and equally as safe? The payment of the registration fee of eight cents insures its safety. In a country where protection, in opposition to free trade, is the popular doctrine of the hour, it is surprising that such an unjust law as that which says "all mailable matter which may be conveyed by mail westward beyond the western boundary of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California, shall be subject to pre-paid letter postage," should be allowed to stand on the Statute Book. It cuts off the eastern book and publishing houses from all custom from the people who reside west and east of the points named, and compels them, if they get books by mail, to send to England for them.

Another illustration might be given of the injustice of this law, which all will readily perceive and appreciate. If a citizen residing at Echo Cañon, about fifty miles distant from this City, wished to send a book to a friend in this city, he would naturally enough expect to send it here by the most direct route. But he inquires at the post office as to what postage he will have to pay, and he finds that, if time is no particular object to him, he can send his book to England and have it forwarded from there to his friend in this city at a less cost for postage, than if he were to send it direct to him from his own post office!

Persons in this city wishing to send to the East for seeds can have them brought at cheaper rates from there, by having them forwarded from New York to San Francisco, and from San Francisco to Portland in Oregon, and from the latter city to this place, than if they were to have them sent to them direct from the East. If they came direct, they would have to pay ninety-six cents per pound, while by the roundabout route described they would only be charged at miscellaneous mail matter rates—two

cents for each four ounces! Packages of seeds sent for to the East, and directed via Portland, Oregon, have been received at the Post Office in this city, by the Overland Mail direct from the East. But because the sender had directed that they should be sent via Portland, Oregon, they could only be charged at the rate of two cents for each four ounces. Had the sender not written upon them, "via Portland," they would have been charged letter-postage—ninety-six cents per pound. But the Department could not take advantage of its own error. It would only cost at the rate of two cents for every four ounces to send it by Portland, and if the post office people send it by any other route, no matter how costly, they can still only charge according to that rate.

The law, as it now stands, operates injuriously in many ways. The more the subject is examined the more odious does the law appear. Instances might be multiplied *ad infinitum* to show up its injustice. The carrying of mail matter by the roundabout routes resorted to increases the trouble and expenses of the mail carriers on those routes, and is a great disadvantage to them. No one—the Post Office Department, the mail carriers, nor any one else—is benefitted by this law, but it is every way oppressive and injurious. It should be repealed, and a termination be put to such rank injustice.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

**By Telegraph.**

**FIGHTING IN SOUTH AMERICA!**

**GUNS AND MEDICAL STORES FOR SAN FRANCISCO!**

**ALABAMA CLAIMS MUST BE SETTLED!**

New York, 1.—The *Henry Chauncey* has arrived from Panama with dates to the 23d. The news from the Isthmus is unimportant. Prado has been defeated at Ariquepa and forced to retreat. The Islay revolution has proved a success. The Prado administration is hurled from power. Ariquepa suffered bombardment thirty-six hours.

The *Nevada* of the opposition line, had arrived at Panama. On the passage she ran short of coal, and had to burn a portion of her masts and spars.

Washington.—Seward remonstrates with the Senate against abolishing secret agents. He states that such action greatly embarrasses foreign affairs and will militate against the successful negotiations of important public matters. Some important treaties have been treated by special agents which could not be easily any other way.

Madrid.—In accordance with the expressed determination of Government to support the temporal power of the Holy Father, steps have been taken for the formation of a corps, to be known as the Papal Legion.

Washington.—The President has approved the Bill providing for the distribution, among the people of the South, of the accumulated desiccated vegetables and preserved meats not required for the use of the army.

Dispatches from Copenhagen which have been received, dated at the State Department, announce the ratification of the treaty for the sale of the Danish West Indies.

