

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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THE WATER QUESTION.

One of the most important questions at present before the citizens of Salt Lake City is that pertaining to the increase of the water supply. Water is the great problem in the arid regions. It is vital to all interests. Without water, the richest soil remains a desert; the wealth in the mountains is undeveloped; the most pleasant of valleys is only a "death valley."

The plan now before the City Council, and for the realization of which the people will be asked to provide the necessary means, by authorizing the issuance of bonds, contemplates, as has been stated before in these columns, the exchange of water rights with the owners of such rights in the Cottonwood creeks and Mill creek—an arrangement whereby the city's water supply will be much more than doubled. The sum of \$550,000, it is estimated, will be needed to secure the exchange, build conduits, and so on, but the advantages secured by the trade will be almost incalculable to the city. More water means a more rapid growth of population, and the investment of outside capital on a larger scale. It means increased value to property, and greater facilities for the establishment of industrial enterprises. The amount asked for is a small price to pay for these advantages, particularly when the increase in the rate of taxation on that account will be so small, if any, as to need no consideration at all.

The suggestion has been made that the proposition should be fully investigated, before the bond question is voted on. And we agree that this is desirable. The citizens should know exactly what their votes are asked for, so that they can vote intelligently. And a good proposition never loses anything by a close investigation. But, in this connection it should be pointed out that unnecessary delay must be avoided, as a policy of indecision might, possibly, jeopardize the entire plan. To seek information about such an important transaction is businesslike, but to plead ignorance as to the nature of it, merely for the purpose of securing indefinite postponement and obtaining time to raise objections, is inimical to the interests of the city.

One of the most serious objections to the plan, so far made, is this, that the rights acquired do not appear to be absolute. The farmers reserve the right to take back the Cottonwood water, if the city fails to fulfill its contract. This is really no ground for objection. It should be remembered that the arrangement contemplates the mutual benefit of both parties to the bargain. It is not a trade by which the city hopes to get the advantage of the farmers. No reason can, therefore, be imagined, why the farmers should desire to annul the contract, except the one mentioned, the failure of the city to deliver the water promised for irrigation purposes. But in such an improbable contingency, the city ought certainly to return to the farmers their original water rights, until the contract could again be fulfilled, rather than permit the fields in the valley to be parched, the crops destroyed, and the orchards dried up. For that would be a calamity to the city, too.

But such a contingency cannot arise, if not as a result of long drought, or other causes over which man has no control. Barring such unforeseen calamities, there is no reason why the farmers should not be as anxious as the citizens of the city for the permanency of the contemplated arrangement; for, it is to their benefit, too. Were the bargain annulled, there might be some danger in the part of the agreement objected to. But as it is, the objection has no force.

THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE.

The recommendations of the prominent Russian zemstvo presidents are now in the hands of the czar, and rumor has it that he is giving favorable consideration to their expressed views. What that means, only his actions can reveal. It may mean much. It may mean nothing.

It would be unjust to the czar to condemn the conservative spirit in which he approaches the problem of reforms in Russia. His attitude towards Finland cannot be too strongly denounced. For there an attempt was made, by his sanction, to crush, without cause, the nationality he had sworn to respect, and defend. The situation in Russia is different. The masses there are ignorant, childish, addicted to superstition, and unfit for self-government. Education must go hand in

hand with reforms. A great many Russians are enlightened and liberty-loving. But the masses are not. And their status cannot be ignored.

The following characterization of the Russian masses is by a Russian writer, quoted in the Literary Digest. He says in part:

"National intelligence is undoubtedly a source of great strength—but where does it exist among ourselves? Does it manifest itself in the well-known universal ignorance of the Russian masses, whereas all adjacent peoples, white or yellow, possess a more or less definite popular cultivation? To read and to write are qualifications which, through the medium of an adequate mental awakening, could, in fifty years, be made practically universal. They remain none the less among ourselves a luxury fully a thousand years after the day of the holy St. Cyril. The morality of the masses among ourselves is on a far lower level than it is among our neighbors, and the statement holds good as far back as the time of Tschust. Dishonorable dealing in every kind of negotiation, corruption, cruelty, dissoluteness, drunkenness, contempt for human rights—such forms of gross materialism pervade the masses of our people to their very marrow."

The national art in this country is quite insignificant. A popular literature does not exist. Our civilization is wholly borrowed, and yet it is the lowest in the world.

Does our popular intelligence manifest itself even in the guise of material wealth? There exists, certainly, a latent creative strength, a quantity of energy and of talent. Nevertheless, Russia is unquestionably the poorest land in the world. The masses of the people are in destitution. In what, then, is revealed our "unique national capacity," the strength of spirit and of mind? In the west of Europe these things are no mere phrases; they are evident facts.

"In the yellow east the popular capacity manifests itself—apart from many other things—in the infinitely advanced stage of cultivation of the soil. I am a Russian to the very marrow of my bones and I love my native land not less than Count Tolstoy loves it. Yet in the life of my countrymen I behold the triumph, not of the popular intelligence, but of the stupid, popular stupidity, the heavy darkness which is the natural consequence of the degradation of a great people."

