

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

Thursday, October 27, 1922.

THE GAS STRIKE.

A day or two ago the lead columns of the Deseret News contained an article regarding the disposal of certain gas tanks owned by the city to a Denver firm, the whole transaction involving somewhat of a "deal" and in its exact dictionary sense but as here given, with considerable scientific in the quotation marks. We have no charge to make nor was any made in the article spoken of, the facts as well as the circumstances, were placed before the public and out of these crystallized a suspicion which is neither vague nor shadowy, that all in that transaction was not as regular and as well considered as might have been.

When the best stock on the market, said to be "paying" dividend which would make it hold almost a hundred percent premium, or nearly double what its face value for, as a commercial entity, is sold for an advance of only thirty-three percent above par, that circumstance alone is enough to encourage a healthy suspicion; to whom it is further suggested, as a contemporary suggests, that the sale was in the form of a pool into which the City Council should dump the stock held by the municipality at the rate last named, while individual holders were to put out of the same transaction with \$100—or somewhere near that amount, were worth—its stock, all that was any and unaccounted for in the suspicion is evolved into actualization at once.

Perhaps there was a valid reason for the mysterious transaction. Perhaps these figures are all wrong, and deduction from them must as a consequence be wrong. To the outsider who is only permitted to pay taxes and ask unanswered questions there is frequently more of loss than the result of unexplained every transaction which shows them we serve permit to reach the public at all; but it would seem that enough of this latest move has come to light to justify the Council in making a bare breast of the whole affair. The News awaits their pleasure.

SALT LAKE'S PROSPERITY.

The census bureau at Washington is quite busy engaged at present in sending out statistical bulletins showing up the status of the manufacturing and mechanical industries of the country. The one number for 1921 relating to Utah shows that Salt Lake City, and has not been received at this office. The following showings are made:

POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMPARED BY SEX.

Number of establishments reported... 24. Total value of products... \$10,120,000. Total value of added value... \$3,200,000. Total value of products at retail prices... \$13,800,000. Value of goods at wholesale... \$11,200,000.

To ascertain the amount for comparison with the totals for 1920, the foregoing figures should be subtracted from the totals for 1920, and the percentage of increase would then appear as follows:

PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE.

Capital employed... 22.4%. Total value of products... 13.2%. Value of added value... 22.0%. Total value of products at retail prices... 13.8%. Value of goods at wholesale... 11.2%.

Decrease in number of establishments reported, 15.91 per cent., which is caused by the fact that hand trades, such as custom boots and shoe making, the manufacture of bread and other bakery products, and carpentering, do not appear to have been as fully reported as in 1920.

It is claimed that a striking feature of these returns is the satisfactory increase during the decade in the number of hands employed and the amount of wages paid; the former being set out as from \$40 in 1910 to \$52 in 1920, or 42.5 per cent. A good many other statistics, corresponding substantially with the foregoing, also appear; and all tend to show a material increase in our material property.

DESTROYING NATIONAL RELICS.

A few days ago mention was made in these columns of the fact that the graves in which President Lincoln used to visit the army and in which his body was brought back to Springfield for interment, was lying in a wrecked condition at North Platte, Nebraska. It occurred to us that a relic of that dark and dreary period, which had obliterated memories as sacred and abiding, should have better treatment in its site; that it might be given a quiet corner in some place where it would be accessible to anyone who wished to visit it, and there, secure from the weather and the vandals, be allowed to sink into oblivion by the advancing hand of time.

trifling. The purchase proposal calling for it into small pieces and selling these throughout the world as historical curiosities. Several friends became skeptical at the idea that they started a subscription for the purpose of buying the ship back, but the answer was \$2000 for it, and if that is not the sum amount and not the price of the relic, it is not the relic; so it is probable the sacrifice will be made and fragments of the "Iron Horse" with the propellers' evidence of genuineness attached will be on the market.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

"A Subscriber," who accompanies the communication with the necessary guarantee of good faith in the shape of his name, wants to know how the Electoral College proceeds, of what it is composed, how it counts the votes and coming to general procedure. A little book entitled "The Practical Politician," recently issued in this city, gives the desired information; we copy the portion of it regarding the Electoral College, as it seems to be about what our correspondent desires.

