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CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP.

Christian citizens all over the country are being aroused to a realization of their responsibility as citizens. They are beginning to realize that indifference on the part of good citizens to the manner in which public officials perform their duties is very largely responsible for bad government. They know that "when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn," and that this is as true under the popular form of government with which this country is blessed, as it is under despotism. They are beginning to realize that a citizen is not a successful citizen merely because he is a successful business man who can distance all competitors, but that good citizenship is proved by unflinching work for the prevalence of righteousness, truth, and justice in all public affairs.

A prominent Massachusetts pastor, Congregational, Rev. N. M. Hall, of Springfield, some time ago delivered a notable address on this subject. He pointed out that the true object of city government, and we may say all government, is to make life better because of greater opportunities of moral and intellectual improvement. The functions of government are not for selfish purposes, but for the uplifting of man out of ignorance and bondage to the level of the privileges of the sons and daughters of the Almighty. "You may make your administration as business-like as possible," Mr. Hall said; "you may improve your public schools until every child in the community has a complete education; you may beautify your city until it dines the glory of Athens and Venice, but you will not have the highest type of civic life unless the citizens are filled with the spirit of Jesus Christ."

The Rev. Gentleman then took up the cry of certain politicians demanding that the churches keep out of politics. On this subject he said in part:

"What we want today is the fullest possible scrutiny of politics and of the men who are in it. The Christian citizen actively engaged in politics and business as a Christian, as a representative of the church of Jesus, is what the world needs. Not the church of course as an actual organization, but the Christian life of the church; the men who have sat at the feet of Jesus, who have been inspired by his teaching, the dynamic force of the church expressed in the determination and energy of Christian character—this is the ideal citizenship, and this alone can save the city."

"If this force is once exerted nothing can stand before it. The united Christian citizenship of any community, breaking loose from traditions, from the bondage of party organizations, can accomplish any reform it may desire. A Christian who stands at the polls to vote on municipal questions has no right to think of party symbols and affiliations; he should think only of his city's good, and ask himself how he shall vote to advance the city's honor and promote its highest interests. This form of Christian citizenship heretofore has been dumb, inert, helpless. The time has come for it to awaken. The church is an advisable part of the city. We cannot deny it. We are bound to all its responsibilities. We are bound to all its life by mystic ties. Its shame, its detestations, its squalor, are ours. Let us resolve that ours shall be also the honor of its emancipation and the glory of its coming power."

It will interest readers of the "News" to see how broad-minded Christian men and women regard a question which in Utah has been made an excuse, though without reason, for an almost insane agitation.

BUSINESS OR POLITICS?

The property holders who voted against the bonds should continue to watch the disposition that will be made of the money. They should make every reasonable effort to insure the safe-guarding of this large sum from being used as part of the campaign fund by party leaders who blasphemously call themselves "American." Some honest supporters of the bond issue say that they can see no politics in the proposal, and that it seems to them only a matter of business. We refer such persons to the public speech of Mr. Lippman.

Part of his talk was sensible enough, from his standpoint. He named several men of undoubted honesty and ability as being among those who would have something to do with the expenditure of the bond money. As to this phase of the matter, it now devolves upon the officials named to make good these anti-election pledges.

But there was another phase to Mr. Lippman's argument—a coarse reviling of his "Mormon" neighbors, none of whom has ever injured him, a false and base insinuation that they were without education and were opposed to progress, while he himself, as he claimed, was well educated—in spite of their efforts to keep him in ignorance, we suppose! Does not this kind of bitterness and falsehood in public argument reveal some of the real animus that burns in the minds of party bigots, and that underlies this avowedly "business proposition" presented in the vote on the bond issue? Was it business? Is religious hatred "business"? Or is it mere party politics? It is for those who are responsible for the vote to demonstrate their sincerity as well as their ability in showing that it is for a public and not a political purpose that the bonds were voted. And they should be the first to rebuke the un-American spirit that makes

every public question an anti-"Mormon" issue.

As we have said, we think this bond issue was necessary in order to cover up the blunders of the past. We have no reason to believe that the money will be expended only for the public good. It is intended chiefly, to pay off bad debts, and to create jobs for political workers and their dependents. Of course the city will derive some benefit from the vast and profligate outlays but no benefits, we fear, commensurate with the cost.

