

mant down which they tumble in great silver bands, the all-prevalent verdure beneath and the ample, limpid stream below them all, is a place as worthy the pencil of the great artists of the day as any that have found their way of late years into halls of exhibition. And there are others, very many of them, which possess but the one drawback of being close by and easy and inexpensive to get at. It was thirty years before a practical application of the attractive and profitable qualities of the Great Salt Lake was made, now there are additions going on continually and eventually Long Branch and Saratoga will be spoken of even in the East less than will our inland sea. When Utah shall have become fully developed what a picturesque, what a realization of dreams of the past and present she will assuredly be!

#### THE CITY COUNCIL AND LAWFUL MONEY.

By a decisive vote the City Council Tuesday, after due deliberation and an animated debate, passed a resolution that the bonds of the municipality to be refunded shall be payable, principal and interest, in "lawful money" of the United States. The discussion was marked by conspicuous ability at times, showing something of a study and knowledge of the intricate subject of finance, and while the conclusion reached may not be acceptable to all, none can say that it was either sprung upon the Council or hurried along to a final vote.

By the terms of the resolution the bonds are payable in any kind of money which stands as legal tender, at the option of the treasurer of course. Standard silver dollars and paper issued by or under the authority of Congress and expressly made such are lawful money the same as gold coin; and the scope of the resolution takes in all; so that, a bondholder presenting his bond to the treasurer for the purpose of receiving the principal or interest due would, if the aggregate sum were very large, stand a good chance of getting a general representation of all our different lines of currency; while if it were not large he might get it all in either kind. There should be nothing very discouraging about this, unless the holder had a matter of \$500 or so coming to him and the payor handed it all out in silver dollars; even that would not discourage some of us, but then we don't all loan money as a business—or otherwise.

If the Council overlooked any salient feature of the proposition it was undoubtedly unintentional. There is one instance, however, in which they seem to have lost sight, temporarily, of a factor in the transaction. A noted angler once made the statement that there could be no two opinions regarding the matchless pleasure imparted by landing a two-pound trout. "Oh, yes, there can be and there are," replied a friend. "Whose can the other one be, pray?" was asked. "The fish's," was the response. So in this case. There are or may be two opinions regarding the contingency of having to receive silver in payment of an obligation; that of the Council is already expressed, the other is that of the lender.

There is no law to compel a man or woman who has money on hand to lend it at all, no matter what inducements may be offered to that end. It is his or hers and can be kept or let go on such terms as he or she sees fit to impose. Occupying a position so imperial, so absolute, it is not at all times if at any time the part of wisdom for those who want such money, to approach the owner of it with terms of his

own already made out, unless such terms happen to be the identical ones that alone are known to be acceptable to the owner. Otherwise there will be refusal, if nothing more irritating to the feelings. Yet the City Council has apparently seen fit to overlook this homely yet fundamental principle in the law of finance and virtually asks to borrow money on terms which itself prescribes and which, unlike the case cited, are known to be objectionable to those who have the money to put out. The money must be had at once, because \$50,000 must shortly go into the sinking fund, besides the many other liabilities; and the bonds outstanding which it is proposed to refund are drawing five per cent interest while the reissue would carry but four per cent, a total saving per annum of \$500,000 to be called in and put out again of \$5,000, both important considerations.

There is another detriment that has been apparently overlooked or not given sufficient attention. It is shown that \$150,000 State bonds with a similar proviso to that provided for in the Council's resolution were recently taken up at three and a half per cent, and it is claimed that therefore there should be no trouble in floating \$500,000 by the city at half a cent more. The thing that is not made prominent enough is the fact that State bonds are exempt from any forms of taxation, while those of the city are only exempt from city taxation, leaving them still liable to an assessment of two per cent, thus reducing the interest to be drawn by the bondholder to only two per cent, or one and a half per cent less than is received on the State's obligations. Again, the city must soon make an issue of \$784,000 new bonds—an imperative one—and if politics or anything else than a due regard for the municipal welfare, based upon and directed by a disposition to make every edge cut, so to speak, shall prevail, we are likely to find our credit impaired and the bids for our securities as a consequence waning to a disastrous extent.

