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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 6, 1908.

## QUESTIONS OF INTEREST.

The organ of the plunderbund is busy explaining that the present overdraft of the City is "only" \$228,156.83. In the absence of any authentic report, the assertion must necessarily be taken cum grano salis. The probability is that that figure does not tell half the truth.

But, interesting as the question of the present deficit is, there are other questions still more interesting.

For instance, when the bond issue first was discussed, it was given out that \$443,655.93 of the previous bond issue had been spent on the "Big Cottonwood Conduit." The contract for that work was let under an honest administration for something like \$232,000. This did not include certain work on the inlet and outlet. But, let us add something for these items and necessary changes and make the total cost \$270,000. That is a liberal allowance. Then comes the interesting question, what became of the remaining \$173,655.93? The tax-payers are very much interested in that question. If the money procured by the first bond issue had been spent honestly, there would have been no need of a new issue.

There are a number of other questions. The council asks the City to draw on its credit under the law that authorizes it to do so to a certain extent for the increase of the water supply, and sewer extension. Then it promises to use part of the money so obtained for an entirely different purpose, to wit, the building of an aqueduct. How is the trick to be done? How is the law to be evaded? We are not opposing the aqueduct or any other improvement the City can afford and can undertake legally. But we are opposed to the lying methods by which the party manipulators are trying to obtain money. How is the law to be set aside? Why not tell the whole story and expose the false pretenses under which the plunderbund are operating?

There are other questions. Did anyone "profit" by the \$20,000 alleged to have been paid to special auditors for work that possibly was worth \$5,000? Did the City derive \$20,000 worth of benefit from the advertisements in the party organ? We have been told that the City lost about \$30,000 by not depositing its funds in a bank paying interest on the money. Who got that \$30,000?

These are a few questions of interest at a time when the plunderbund is asking the tax-payers for more money to squander.

## LEPROSY CURABLE.

If reports are true, physicians connected with the Louisiana leper colony have discovered a cure for one of the most loathsome and dreaded diseases that afflict mankind, viz., leprosy. It is said that one man has been discharged as well and that five others in a convalescent stage are soon to leave the institution.

Leprosy is a term once applied indiscriminately to various skin diseases, but more particularly to elephantiasis. About the period of the crusades this disease spread all over Europe. Leprosy houses were erected everywhere. In France alone there were 2,000 such houses. Towards the beginning of the seventeenth century the disease gradually disappeared from Europe. In modern times the term leprosy is confined to a disease which commences by an eruption of small reddish spots slightly raised and grouped in a circle. The spots are soon covered with semi-transparent scales which after a while fall off. The disease affects knees and elbows, and sometimes extends over the whole body.

In 1873 Dr. Hansen found what he recognized as the bacillus of leprosy. Since that time the pursuit of a cure has been unflaggingly kept up, but not until the announcement came from New Orleans the other day was it known that any cure had been found. While its ravages of medieval times are not known today, this terrible blight which has sapped the vitality of nations, still smolders with characteristic persistence in many places.

## MINE DISASTERS.

The Federal government is about to begin a series of investigations with a view of ascertaining, as far as possible, the causes of disasters in coal mines in this country. Under plans approved by Secretary Garfield the interior department by August 1 will have a complete experimental station in operation on grounds of the arsenal in Pittsburgh.

This is a very important move in the right direction. When the common causes of such accidents are known, many disasters can be prevented and precious lives saved.

The selection of Pittsburgh for the site of the station was made because the government has land and buildings there available for the purpose, and because the city is situated in the heart of coal fields where many fatal accidents have happened.

The purpose is to test the various dynamites and powders used in blasting and determine their safety in the presence of the deadly fire-damp and equally deadly coal dust. Explosives of all sorts will be hurled by means of a mortar into a mammoth boiler-plate cylinder which has previously been filled with gas, and the effects will be carefully noted. If ignition fails

after severe tests, the use of these explosives will be urged upon the mine owners of the country.