It is because of these aspects of the bond issue just voted that practically half of the taxpayers have little faith in it. Let the public money once be wisely, honestly, carefully expended for the public good and not primarily to gratify the religious animosity or political schemes of narrow and partisan bigots, whose sole aim is to trench in power a political, money-grabbing clique, and there will be little objection to bond issues for public improvements. Even such exhibitions of hatred as the "American" party organs and the orators of the Lippman stripe inject into the question, will be looked upon by the people generally as mere incidents, just as soon as the taxpayers can have the actual assurance that public moneys are being used exclusively in the public service.

CREDIT WHERE DUE.

It is very kind of the numerical majority of the City council not to raise the tax-rate above the exorbitant figure agreed on last year, since it has been proved that 13 mills are ample for all legitimate purposes, saying nothing, of course, of campaign expenses. But it is just as well to remember that these 13 mills include something for interest on bonds. And that is a little story worth repeating. When the last bond issue of a million dollars was asked for, the people were told by a committee of reliable and responsible citizens, that the bond issue would not entail any increase in the taxes. They said, in a signed address:

"By way of information the taxpayer will probably ask specifically how the interest is to be raised on the issue of bond, and whether it means an increase in taxation. The answer will doubtless be more pleasing than he imagined. It may be stated first of all, that no 'increase of taxation' is contemplated."—"Bonds, Yes," page 3.

And then the address goes on to explain how the revenues of the water-works department "alone are more than ample to pay the annual interest of the proposed water bond issue." The distinguished councilman, W. Mont Perry signed his name to that positive assertion in December, 1904.

The ordinance providing for the bond issue also provided for the payment of the interest, as promised the tax-payers. But then, promises are frail things, easily subject to accident, and for that reason 3½ mills were added to the taxes, contrary to a signed assurance that the revenue was more than ample without increased taxes. The 3½ mills remain, as a reminder of the sad story of past financializing, but, as we have said, it is very kind of the council majority not to add another 3½ mills this year. They certainly could have done so, without materially increasing their own taxes.

MONEY FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

If the bond issue is disposed of, the City administration will get \$600,000 to expend on public works. Under the direction of the gentlemen to whom the Herald—with their full knowledge and approval, possibly—refers as "a rapacious band of grafters," it will be possible to employ a large host of voters pledged to help the "American" party to carry the County.

The Mayor and some other prominent gentlemen have solemnly pledged themselves that the \$600,000 will be distributed as promised by the numerical majority of the council. That is to say, they have pledged themselves that \$65,000 be expended on an aqueduct; \$100,000 for water mains in the Fourth ward; \$50,000 in the First ward; \$200,000 for the enlarging of the East Jordan canal, and \$125,000 for sewer extension. But these pledges are no obstacle to using the money for the furtherance of party purposes, as will be evident in the disbursement of it. They do not prevent the "rapacious band of grafters" from using for the benefit of their party the money obtained by taxing, through their tools in the council, the whole community, or placing a mortgage on every home in the City. And that is what the bond issue means to the City.

The "American" party leaders are now hopeful of carrying the county in the fall. There will be no lack of money for campaign purposes, as there will be no lack of vilification of the Church and Church leaders to stimulate "American" patriotism; nor of deceptive promises for the benefit of dupes. If the genuine American citizens of this beautiful Valley are not looking forward with indifference to a possible pseudo-American "conquest" for loot, they will consider seriously some practical means of defense of their material as well as spiritual interests.

If we may judge from the ravings of some contributors to the columns of the pseudo-American organ, the scheme is, when the county offices are captured, to make an enormous raise in the taxes on all farm property. The cry is now that the land is undervalued, while City property is overvalued. If that means anything it means that the "rapacious band of grafters," whoever they are, are already calculating on the chances of exploiting the County, for high taxes and bonds.

Can the Turkish constitution stand Turkish baths?

The most choice fashion notes now come from Pittsburgh.

A worm will turn but it does it in a very awkward manner.

The city tax rate is thirteen mills, always an unlucky number.

Judge Taft finds Hot Springs cool. Would he find Cold Harbor warm?

A speech of acceptance is always delivered in an acceptable manner.

Mr. Bryan always takes a Fairview

of political matters though it may seem radical at times.

The proposed fusion in Nebraska promises to create much confusion.

"Take a Grosscup, drink it up and call the neighbors in," sing the Standard Oil magnates.

A California girl has a "frog ranch" and makes it pay. But it keeps her on the jump to do it.

