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Report of the Governor of Utah, 1880

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REPORT
OF
THE GOVERNOR OF UTAH.

UTAH TERRITORY, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Salt Lake City, September 20, 1880.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of this Territory, in compliance with your request :

PUBLIC LANDS.

The United States land office at this point makes the following showing for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880:

Pre-emption filings, 302.
Pre-emption cash entries, 113; embracing 16,392 acres.
Homestead entries, 508; embracing 78,601 acres.
Homestead proofs, 161; embracing 20,021 acres.
Desert entries, 69; embracing 12,654 acres.
Desert proofs, 38; embracing 5,089 acres.
Timber-culture entries, 36; embracing 4,043 acres.
Coal entries, 2; embracing 791 acres.
Mineral applications, 156.
Mineral entries, 101.
Adverse mining claims, 116.

This table shows an increase in the following class of entries over the preceding year :

Homesteads, 6,600 acres.
Final homesteads, 7,300 acres.
Desert entries (proofs), 4,770 acres.
Timber-culture entries, 1,700 acres.
Mineral applications, 83 in number.
Mineral entries, 24 in number.

There has been a decrease in the following class of entries, viz :

Pre-emption filings, 320 in number.
In cash entries, 2,100 acres.
Desert entries, 175 acres.

Adverse mining claims, 41 in number.

The agricultural claims initiated as against the former year show a falling off of 309, although the acreage is slightly increased, while the proofs thereunder show an increase of 15. In other words, the agricultural settlements made in the past year were 915 against 1,224, and the proofs 312 against 297 in the preceding year.

The falling off in the initiation of agricultural claims proves that a large per cent. of the farming lands which are surveyed in the Territory are taken up under the several acts granting rights to settlers.

The most prominent feature of this table is the increase of mineral applications and mineral entries, the former more than doubling the number of any previous year, and the latter increasing about 24 per cent. over the preceding year. Notwithstanding this remarkable increase of mineral applications there has been a corresponding decrease in the number of adverse mining claims filed, which fact speaks well for the mining industry of this Territory.

CATTLE AND SHEEP.

From the most reliable information that it is possible to obtain, I estimate the number of cattle in the Territory to be 200,000 head. There were driven from the Territory during the year past certainly not less than 50,000 head, at an average price of \$15.50 per head.

The number of sheep in this Territory will not fall short of 500,000, with a yield of wool of, say, 2,000,000 pounds, for which our raisers have received 20 cents per pound.

The winter ranges for the most part are rapidly filling with population, which, of course, crowds the stock men off of them. The excess of summer over winter ranges is in the ratio of 3 to 1 at present. The fact that the winter ranges have been overstocked, rendering them worthless for the present, is another reason for the difference between them and the summer ranges.

Without legislation by Congress that will allow stock-raisers to obtain rights other than those given by common consent, this very important branch of industry must continue to retire before the demands of increasing population.

AGRICULTURE.

Notwithstanding the dearth of water during the summer of 1879, which in some localities left very short crops, the yield of wheat, oats, and barley proved to be an average one. The potato crop, as a rule so extensive and superior, proved a very short one, but the crop for 1880 will be abundant. The summer of '79, with very little rain-fall and an exceptional scarcity of water from the mountain snows, was followed by a severe and prolonged winter, proving deleterious to the crops of 1880. Corn, which is by no means a reliable growth, on account of the exceptionally late spring, was given a very small acreage by our farmers. Lucerne to a great degree has taken the place of corn; being to a degree independent as to length of season and quantity of water, its thrifty growth and immense yields commend its cultivation. Lands that yield only ten bushels of wheat to the acre will readily yield eight tons per acre of lucerne. Three harvests, and oftentimes four, are gathered during the season, after it has become well set; in fact, in the southern part of the Territory five cuttings are made, yielding ten tons to the acre.

DRY FARMING.

The large tracts of land unoccupied by reason of the cost in having irrigating canals reach them, and oftentimes an impossibility to obtain sufficient water by irrigation at any cost, joined with an increasing population seeking homes, has caused dry farming to be greatly increased. Upon such farms last year from ten to twenty bushels per acre of wheat was raised. Many engaged in this apparently hopeless task continue their work from year to year, and are tenacious in their purpose to increase the acreage.

WATER.

