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SALT LAKE CITY. - JAN. 16, 1907.

PARAGRAPHS OF THE MESSAGE.

Governor Cutler makes a number of excellent recommendations in his message. Among these is one that the law be so amended as to make it possible for cities to collect money for public improvement only when the contracts are made and the actual cost known.

As the law now is, when public improvement is decided upon, the city can apportion the tax between the taxpayers on an estimated basis of cost and exact interest on that basis, and then make a contract much lower than the estimate, perhaps, thus virtually obtaining from the taxpayers, sums of money not needed for the work proposed. If the recommendation of the Governor is acted upon this anomaly will be removed, as it ought to have been long ago.

Another recommendation is that a measure be passed prohibiting Sunday amusements. We rather incline to the opinion that the existing laws give the city authorities all the power necessary to stop offensive Sunday theatricals if they are inclined to do so. But if this is not the case, the amendment necessary to confer this power upon the proper authorities should be passed without delay, and made sufficiently strong and clear to admit of no evasion. If the opinion of the respectable class of citizens in the State be consulted on this question, we believe it will be found to be strongly in favor of a quiet Sunday devoted to worship and not to play. If the wishes of actors and actresses are taken into consideration, there will be no more Sunday theatricals. For those who have chosen to perform their life's work upon the stage, need a rest on Sundays just as much as any other toiler. Why should they be deprived of the privilege of attending houses of worship on Sundays? It is a good recommendation.

Another paragraph in the Message is devoted to the law of libel. The Governor calls attention to the fact that newspapers, as well as public speakers, in times of political excitement, make it a custom of misquoting the remarks of opponents, attacking the character of honorable people, giving misleading reports of public meetings, and so on. "I will," the Governor continues, "also include the custom of certain disreputable journals of causing to be published spurious letters or utterances attributed to individuals, and using these as a basis of attack and misrepresentation, intended especially for foreign consumption." The Message recommends that the law of criminal libel be given broader scope and made capable of freer interpretation, in order to reach cases worthy of punishment, but out of reach of the civil act on account of the impecuniosity of the people involved.

This, we believe, is a measure necessary for the protection of the material interests of the State, especially against a certain class of journalism. With all the care exercised by reputable journals in order to give only correct information, it is sometimes impossible, in the few hours allotted to the production of each issue of a daily paper, to do perfect justice to every item, or to verify every report that reaches the desks of the editors. The law should take cognizance of this fact. When, however, it is apparent that reports are falsified, exaggerations resorted to, ridicule, vilification and blackguardism systematically employed to gain selfish ends, the law should step in and protect the victims by punishing the assailants. No good cause can ever be served by such means. The law recognizes as a crime the adulteration of food and the obtaining of money under false pretenses. But the distribution of falsehood as "news" is worse than most cases of food adulteration. It certainly is obtaining money under false pretenses, since very few persons would pay for misrepresentations of facts except when they are offered under the label of "news."

"FINE STRATEGY" SURELY!

There is probably not a citizen in Salt Lake but is heartily glad that the negotiations commenced by the municipal administration preceding the one now in power, have been completed for the purchase of the Knudsen-Bagley water rights in the big Cottonwood Creek, and that a substantial flow will be added to the already increased quantity which comes from this same section of the country. It is the closing of a deal that might easily and profitably have been made last season. But there was an immense amount of "American" party manipulation and delay; also talk on the part of its organ of paying $100,000 or $150,000 for these same rights when Mayor Morris and associates figured that it would never be necessary to give more than $20,000 to $25,000 for them. The amount paid in the closing of the transaction was $5,000 in excess of the last named sum, which is doubtless considerably below what the purchase could be made for in the future.

With great gusto the organ this morning again designates it as a "brilliant result" achieved by the "American" administration. A few more similar "brilliant results," and the City will be on the road to financial ruin. Only such a paper could or would make that sort of claim. It knows, and the whole community knows, that it simply gave sanction to a movement commenced long ago, and which it could not stay if it would, so strong was the popular demand for it. "A piece of fine strategy," it is called. Fine strategy it is indeed, when conditions had assumed such form that they dared not be longer ignored!

