

EDITORIALS.

PHILANTHROPY OR WHAT?

It is claimed that a boom is in full blast somewhere in this city. As it consists for the greater part of real estate transactions, its solidity is not yet visible to the naked eye. Among its products in the incipient stage is the land-jumping episode, which has not yet quite faded from the tapis.

Perhaps it has not yet occurred to the people of this city that the boomistic order of things has also produced a philanthropic growth that probably in the estimation of the individual who exhibits the predilection ought to throw the memory of such men as George Peabody and Peter Cooper into the shade.

The exploit of the rising young stenographer, A. H. Winn, aided by his legal adviser, O. W. Powers, in seizing the Tenth Ward Square, is fresh in the public mind. The alacrity displayed by the officers acting for the city corporation, which owns the property, in dumping Mr. Winn's plow and other implements on the outside of the enclosing fence and ejecting his workmen is not yet stale. The memory of his subsequent demand upon the Mayor for a deed to the public square in question has not yet died out. These incidents were quickened in the popular memory by the appearance in Saturday's News of a communication addressed to the City Council by the rising young stenographer aforesaid.

It is in that document that the spirit of the great philanthropist raises itself with majesty similar to that of Esau Peak above Arsenal Hill. The magnanimous paragraph will bear reproduction, and we therefore present it:

"While I believe the law and the facts are with me, and that I should ultimately win, as to a part of the land at least, if I sought the power of the highest courts, I have determined not to interfere with the claims of the populace or the city corporation, and am ready to make any conveyance to the city for indisputable and actual public use, which may be thought best, and thus strengthen what, under present circumstances, would seem at best not a perfect title."

The human race, as a whole, is redeemed from the odium of general crookedness by the exalted examples of some of the sons of earth. Here is a young man on the banners of whose vivid imagination victory is serenely perched. The law and the facts are on his side, and an appeal to the highest courts would result in his triumph. In the face of this castled theoretic creation, the person who thus readily paints a picture of success, is willing to brush aside the inviting imaginative creation, and make a deed of conveyance to the city of that which already belongs to it, and to which he has no and never had any more title than any other misguided person who is ready to engage in a wild goose chase.

Mr. Winn in the first place, after jumping it, demanded a deed of the Tenth Ward Square from the city corporation. For obvious reasons this was refused. Now the gentleman turns around and expresses a willingness to make a deed of conveyance to the corporation.

Come to think of it the idea of philanthropy heretofore applied may be substituted by that of impudence, which in this instance has reached an altitude that may be properly defined as sublime.

A TRIANGULAR CONFLICT.

It appears from the dispatches that a strike was to be inaugurated this morning under the auspices of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, on the C. B. & Q. Railway. The step-out was to be confined to the engineers and firemen. The public are familiar with the fact that the Brotherhood named and the Knights of Labor split partnership some time since, the former refusing to work under the dictum of the latter. Now the Knights propose to get even with the recalcitrants by taking what looks like an unfair advantage of the situation. In Pennsylvania there is a host of unemployed engineers and firemen, brought into that condition by the strikes instituted by the Knights of Labor, as well as other causes. The latter organization proposes to dispatch a large number of these to the relief of the C. B. & Q. Company, to the discomfiture of the strikers.

Thus is the spectacle presented of a change in the light, which is now a three-cornered struggle. Instead of it being a battle between labor and capital, it is a set-to between a labor faction on one side and capital and a powerful labor organization on the other. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is thus placed at a powerful disadvantage and may be forced to capitulate, not only to the capitalists involved but ultimately to the Knights of Labor.

If the Brotherhood surrender to the Knights and conclude to amalgamate with them the situation will not be disentangled by that result. The

stronger organization will only succeed in forcing into its own ranks a large number of men who will never heartily fraternize with it, as the episode in connection with this last movement will rankle in the minds of those who are coerced by a process that seems on its face to be unfair and ungenerous, being of the nature of a rule or ruin policy.

Of course the railroad and other capitalists will not fail to take advantage of the new split, as the weakening of their opponents on the side of labor, by fomenting dissension in their ranks, will strengthen their position.

The excuse for the threatened action of the Knights to send men to take the places of the C. B. & Q. employees, should they strike, is that the Brotherhood supplied trainmen to fill the posts of the striking Knights on the Reading roads. This is stoutly and unqualifiedly denied by the chiefs of the Brotherhood.

The labor and capital troubles as a whole become more and more complicated, and consequently more difficult of adjustment.

A NEW FORM OF POWER.

