

drew out of the city's sundry expense fund, commonly called the mayor's contingent fund, \$7,000.83—all there was in it.

2. The contingent fund is no more the mayor's fund than it is the auditor's fund. It is a city sundry expense fund. It was formerly under the control of the city marshal, but in May, 1890, was put under the joint control of the mayor and auditor. It was created as a fund to which the City Council could appropriate sums to meet and pay expenses, the payment of which was not otherwise provided for by ordinance. For instance, if a telegram were to be received by the Mayor on official business, or if he found it advisable to help some mendicant or sick person out of town by getting him a railway ticket, or if some little unexpected expense were to become necessary, this fund was created so that the mayor and auditor could meet such small requirements without the delay of getting special appropriations through the Council, and occasioning much inconvenience; and these small incidental expenses were reported to the Council and made matters of public record. This, in brief, is the purpose of the fund—to meet small sundry expenses in a way to facilitate the city's business.

3. During the whole of 1895—the last year of the preceding administration—Mayor Baskin drew from the contingent or sundry expense fund a total of \$358.80.

4. The fund was for the same purpose then as now.

5 and 6. As to these questions, we refrain from expressing an opinion at present, but will relate a few facts, upon which "Taxpayer" may have fair basis to form an opinion.

Mayor Baskin drew for such items as have been named, and specified in each case the particular purpose for which the money was used, so that each transaction could be understood fully. When he went out of office he left in the sundry expense fund \$6,000.83. This was an unusually large amount, it having been customary to have only a few hundred dollars in the fund. But in the relations between city and county on the joint building it became advisable at one time for the city to perform a special favor to the county, and it was done by putting several thousand dollars through the sundry fund. When the county returned the money it was left in the sundry fund, the mayor and auditor not taking the precaution to cover it back to the general fund, deeming that such a procedure was unnecessary, although later experience shows it would have been the better way. This explains how the amount became so large.

Mayor Glendinning has drawn on the sundry fund for the same class of expenses as did Mayor Baskin. He also has drawn various amounts of which the following is a partial record, obtained from the auditor's books:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Jan. 13, 1896, contingent expenses..... | \$ 400 00 |
| Jan. 17, 1896, contingent expenses..... | 1,000 00 |
| Feb. 6, 1896, contingent expenses..... | 250 00 |
| Feb. 26, 1896, legal advice..... | 500 00 |
| Feb. 28, 1896, to Willard Young (who returned warrant to Mayor, but amount was not covered back into fund)..... | 500 00 |

| | |
|--|----------|
| May 23, 1896, contingent expenses..... | 200 00 |
| July 13, 1896, contingent expenses..... | 300 00 |
| Aug. 4, 1896, contingent expenses..... | 100 00 |
| Aug. 6, 1896, contingent expenses, firemen's convention..... | 1,500 00 |
| Aug. 20, 1896, contingent expenses..... | 286 33 |

The fact that the City Council has requested an itemized report is evidence that the vouchers for 1896 did not state the particular purpose for which the money was used, as did the vouchers for 1895; and the record here given also discloses that feature. In 1896, also, the fund was not under the joint control of mayor and auditor, but the latter merely recognized the orders of the former. When, for instance, the last money was drawn, the demand was for a larger sum, but the auditor replied there was only \$286.33 in the fund, and that amount was taken.

In further explanation of the firemen's convention expense, it may be stated that members of the finance committee assert that the cost was about \$900, and when the Council appropriated the \$1,000 it was believed to be ample. There is no explanation of the discrepancy.

When Mayor Glendinning makes his report, as requested by the Council, perhaps there may be light on all these items. As the matter stands at present, excluding the \$1,000 which the City Council intended to cover all the firemen's convention expenses, the record shows that in the year 1895, Mayor Baskin and his auditor drew on the sundry expense fund for \$358.80, the various items being particularized; during the first eight months of 1896, Mayor Glendinning drew \$6,000.83, of which a report is now asked.

CORRECTING DEEDS.

PROVIDENCE, Utah, March 27, 1897.

To the Editor: The probate judge of Cache county, according to the laws of the Territory, entered and deeded all the land in Providence townsite. We all know that we must get new deeds, for they are all wrong and we cannot make them right by transferring one to another. But we want to know who has the authority to issue new deeds—Can the justice's court do it, or the district court? Who can do it? By publishing this item in the paper with your advice and statement formerly given on another case, it will cause those who are careless to realize the necessity of doing something for their benefit. READER.

The duty which formerly devolved upon probate judges under the Territorial form of government, is vested by the Constitution in the district courts, who would be the proper authorities to issue deeds under the townsite act which were formerly issued by the probate judges. If the parties interested were to unite in petition to the district court, there is no doubt the judge of that district would set the matter right without delay, and to the satisfaction of all.

AN ARTISTIC EFFORT.

A design for a statue of President Brigham Young was shown at the News office the other day. Mr. J. Jeppesen, the sculptor of this city,

is the author of the design, and he hopes to find an opportunity to have it passed upon by those whose duty it will be eventually to select a representation of the great "empire builder" of Utah for the national capitol, in case the honor should be accorded to the memory of him who so well deserves it.

Mr. Jeppesen's statue represents President Brigham Young standing in the Rocky Mountain region pointing with outstretched arm to the country that is to be conquered for civilization. On the pedestal Utah is represented with extended hands, as if to welcome all the world, and she is surrounded by the insignia of art, science and industry, over which the American eagle extends his wings. There are also in bas relief representations of emigrant trains and other reminders of the early days of Utah. As a whole the design is by many who have seen it pronounced very clever in conception as well as artistic in execution. The figure of President Brigham Young is lifelike and his attitude one of remarkable vigor. It will readily be pronounced a very creditable effort.

THE FIRST UTAH NEWSPAPER.

Mrs. Nels M. Olsen, writing from Provo under date of March 30 to the News, says:

Please answer me the following question: When and by whom was the first newspaper published in Utah? It is one of the questions in the Young Ladies' Guide, for the Improvement association, and I cannot find the answer on record. I write to you, knowing that you can give the information.

The first newspaper published in Utah was the DESERET NEWS, in 1850. President Willard Richards was the editor, and it was published by the Church. The first number of the DESERET NEWS, a newspaper issued weekly, is dated June 15, 1850. This section of the country was not then known as Utah, but was the Provisional State of Deseret, with Great Salt Lake City as the capital. On September 9, 1850, the Territory of Utah was organized by Congress, and the government thereof succeeded that of the State of Deseret. The DESERET NEWS was then, and for many years after, the only newspaper in the Rocky Mountain region.

IMPURE CANNED FOOD.

The board of health of San Francisco is having quite a time in preventing the sale of adulterated food products in that city; and the investigations made show that in the matter of canned goods the sale of impure products for food is much more general than is commonly supposed. For instance it is shown that of seventeen well-known brands of currant jelly, now on sale in the San Francisco market, not one is free from adulteration, while more than half are declared to be absolute imitations. The latter are made out of apple or turnip paste colored with aniline dyes and flavored with fruit extracts. These canned goods come