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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 21, 1908.

ASKING FOR MORE.

The Mayor now recommends that the City borrow another \$500,000 for "improvements." The public has been prepared for some time for this request for more money, as thoroughly characteristic of the manipulators of the party in power.

But, would it not be just as well, before the question of increasing the already heavy burden of taxation is considered, to give the taxpayers a complete and truthful report of what has come of the money the City borrowed and raised by taxation during the past two years—a report such as the law contemplates?

According to the statutes the City Auditor "shall prepare and publish, on or before the first Monday in February of each year," a detailed statement showing the financial condition of the City for the previous year. It is not optional with him. It is his duty to do so. This must include a statement of the indebtedness of the City, funded and floating, and the total expenditures as shown by the warrants issued, giving in total the amount expended in each department. The City Auditor has so far failed to publish such a statement. Whether he has prepared it, is very doubtful. The special \$18,000 auditors have twice presented a report which does not comply with the law. It was not accepted by the finance committee the first time for that very reason. It does not show the true financial status of the City the last year. It presents, we are told, fictitious assets, and conceals the true financial status behind unintelligible figures. It is, moreover, not a report authorized by the City Auditor, as required by law. In fact, that functionary does not seem to care to be responsible for it.

We had hoped that somebody in the service of the City would come out honestly and frankly and say to the citizens: Ladies and Gentlemen! The finances of the City are in a bad shape. The money you entrusted to our care was not spent with the prudence and economy you had a right to expect of the administration. A considerable part of it went to feed and grease the political machine, and some was wasted in the enthusiasm of party victory. Money is now needed to wipe out the deficit created, and if you will borrow some for us, we will try to do better. Some such appeal might have been made. But that would have been honest. Honesty is apparently not the best policy. And so refuge is taken behind juggling figures concealing past mismanagement as far as possible, and promises of "improvements," made to be broken.

Let us first have a truthful financial report such as the law makes it the duty of the City Auditor to furnish. Then the request for a bond issue can be considered on its merits. If the party manipulators are ashamed of their record and afraid to let the people know what they did with the public funds last year, they should have the decency of not asking for more.

HEAR THE PROTEST.

Church people very properly protest against the maintenance of saloons in too close proximity to buildings used for public worship, and since the city council has the authority to refuse "for good cause" any application for license to establish a saloon, it is to be hoped that the protest of the Presbyterians against the rearing of a temple to Bacchus at First South and Fourth West streets be acted upon in favor of the protestants. As we have pointed out repeatedly, the liquor traffic is not the kind of business that ought to be established in the principal thoroughfares of a city, or where respectable citizens must be offended by the sight of it, and its victims, or where it becomes a temptation to the youth. If it is a necessary evil, something that must exist, it should be restricted to localities where it is seen only by those who look for it. The garbage of a city is handled with due regard to the physical health of the people. Moral evils should be dealt with, with due regard to the morals of the community.

But the temperance question is not exclusively one of morals. It is one of life and death. We have heard about the predicament of the French nation. One of the leading Paris papers, some time ago, attributed it to drink. It said: "Statistics tell us that the French population has ceased to increase. Last year the number of deaths exceeded the births by 26,000. How can we help saying that this physiological decadence of the French race, at least in certain districts, coincides with the progress which the same statistics show in the consumption of alcohol? It has been proved that the mortality of young children of drunkards is out of all proportion to the survivors, reaching as much as 82 per cent in certain communities in France. Dr. Barthes, the department inspector of benevolent institutions in Le Calvados, has prepared statistics that cover more than 200 cities, towns, and villages of Le Calvados, in which the mortality of infants and the number of still-born children has increased 28 per cent, and the births had diminished 12 per cent. In a tract of country near Caen, containing 9,247 inhabitants, Dr. Barthes had learned from the state registers that there were 96 births and 255 deaths. Of 51 conscripts, 20 were rejected and 12 postponed for another

year. Over fifty per cent were found physically incompetent. In this locality, it is said, women as well as men, have become drunkards.