For the purpose of adducing an argument in favor of tariff reform, the Boston Globe prints the following paragraph:

"The price of tin has advanced in one year 63 per cent. The price of zinc has advanced in one year about 23 per cent. The price of copper also has been very largely increased—in the neighborhood of 100 per cent. during the year. All this is the work of 'trusts,' syndicates and 'combines.' By thus raising the price of the metals they, in effect, levy taxes upon the people. The rise of prices is artificial and the consumers are the taxpayers. Almost everybody in civilized society is a consumer of these metals. Tin, zinc, and copper carry high protective duties. But what do the people think about continuing to protect these 'trusts' and 'combines'?"

This statement of existing facts goes to show the necessity for what the Globe advocates, a readjustment of the tariff, of a nature to suit existing conditions. But it is deeply significant of something more dangerous to the welfare of the people than even an unjust tariff. It shows that wealth, so potent in the forms it has hitherto worn among mankind, is developing new power by pursuing a plan which is of recent, and we believe, American invention.

A number of rival corporations, in order to obviate the disadvantages of rivalry, and prevent the reduction of profits which result from competition, organize what is called a "trust," in reality a partnership of corporations. One or more representatives are chosen from each company entering into the partnership, and these form a board of control, which fixes prices, etc. Thus competing financiers, representing vast accumulations of wealth, combine their millions and create a power which, in the event of a collision between the two, might even shake the coat of the State itself. A combination of millionaires is even now being formed, in this country, according to a statement in the New York World, for the purpose of ousting the British from Venezuela and getting possession of certain mining regions in that country.

Secret combinations among the masses of a disaffected populace may be able to exert a tremendous power over the destinies of a state; but it is a question whether or not an alliance between the state's capitalists, especially if they were numerous, would not be equally powerful. The figures given by the Boston Globe show that the people are being forced to pay, and are actually paying without threatening demonstrations of any kind, an increased taxation on certain necessities which no state government in the Union, or even Congress, would have the hardihood to levy; and that this tax is being extorted from the masses by a power that could only be created by combining wealthy corporations.

The vast fortunes which are being accumulated in these days form a element in the government of various nations of the possible effect of which history affords no precedent; for in no former age has there prevailed a condition parallel with what is now seen in Europe and America, the latter especially, in respect to the influence which wealth does, or is able to, exert over the affairs of the state.

LAND JUMPING SMASHED.

This morning, in the Third District Court, Chief Justice Zane rendered a decision in the matter of the application of John H. Linck, of Colorado, for an injunction against the Corporation of Salt Lake City, to prevent the latter from standing in the way of his being allowed peaceable possession of the Arsenal Hill property, which he jumped and from which he was summarily evicted.

A synopsis of the decision appears in this issue. The condensed presentation of its substance is sufficient to show the soundness of its character. It is but another of the numerous evidences that have been furnished by the Judge that he is, on general principles, a clearheaded lawyer, a fact

that we have never disputed. When this has been questioned it has been in relation to his judicial operations in a certain class of cases where, according to the way we have viewed it, he has been unable to control his personal bias; which is invariably so with any judge who, apparently believing himself to have a special mission, concentrates his power upon its accomplishment without due reference to the spirit and even the letter of the law and the genius of justice and mercy, which should enter into all of its operations. Outside of that particular line the judicial course of the Chief Justice has been, as a rule, consistent and lawyer like.

It is only fair to state, in reference to this question, that the defect on the part of the official acting as trustee in a dual capacity for the actual settlers and the community resident within the municipality was only partial. The platting of the ground in question was done in pursuance of the law, by direction of the Mayor and City Council, thirteen years ago, but the draft was afterwards lost, the surveyor having been unable to find it.

This fact by no means invalidates the claim of the corporation or community to the property. Any defect in that regard can be and doubtless will be remedied. The laws of Congress in relation to townsites are definite, and the Territorial statute in the same connection is in unison with it, and according to the latter, as the judge clearly showed, the land must be disposed of. Those laws effectively shut out forever all claims of the individual jumper, who is an enemy of good order and common civilization.

This decision places John H. Linck, of Colorado, on the outside of the Arsenal Hill grounds where he was placed by the city officers, there to remain perpetually, unless he should go there after the manner of a decent citizen, to enjoy the splendid view to be had from that eminence.

The Colorado decision quoted by Judge McBride, of counsel for Mr. Linck, was made to do efficient service for the other side, the Chief Justice showing plainly that it applied the opposite way to that for the support of which it was offered.

This morning's decision will, we presume, put a quietus upon the land-jumping fraternity within the boundaries of this municipality, and will relieve Mr. Winn from any obligation in the premises in relation to his philanthropic offer to make a deed of conveyance of the Tenth Ward Square to the Corporation of Salt Lake City, in order to render the title of that body to the property named secure. All the links of the land-jumping chain appear now to be effectually smashed.