New York.—A Lima letter of January 14th says the forces sent by Prado to attack the revolutionary forces under Segura were defeated, and their commander severely wounded. On receiving the news of this reverse the Dictator determined on the final attack on the 23d. The water was cut off from the City, and on the 26th the bombardment commenced, lasting thirty-six hours. Over 3,000 balls and shells were thrown into Ariquepa. Several barricades were taken by the infantry charge, but were abandoned for want of support. General Bushamante having informed Prado that the whole army were in revolt and clamorous for his life, the latter, though the story was false, immediately sought safety in flight. Deserted by their chief, the troops became demoralized and a large body passed over to the enemy. Prado, on arriving at Islay, embarked for Callao, whence he proceeded to Lima, where indignation against him was very great. The troops in the Castle of Callao turned it over to Consec's Government without bloodshed; their example was followed by the Limians. General La Freerente has taken the su-

preme command until the arrival of Consec the second Vice President. Prado sailed on the eleventh for Chili, where he enjoys the pay and rank of General.

Paris.—The debate in the Corps Legislatif on the bill of the Government for the regulation of the press continues.

London.—The mail steamer from Rio Janeiro brings news that the inhabitants of Rosena, a town of considerable size on the Parana, had rebelled against the authority of Mitre, the President of the Republic, and had declared for Urquiza, formerly the Dictator of the Confederation. The cholera at Buenos Ayres has subsided. There had been no fighting since the last mail.

London.—Killarney letters say the clergy of that town, who refused to say mass for the souls of Allan, Larkin and Gould, executed at Manchester, have ceased to receive money for their support or that of their churches. A terrific gale prevails throughout England tonight, much damage by sea and land is apprehended.

St. Louis.—It is reported that Gov. Fletcher is about to seize the Missouri Pacific railroad in the name of the State. A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to abolish capital punishment, and also to establish a board of pardon commissioners, to whom all applications for pardons must be presented.

Little Rock.—A resolution has been offered in the Convention, disfranchising all who oppose reconstruction, and that voting against the ratification of the Constitution, shall be sufficient grounds for disfranchisement. Petitions to Congress for the continuance of the Freedmen's Bureau were adopted.

Tallahassee.—The Convention is still discussing the questions of eligibility; none of the work for which the Convention assembled has yet been done.

New York.—Train writes to the *World*, saying that Durant took out five millions in gold to buy twenty thousand tons of iron to complete the Rock Island railroad to Omaha.

Raleigh.—The convention was engaged all day in discussing the point as to whether the relief ordinance shall be attached to the new constitution: no conclusion was reached.

Nashville.—The Legislature recently passed a law allowing negroes to hold office; a number of negro candidates is already announced. Able lawyers say the law conflicts with the amended constitution. Suits will be issued to test the question.

Atlanta.—The convention has adopted a resolution petitioning Congress to appropriate thirty millions in currency, to be loaned to aid in developing the agricultural interest of the needy Southern planters.

Paris, 2.—The *Courier Francaise* says the presence of Farragut at Naples is designed to counterpoise the French forces at Rome, and sustain the Liberals of Italy, with whom Farragut holds intimate relations. The *Courier* says the Admiral sent to Caprera promises of support, and only awaited the reply of Garibaldi. The debate on the proposed bill of the government for the regulation of the press was closed late last evening, no vote was reached.

Orleans.—Hancock returned yesterday from a visit to Texas. The convention spent the day in discussing a proposition to pay for the newspapers furnished the members. An ordinance was offered requiring the sheriffs, recorders and clerks who receive an income of over ten thousand to devote the excess of that sum for the relief of the poor.

Buffalo.—Gen. John O'Neil, President of the Fenian brotherhood, was inaugurated last night. Speeches were made by O'Neil, Col. Walsh, of California, and others. A series of meetings will be held throughout the country.

York.—The ships *Dexter* and *Blue Jacket* are about to sail for California; they will take on 36 Parrott guns, large quantities of powder, mortars, shell and shot, and three hundred tons of medical stores for the hospital at San Francisco, and three thousand bedsteads. Caroline Longworth, sister of the late Nicholas Longworth, died at New York yesterday.

Cadiz.—Reports from Morocco say that a severe famine prevails at Tangiers and Tetuan.

Florence.—It was announced in both Houses of Parliament yesterday, that the Crown Prince Humbert was formally betrothed to the Princess Margareta, of Genoa.

Paris.—It is reported that the Government is likely to withdraw the new bill for the regulation of the press, in consequence of the opposition to the measure by the Liberal party.

