

"KEEP WITHIN THE LAW."

THERE has been some difficulty in the County Court of Salt Lake County over a provision in the law, passed at the last session of the Utah Legislature, in reference to a Bureau of Statistics, and this has been misrepresented in the local sheet which always tries to prejudice the public against officials of the People's Party and apologize for the misdeeds of "Liberal" encroachers upon the public pocket.

That this matter may be properly understood we here quote some portions of the law in relation to it:

"Sec. 3.—The several county assessors and their deputies, of this Territory, shall at the time of taking the lists of property for taxation, procure from each person required to list property in their county a statement of the number of acres he has had under cultivation during the preceding year, the number of acres irrigated, the number of acres he has had under enclosure for pasture, the kind of crops and the respective acreage thereof, the amount of product of each respective crop during the preceding year; number of gallons made of wine, cider, vinegar and sorghum; number of pounds made each of butter, cheese, honey and dried fruits of each kind respectively; number of hives of bees; number of pounds of wool shorn; the number each of milch cows, cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, and swine over six months old, owned on the 31st day of December of the preceding year."

From this it will be seen that the work of gathering these statistics is to be done by the Assessor and his deputies "at the time of taking the lists of property for taxation."

In section six of the same act it is provided that,

"The assessors and their deputies shall receive such compensation for the services herein required as the county courts may determine."

So much for the law. Now as to the facts: Assessor Lynch wants at least ten deputies to do the work required by law. He demands for each of them four dollars a day for services within the city, and five dollars and a half a day outside of the city. For himself in superintending their work he asks eight dollars a day. And he makes a separate and distinct business of this statistical labor from the regular duty of assessing. He estimates the cost at about \$5,000.

Selectman Howe does not approve of this course. He regards the demands of the Assessor as exorbitant and thinks the work can be properly done for less money, and that it should be attended to as the law provides; that is, in connection with "taking the lists of property for taxation," which would be a saving of time and expense. For this he is assailed by the daily mud-slinger.

The compensation for this work is entirely in the control of the

County Court. That body should see to it that the Assessor performs his duty within the law. He is amply paid for the work of assessment. Blank forms are furnished him, which are to be filled up with these statistics. To demand eight dollars a day for supervising this work is very liberal—to himself, and very "Liberal" in its manner of making all that is possible out of a public office. The amount required for deputies, too, are excessive, and we think that Selectman Howe's position will be supported by a large majority of the taxpayers in this city and county.

Now there is no need for any misrepresentation or political buncombe in reference to this matter. The work should be done as the law provides. It should be done at the time the law provides. It should be paid for by the county, fairly and justly. There is no need to make it an opening for grabs at the public purse. The court should not be penurious, but at the same time it should guard the public interest and not be imposed upon nor be hounded by an unprincipled paper into improper expenditures.

The Legislature, in passing this law, did not intend to create chances for public officers to make enormous fees in addition to their regular emoluments, but blended economy with the plan for gathering important information, and so placed the duty of collecting it upon the Assessors, because they could obtain it at comparatively small expense "at the time of taking the lists of property for taxation." "Keep within the law!"

HOME AND FOREIGN SLANDERS.

THE meeting of business men held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms January 29th was important and suggestive. The villainous slanders about the people of Utah published in the *Illustrated American* constituted the chief topic. The sentiment against the outrageous libels was unanimous and pronounced. There was a striking unanimity in this respect. The action respecting the vile publications partook of the spirit of the meeting, and what was proposed will doubtless be carried out completely.

Without entering into an analysis of the motives which have, in the main, prompted this step, no good citizen can fail to endorse it. No matter as to the incentives which lead to a vindication of truth and justice, it is a matter of congratulation when falsehood and wrong are subjected to a backset.

One of the speakers at the gathering of last night struck a point well worth consideration. Mr. Shearman held

that the object of the movement being to prevent the doing of injury, by published slanders, to the material interests of Utah, it was not of much use to seek to check such an influence at a distance when it was exerted much more potently at home—referring to the policy of hate and falsehood pursued by the Salt Lake *Tribune*. The gentleman related an instance of capital having been kept out of Utah by the daily libels perpetrated by that journal. He seemed to be endeavoring to make the impression that some expression against the course of that paper would be in order. It did not appear, however, that the point made by him was taken up and audibly endorsed to any extent. This could not be because there was any doubt as to his being entirely right in what he said. Every sensible man in this section of the country knows that his position is correct. Unfortunately, however, the number of men who have the courage of conviction which Mr. Shearman appears to possess is exceedingly limited.

Thursday, January 29th the Salt Lake *Times* (non-"Mormon" and "Liberal") struck the same point made by Mr. Shearman. We here-with reproduce its article:

"It is all very well for us to resent with indignation the falsehoods uttered about Utah in the east; it is very well to protest against the malicious libel that the Mormons are preparing for a war of extermination at an early day; it is all very well to pass resolutions in the City Council and Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of reassuring the people in the east that we are not hell-bent on rebellion and treason as the *Illustrated American* asserts. But why should we visit our wrath upon a sensational paper several thousand miles distant when right at home we have a journal that is never so happy as when it can stir up the embers of strife and fan the fires of hatred in our midst. What the *Illustrated American* avers in a spasm of morbidity that does the daily *Lannan* (*Tribune*) maintain in its normal condition; and what the former is supposed to retail at second hand, that the latter is believed to draw fresh from the fountain head. If the brutal attack in the *Illustrated American*, calculated to destroy our credit abroad, was not indited in the daily *Lannan* (*Tribune*) office, it was certainly inspired there; and promptly after it had appeared in the pictorial, the daily *Lannan* (*Tribune*) quoted from it all it dared, with spontaneous approval,

"And yet we try to harpoon the minnow and let the whale glide on. We chastise the gamin and tolerate the tramp."

"Suppose the *Illustrated American* should, instead of retracting the lies it published fortify itself with quotations from the daily *Lannan* (*Tribune*) and reiterate its statements; what then?

"The least thing that might be expected of a home paper is loyalty to home interests. The daily *Lannan* (*Tribune*) wallows in riot. It would rather proclaim to the world that the Union Pacific headquarters are to be removed from Salt Lake City, though there be not a shadow of truth in it, than to give support to the