A Finnish scholar who has investigated the question of the relation of death to alcohol has come to the conclusion that, during the past thirty years, no less than 7,500,000 people died in Europe as a result of drink. About ten per cent of the death rate of this country is charged to alcohol, directly or indirectly. In New York the per cent is said to be 33½. Those who have studied the subject know that life and death are involved. That is the reason why they ask for restrictions and the enforcement of the laws. That is why they demand that the temptation be removed out of the way of the youth, as far as possible.

The New York World, commenting on the Illinois election, remarks:

"Nearly one-third of the State is now 'dry.' Several hundred Nebraska towns, and nineteen out of thirty-five towns in Colorado voted against saloons. In Michigan on Monday the anti-saloon vote won in ten out of fourteen counties. The progress of the Prohibition wave through the States of the Middle West is not less remarkable than its sweep of the South. In local option the opponents of the saloon have found their most effective weapon. It yet retains its hold in the cities. But the almost uniform fate of the saloon when presented as a local issue in the country districts raises the expectation that it will eventually succumb to the more slowly aroused moral sentiment of the larger centers of population. A noteworthy feature of the anti-saloon crusade in the West, as was the case in the South, is the active participation of women. The Illinois church choirs in white singing before the saloon doors, the processions of Sunday school children, the solicitation of votes by women and their use of their carriages to convey voters to the polls, the ringing of church bells, the prayers, the doxology sung on street corners, the Primrose League canvasses or the suffragettes storming the doors of Parliament exhibit no more spectacular electoral tactics."

ABOUT "INTERSTATE."

Governor Johnson of Minnesota in the course of a recent speech complained that "inferior" federal courts interfere with States that attempt to control interstate commerce.

Most of the business of railroads is undoubtedly interstate in character. The States in regulating railroad traffic within their borders have sometimes passed laws that are too far reaching. When the States invade federal territory, the Supreme court will promptly set them right.

But the Minnesota decision seems to hold that the entire railroad business of the country is interstate. If so, what is left to the States? This question perplexes the Governor.

The fact is that there is no other court to pass upon the limits of the federal power. A state that legislated on the duties of soldiers in the army, or of employees in the postal system, or of foreign ambassadors, would quickly be given to understand its error by any "inferior" federal court. But there is no court to curtail the undue extension of the federal power.

A local anti-"Mormon" organ, however, has solved that question. It recently explained that Congress should proceed to legislate directly on matters concerning the Church, since the latter, through being engaged in "interstate commerce," was subject to federal control in respect to all its commercial contracts, if it has any.

When asked what it meant by saying the Church is engaged in interstate commerce, it explained that the Church owns stock in a sugar factory, and that the factory imported certain articles from other states; therefore, etc., etc.

Apply this rule, and there would be no longer any confusion as to the limits of the federal power. There would be no limit. Not alone would the railways as common carriers be subject to federal control in everything they did, but every firm, every person, in any state, would be subject to the same control in all business transactions.

Governor Johnson's complaint is a mere trifle, compared with the one that would go up if the Congress could be induced to consider the argument of the anti-"Mormon" fanatic. Curiously enough, however, the object of attack being the "Mormons," only a few of the readers of the anti-"Mormon" rubbish seem to take note of its utter absurdity.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.

Secretary Taft has predicted a gigantic struggle between labor and capital. And when it comes, he says, it will decide once for all how capital and labor shall share the joint profits which they create.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, speaking for labor, takes a similar view. He said recently: "If Congress does not pass laws legalizing unions, granting explicitly the right to strike, and in general a right to be active through organizations in our interests, there will spring up in this country as our successors secret organizations, bound by oath to the service of the cause of labor and to the fight we have already waged."