Latrebe, Pa.—The Saint Xavier seminary near this place was totally destroyed by fire yesterday; all the inmates

escaped safely and saved the greater part of their clothing.

London.—In accordance with the request of Lord Stanley the Pasha of Egypt has recalled the auxiliary troops of the Egyptians sent to join the British and Egyptians in Abyssinia.

Berlin.—A bill, introduced by the Government granting large indemnities to the King of Hanover and Duke of Nassau, has passed the Diet. Much opposition was shown to granting these appropriations, and the bill only passed by the urgent efforts of Bismark.

San Francisco, 2.—The *Montana*, *Panama* and *Idaho* arrived to-day; sailed, the *Gen. McClellan* and *Hansa* for Liverpool. Honolulu advices of January 20 say that several American ships had been wrecked on the guano islands; the *Lizzie Oakford* on Howland island September 26th, the *Washington* on Makea's island December 4, the *Minnehaha* on Baker's island, December 3. No lives lost the crews having arrived safe at Honolulu—the vessels were a total loss. The ship *Garstang* finished loading at Bakers island and sailed Dec. 10th.—The *Advertiser* says owing to the rainy weather the plantations are inactive. There is a general disposition to avoid increased expenditure until the result of the reciprocity treaty is known. Should it prove a failure it will operate with a most depressing influence; its ratification will restore confidence in every branch of industry. The American, English, German and French residents regard the measure as beneficial to the whole country. The action of the Chamber of Commerce at San Francisco in connection with the treaty was received with satisfaction. The total value of exports from Honolulu amounts to sixty-seven millions and a half. The French war steamer *Coetlogon* arrived at Honolulu from Tahiti, January 18. Captain Long publishes in the *Advertiser* a full account of his discoveries of the polar continent, and recommends that a steamer be sent to coast along the shore, as the current sets out from the land, leaving a wide belt of smooth water, within ten miles of the position where Wrangell discovered the open polar sea. The *Bark, Count Bismark* arrived at Honolulu from Hamburg, January 5. The Russian ship *Garila* with a freight of passengers for Europe, from Sitka, put into Honolulu all well. The ship *Iolani* sailed from New Bedford with a full cargo of oil and bone, January 11.

York, 2.—A special from *Annapolis* says the Legislature was much excited yesterday over a resolution instructing Gov. Swan to issue the commission of Senator Hamilton. He says Swan declines to issue the commission, claiming that Hamilton was elected in violation of the East Shore law concerning Senators.

Washington.—The Government officers have seized 80 illicit stills in three counties in South Carolina and arrested several distillers; subsequently the deputy collector was met by a party, who was ascertained to have been hired by those engaged in unlawful distilling, and was shot through the shoulder. A reward has been offered for the apprehension of the guilty party.

New York, 3.—The *World's* special says there is a probability of more Cabinet changes soon. A new Secretary of War will certainly be nominated. Rumor says the President intends to nominate Gen. Banks. It is reported that Gen. Meade has issued an order for the arrest of Gov. Jenkins of Georgia now in Washington. It is said that he telegraphed Stanton to have the arrest made. The friends of Gov. Jenkins took him out of the way.

The *Tribune's* special says it is expected that the President will soon rearrange the military departments. Material changes are expected in the northwestern States and Territories. In consequence of England's refusal to allow the slightest scrutiny of her conduct in the Alabama claims, our Government has determined to assert, positively, that the claims must be paid. The President entirely concurs in the views of Gen. Banks' report, and intends to take speedy action in the case of American citizens now detained in British prisons.

**LOCAL ITEMS.**

BEAR LAKE VALLEY.—Br. Augustus E. Pearce, writing from St. Charles, Bear Lake Valley, Jan. 17th, informs us that at date, the snow was about a foot deep, the weather pleasant and clear, the health of the people good, and all was peace and quietness.

HONORABLE.—The *Dalles Mountaineer* credits the *DESERET EVENING NEWS* with the Eastern dispatches which it extracts from our columns. This is honorable, now that it is becoming fashionable in some places to take dispatches and original matter bodily from the columns of other papers, and give no credit for them.