"The crass stupidity of the people blinds even the educated classes in its chains. The blind prejudices of the crowd assert itself at the top of society, depriving all intelligence of the will to achieve."

If this picture is but partially true, it is evident that reforms in the direction of self-government can not be inaugurated too suddenly. The autocrat of Russia has not an easy task before him. Will he be equal to the occasion?

West Point made all the points.

William Allen White is now in the "also ran" class.

West Point's victory is another argument in favor of a stronger navy.

The Subway is not evidence that New York is honeycombed with corruption.

The invitations to a second Peace congress are being taken up like hot pancakes.

Whatever his faults, Governor Peabody of Colorado has pluck. He doesn't know when he is beaten.

A Chicago clergyman comes out flatfooted and says that women are not angels. The brute!

Beloit, Wis., has two separate and distinct Carnegie libraries. Isn't this piling Pelion on Ossa?

The South looks upon the North as sectional. Simply a case of the Indian and the lost wickup.

Samantha at the Fair couldn't have caused more commotion than the President at the fair has.

If the czar will but grant his people a constitution he will indeed become the father of his country.

The Union Theological seminary of New York has discarded the Westminster confession. Surely the world do move.

The President may or may not favor a revision of the tariff but at the St. Louis exposition he was on the free list.

The zimstvos don't care who writes the Russian people's songs so long as they may be allowed to make their laws.

The governor-elect of Massachusetts began his business career by pegging shoes. And now he has gone a peg higher.

Madame Beshobresky calls the Russian bear a stuffed monkey. It does look as though the Japanese had made a monkey of him.

The records show that Miss Thaw paid \$250,000 for her title as Countess of Yarmouth. The Earl was thrown in as a sort of Yarmouth blotter.

One would think that on so interesting and important a question as an adequate water supply for this city, there would be overflow meetings.

The metropolitan of St. Petersburg has conferred a cross of gold upon an American colored bishop. Of right it should have been conferred upon Mr. Bryan.

"The Massachusetts legislature is bought and sold as are sausages and fish at the markets and wharves," says Thomas W. Lawson. That sounds a little fishy.

So many governments have accepted President Roosevelt's invitation to attend a second peace congress that those who have not are so few that they never will be missed.

"Some men think they can buy their way into heaven. This treasure is of such great value that it cannot be bought," says young Mr. Rockefeller. Doesn't he mean the Senate?

The Republican national committee is said to have \$400,000 of its campaign fund still on hand. What a splendid nest egg!

The czar has the zimstvos memorial

most of the nominees are above reproach in every way, and the choice narrows down to a question of personal qualifications for office." Admitting that all the nominees are above reproach, which is a matter of common congratulation, there is something besides the question of personal qualifications, which all the nominees, so far as we know, possess in fair degree. The gentlemen named by the American party represent a party which says that no "Mormon" is fitted to be a member of the Board of Education, and that has suited the action to the word by sedulously avoiding placing any "Mormon" on its ticket. That very fact shows that it does recognize a religious line, and makes it a test. With due respect to the nominees of the American party, we believe their election would mean an active, aggressive anti-"Mormon" Board of Education.

The non-partisan nominees are Democrats and Republicans, "Mormons" and Gentiles, and were named by the adherents of those two parties after their respective chairmen had met and decided that no party ticket would be put in the field. The non-partisan nominees will have no anti-"Mormon" or pro-"Mormon" policy, no anti-Gentile or pro-Gentile policy; the welfare of the public schools will be their sole aim. The matter of personnel is a most important matter in the school election, because upon the personnel hinges the policy. So much for that.

A few words as to the analysis of each ticket by our pseudo-Democratic contemporary. With much show and parade of impartiality, with feigned solicitude for the public welfare, never once letting its right hand know what its left is doing, it tells of the qualifications of the non-partisan candidates and of the American candidates. The non-partisan candidates are good men and pretty well qualified. But the American candidates are better men, better qualified. How this is the case, how clumsy the snare, how plain the animus. It is a veiled attempt, and a poorly veiled one, too, to appear to be without prejudice or preference, while all the time the undercurrent strong and easily seen, is for the American ticket. Were the nominees on the two tickets changed our contemporary would be advocating the election of the gentlemen who are known as the non-partisan candidates, and would be against the American nominees, the question of personnel would cut no figure with it.

## MUST TAKE THE FORT.

According to Tokio dispatches, which generally are reliable, the besiegers of Port Arthur have been ordered to take that stronghold, at any cost. This command will probably be executed, and terrible slaughter may be looked for in the final struggle.

Interest centers in the events around Port Arthur, because it is hoped that the surrender of that fort may mark the end of the contest, as the fall of Sebastopol was the end of the Crimean war. Port Arthur has been defended by the Russians as obstinately as was Sebastopol. The latter city held out eleven months, or from Oct. 17, 1854, to Sept. 8, 1855.