Both sides, then, are preparing for a gigantic struggle. If it comes, the general public will be the chief sufferer, but perhaps this is necessary to arouse lawmakers to the fact that one of the greatest needs of our age is a just arbitration law, providing for a peaceful settlement of all disputes between labor and capital. When some of the great industries of the country are brought to a standstill, and the children and wives of laborers are starving, it will, perhaps, be clear to both sides that civilization, not to mention religion, demands that some means be provided whereby reason can take the place of passion, insuring stability in the industrial world.

A St. Louis paper declares: "Ever long the boycott will be extended to the political field. The union men and women will boycott the capitalist politicians out of business, and elect their own men into Congress and legislatures, men and women who know what the labor movement stands for, and who know the aims of the Socialist party in this great movement for labor's emancipation." That is the stated purpose of some leaders in the modern revolutionary movement. Some statesmen are slow to realize the actual situation. Governments are concerned about warships and tariffs, while the foundations of states are endangered by neglect to

adjust the grievances of the producers of wealth. If wisdom had prevailed before the Civil war, the cause of the quarrel would have been removed without the tragedy that ensued. If wisdom is consulted now, another tremendous upheaval will be prevented.

If our battleships have faults, it is not their fault.

No sting is so incurable as that of the political bee.

The sun shines for all and the electric light for the well-to-do.

The Porte simply recognized the fine Italian hand and quit.

Tom Taggart is said to be still for Mr. Bryan. Very, it would seem.

The Gould household seems to be full of closets that are filled with skeletons.

Speak well of a natural bridge that carries you over safely. And preserve it for all time.

It isn't better to be without money than without friends when you go to a high-priced hotel.

Macedonia gives about such comfort to Europe as Central America does to the rest of America.

The Sultan has succeeded in tabling Italy's resolution to make a naval demonstration against Turkey.

A New York woman says that none of her sex can dress on less than twenty thousand dollars a year.

When Mr. J. D. Rockefeller goes to church he has six detectives to guard him. Yet the righteous are bold as a lion.

A Greek prince is in New York seeking work. Why doesn't he seek an heiress? They are much easier to find.

A good test of Professor Koch's "sleeping sickness" cure would be to try it on the boy who has to get up and make the fire.

Philadelphia is to have a great religious revival. The general impression was that Philadelphia was too dead for any kind of a revival.

Several churches in Burlington, N. J., have proposed to place a ban on the "Merry Widow" hats during services. Isn't there enough on them already?

"Better late than never," is no belief of Colonel Henry Watterson's, who says that Governor Johnson entered the race for the presidential nomination too late.

In Delaware they are trying to start a Gray boom while in Pennsylvania they are trying to start a Knox one. Now what kind of a campaign cry would Gray et Knox make any way?

"If presidential elections came once in six years, what harm therefrom would come to the republic?" asks the Springfield Republican. It would all depend upon the character of the man elected and the policies he pursued.

A RISING BELIEF.

New York Evening Post.

We are passing through a period of steadily rising belief in the influence of what we call spirit on the body; and we have witnessed the notable progress of the Christian Science movement. In its wake has come a jumble of superstitions and quackeries, common to all of which is more or less ridiculous jargon which blends body, spirit, muscles, thought-waves, bacteria and soul-emanations into a veritable encyclopaedia of silliness. We can understand how the older denominations should come to regard the Christian Science movement as a formidable rival. We cannot quite see why they should attempt to follow its methods.

THE DRAMA OF THE FUTURE.

Washington Correspondence, New York World.

J. L. Sullivan, bartender, came before the House Committee on District of Columbia today as the representative of the Bartenders and Waiters' Union, to oppose prohibition in Washington. Representative Sims, of Tennessee, who has introduced a prohibition bill, interrupted Mr. Sullivan's argument to ask him if he would object to prohibition if it actually prohibited.

"Why," said Mr. Sullivan, with simple earnestness, "that's like asking me if I want a tall grown on me."

When Mr. Sims could be heard again, which was not for some moments, he asked: "Would you stop gambling by law?"