The explosives will be tested in a cylinder 100 feet long and 6 feet in diameter, into which fire-damp and air, or coal dust and air, will be pumped. The explosive will be shot into it from a big steel mortar. There will be safety valves that will fly open when an explosion occurs, and port holes through which the interior of the cylinder can be observed from a house sixty feet distant. While these tests are being conducted, operators and miners will be invited to be present. In order that they will be able to see clearly the explosions of gas or dust, a piece of oil paper will be placed across the face of one of the safety valves with a piece of gun cotton suspended about six inches away. When an explosion occurs, the flames will burn the oil paper and ignite the gun cotton.

In connection with the experimental station there will be a miniature mine with drifts, headings, rooms and ladders. This place will be filled with smoke or gas and experiments will be made with apparatus capable of sustaining life in these vapors. Miners will be taught how to wear their apparatus and how to save their comrades who may be unconscious in the mine following an explosion.

The results will be published for the benefit of miners all over the country, and instructions will be issued in many different languages.

## AIR NAVIGATION.

Zenonlin is reported to have remained in the air, in his airship, for twelve hours, sailing wherever he wanted. The huge ship, the report says, answered the slightest movement of the steering apparatus. The twelve men who remained aboard during the entire experiment were exposed to no inconvenience and at noon when the ship hovered over Zurich, the Count floated down to the ground with a movement as graceful as that of a bird and anchored without the slightest injury to the balloon or to the men aboard. When the Count and his companions were again prepared to continue their flight, the basket was entered, the ropes cast off and as gracefully as it descended the ship rose into the air, and sailed away to the northwest.

Similar accounts have been published before and found, on closer examination, to be rather optimistic. Further corroboration of the story will, therefore, be looked for.

It is quite true that the problems of steering and propulsion have been very successfully tackled, and wonderful progress has been made the last few years, but there is another problem connected with air navigation, which, we believe, still must be solved. It is indicated in an offer made by a French scientist, M. Remy Quinton, to pay \$2,000 to the first aeronaut who succeeds in keeping a "heavier-than-air" machine aloft for five minutes with his propeller stopped.

Some birds have solved this problem, or nature has in their construction indicated the solution. Some birds can travel considerable distances making more use of the air currents than of their own means of propulsion, despite the fact that they have engines more powerful in proportion to their weight than any flying machine in existence. They have mastered the wind so that they can travel dead against it without one stroke of their wings. But they are able to decrease the specific gravity of the body by means of air sacs communicating with the lungs.

## A PUBLIC MENACE.

The Delinquent for July very properly calls attention to the demoralizing influence of many of the cheap electric shows. That journal says:

"They came upon us unobtrusively in the still of the night. Every big city, and even the smaller ones, woke up to find them there by dozens. They have multiplied faster than Guinea pigs, and within a short time have attained to that importance where we may no longer snub them as one of the catch-penies of the streets.

"With but few exceptions, the pictures shown in these places are as bad as the police will allow. They are suggestive and descriptive of crime, largely presented in the most alluring forms.

"Months ago, these theaters attracted the attention of the Chicago and Philadelphia authorities, and those interested in juvenile courts throughout the country have been raising their voices in protest against them. Jane Adams of Hull house, frankly admits that they have not only become a force in the city life, but they are capable of developing crime to a very alarming degree. Judge Lindsey of Denver, a friend of the homeless boy, has spoken strongly against them."

These are true words. Many of these shows are moral pest houses. They exhibit pictures of robberies, lynchings, man hunts, prize fights, and scenes from the underworld, and by such pictures exercise an influence worse than that of the dime novel. They are open on Sundays in violation of the law and thereby become a standing incentive to law-breaking.

The usual defense for them is the same as that offered for the yellow journalism that is nothing but literary poison. It is said that the people want such pictures. Some people, no doubt, want that class of amusements, but that is no reason why they should be supplied. Some people might want obscene pictures, but that is no reason why they should have them. It should never be lawful to cater to a depraved taste, when the consequence is sure to be the further spread of the depravity.

To the victim belongs the toil.

"Never say fail." Just whisper bankruptcy.

Did Harry Thaw have a sane Fourth of July?

A butt-in is usually followed by a back out.

The early bird doesn't always get the vice presidential nomination.