THE IDAHO TEST CASE.

The anti-"Mormon" sheet in this city, speaking of the infamous attempt of Dubois' followers in Idaho to deprive Judge Alfred Budge of his seat on the Bench because he is a "Mormon," says that no discrimination is intended against any sect. On the contrary, we are told, it is the "Mormons" who want discrimination in their favor. As a proof of this statement the sheet refers to the late Idaho election. "An effort was made," it says, "to have voters subscribe to the test oath in the recent election; it was Mormons who protested against the 'common' application of the fundamental law," etc.

There is, of course, not a word of truth in this presentation of the case. Every voter in Idaho is required to subscribe to a certain oath embodying the qualifications of voters in that state. No "Mormon" voter refused to subscribe to that oath. Its common application was accepted by all. But the Dubois crowd threatened to challenge every "Mormon" voter at the polls and demand that they again subscribe to a test oath, and this was done for the transparent purpose of creating delay and preventing many legally qualified voters from exercising their rights as citizens. This was resented, and very properly, since the laws of Idaho do not discriminate against citizens in that manner.

BACK TO THE REVOLUTION.

There can be no doubt about the anti-religious spirit that has prompted the war upon the Catholic church in France. The most recent proof has been supplied by the Minister of Finance who has directed that the motto, "God Protect France," be dropped from French coins. This recognition of the supremacy of the Deity is to be replaced by the old revolutionary battlecry, "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity."

The removal of the name of the Supreme Ruler from the coins would not be objectionable if it were done in a spirit of reverence, to remove the danger of profaning the name. But the substitution of the slogan that reminds of a time in the history of France when God was dethroned and reason revered instead, and even the expression "year of our Lord" (Anno Domini) was struck from the calendar, for fear it might direct the attention of the people to God, is proof positive of the prevailing spirit. Christian rulers generally acknowledge that they hold their authority by the grace of God, Dei Gratia, and the people of this Republic retain the motto that certainly expressed the sincere sentiment of the founders, "In God We Trust."

The Pope, it is said, is receiving strong expressions of sympathy from foreign governments. At the same time these inform the vatican that it is absolutely impossible to interfere in France's internal affairs, even though the injustice of the treatment received by the church were patent to everyone. The Pope did not, of course, expect foreign interference. It is hinted that the Vatican authorities will not make public the answers received to their official note through diplomatic channels, because some of them criticise severely the actions of French officials in relation to the Holy See, and their answers might cause international difficulties if given publicity

A religious war is on in France. The question there now is not one of separation between church and state, but of the dominance of the state over the church. That is the reason why sympathy is expressed for the Roman church in France even by some Protestants and by many Americans.

RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

The case of a child brought back to life from apparent death is related in a special dispatch from London to the Chicago Record-Herald. Instances of miraculous healings are not uncommon in the history of the Church, and even cases of rescue from the very grip of death are testified to by eye-witnesses. But the world is given to skepticism, and even scoffing, when such apparent violations of natural laws are declared possible. It is therefore not without interest to read of this case as reported by the press, which, by the way, is not the only one on record.

The dispatch gives the name of the child as Ruth Geoffrey, eight years of age, and says she was virtually raised from the dead at Farnham Isolation Hospital. She was taken to the institution in a dying condition and apparently ceased to breathe while preparations for the operation were going on. Artificial respiration was employed, and in twenty minutes she commenced breathing again. The report says:

"The child, who has twice had pneumonia, was brought in apparently in a hopeless condition, suffering from diphtheria. She was really at her last gasp. She was removed to the operating room, where two doctors and three nurses were in attendance. No sooner had the chloroform been given than the child's breathing ceased. Her heart certainly did not beat. The child's color was waxen.

"One of the nurses left the room, saying, 'It is all over.'

"But the doctors determined to proceed with the operation. Tracheotomy was performed, though the child was apparently dead. The operation took exactly twenty minutes. Then, as a last hope, artificial respiration, aided by strychnine, brandy and hot bottles, was employed.

