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A SHAMEFUL CONSPIRACY.
On Wednesday, May 31, a Salt Lake morning paper made an announcement which caused a great deal of unfavorable comment. It was to the effect that a scheme was on foot among certain members of the City Council to take advantage of the absence of the Mayor and a member of the council and bring up the question of the Utah Light and Railway Company's franchise, on Wednesday evening, and that paper added:

"The proposition was so to amend it that it would be an absolute certainty that the company would not accept it, and then to pass it. It is said that five members were in favor of carrying out this programme, but they were not sufficiently strong to make it effective. When it was found that the requisite eight votes could not be obtained to pass an ordinance the company would not accept, the proposition to take up the ordinance and slaughter it without waiting time trying to amend it was discussed."

This plot was very generally denounced as a conspiracy, and doubts were expressed by conservative people as to the correctness of the statement, particularly as it was known that the Mayor, who was in New York attending to business entrusted to him by the City Council, had made a special request that nothing should be done with the matter of the franchise until his return.

It was thought that notwithstanding the snap judgment by way of veto taken by the Mayor pro tem, during his temporary occupation of the executive chair, he would refrain from taking part in the council business as a member, and in the conspiracy revealed by our morning contemporary. But the proceedings in the council showed that he was in it fully and expressed the authority of a member of the council at the same time that he assumed the functions of the Mayor. As this was necessary to the success of the scheme, his action was permitted to pass.

The substitute franchise introduced appears to have been framed for the purpose alleged, namely, to have the Utah Light and Railway Company reject it. While it requires all the advantages to the city contained in the ordinance previously submitted to the council, it excludes almost everything of benefit to the company which was desired by way of compensation, for the property to be decided by the company and the power and light to be furnished gratis to the city.

We have advised the company several times to withdraw its propositions and rest upon the franchises which it already holds. We hope it will do so now, and repudiate the scheme entered into by certain opponents of the company and enemies of the city, and then if the city wants the properties for which it made application to the company, let it purchase them at a price to be agreed upon, or if litigation is wanted, proceed by law to condemn the properties desired, and pay the price that shall be assessed and the damages that may be allowed. Perhaps by the time the matter is settled, some common sense and justice may find its way into the minds and hearts of a majority of the city authorities and a fair settlement may be reached.

Under its present franchise the company which is being assailed has the right to charge twenty cents per kilowatt hour for incandescent lights, for which it has only been charging fifteen cents, and in its new proposition reduces it to twelve cents, with a reduction to ten cents on prompt payment. The company also under its old street railway franchise may stop the transfer business entirely, if it chooses to do so. It has given franchises within all reasonable bounds, as the public very well know, but may return to the old plan of five cents for every single ride on the street cars. The company under its present franchise may also cease to issue any books of commutation tickets at all.

without fear of successful dispute, that the individuals and papers that are endeavoring to block the way of the Utah Light and Railway Company, for causes that have been alleged but which have no foundation in fact, are in reality the enemies of the public, both in a municipal and individual character. The benefits that would accrue to the city as a corporation and to the citizens who use the company's lighting and railway facilities, under the franchise proposed by the company, are of such an increasing and splendid value that the efforts to deprive the city and the company of that which has been proposed, are against the interests of all the parties to the transaction and are for an ulterior and despicable purpose.

The parties to the scheme to block the way of the company to a consolidation of its franchises and the attainment of privileges that it asks for in return for most valuable considerations, do not want the success of the plan for bringing into this city the waters of the Cottonwoods. They do not want the present city administration to have the use of the funds arising from the sale of the water bonds authorized by a majority of the voters. They do want to arrange matters so that a band of conspirators can gain control of the city at the next municipal election. It is for that purpose that they have raised the hue-and-cry against the company which has ever been of more benefit to this city than any corporation that has ever engaged in any industrial enterprise therein.

If they think they can keep up the dust and fog which they have cast over the eyes of many of the citizens on this question, so as to effect their designs, we think they will find themselves mistaken. The truth is sure to shine eventually through the mists and clouds of falsehood and folly, and reveal the villainy of the plotters and conspirators. Already the people are beginning to perceive the facts in the franchise case, and in good time will find out its equities.

There has not been the slightest attempt on the part of the company to do anything but obtain, in lieu of money which the city could not pay, some reasonable privileges as a partial equivalent for valuable properties which the city made the first advances to obtain. If these cannot be granted because of the schemes and plots of conspirators and the action of their tools, let the company fall back on the rights which it already holds, and conduct its business affairs with due regard to its own interests associated with the public welfare. Before long the people will wake up to a comprehension of the full facts, and then we may look for such action as is warranted thereby.