Rule 36 of the interstate commerce commission seems to be one of those that don't work both ways.

Seats on the New York exchange are quoted higher though they are exactly the same height as before.

A minister says "wealth turns people's hearts to stone." Rather does it not turn their hearts to "rocks"?

From the very circumstances of the case, the Independence presidential candidate must be a doubting Thomas.

"The Naked Truth" is the title of a new drama. It can't be much worse than some that are already on the stage.

The Republican, the Democratic and the Independence platforms all declare for tariff reform. Will it be a case of falling between three stools?

"There are 100,000,000 acres of American corn. That is enough to make a belt one mile wide and 157,000 miles long, or over six times around the earth," says the Philadelphia Press. That is the champion belt and well worth struggling for.

The campaign will not really open until Mr. Bryan has been notified of his nomination and made his speech. After that it will be the open door policy until the election in November; in fact it will be a regular continuous performance.

"It seems that along with a revival in spelling we are to have more attention paid to arithmetic and algebra. In fact, what the country needs is a little more hard work in the schools and not so many fads in education," says the Philadelphia Enquirer. And we quite agree with it.

"The Deseret News has not even yet recovered from its rables on the bond question."

That is the Tribune way of stating that the "News" has not changed its opinion on the bond proposition. The "News" was right on that question. And when you are right, you do not have to shift ground as the Tribune does.

The Tribune is evidently suffering from delirium. It maintains that the pledges of honesty and integrity it printed a few days ago were given before there was any opposition to the bond issue. G. S. Hall, in Current Literature, maintains that "there is a sense in which everybody lies more or less," and "that not a few pass through a stage, often prolonged, when they prefer the lie to the truth, while in a few this trait persists through life." The Tribune is an illustration of this.

SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT.

Ambassador Bryce.

Formerly political science was a subject apt to be treated in a vague way, by random and hasty speculation. A man found a particular instance in which some form of government worked well or badly, and he called it by a name, he applied the name laxly, and he said all governments like that worked well or ill, as the case might be. But now we consider the social organization of the world on a more scientific basis. We put away all prejudices and prepossessions. Nobody now supposes that a monarchy works any better in practice than a republic, or that a public works any better in practice than a monarchy. They are merely names. It depends entirely upon what the thing is that in each particular case is designated by its name. The student says: "What sort of a monarchy? What kind of a republic?" No one asks now what is the best form of a government, because we are agreed that there is no absolutely best form of government. The form of government must be suited to the country, to the character, conditions and habits of the people among whom it is to be established.

BISMARCK'S PROPHECY.

San Francisco Bulletin.

There is a striking sentence on which Americans ought to meditate in Carl Schurz' report of his talks with Bismarck in 1867, which is published in the August McClure's Magazine. To Schurz, Bismarck said that the real test of our democratic institutions would come when, after the disappearance of the exceptional opportunities springing from our wonderful natural resources, which were in a sense common property, our political struggles became, as they surely would become, between the poor and the rich, between the few who have and the many who want. In 1867 the American who was dissatisfied with conditions in the crowded communities, where competition was most intense, had only to go west and take up a farm. The government lands, open to settlers, insured a living for every man. The struggle for existence, therefore, was not acute.

In the intervening years the rich prairies have been populated and the original settlers, enriched by the development of the country, have leased or sold their farms and are living on their money in the towns. The man in the towns upon whom conditions press too hard cannot get a good farm for nothing, and must, therefore, make the best of the ill he knows. In the country the class of tenant farmers is becoming more numerous. The increasing intensity of the struggle for existence has taught the poor man to be more concerned about the robbery of the public of the consumer, by the predatory special interests. In the illegal acquisition by groups of millionaires of vast tracts of the public domain, whether arable or forest land, in the fraudulent acquisition of franchises detrimental to the public, in the enactment of special legislation giving valuable advantages to private interests, the poor man discerns with a clearer vision than in former times the direct injury to himself, creating to his disadvantage a privileged class, and making the struggle for existence harder for him. He sees no way out of the corner into which he is slowly being pressed from all sides. The content in this country which Bismarck foresaw between the few who have and the many who want is approaching. Whether or not democratic institutions shall stand the test, and endure will depend on the vigilance with which the body of the citizens watch the courts and public officers and mind their civic duties.

JUST FOR FUN.

Paid in Full.

Hiram (coming to the point)—Sally, I've been a-payin' my respects to you for five years come next August, ain't it?