In all this there is no disposition to criticize, certainly none to find fault with what the city solons have done, but merely to make suggestions for their and others' consideration. It is a matter in which we are all concerned one way or another. The high standing of the municipality should be maintained at all hazards, and this can best be done by availing ourselves of the best terms we can get, but not by clinging to conditions which may force us into poorer or higher markets than some others would, or perchance to be the means of causing us to do without needed money until we become a lot of involuntary repudiators.

#### A VOLUNTEER'S APPEAL.

Some time ago attention was called through the press to the disorderly conduct in Washington of some of the soldiers from Camp Alger. This has led one of the boys in camp to point out, in a letter appearing in the Washington Times, that the temptations held out by people in the nation's capital are numerous and often hard to resist. He says he has been in the mining towns of Kansas, Missouri and Colorado, but nowhere has he seen the temptations to drunkenness and immorality so openly and aggressively forced upon men as in Washington. The Volunteers, he says, are mostly boys who have never been away from home before; if brazen allurements to vice were kept out of the windows and off the streets, as in the West, the inexperienced lads would generally escape the demoralization and disgrace they have suffered in the law-making center of the United States. The writer makes the following strong appeal in behalf of the Volunteer boys:

"If you people of Washington think you have just cause of complaint against these noisy, erring soldiers, what is to be said for the mothers and sisters who have devotedly and with tears and prayers intrusted these boys to the care of the government they enlisted to lay down their lives for if necessary? Surely the good women at home whose hearts are breaking over the reports that reach them about the evil courses of their sons and brothers are entitled to ask the civil and military authorities for a better system of control over evils which, however unavoidable they may be to some extent, have no excuse for existing in the public and law-defying manner they do under the shadow of the Washington monument."

The writer in these sentences goes to the very core of the matter. Men and women who give their boys to the service of the country have a right to expect the government to counteract as much as possible the evil influences that greed puts in their way. Laws should be aimed at those who set the snares and traps for the unwary as well as at the hapless victims that are caught. Divine justice pronounces a solemn "wo" upon those through whom the offenses come, and human mercy perfect until it is made to work on that principle. The appeal of the Volunteer boy from Camp Alger ought to be heard throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the suggestion acted upon. But will it be heard, or will it be lost as a voice of one that crieth in the wilderness?

#### CUBANS AS THEY ARE.

There seems to be a great deal of dissatisfaction with the Cuban patriots, now that our soldiers have learned to know them personally and the enchantment of distance has melted away. There is corresponding disappointment at home among those who before the war were loud in lauding the virtues of the Cuban insurgents and their cause.

It seems, however, that they are exactly as they might be expected to be; neither worse nor better. Under Spanish rule they have become Spanish. When shooting at the sailors swimming in the water after the destruction of Cervera's fleet, they only imitated the example of the enemy shooting at our wounded soldiers that were carried away in Red Cross ambulances. It is Spanish civilization that is responsible for some of the features of the Cuban character.

It would be folly to expect the Cuban army to be the equal of the United States boys in intelligence, discipline, perseverance or bravery. It would be unjust to apply to it the standards by which our own army is measured. If the war of humanity is to be a blessing to the Cubans, their conditions and peculiarities must be studied and they must be treated in a measure as children until they have grown to the manhood that self-government presupposes. If any other course is adopted, conflicts will follow that may end in the extirpation of the race. The Cuban problem after the war will be an intricate one, but it should not be too much for American statesmanship.

The Spanish four per cents, of which so much has been said, derive their name from the circumstance that they promise to pay four per cent interest to holders. As they have in many cases been floated for less than half of their face value, the promise is rather an indefinite one, and each succeeding refusal of Spain to negotiate for peace sends the bonds down a notch or so.