Japan has already, in an indirect manner, signified her willingness to conclude peace after the fall of Port Arthur. The Japanese minister to Great Britain is authority for the statement that peace negotiations would be commenced, provided Russia would consent to a mutual evacuation of Manchuria and a complete withdrawal of Russian pretensions in Korea. This declaration may be considered authoritative.

Russia, it would seem, should accept the opportunity of making an end of the hopeless struggle, on such terms. Their acceptance would place her on a footing of equality with all the world, in Manchuria. She solemnly promised to withdraw from her own volition, and the war was commenced to compel her to keep her pledges. There is no cause for complaint, if Japan is satisfied with so moderate a reward for the enormous sacrifices made.

At the same time, Japan shows her wisdom in moderation. As pointed out by the New York Globe, if she annexed any portion of Manchuria, she would repeat the mistake of Bismarck when he compelled France to cede Alsace and Lorraine—a mistake which has entailed enormous military expense on Germany to no purpose. If the Japanese flag flew above Manchuria, Russia would doubtless at the first convenient occasion make a counter attack. It would be necessary for Japan to be at all times armed to the teeth, to her serious industrial injury. On the other hand, if Manchuria is handed back to China, it will mean that all commercial countries will be interested with Japan in preventing further Russian aggression. Russia will be barred from the Yellow sea far more effectively than Japan alone could do it. As a collateral advantage Japan will gain the special friendship of China, which under Japanese leadership and from the force of the Japanese example may yet become a nation capable of defending her borders.

It is only to be hoped that the inhuman war will draw to a close speedily, and that peace terms may be agreed upon. And then there should be no more war.

THE SCHOOL ELECTION.

"It is a matter of comparatively little importance in the approaching school election whether a candidate was named by the non-partisan conventions or by the American party, but it is important that the non-elected should be progressive, clean, deeply interested in the city and its schools, and broad enough to ignore partisan or religious lines in everything affecting the public school system."

So says the pseudo-Democratic Herald. It is a very important matter that the members of the Board of Education should be men who are "progressive, clean, deeply interested in the city and its schools, and broad enough to ignore partisan or religious lines in everything affecting the public school system."

None others are wanted. Our contemporary says that "fortunately

under careful consideration, and is under no illusion as to what it means. It means business.

There is nothing like a good sized piece of mince pie just before going to bed to make a man feel that he is such stuff as dreams are made of.

Professor McClintock of the University of Chicago believes in "blood and thunder" stories for boys. Why doesn't he undertake the editorship, under the patronage of his university, of Beadle's Dime Novels?

A widower in Horton, Kas., advertised anonymously for a wife, and among the numerous replies were letters from his three daughters and a niece. A clear case of chickens coming home to roost.

Governor Bates of Massachusetts predicts the union of the British provinces in North America with the United States. It isn't safe for a man who is in the "also ran" class to make predictions so soon after election.

The oldest actress in the country is dead at the age of eighty-eight years. But there are plenty of coryphees who have passed that number of years and have no thought of leaving the world or the theatrical stage.

If it be true that the besiegers of Port Arthur have been ordered to renew the assault and to take the main fortifications at any cost, it can only mean that the beleaguered fortress is tottering to its fall. That it would come sooner or later has long been a conviction held by the world-public.

That Japan within the next few years will substitute the English alphabet for the characters now employed in the written language of that country, is regarded by Prince Fushimi, who is visiting this country as very probable. If this was one of the provisions of the treaty with England, it was a most excellent one. What is meant is, most likely, that Japan will adopt the Roman letters.

"It is mainly to the interest of Mormons that the schools shall be free from the control of sectarianism. If Mormon parents in this community will give candid and serious reflection to the matter for a little time, they will become convinced that the issue is of paramount importance to them," says the organ of the anti-"Mormons." And it is because the "Mormons" are so interested that the public schools shall be kept free from the control of sectarianism and partisanship that they want to see the Board of Education non-partisan, and its members men of the highest character and qualification that they are opposed to the plan of the anti-"Mormon" organ.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

San Francisco Chronicle.

But the Baltic fleet is moving eastward at a snail's pace. One division of the squadron is still in the Mediterranean, another is somewhere off the northwest coast of Africa, and a third division has not yet come out of the Baltic. If the fleet has been dispatched for the relief of Port Arthur, and is not a mere bluff to rattle the Japanese, the wonder of it all is that it is making haste so slowly. At the present rate of progress it will not reach the China seas before next spring. In all probability the fortress will then be in the possession of the Japanese, and their fleet, which is now on blockade duty, will be at liberty to intercept the Baltic squadron and engage it in the open sea with no port except Vladivostok in which the Russian ships can seek refuge if a place of refuge should be needed.

TEA

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Goddard Song Recital

THE BIG TABERNACLE

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Mr. J. J. McClellan, Organist and Accompanist.

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Part I. Musical Program by Mr. Skelton, Miss Berkhoel, Mr. Schettler, Mrs. Melvin, The Ladies String Club, The University of Utah Orchestra.

Part II. One-act play, "The Porch climber," presented by Mrs. C. E. Richards, Mrs. Teedyard M. Bailey, Mr. John D. Spencer.

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