Throughout the Territory irrigating canals are yearly increased and improved upon. Much land heretofore untilled is constituted thereby into farm homes. It is observable also that a greater acreage is from year to year cultivated with the same amount of water. This is secured by an economical distribution in the fields through which the streams or canals pass. When the water of twelve months that flows down the cañons is garnered in reservoirs, and these are supplemented by artesian wells with which to supply the crops in growing season, the now sage lands in the valleys of Utah will more than double their present product.

POPULATION.

The population of Utah is far beyond that of any Territory in the history of the United States. In 1870 the population was 86,786. In 1880 it is shown to be 145,000, an increase of over 58,000 souls. The mines of the Territory, with their attendant business, have drawn, I may safely say, of this 58,000 increase, fifty per cent. The other fifty per cent. is natural increase, and the result of the labors of the missionaries sent out into all the world by "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," which, besides increasing the population of Utah, is contributing largely to the population of the surrounding States and Territories.

MINES.

I know of no fact why it may not reasonably be claimed that Utah will prove the richest repository of silver, gold, coal, and lead, and other minerals, of all the States and Territories of the West. Certainly no four hundred miles of mountain ranges have produced as many mines of immense yields, and so many mining prospects, as the suggestions of science and practical observation make those of Utah appear. The practice of capitalizing mining prospects at fabulous sums is to be condemned. Responsible mining men are reducing mining enterprises to a practical business basis. This will, as it should, tend to renewed confidence, and increased capital applied in a legitimate way to the development of ore bodies, instead of gambling in "wild cat" mining stocks, so unwarrantably and disastrously indulged in in the past.

Many mining districts heretofore inaccessible are now in close connection by railroads with the markets. Much of the ore, on account of its low grade, has not heretofore paid to mine; but which now, on account of superior methods in extracting and reducing the ore, is made profitable. As a rule, the men who own the best prospects are not able to develop them for lack of means. Capital is needed, and with anything like reasonable business judgment can be made to realize most gratifying results.

From Col. O. J. Hollister and Mr. J. E. Dooley I have obtained the following statement of the mining products of Utah, which, I feel assured, is a very correct record, viz: \$21,000,000 in value is the estimate of the Territory's output down to the end of 1875, usually received, based on records kept by Professor Barfoot, of the Salt Lake Museum. Fortunately the output of 1876-7-8-9 has been accurately figured and stated at the close of each of those years, by J. E. Dooley, agent of Wells, Fargo & Co., at Salt Lake City, and is of record.

It was for 1876 :

Lead, 50,401,893 pounds, at 6 cents.....	\$3,024,113 00
Copper, 657,539 pounds, at 20 cents.....	131,507 00
Silver, 1,946,915 ounces, at \$1.10.....	2,141,606 00
Gold, 8,820 ounces, at \$20.69.....	182,309 00
Total.....	5,479,535 00

It was for 1877 :

Lead, 54,936,080 pounds, at 3 cents.....	\$1,648,082 00
Silver, 4,359,703 ounces, at \$1.20.....	5,231,643 60
Gold, 17,325 ounces, at \$20.60.....	356,895 00
Total.....	7,236,620 60

It was for 1878 :

Lead, 40,414,359 pounds, at 1½ cents.....	\$707,251 28
Refined lead, 2,620,422 pounds, at 4 cents.....	104,816 88
Copper matte, 1,259,100 pounds, estimated value.....	22,034 25
Copper pigs, 19,737 pounds, estimated value.....	2,066 83
Silver, 4,357,328 ounces, at \$1.13.....	4,923,780 64
Gold, 15,040 ounces, at \$20.....	300,800 00
Total.....	6,060,749 88

It was for 1879 :

Lead, 26,441,359 pounds, at 2½ cents.....	\$594,930 00
Refined lead, 2,301,267 pounds, at 4½ cents.....	103,557 00
Silver, 3,835,047 ounces, at \$1.10.....	4,218,551 00
Gold, 15,932 ounces, at \$20.67.....	329,314 00
Total.....	5,246,352 00

Summary.

Prior to 1876.....	\$21,000,000 00
1876.....	5,479,535 00
1877.....	7,237,832 00
1878.....	6,071,125 00
1879.....	5,246,352 00
Total.....	45,034,844 00

The average output for the last four calendar years was a little more than \$6,000,000 yearly.