Sally (blushingly)—Yes, indeed, Hiram.

Hiram—Well, all I'm a-goin' to say is that I'm darn sick uv the instalment plan!

Sally (in his arms)—Pa's agreeable, Hiram!—Brooklyn Life.

Wedding Notes.

The Bride—Just think of it, dearest, 50 years from yesterday will be our golden anniversary.—Brooklyn Life.

Beaten to Death.

Conductor—This here transfer expired an hour ago, lady.

The Lady (digging in her purse snappishly)—No wonder! with not a single ventilator open in the whole car.—Puck.

Next Week in Chicago.

The Independence league is to hold its convention in Orchestra hall. For the sake of harmony?—Chicago Post.

Aggrieved Speaker—My remarks, sir, do not seem with you to amount to a row of pins.

Bored Hearer—To speak candidly, they don't, for a row of pins are pointed.—Baltimore American.

Mrs. A.—When I was engaged to my husband he was the very light of my existence.

Miss D.—And now?

Mrs. A.—The light goes out every night.—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Strange, is it not, that political bosses do not pretend to cure all social ills?"

"Why should they pretend to cure them?"

"Don't they always have a lot of healers?"—Baltimore American.

"Shall we go to the mountains or the sea this summer?"

"Not to the mountains."

"Why not?"

"Because they're too high."—Baltimore American.

Farmer Haysseed—These summer broders are a pesky lot.

Farmer Cornusseed—Yes, the last ones actually wanted the use of my motor car.—New York Sun.

"I see that the Krupps have invented a new torpedo that will explode without noise."

"I wonder if it couldn't be substituted for the cannon cracker. It must be fully as destructive without being as dreadfully disagreeable."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Passenger (on stranded steamer, as lifeboat approaches)—Hi! save me first! I'm a regular subscriber to your fund.—Punch.

Stella—I suppose you have had many hairbreadth escapes?

Knicker—Yes; a woman coiffure was all that kept me from seeing a play, once.—Harper's Bazar.

"Several of my ancestors rounded a century."

"My ancestors were not rounders," replied the other, somewhat stiffly.

De Riter—O! yes, I contributed a sonnet to the "Hiccup Magazine" not long ago.

Ascum—You don't say. When did it appear?

De Riter—In my mail the next morning.—Philadelphia Press.

Teacher—You must be a good boy and study hard, and maybe you'll grow up to be a great man and have your birthday celebrated, too.

Bobby—Wat good 'ud dat do me? I wuz born on de Fourth of July.—Judge.

Mrs. Newlywed—Fred, dear, I have done you a great injustice.

Mr. Newlywed—In what way?

Mrs. Newlywed—Well, I suspected you without reason. I asked several of your friends that you go to the club with if you knew how to play poker, and every one of them thought a minute and said you didn't.—Chicago Daily News.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"The Real Bryan" is the title of a book just issued, which ought to find a wide circle of readers at this time. It is made up of most of the extracts from the speeches and writings of the great Commoner. The compiler is Richard L. Metcalfe.—Personal Help Publishing Co., Des Moines, Iowa.

The Improvement Era for August contains sixteen extra pages of reading matter making a book of one hundred pages. It has twenty-four illustrations, and contains articles from President Joseph F. Smith, Dr. Joseph M. Tanner, Dr. James E. Talmage, Nephi Anderson, and Hon. R. H. Roberts, and many other contributors. "Practical Prayer and Healing," and "Is Speculation a Legitimate Means of Earning a Livelihood?" are subjects treated by President Smith. "Temperance—Inspiration to Progress," is a striking sermon by President Heber J. Grant. B. H. Jacobson, B. A., the first Cecil Rhodes scholar from Utah, describes "Oxford and the Rhodes Scholarships," in an article containing twelve illustrations. Heversham Church, where President John Taylor was christened, is reproduced. The second article on "Pioneer Boys," with many Indian illustrations, is given by Solomon F. Kimball. Some very remarkable testimonies at the M. L. A. Conference are printed under the title, "For the Increase of Faith." Dr. Talmage treats on "Lord of All." "How May a Young Man Gain Success?" is an inspirational article by George D. Kilby. "The Seventies Council Table," "Messages from the Missions," "Self-Control," "Mutual Work," "Events and Comments," poems and other shorter articles will be found in the Improvement Era for August an ideal number for summer reading.

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