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WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE?

It is notorious that since Ogden City has passed into so-called "Liberal" control, gambling and prostitution have been permitted to flourish there unchecked, and that even on the Sabbath Day places where the laws were openly violated have been free to all comers without danger of punishment. This became such a public scandal, and the failure of the municipal authorities to even attempt the enforcement of the ordinances provided in such cases was so palpable, that Judge Henderson deemed it necessary to charge the grand jury of the First District specially in relation to these public evils.

But it seems that the grand jury were not more strongly disposed than the civic officials to proceed against these offenses. On May 13 the Court was informed by the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney that this body had concluded their work, with the exception of a few cases where witnesses had not been found, and they wished instructions as to adjournment. The following colloquy then ensued, as reported in the *Ogden Standard*:

"Court—Has the jury investigated the matters I called especial attention to?"

Mr. Evans—In one case they have, but not in the other, as they have been unable to obtain any testimony.

The Judge then stated that if they could receive no assistance from the public, they could not do it alone. Assistance from the public was absolutely necessary. He desired to know if the public had been made sufficiently acquainted with the fact that they were ready to investigate these matters.

Mr. Evans stated that he thought so, though the grand jury had not been in session very long. The work at this session had been lighter than that of any previous jury.

The Judge thought it best to discharge the jury, subject to call of the foreman. The day for calling them together again could be determined, and subpoenas, if there were any, returned on that day. If at that time further complaint had been made, and a willingness was manifested by the public to come be-

fore the jury, showing they were interested in the punishment of crime the matter would again be called to the attention of the jury. It would not be dropped, but the court had to depend on the public for assistance. They could do nothing unless evidence was forthcoming on the subject.

"After some further talk the jury was discharged until June 17th."

This appears to us a very shallow attempt to shift the responsibility for the non-enforcement of the laws against gambling and prostitution, from the shoulders of the officers to those of the public. Is it to be expected that there will be a general rush of private citizens to appear before the grand jury and volunteer information on these important matters? Does Judge Henderson mean to say that the fault for this negligence lies with the people who are under no special obligation in regard to the matter, and that officers chosen, paid and sworn to execute the laws are faultless?

What are the police for? What the officers of the court? What is the duty of the Prosecuting Attorney and his assistants? What about the Marshal and his staff of deputies? Does Judge Henderson mean to say that private citizens are to be censured because the grand jury have not pushed this matter, and because the officers appointed to attend to such things have not brought cases before the attention of that body? Why blame the public and utter no word of reproof to the dilatory officials?

Suppose there were no cases of infraction of the Edmunds law by "Mormons" presented to the grand jury. Whom would the court blame then? Does the Judge wish us to understand that prosecuting attorneys, marshals, grand juries, spies, informers and court attaches generally, are only for the purpose of hunting out and punishing "Mormons" who have contracted or who maintain marriage relations which are condemned by statute? Are they to be the sole prey of the fee-grabbers, the only objects of official espionage, the *sine qua non* of forensic eloquence and punitive zeal?

If the desire to suppress the gross and notorious crimes that are now "haunted" in the Junction City is genuine, why are not the responsible officers of the law, instead of the irresponsible public, censured for the negligence which is painfully apparent? When have the Federal Courts of Utah been earnest in the enforcement of the laws against the social evil? Is it not a fact, that

but for them, in earlier times, that curse of so-called civilization would never have been permitted to obtain a foothold in this Territory? It is but a little while since the same officers and court that pursued illegally, with multiplied indictments and penalties, men who were doing their best to comply with a law which was almost impossible to obey in the spirit in which it was construed and administered, turned loose, without penalty or reproof, a crowd of vile lechers who were caught in their filthiness and were so certainly guilty that the proofs of their crimes were absolute and undeniable.

The courts have since been purged of those unjust, revengeful, and crime-condoning officials, and we may reasonably look for better things. But it is not an encouraging sign when neglect to enforce statutes and ordinances against known infractions of law and decency, is judicially charged upon private individuals instead of those public officials whose positive duty it is to see that the laws are enforced.

Nevertheless, those citizens who can give such information, either to the grand jury or the executive officers, as is necessary to the suppression of the evils complained of, should be ready to do their part when called upon, that no excuse may be left for their continuance. Yet if the officers of the law in Ogden are sincere in their endeavors to suppress the crimes spoken of by the Court, they will be able to procure the needful evidence if they use but a tithe of the diligence exercised in pursuing suspected "Mormons."

AMAZING MENDACITY.

It is stated in the local sheet which is chiefly devoted to the work of deceiving the outside public on the "Mormon" question, that "the Saints never join with the Gentiles in any enterprise which promises to be of good to the city and Territory, and never ask the Gentiles to join with them." And the NEWS is asked to "explain why no business overtures are made or accepted by the Saints."

The only proper explanation is, that the alleged fact to be explained is a plain, unmixed and unclothed falsehood, refutations of which are to be seen in business advertisements in the sheet which publishes the palpable untruth. "Mormons" and "Gentiles" are in business relations in