The product for the calendar year 1879 as given above is its *export value in Salt Lake City*. Computing the precious metals after the style of California and Nevada, viz, at their mint valuation, and the lead at its value in New York City, it would increase the value to \$6,663,676.10, as follows:

Deducting five per cent. for actual loss in refining lead, 27,520,568 pounds, at 5 cents, average New York price.....	\$1,376,028 00
3,835,047 ounces silver, at \$1.2929, mint valuation.....	4,958,333 26
15,932 ounces gold, at \$20.67, mint valuation.....	329,314 44
Total for 1879.....	6,663,676 10

And other years proportionately.

RAILROADS.

I give the different roads, their gauge, weight of rails, and miles, and the number of miles opened during the last year, all of which speaks well for the business of the Territory, viz :

Gauge.	Name.	Miles.	Weight of rails.
			<i>Pounds.</i>
4 feet 8½ inches...	Central Pacific Railroad.....	154	56
4 feet 8½ inches...	Union Pacific Railroad.....	71	56
3 feet.....	Utah and Northern Railroad.....	77	30
4 feet 8½ inches...	Utah Central Railroad, Ogden to Salt Lake City, opened January, 1870.....	36½	56
4 feet 8½ inches...	Utah Southern Railroad, Salt Lake City to Juab, Juab County, opened to Sandy, September, 1871, to Juab, June, 1879.....	105	56
4 feet 8½ inches...	Utah Southern Railroad extension, Juab to Frisco, opened to Milford, May, 1880, to Frisco, July, 1880.....	137	56
3 feet.....	Utah Western Railroad, Salt Lake City to Stockton, Utah Territory, opened January, 1875.....	40	30
3 feet.....	Wasatch and Jordan Valley and Bingham Cañon Railroads, opened from Sandy to Granite, 1872, to Alta, 1876.....	44	30
3 feet.....	Utah and Pleasant Valley Railroad, Provo to Pleasant Valley, opened October, 1879.....	60	30
4 feet 8½ inches...	Summit County Railroad, constructed by the Union Pacific Railroad, to run from Echo to Park City, fourteen miles complete, about sixteen miles to build, will be finished by November 1.....	35	56
3 feet.....	Utah Eastern Railroad, Coalville to Park City, twenty-three miles graded, and to be completed November 1, 1880, to be continued to Salt Lake City.....	23	30

A working survey is now being made by the Union Pacific engineers to demonstrate the practicability of a line from Brigham City, Utah, to Portland, Oreg. This line, if built, besides opening up a vast territory, will greatly shorten the line from the east to Yokohama, Japan.

INDIANS.

At the Uintah Reservation, in the northeast part of the Territory, there are about four hundred and fifty Indians who receive government supplies. In addition to these there is a small band living in Thistle Valley cultivating farms, and having in several instances disavowed their tribal relations. At the Uintah Agency there are 115 families, and of these some eighty-five are engaged in farming operations, and others, with a few exceptions, in stock-raising. Two hundred and fifty acres, however, is the aggregate, for this year, of land cultivated by them. This is less than in previous years, owing to a scarcity of seed, wheat having been used for subsistence last winter. Colonel Critchlow, in charge of that agency for a number of years, in his report of the year last past speaks at length of their conduct during the White River troubles, highly commending them. Although intimately related and always friendly with the White River Utes, they expressed no sympathy for them in hostility, and he now says of them that they express their gratification at the prospect of an amicable settlement of these difficult ties. The Presbyterian Board of Missions has entered into a contract with the government and propose, at an early day, establishing a school for Indian children at this agency. Colonel Critchlow anticipates much benefit in future years, both to children and adults, from the educating and Christianizing influences of this school and mission.

In the vicinity of Plainfield, situated on the eastern border of the Territory, south of the Uintah Agency and near the La Sal Mountains, the inhabitants have felt much uneasiness on account of the bearing and

trespasses of a number of Indians that frequent that section. The settlers are at their mercy, and with this point protected I can say the condition of Indian affairs in Utah is satisfactory, in so far as it is possible for me to know.

SOCIAL CONDITION.