TALKING OF REVENGE.
According to European leading papers, Russia is now seriously considering plans for a war of revenge. The present naval resources of the empire are very limited. Those who have looked that matter up say that, apart from the Black sea fleet, which is far from modern, Russia possesses one 9,800-ton battle ship, the Alexander II, built in 1885, and one 13,400-ton battle ship, the Slava, of the Borodino class. This latter vessel was launched in 1903. Then there are two other battle ships, the Imperator Pavel and the Andrei Perovskanin, of 16,630 tons, larger than any that have fought on either side in the war, but these were only laid down last year, and will not be ready for some time. To add to these there are two cruisers, of about 6,000 tons, dating back to 1885, and one coast defense ship as ancient as 1870. The Vilius, a sister ship of the Oleg, is building, and also two small cruisers, sisters of the Jemchug.

It is evident that Russia cannot hope to regain her lost prestige at sea with this small fleet. But it is hoped that the empire, within ten years of the present date, will own a navy of twenty-five first-class battle-ships, about forty of the swiftest armored cruisers then afloat, and flotillas of torpedo-boats, destroyers, and submarines. It is also supposed that within ten years from now, Russia's Asiatic land forces will total 1,000,000 men, all "effective," and armed and drilled "in the best school of efficiency." With such a fleet and such an army, it is calculated that Russia can more than regain her lost position in eastern Asia.

This may be the sweet dream of the leaders of the war party. But they should recollect that France, too, had such dreams in the seventies, which, fortunately, never were realized. Japan will not be idle. She will be prepared again. The Russian government may be overthrown, and the people may become too busy with their own affairs, to think of revenge. They may even bless the day of disaster, for the Japanese victories may prove the birth of Russian liberty. Ten years from now Russia may not want revenge. And then, the peace movement will make so rapid progress during the next ten years, that wars of revenge may be too unpopular. It is too early for Russian war lords to talk about revenge.

making use of the open-air meeting. A missionary spirit seems to have come over the dead bones of Islam. This is one of the signs of the time. We presume the military activity in the province of Yemen is one result of this awakening of the followers of the Arabian prophet. But little attention has been paid to this movement, on account of the apparently greater events in eastern Asia. But the fact that the Sultan is dispatching troops on a large scale, through the Suez canal, indicates that the rising is not regarded as child's play. Fourteen years ago, it seems, there was a rebellion in Yemen, and it took 50,000 Turkish troops two years to quell it. The present outbreak is regarded as even more serious.

PAYING FOR SIN.
Resorts from Scranton, Pa., have it that Nan Patterson is a failure on the stage. When she appeared there was only two-thirds of an audience in the theater, and the women left the house before she did her stunt. Theater managers deserve rebuke for offering such an attraction to the public. It is a swindle.

It is but to state the plain fact, to say that Nan Patterson is not given a position on the stage, at a high salary, for any ability she may possess. It is the notoriety she acquired during her trial for murder, that is considered a valuable asset. But, clearly, to parade that in public is to put a prize on shame. Is that not an insult to every virtuous woman in the land?

SCIENCE AND IMMORTALITY.
Agnostics generally hold that they are under no obligation to believe what has not been scientifically demonstrated, and for that reason, they refuse to accept the doctrine of the immortality of man. But Dr. J. Sanderson Christian in an article in the North American Review shows that science, by no means, has advanced to the state of perfection, in which it can be appealed to as final authority on such questions. He says the science is really "the imperfect classification of imperfect knowledge," since some of the departments of science are not in a very orderly condition, and it is certain that no department has spoken its last word. The deductions of science called "laws of nature" are, therefore, he says, limited and fragmentary in their range. Dr. Christian refers to the recognized fact, the knowledge of which has been gained through experimentation, that nothing in nature is ever lost but formed, and, in its light, examines the complex phenomena to be observed in adult man. The following paragraph is a good specimen of the excellent logic of the author:

"But, as previously observed, science can only give a very limited range of testimony with any degree of certainty, for the reason that its departments are not only imperfect developments in themselves, but that they are specializations in knowledge, which have no authority to speak beyond their own phenomena until they are compared with one another. But, as nature is a recognized unit, we would require a full knowledge of all the sciences, were they complete, before we could obtain the white light of a universal wisdom which is necessary to the comprehension of the fundamental problems involved in the mechanism of Nature. This requirement is strictly in accordance with the scientific dogma, that science stops where evidence stops. Indeed, the solution by science of any fundamental problem of life whatever must necessarily await the conclusion of all possible investigation; whereas, the needs of humanity require that they come at the beginning as guides and illuminators to our very first steps. It would have been a strange condition of affairs if man had been required to wait upon science for that knowledge which is most essential to his welfare."

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.
The bubonic plague is said to be ravaging India. This year, according to authentic statements, no less than 750,000 people have been carried away, or considerably more than have lost their lives in the war.

The plague devours its victims in India every year, but at times it becomes more than usually virulent. The natives themselves are indifferent, and even opposed, to sanitary measures. Western methods of combatting disease are against their traditions and religious ideas, and so hygienic rules are almost impossible to enforce.