THE GREAT STRIKE.

The strike on the C. B. and Q. railroad system is a gigantic affair. It is making a terrible jumble of the business of that corporation and unsettling the affairs of a large section of country.

It now appears doubtful that the Knights as a body will take any concerted action for the relief of the railroad company and thus encompass the defeat of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The Chicago section of the Knights has, through one of its chief authority ties, placed a ban upon its members filling the places of the strikers, but the Pennsylvania section has ordered no inhibition, but left the members free to act for themselves, on their individual responsibility. It thus winks at any step taken in that direction.

The stagnation and confusion of business are not the only evils resulting from this extensive strike. It involves actual destruction of property and life, and injury to limb. These evils arise independent of any active demonstration of the strikers, who are, to their credit be it said, unusually pacific. That is at least their attitude up to this point. Whether a prolongation of the conflict will cause them to change their temper remains to be seen. The disastrous effects aside from the general operation on business flow from the manipulation of engines and trains generally by inexperienced hands. Fancy a passenger train with the conductor in the cab. Not only does it naturally worry the man who is out of his legitimate position almost beyond endurance, sensing his own incompetency and the responsible character of the charge, but in imagination the nervousness of the living freight may be pictured. Every jar and thump of the cars startles the passengers into alarm lest they are about to be buried in a mass of ruins produced by the terrible telescoping process, and undergo the frightful roasting-alive operation which has become so common on some American roads as to be entitled to a place among the institutions of the country.

It is an anomaly in this fast age and of quick transit for a train, being in the hands of a novice, to occupy two hours in traveling a distance of eight miles. Such was the case on the system involved in the strike yesterday. Then a faithful foreman mechanic, out of place on an engine, runs into another engine and, as a reward for his fidelity to his employers, has his nose split open, while his fireman is treated to a cut leg and lacerated shoulder; others receive bumps, blows and contusions.

Such a strike as that now prevailing along the involved system causes a species of reign of terror, so far as it extends. But such things, in the absence of the spirit of conciliation and a recourse to arbitration will be repeated in the country indefinitely. Neither side will ever tamely submit to the other wielding unqualified power in the matter of adjustment of the remuneration to be given for labor supplied.

THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL BILL.

This morning, in the House, the bill which the committee on municipal corporations have been for a long time engaged in preparing, came up on second reading, the first reading having been by its title, prior to its being printed. It is a very long document, and would occupy from fifteen to twenty columns of space in the News. Some of its provisions are as follows:

A petition may be presented to the county court, expressing the desire to have a specified portion of the county incorporated as a city. If the petition bears one hundred signatures of the legal voters residing in such district, the county court shall cause an election to be held therein, to determine the question of incorporation. If the majority vote in favor of the proposition, on the filing of the returns of the election showing that result, in the office of the secretary of the Territory, an executive proclamation will issue declaring that the district is incorporated. Provision is made for electing officers at the time of voting on the proposition to incorporate.

Cities having a population of 20,000 or over are of the first class; those having 8000 and less than 20,000, are of the second class; all others of the third class. Cities of the first and second classes are required to be divided into five municipal wards. The city council of the former consists of fifteen councilmen, three being chosen from each ward by the electors thereof. The city council of a city of the second class consists of ten councilmen, two from each ward; of a city of the third class, of seven councilmen, elected at large. Cities of all three classes elect a mayor at large.

Provision is made for taking censuses, and for the transfer of a city from one class to another; also for a city to disincorporate if the inhabitants so desire, to be determined by an election held for that purpose.

In conferring power upon city councils the bill is very generous. In this respect it carries the principle of local self-government to as great an extent as is likely to be desired by any considerable portion of the citizens of the Territory. Cities now having a charter may retain it, or they may incorporate under this bill, as they may determine by an election held for the purpose. Existing rights, liabilities, ownership of corporate property, etc., are not abridged.

Congressional legislation has created an imperative necessity for the passage of a bill of this character, and it is therefore presumable that the present one will become a law. True it may be amended before its final passage, but as far as members have examined it—and about half of it was read by sections in the House this forenoon—they seemed satisfied with it. Its language throughout aims to be explicit, and the document in this respect is a credit to the committee which prepared it. While it is by no means perfect in this regard, and while some verbal amendments have been, and others doubtless will be made, its mechanical construction, in the main, is good.

