

WHAT BECOMES OF OUR MONEY?

This is a question which the popular voice is beginning to press home upon the public officials. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Territorial government are paid by Congress, and the County officers receive next to nothing for their services, while a big amount of money is paid annually as taxes of which no satisfactory account is ever rendered. Where is this money? If expended, for what? The school trustees say it is not with us; the sheriffs and other County officials say we know it not; and the public improvements of the Territory have heard of it only to a very limited extent. Eleven thousand dollars were appropriated to build a bridge across the Provo river, which does not exhibit above four thousand dollars, leaving seven thousand unaccounted for even in that appropriation. Again we hear of ten thousand dollars for getting the Book of Mormon, and other primer works translated into the Deseret Alphabet. Still another item is ten thousand dollars appropriated to pay in part the expenses of an Indian war which the poor men who outfitted themselves never received one cent of. These poor men were not allowed the privilege of being called out by the Governor; but were sent out as church missionaries and paid in the explanation deigned by the priesthood to the effect that they were only doing their duty to the kingdom.

These and various other appropriations to which we shall refer as time shall be afforded us, are proving to the people that their money has not been properly handled. There is no way to get along satisfactorily with those charged with the handling of the public funds, but by a full account on their part of what is done with the money. It must be accounted for fully from first to last. Human nature is such that it cannot be trusted with means to any considerable extent, without being held to a strict accountability. It is entirely practicable to make a complete and perfect showing, and officers who fail to do it are not worthy of the people's confidence and should be dismissed from office, regardless of the claims which they may urge to moral rectitude. No claim to moral standing is respectable when the proper showing of receipts and expenditures is wanting in those who handle the revenue of the State.