Every fourth year—in this case of 1800—the people in the different states give through the medium and noble performance of choosing leaders, who in turn choose the President and Vice President. We often hear of Senators having carried such a state for the former office, and while this is certainly correct it is theoretically wrong. The intention of the framers of the Constitution was clearly to take choice out of the hands of the people and vest it in a body of men chosen by the people, those chosen to be a deliberative and executive body, styled in their aggregate capacity the Electoral College. This was, as a matter of fact, a concession to the Hamiltonian system of government, the suggestion being of course that only men of station, ability and influence would be made choices and that they would naturally select two of their own class or the highest offices. This question now resolved their life a more representative steps through the organization and growth of practical politics; that is, the form was preserved, but it became an unwritten law that electors should vote for the men nominated by their respective parties, and they have done so with one or two exceptions ever since. Of course the conventions which place these electors in nomination make a selection of men, well known first of all as staunch parties, who will vote, if elected, for the candidates of that particular party, already nominated, and thus have the sovereign officers necessarily reduced the chance for a sovereign of another character. To carry the trust reposed in one as an elector would not subject the person so betraying to a criminal or any other prosecution, for there is no law against it; but he would likely receive treatment much more rigorous and long-continued, in that he would be laid upon and treated as a second Isaac Arzuffi, and not only political but most probably social ostracism would be his portion for life. It is not like a striking, accomplished and a rule of the common people in spite of the actual restraint designed for them by the founders.

Each state is entitled to as many electors as it has senators and representatives combined, in Congress. Each has the same number of senators—two—while the number of representatives varies with the number of the population, but a state is entitled to at least one elector. The electors are appointed by the different party conventions in the same manner that other officers are nominated, but the manner of their election rests exclusively with the legislature. In some states the nominations are made by congressional districts, each elector voting for one, and the two largest representatives in each district put up by a state convention; in others, the latter gathering names, the entire list put in every case (except in Michigan under a recent enactment) they are all voted for by both the people of the state, so that a voter in the first congressional district, for instance, votes for the elector representing the Twenty-third district as well as for all others. In this way the candidate of the party which carries the state is apt to and mostly at ways does not get the full vote of the state, though this is not as in variable sequence by any means, since in nearly all electors whose votes have been to be chosen, some receive more votes than others and some are elected while others are defeated on the same ballot. In the election of 1860, the vote of California was divided between Hancock and Garfield, the former receiving five, the latter one. This is the most recent case.

The voters having been duly counted, on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, results with a certificate of election from the governor. Their official meeting takes place on the second Monday in January next following, at such place as the legislature may appoint, usually the capital of the state. After the casting of ballots, each elector deposits a ballot, containing a name or the initials of either his party's candidate for President, and immediately thereafter votes in the manner for Vice President. A certificate in triplicate of each vote is then made out, and one of these under seal is entrusted to a special messenger, chosen by the electors, to be delivered out of hand to the president of the United States, to be opened, whether or not forwarded, to that official by mail, and the third is then with the judge of the district court for the district in which the election is held.

The Senate and House of Representatives meet in joint session in the hall of the latter body on the second Wednesday in February next following, when the certificates of election are presented and the electors are sworn in. Two-thirds of the votes elect a President, but if no such majority is reached by the first ballot, a second ballot is taken, and if still no majority is reached, the electors who have the next highest number of votes are elected President and Vice President by a vote of two-thirds of the whole number.

It is to be noted that the electors are not to be chosen by the people of the state, but by the legislature. This was a concession to the Hamiltonian system of government, the suggestion being of course that only men of station, ability and influence would be made choices and that they would naturally select two of their own class or the highest offices. This question now resolved their life a more representative steps through the organization and growth of practical politics; that is, the form was preserved, but it became an unwritten law that electors should vote for the men nominated by their respective parties, and they have done so with one or two exceptions ever since.

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