This bill is a most important one. If it shall pass and be approved, it will be the law which will govern a great majority of the population of the Territory more directly and in greater detail than any others. It will give them a complete, consistent and harmonious municipal system, and will enable the cities of the Territory to throw off their old, imperfect, out-of-date and unsatisfactory charters, and adopt provisions better suited to existing needs. As a whole, the bill seems competent, but close examination may reveal the advisability of more or less marked changes in it. Its importance demands the rigid scrutiny and deliberate consideration of the Assembly.

A QUESTION OF LOCATION.

The Legislature has been wrestling vigorously for a long time with the problem of a location for the proposed Reform School.

It seems a question of great simplicity, and it is probable that the difficulty in reaching a conclusion has been chiefly caused by a conflict of interests. We are happy in the thought that we have none whatever of a local character. At the same time we have no censure for members who stoutly maintain the advantages for situation of the localities from which they hail. In taking a position of that kind they are doubtless honest in their presentations of the higher claims of the sections where their constituents reside.

It appears to a person perched upon the higher branches of a tree, and thus commanding a bird's eye view of the situation, that the spot having the greatest number of advantages should be selected. We do not mean advantages to the locality from having the Reform School planted in a particular place, but advantages to the Territory and the reformatory in having it properly situated. It should be contiguous to one of the larger cities or towns of the Territory. This is conceded, but we believe it would be proper to have it outside of Salt Lake. Except for some potent reason it should not be at any great distance from the capital, for the reason, if for no other, that this city would probably, for some time to come, supply as many inmates as the balance of the Territory combined. No institution should be at inconvenient distance from its principal feeder. This is not compulsory to Salt Lake City, but the truth does not always flatter, as some people know to their discomfiture.

We hope we will not give mortal offense to Ogden by softly intimating that the Junction City would stand next to the capital in that respect. That is a point of vantage in its favor for the location of the reformatory institution, although it may not be flattering to its moral pride. Any one who will calmly consider the position of our sister city northward ought to be frank enough to admit this, even if he lives there. Ogden's circumstances are peculiar in this respect, owing to being a railroad centre to which is attracted a species of population whose morality is not of the greatest altitude. Unless the immediate saving of a large amount of money should cause the committee to incline to Beaver, where Fort Cameron could be utilized for the purpose in question, we see no formidable obstacle in the way of Ogden or its immediate vicinity.

Ogden is greatly desirable in many respects, except for the fact of its distance from the Territorial centre. The Provo people may be properly left out of consideration, owing to the insane asylum being in their midst. They will readily concede that Ogden would be a more consistent selection, thus sandwiching Salt Lake between two important public institutions.

MONEY FOR ROADS.

Under date of the 27th inst., Wm. Howard writes to the News from Huntington, Emery County, upon the subject of appropriating territorial funds for road purposes. Mr. Howard objects to the bill introduced into the House by Hon. Abram Hatch, which makes a uniform appropriation of \$1,000 to each county in the Territory, for the reason that some counties need a much larger amount than others do, and that some of them need no appropriation at all, being rich and populous enough to bear their own road expenses.

Our correspondent recognizes the restriction against special legislation which Congress has placed upon the legislatures of the Territories, but thinks this difficulty could have been met in a better way than by a uniform appropriation to each county. He argues in favor of creating a territorial commission having power to expend, where it might see fit, a fund placed at its disposal.

In order to avoid being partial, unjust and unwise in expending the fund under its control, the board would require to visit the localities where road improvements were desired; and their per diem and mileage would, in the course of a year, thus amount to a large sum. Again, such a board would of necessity be governed largely by representations and arguments, made by interested parties, and even though its members were to try to make personal investigations, by visiting localities, etc., with a view to determining the merits of each claim, it would be practically impossible for them to avoid partiality, errors of judgment, and being imposed upon.

Such a board would be constantly beset by hungry individuals, having personal motives for securing an appropriation to be expended in their localities, and it would be difficult to prevent injustice, abuse and favoritism. There are many objections against placing a large sum of public money in the hands of a small body of men, to be expended at their discretion. An officer vested with discretionary power can go a long way in abusing it, and still give the people no hold upon him for redress.

On further consideration it will be found that the sparsely settled counties have no more cause to complain because of the uniform appropriation referred to than the populous ones have. All the counties in the Territory, without an exception, are compelled to spend money for road purposes, and a county which pays one dollar of territorial taxes ought not to complain if it gets an appropriation as large as is given to the county which pays five or ten dollars to that fund. This is an argument which may fairly be used in reply to the one respecting the greater need of newly settled counties for aid in building and repairing roads and bridges.

Possibly a better plan than the one embodied in the Hatch bill for extending the aid referred to, to the counties, might be devised, but so far as we are aware no better one has been suggested.