The Territory of Utah stretches from the 37th to the 42d degree of latitude. With the exception of Utah there is now a solid line of States from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. Between the same latitude and between the oceans lie twenty of the thirty-eight States of the Union. With the great roadways of the continent running through and joining within her borders; with the climate of this parallel, made lovely by altitude and softened by its location in the great basin between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada, including in its population a large number of thrifty industrious, law-abiding and law-loving people; with all this there remains a reason why Utah should be denied statehood, possessing, as she does, requisites which, otherwise, would entitle her to be a State. The United States should give to Utah a good government; as it is she possesses "the shadow, but not the substance of government." There has not been that thrifty growth her valleys, mines, and situation entitle her to. As it is, Utah can never be American and in accord with a people whose highest allegiance is to the flag of the United States. And as long as Utah is allowed to remain with her present practices, organization and laws, it cannot be said that this government deals out equal and exact justice to all its citizens. It cannot be claimed that the United States sees to it that her laws are fairly and surely executed. If not the chief corner-stone, at least a continuing practice of "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" is polygamy, defended by its members, practiced by them, and solemnized with secret rites, without civil or church record, and by regularly appointed officers of the church. The church dictates, suggests, or its influences control all things spiritual or secular among its people. The officers of the church, and those in polygamy, to a great extent fill the offices in the Territory, enact its laws and execute them. Congress passed, in 1862, a law forbidding polygamy, and prescribed penalties. This law, I am sure, is approved by the entire law-abiding and well-thinking people of the United States from Maine to Texas. It has been adjudged by the Supreme Court to be constitutional, and yet the government for years has permitted the law to be ruthlessly thrust aside and others to be enacted that practically obstruct the statute, so as to make it impossible to convict under it, and allow the Territory to be governed in such a way as to put a premium on crime, and further permit the guilty ones to be sent to the legislature and to Congress, and paid for their record and services out of the Treasury of the United States.

Why should the Government of the United States allow one of its citizens to be sentenced to the penitentiary, say in New York, for violating a law of Congress and allow another here to go unwhipped in wilfully violating a law similarly passed and be promoted to office as a premium for his crime? Congress should wipe out its statute against polygamy, remove every officer who is sworn to see its laws executed, furnish free transportation to a quarter section of free land to each of the thousands of non-Mormons who with their stout hearts and strong muscles have made homes in this part of their country, repeal all laws objectionable to the dominant church here, so that the Territory may be run under ecclesiastical suggestion, pass a law constituting this an independent

polygamous State, a thing apart from the "wicked people" of the United States; or it should at once make it possible to execute the laws already passed. One or the other. Sheer justice to the thousands of children yet to be born with illegitimacy as their birth-mark under this illegal and indecent system, mercy to the first and only wife, when lustful or religiously fanatical husbands thrust them aside for new and fresher companions, respect for its own laws, equal and exact justice to all,—these and more make plaintive demands of Congress for speedy and sure adjustment of the wrongs; the termination of contentions that curse this goodly land and must continue to do so until proper legislation brings relief.

Time will not prove the remedy. It is revelation (so-called) against statute law. If the United States proposes that Utah and several other of its Territories—soon to be overspread by emigration—is to be governed by revelation, well and good. If, however, it proposes in the future as in the past to govern by laws of Congress applicable for all the people, then it is all wrong. It is the right against the wrong. If Congress is right, if the Supreme Court is right, if the President is right, if the people of the United States are right on this question, then this idea here persisted in is wrong, as it tends, it has been claimed, and does practically unite church and state, enslaves this people, constitutes them law-breakers, and the whole un-American.

RECOMMENDATION.

In so far as practical take the old statute of 1787, enacted by the fathers of our country, and under which the Territory of the great Northwest was formed, and under which so many States passed through their Territorial condition, and, in so far as practicable, later enactments, by which the District of Columbia is governed, and from that basis frame a statute for the government of Utah. Constitute a commission composed of the governor, the judges, and, say, three or five citizens of the Territory, they to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and by this means establish a government here that will be in unison with American civilization, and will prove a government not only "for the people but by the people." *I again say time will not prove the remedy.* I earnestly hope for a peaceful solution of the problem here. Every effort with that end in view shall be, as it has been, mine. The Government of the United States, and those charged with the execution of its laws cannot, as they ought not, be dishonest in dealing with this question and the people here. A code of impartial, just, and uniform laws, with the means to administer it, and a fair and merciful execution of the laws is the peaceable solution.

There are other, and possibly more grievous wrongs, inflicted through legislation within the Territory of which I cannot well go into in a report of this nature, but which the plan suggested will remedy.

Further legislation is essential. I trust Congress will not delay consideration of this very important matter, and I respectfully suggest this action.

I have the honor to be, Mr. Secretary, most respectfully,

ELI H. MURRAY,
Governor.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.