"To everyone's amazement, the child began to breathe again. The staff was delighted as well as astonished."

This resuscitation is not represented as miraculous, and yet it must be classed among the miracles of science of which our age is so replete. It suggests the thought that what is possible through natural means scientifically applied should not be deemed impossible to Him whose knowledge is perfect, even after a still longer absence of the usual signs of life.

The case proves, perhaps, how indistinct sometimes is the boundary line between life and death. The partition between this world and the next is indeed thin. The difficulty of ascertaining the extinction of life beyond a doubt has always been recognized. Such cases as that now reported from London demonstrate this difficulty. But it is quite certain that not many mistakes, if any, are made in this respect, especially when competent physicians are consulted as they ought to be, wherever possible.

People who eat limburger cheese have uncommon scents.

Few things are scarcer now than New Year resolutions.

The coal famine is a burning shame, but that doesn't keep you warm.

What, abolish the jury system? Pull down the bulwark if liberty? Never!

Some people do not forgive unless they forget, and they try never to forget.

At Sun Dance, Wyo., it is sixteen degrees below zero. There the sun has to dance to keep warm.

There hasn't been so much of it but that people are justified in saying, "O, the beautiful snow!"

Just now a great many coal bins are has beens so far as having coal in them is concerned.

Kingston, Jamaica, destroyed by an earthquake! Too much Jamaica ginger in the little island.

A London suffragette has christened her baby boy Franchise. So far as he is concerned it is not elective.

It is said that sight of the bare ground shocks Antony Comstock. Hence he likes to se it covered with a mantle of snow.

According to the London Express, the United States, in the race for wealth, is beating Great Britain about sixty-three million dollars a week.

And now Mr. Simon Guggenheim can say to those who have been assailing him as a senatorial candidate, "What are you going to do about it?"

An Armityville, N. Y., man has inherited one million dollars because he went for thirteen years without drinking a drop of whisky. It pays to be good.

The new Shah of Persia is reported to have said that a few severed heads make the best policemen. It looks as though he had lost his own head in making such a statement.

Harvard's assistant professor of Romance languages has had a little romance with a Boston miss and now she wants twenty-five thousand dollars damages for breach of promise. The course of true love never did run smooth.

Why didn't that grand jury, while it was at the indicting business, indict the Standard Oil company an even thousand times, instead of nine hundred and thirty-nine times? Even if it hadn't evened matters up it would have rounded them out.

Fred T. Dubois says that on his salary as United States senator he cannot maintain two homes, one in Idaho and one in Washington. Well, after March 4 he can give up his Washington home, as Idaho has decided, much to her credit and profit, to dispense with his "valuable services" after that date.

MORE CARS.

Collier's Weekly.

Prosperity cries: "More cars!" And the beseechment receives only helpless echoes from the car-building companies. These are months behind their orders. The shipper clamors at the railroad, the railroad clamors at the car-builder; the car-builder does his best, but that best does not keep up with posperity. In the west there are not cars enough to carry coal to those who need it, nor to move the grain to the flour mills. In the Pennsylvania manufacturing districts millions of tons of freight await cars to carry them to market. It all reads magnificently—something like a man so rich that he can't invest his money as fast as it accumulates. But he is fatuous who sees in this merely a temporary inconvenience flowing from abundance. Prosperity without cars is no prosperity. Coal at the mouth of the mine is not heat or power or light; wheat in the barn, unable to reach the mill, is not flour or bread. And, moreover, manufacturers, mineowners, all producers, do business on cedit. To pay their bills they depend on prompt marketing of their output. Goods clogging the factories, and no cars to carry them to purchasers—if this does not spell potential panic, what handwriting is clear?

IN THE BATHROOM.

Harper's Bazar.