"My definition probably differs from yours," replied the witness. "I am opposed to gambling in futures and so on. But, say, if a man wants a quiet little game of poker and has the time and the money, why, let him go to it, that's what I say."

Proceeding with his argument, Mr. Sullivan contended that it was impossible to make sober men out of drunkards by act of Congress.

"Why," he continued, "you can't legislate wings onto me, can you? Not on your life, you can't."

"You're a practical man, aren't you?" asked Representative Kahn, of California.

"That's the accusation I bring against myself," admitted Mr. Sullivan.

At another stage of his speech Mr. Sullivan made a reference to the great number of "blind pigs" in prohibition States. The Committee pounced on this expression and asked him to define it.

"A blind pig," explained Mr. Sullivan, "is a place where you go in and get a drink of booze that isn't fit to clean carpets."

EXPERT TESTIMONY.

From the Athenaeum.

Although the Academy is the haven which all writers hope to reach after a career of literary struggle, Mr. Richman informs me that he has no intention of resting on his laurels. His activity is great. He is preparing his "second" book, M. le Barge's cinematograph. He has not yet fixed upon a subject, but he believes he has found the secret of this new form of dramatic art. We must, he says, put our selves in the place of a deaf person studying life through the medium of the eyes, and construct a piece from that point of view, putting in all details that make the spectator, as it were, hear a silent reel. Like M. le Barge, the author of "Par le Glais," thinks that this enterprise is destined before long to revolutionize the theater.

JUST FOR FUN.

Naturally Acquired.

"I suppose you consider my hauteur mere affection," began Miss Parvener. "Not at all," Miss Bright hastened to say. "Your scornful expression is quite natural."

"Yes, I suppose you lived for a great many years in the neighborhood of your father's glue factory,"—Philadelphia Press.

As a Rule.

The man who makes big money is likely to be pretty careful about his small change.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Remaining Pass.

"Can I have a pass over your line?" "No," replied the railroad man. "Law's too strict. We can't pass anything but a dividend now."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Works Both Ways.

"They bore one, these society calls, don't you know," declared the young lady. "They bore one." "Sometimes they bore two," responded the young man, taking the hint and likewise his departure.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

In Washington.

"Such a faux pas!" "What have I done?" "Invited line and staff people to the same function!"—Pittsburg Post.

Inconvenience of Hotels.

Hiram—What in tarntion did that there durn clerk mean by givin' us this here kind uv a room? Guess he thinks country folks don't require privacy! Samatha—Why, what's the matter now, Hiram?

Hiram—Matter? Can't you see there ain't no other door a-leadin' to that there bathroom, an' naturally any guest that wants a bath has got to walk through our room!—Brooklyn Life.

Hotel Mystery Explained.

The Bachelor—I wonder why they call the boys about a hotel "Buttons"? Do you know? The Benedict—I suppose it is because you can never find 'em in the places where they should be.—Yonkers Statesman.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The National Magazine for April offers to its subscribers Joe Mitchell Chapple's resume of the attractions, resources and remarkable development of the new State of Oklahoma. Of interest at the present time is the essay of Justice Frank H. Norcross, of Carson City, Nevada, who has been awarded the prize of \$1,000 offered by Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr., of Oregon, through the National Magazine, for the best argument in favor of the acceptance of a second elective term by President Theodore Roosevelt. The judges examined some hundreds of competing papers. The fiction is abundant. "The Intervention of Alameda," "Easter Day in Gaden-hutten," "A Miracle of Pudding Hollow," "In Aunt Harriet's Garden," "The One-Eared Philly," "Cepha's Farm," "The Dream-Worshipper," "The Touchstone" and "The Woman Who Had Been a Girl," etc., all have suggestively inviting titles, which will not attract to disappoint the lover of clean fiction. The "Happy Habit" monthly talk deals with Easter music and sentiment, and is one of the best of a series of attractive sayings.—Chapple Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.

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