On a windy day a "merry widow" and her hat are soon parted.

Will Mr. Hearst play the part of Achilles and sink in his tent?

Opportunity never plays tie tac on

any body's door. It confines itself to a single knock.

Tomorrow begins another very strenuous week for the American people.

The art of platform-making it make the platform so that it will mean all things to all men.

A boy who is bidden to dig in the garden does not call a spade a spade. He calls it a nuisance.

The man who jumps at conclusions is like the fish that jumps at the fly—very apt to get hooked.

It will be almost as hard to get into the Denver convention as for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

Not every little boy who celebrated the Fourth can "thumb up" when the command "Thumbs up" is given.

The people of Denver do not feel satisfied with the number of tickets allotted them. Like Oliver Twist they want more.

Ensign Peak to be parked! And when it is done among the shrubbery may be found the thistle from which figs are gathered.

If there is anything in a name Taft and Bryan should both have it. The name of each is William, and each has a brother named Charles.

"The nation," says John G. Woolley, "is awake." Nothing new or startling in that. The American nation is famous for being wide awake.

Mr. Gompers gave the Republican convention a chance and now he is going to give the Democratic convention one. Is he a lottery agent?

On the authority of the Chicago Record-Herald Carrie Nation threatens to pull the sheath skirt from the person of the first woman she finds in a director's gown.

"Most people waste a lot of valuable time telling their imaginary troubles," says a Chicago philosopher. The time of people who have imaginary troubles is not very valuable.

Snow is to be used to moderate the temperature of the Denver Auditorium during the convention. This will be sure to give some of the vice presidential candidates "cold feet."

Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou says that the deficit of \$50,000,000 shown by the treasury statement is more apparent than real because of the antiquated bookkeeping system which is being overhauled and contends that "considering the ordinary receipts of the government," there is really a surplus. Which reads very much like an argument from "The Tale of a Tub."

Frenchmen are agitating a reform that is much needed in every country. It consists in simplification of legal phraseology. The minister of justice is the leader in this attack on legal jargon. The minister felt that the legal world ought to be consulted, and arranged a referendum of an informal kind. Out of 885 replies 727 were favorable to a change. A commission prepared the proper substitutes, which are said to be clear and intelligible, and the minister has directed the courts of appeal to make and enforce the substitution. This is a good example to imitate. Neither clearness nor force is gained by clumsy repetitions, obsolete phrases or strange grammatical construction.

## AN ABLE BODY.

Springfield Republican.  
An easterner who spent some time in Oklahoma last winter and spring returned with the conviction that the Oklahoma legislature was a much abler, honester and more efficient body than almost any legislature in this part of the country. And he watched its proceedings and heard its debates for weeks. The systematic ridicule of the Oklahoma lawmakers by a number of newspaper correspondents hungry for the dollars they could earn by sending absurd stories to Chicago and New York newspapers undoubtedly had an effect upon eastern opinion, yet the truth is that Oklahoma is as capable of self-government as Massachusetts and more capable than New York or Pennsylvania. Even the nine-foot bed sheet law had a reason which was heretofore overlooked. Evidently it was the result of a humanitarian sentiment aroused by the fact that thousands of invalids pass through the state on their way to the southwest, and they need protection of this sort from the railroads and the hotels.

## JUMPED TO DEATH.

Los Angeles Examiner.  
One of the Atlantic steamships arriving at New York a day or two ago reported that when three days out of Cherbourg, westward bound, Wilhelm Erhart, a stoker, crazed by the heat from the furnaces below, made his way to the deck and jumped overboard. His body was not recovered. The ship on which he worked is one of the palaces of the ocean. Its cabins, salons, promenades and dining-rooms are furnished luxuriously; the food is fit for kings. Men and women of wealth and ease are the patrons. If the heat is severe they may turn to the electric fans, if the winds are cold they may fix the temperature of their rooms to their own liking. But down below they need fires burn that make steam, human beings are sweltering. Air is shut off. The stuffy rooms are red with heat. Few men, however strong, can stand the suffering there for many minutes. They feed the furnaces, throwing in huge blocks of coal, and then run for a place where their lungs may inhale a breath of air. Then back they go to the roaring fires. Little by little the fashionable men and women on the decks above realize the suffering that is being endured by humans within a few yards of where they are. That some may be happy others must have pain; that a few may laugh and make merry others must weep.