The one thing to be avoided is a clutter of small things—too many bottles and boxes on the shelves and tables, a number of rumpled towels, and, above all, a rack of clothes hung up to dry. The nickel plate should be kept shining with constant polishing, and the white porcelain, tiles, and enamel immaculate. The nickel collects the green oxide mentioned before, and the white enamel a peculiar yellow stain if neglected. Any one who has attempted to correct the results of this neglect in either cases has found her task a difficult one, and if the neglect has continued too long almost an impossible one. With daily care, soap and water combined with vigorous scrubbing and rubbing are quite sufficient. A gritty soap should not be used on either the nickel or the enamel.

SKYSCRAPERS AND AIRSHIPS.

Baltimore Sun.

The announcement is made that the construction of a 50-story building is about to begin in New York. This structure will be 700 feet high, about as high as the Washington monument in Washington would be if Washington's monument in Baltimore were placed upon top of it. As a matter of course, this building cannot be permitted to remain for any length of time the highest building in the world, exclusive of the Eiffel tower. Soon after it is completed some other enterprising New Yorker, or possibly some freak in Chicago, will design a house 55 stories high, and then it will keep on until by the time aerial navigation is established the airship lines will be compelled to condemn their right of way. The roof garden of the 50-story building might possibly be utilized as a union station where passengers from the crosstown airships could be transferred to thoses plying between the Bronx and the Battery.

DISARMAMENT OF WOMEN.

Cleveland Leader.

As Mr. Carnegie is a married man, it would not be polite to delve too deeply into the relation between his recent gift of three quarters of a million to further the peace of the world, and the announcement that woman was to be deprived of her broom hereafter. Still the coincidence is more than casual. On the surface the reason given for the abolition of the room is one of health. Under the new vacuum system of cleaning, which modern invention will soon put at the service of the poorest, the dust is gathered up instead of being dislodged and scattered. Then it is cast into the fire and destroyed with all its clinging germs. This sounds plausible and there could be no righteous feminine opposition to the change if the new machine possessed the offensive and defensive qualities of the old broom. There's the rub, however. From the sole picture of the domestic vacuum cleaner we have seen, we doubt its efficiency as a weapon under the most favorable circumstances. It is clumsy and unwieldy.

JUST FOR FUN.

A Fool Question.

A witness from the country had been sworn and taken the witness stand, and the prosecuting attorney, sitting down for the examination, asked as a starter:

"What is your name, sir?"

The old man instantly became angry, Leaning far forward, he exclaimed:

"Now, see here, you can't run any of this monkey business in on me. I heerd you tell the clerk to call my name, and so I know ye know it all right, blame ye, anyhow?"—Florida Times-Union.

A Front Fencer.

"When are you going to fix that front fence, Hiram?" asked the farmer's wife.

"Oh, next week, when Silas comes home from college."

"But what will the boy know about fixing a fence, Hiram"

"He ought to know a heap. He wrote me that he'd been taking fencing lessons for a month."—Yonkers Statesman.

Started in Good Time.

"I want to talk to you, Mary, about that young man of yours," said her father. "When did he say 'good-night' to you last evening?"

"At 10 o'clock," replied the fair girl.

"What? Why, it was 1 o'clock at least."

"Oh, that was when he finished saying it."—Philadelphia Ledger.

True Chivalry.

Elderly Lady (to workman who has given her his seat in the street car)—Oh, thank you very much.

Workman—Oh, that's nothing at all, miss. Many men only get up when the lady is pretty, but it never makes any difference to me.—Die Muskete.

"We don't lynch a man often, anyhow," remarked the visitor from Iowa.

"Neither do we," volunteered the man with southern accent; "never, in fact, but once."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Bacon—Somebody said there was something stunnin about your wife's new dress. I didn't see it.

Egbert—Of course you didn't. You don't suppose she'd leave the price marks on it, do you?—Yonkers Statesman.

Teacher—Now, boys, what is the virtue of magnanimity?

Pupils—Am?

Teacher—What is it, if a big boy wanted an apple very badly, and were to meet a small boy with one in a place where nobody could take the small boy's part—

Class (with eager illumination)—Dat's a cinch!—Baltimore American.

"What do you think of my law office? "Doesn't look much like a law office. Where are your books?"

"Oh, I'm making a specialty of unwritten law."—Louisville Courier Journal.

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