The trouble is that with the rapid means of communication that now bind every part of the world to almost every other part, the danger of spreading contagion is exceedingly great. For that reason the world at large has an interest in the sanitary conditions of India. The government is doing much by way of dispensing charity in the stricken districts, and private benevolence is also coming to the aid of sufferers. But the war against famine and pestilence is more difficult to carry on than one against armies, particularly when prejudices are on the side of the devastating enemy. An international congress of experts on the measures necessary for the purifying of India of the disease germs which is timely, for the problem seems to be one that requires the co-operation of nations.

hens than of the "Fike County Bards." The Czar, more than Captain Mahan himself, realizes the influence of sea power on history. The Iowa medical idea is that doctors' whiskers should "go." Whether the idea will go remains to be seen. Mayor Weaver continues to call for the resignations of heads of various departments. It is a good calling. "Grafting is treason," says Bishop McCabe. Then treason is about the most ubiquitous thing in the country. Dr. Parkhurst says that Philadelphia is "the rottenest city in the world." Seemingly a happy combination of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"By all means let us have a great revival of public honesty," says the New York Mail. How can that be revived which has not been? The Russian press is calling Nebogotoff "coward" and "traitor." It is bad to be called names in any tongue but in Russian it must be horrible. Shea, president of the Chicago Teamsters' union, says he was offered a bribe of ten thousand dollars to order a strike of a certain firm's teamsters, but that he didn't do it and wouldn't have done it for a hundred thousand dollars. For how much would he do it?

The number of petitions filed for dissolution of marriage in England and Wales in 1902 was 1,950, against 900 in 1901. The annual average number of petitions filed in five years (1888-1892) was 851. The number of petitions filed in 1902 by husbands was 609; by wives, 441; total, 1,050.

WHILE Crown Prince Frederick William was riding in an automobile yesterday he accidentally knocked over a push cart and injured one of the owner's hands. The prince got out and personally assisted in looking after the man. Automobillists who knock a person down and never stop to learn how badly he is injured, would do well to ponder the prince's action and emulate it.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.
Western Christian Advocate. Ministers have among their regular callings the person, man or woman, who claims to come with a message from the Lord. Frequently these alleged messages concern the minister's conduct, sermon, and so on. John Wesley was once visited by a woman who brought a "remonstrance from the Lord," saying he was treating his case, and caring little for her eating and drinking. Mr. Wesley's reply was characteristic. "God knows me better," he said, "and had he sent you, it would have been with a more proper message." That answer will do for all the alleged communications with heaven claimed by a host of latter-day fanatics.

Sir Arthur Helps. What is it that promotes the most and the deepest thought in the human race? It is not learning; it is not the conduct of business; it is not even the impulse of the affections. It is suffering; and that, perhaps, is the reason why there is so much suffering in the world.

Hannah More. A Christian will find it cheaper to pardon than to resist. Pardon saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits. It also puts the soul into a frame which makes the practice of other virtues easy.

Sir John Lubbock. How happy home might generally be made but for foolish quarrels, or misunderstandings, as they are well named! It is our own fault if we are quarrelsome or ill-humored; nor need we, though this be less easy, allow ourselves to be made unhappy by the quarrelsome or ill-humored of others.

Public Opinion. South London is being stirred to its core by the revival campaign of Dr. J. A. Farrey and Charles Alexander, writes George T. B. Davis in the Ram's Horn. "The feature of the movement thus far is the fact that many hundreds are being set on fire with zeal for soul-winning, and are speaking to their unconverted friends in homes and shops and factories, and along the streets. This soul-winning even upon the streets. The soul-winners include aged, gray-haired men and women, and eager boys and girls. Men and women who never did personal work before are boldly speaking to their friends and companions, urging them to accept Christ without delay."

Z. C. M. I. A most complete line of Everything for Summer Wear
Illustration of a man in a suit and hat, and a woman in a dress.

The Latest FOR THE LADIES
The Summit, Town and Country.
Ladies' Shirt.
FOR ALL PRACTICAL USES.
This elegant and sensible garment can be obtained here in all sizes, in LINENS, MOHAIRS, MADRAS, MERCERIZED CANVAS, DUCK, WHITE, CHAMPAGNE, white ground with Polka Dot, Tan and Cream.
Illustration of a woman in a shirt and skirt.

Millinery NEWS!
Illustration of a woman's hat.
We have just received a large shipment of Smart Hats in Duck, Canvas and Embroidery—the really correct things for mid-summer wear—which we offer at \$1.50 And Upwards.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR ONE WEEK OF ONE-THIRD ON ALL PATTERNS AND ON ALL BLACK HATS.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.
Flag Day Is Wednesday, June 14th.
It will be the 128th Anniversary of the birth of the Stars and Stripes, and there will be a general celebration of the creation of the Emblem of Liberty. Z. C. M. I. has arranged to make Flag Day the Big Day of the year at SALT LAKE, and in addition to paying special attention to "Old Glory," a fine program of typical American games and sports is being arranged. We invite you all to go with us to Saltair on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14th.

TEA
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