## SHAKESPEARE ABRIDGED.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
In this city an attempt to bring "Macbeth" down to the level of blood-and-thunder picture shows was rudely checked by a police captain. Not that the guardian of law was lacking in admiration for Shakespeare, or that he thought the gentle bard too "strong" in some of his tragedies for the juvenile patrons of the nickel theaters. The trouble with the latest illustrated version of "Macbeth" was, as explained, was that everything had been eliminated from the tragedy except the horrors—the murders, the "shocks" and the thrills. In the circumstances the poet

himself would hardly have recognized his handiwork or objected to the censorship. Now a very different idea of abridging and distilling Shakespeare, of extracting and presenting his quintessence, is announced. It is a New York idea, and is to be exemplified in "Hamlet." One of the leading vaudeville artists is to present a sketch based on that somewhat philosophical and somber tragedy. The large cast will be freely curtailed, and the plot will be so simplified and "trimmed" that one act lasting twenty-five minutes will suffice for the presentation of the whole affair.

## JUST FOR FUN.

## Decidedly Too Much.

It would be too much to ask Count Boni, in his capacity of journalist, to write up an account of the De Sagan wedding.—Washington Star.

## A Lesson in Grammar.

The class was getting grammar. "Now," said the teacher, "can any one give me a word ending with 'ous' meaning full of, as in 'dangerous,' full of danger, and 'hazardous,' full of hazard?" There was silence in the class for a moment. Then a boy sitting in the front row put out his hand.

"Well, John," said the teacher, "what is your word?"

"Please, sir," came the reply "Pious," full of piety.

## More Than Proof.

Cautious Official—Has your friend tact and administrative ability?

Enthusiastic Indorse—He never umpired a baseball game yet where anybody kicked.

"Was I scared?" exclaimed Miss Lacer, "well I should say! My heart simply sank down into my boots!" "Impossible!" retorted her candid friends, "it couldn't possibly get past your waist."—Philadelphia Press.

"I suppose this weather is nothing to the sort they had when you were a boy?"

The oldest inhabitant wiped his brow vigorously. "Do, eh?" he snorted. "Well, you're a half-baked idiot."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Prospective Country Boarder—Is the water you have here healthy?

Landlady—Yes, sir. We use only well water.—Boston Transcript.

"Yes, he doesn't do anything but pick up pins all the time."

"Well, well, that's a queer superstition."

"Not at all. It's an occupation. He's employed in his bowling alley."—Philadelphia Press.

"That waiter's an idiot."

"What's the matter now?"

"I asked him to bring me a water cracker."

"Well?"

"And here he brings me an ice pick!"

—Cleveland Leader.

"Your face is familiar," said the passenger with the goggles. "Haven't I run against you somewhere before?" "No, sir," answered the passenger with the hunted look in his eyes. "You've tried a dozen times or more to run over me, but I have always been able to dodge in time."—Chicago Tribune.

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Ford and Lincoln in Jack and Jill.

Marie Beaupre in Hottentot love song.

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So Long, Mary, George M. Cohan's Success, 45 min. from Broadway.

Two new moving pictures.

2:30 to 5:30; evening at 7:30 to 10:30. Children half price.

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MUSIC CO. : THE HOUSE OF QUALITY

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Our regular stock of Lingerie Waists, will be included in this sale at **1-3 Off**

Entire line of Cloth and Silk Suits, and Cloth Jumper Suits at **Half Price**

200 Separate Skirts in blacks, navies and novelty cloths at **Half Price**

All Black and Colored Silk Taffeta and Messaline Waists in this sale at **1-3 Off**

Entire line of Summer Suits, linens, ducks and reps at **20% Off**

Entire line of White Skirts, linens, ducks and reps at **20% Off**

Extraordinary reductions in every section of our Dry Goods Dept. all this week. Values that will appeal to shrewd purchasers.



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