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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 17, 1906.

NO REAL CAUSE FOR ALARM.

We do not think that our friends in Utah county need be greatly alarmed over the threatened contest for the waters of Strawberry creek, by settlers on the former Utah reservation. The project for the building of the reservoir in Strawberry valley and the boring of the big tunnel, to convey the water down into Utah valley, has been thoroughly planned and laid out, and has received the endorsement of the government officials. The work has been ordered, and will go on as directed, unless official instructions from Washington to the contrary shall be received.

This means no interference with the rights which settlers in Utah county may have obtained. Any disputes on that question that may arise, can be equitably settled or determined by the courts, if they are of sufficient apparent validity to warrant such litigation. The government has become interested in the scheme to conduct the Strawberry waters into Utah county, and the people there have formally organized and signed the contract required by the department at Washington. Their rights in the premises will certainly be respected.

Investigations may be instituted to determine the respective necessities and benefits arising from water supply in the two different localities, but even that is not certain, and the probability is that the government proposition will be carried out. The Utah delegation in Congress will probably take a hand in this matter.

It has been generally understood that Utah county is one of the very best watered districts in this state, and that it has an ample supply for all the lands therein that can be cultivated. We hope that experience will demonstrate the truth of this understanding, and that other means of supply than that now mooted will be found, to furnish the new settlers with all that they need. Anyhow, we do not believe that the great project that has been talked about so much and on which a definite conclusion has been reached by the government, will fall to the ground or be effectually impeded.

A GREAT ANNIVERSARY.

Benjamin Franklin, who was born January 17, 1706, has been called America's greatest diplomat, philosopher, and public benefactor. Thomas Jefferson classed him as second only to Washington, in point of public service, and declared that a broad line had been drawn between Washington and Franklin on the one side, and the rest of the world on the other.

It is proper, and very instructive, on the occasion of this bi-centennial anniversary, to contemplate the character of the men raised up by the divine Providence, to be the builders of the American Republic; for, that illustrates the great truth that this wonderful structure was erected by master builders, who knew how to lay solid foundations and place thereon a monument to stand for ages, in spite of the storms and commotions of the world. It indicates that theirs was a mission for the benefit of mankind—not only for the self-interest of a comparatively small part, but for the entire human family. For, "there were giants in those days," when the Lord stretched forth His hand to establish this government, and they left to posterity a sacred inheritance to guard, and to use, as a trust, for the benefit of the world.

Perhaps the true worth of Franklin never shone with brighter lustre than when he filled his diplomatic mission to France, where he secured the aid that materially contributed to the success of the revolution. He went there, technically, as the representative of rebels, but was received as a standard-bearer of liberty. France went out to him in almost adoration. The French made songs about him, they published engravings of him, so that he became as familiar as the face of the king on the French coins. The pit rose when he entered a theater. The court made him the hero of the day. The young and lovely queen, Marie Antoinette, was most gracious toward him, and the languid courtiers crammed natural science so as to be able to talk with him. And yet, in the midst of all flattery, he remained the simple-minded philosopher, whose only interest centered in the mission with which he had been entrusted. When he was the honored guest of loyalty, he thought of the days of his poor boyhood, when his father used to quote to him the words of the wise man, "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings." He heard the echo of that paternal voice and saw a light as of prophecy fulfilled, illuminating immortal words.

Would to God that Franklin had many true disciples in the official circles of the Republic he helped to establish! Few, perhaps none, can hope to come anywhere near his intellectual level, but there is no bar to anybody standing on his platform of morality. Every-

one, no matter what his office is, can be as true to himself, his fellow-men, and his God, as Franklin was, if he has the disposition.

Two incidents in the life of this great statesman are remembered by his biographers. He it was who moved that the Constitutional convention open its meetings with prayer. And his last public act was to invite from his deathbed, as president of the Society for the Abolition of Slavery, a noble and touching appeal "for those unhappy men who, amidst the general joy of surrounding freemen, are groaning in servile subjection." It is impossible to conceive of a more worthy ending to a so great and glorious career.

OUR CHINESE GUESTS.

The arrival in this country of a distinguished delegation from China is an event of more than common importance, and interest. At a banquet given in San Francisco in honor of the visitors, Tuan Pang said they had come to study the intellectual, commercial and industrial sides of America as well as its political, and they regretted that their stay in this country must necessarily be short. They hoped, however, that with such assistance and willingness on the part of Americans as had already been shown them here, they could accomplish a great deal. In addition to studying the ways of the people of the lands which they visit, they intend, he said, to study the Chinese in foreign countries—that is, the Chinese away from home. To these Chinese in other lands the Emperor and Empress Dowager, the speaker declared, send a greeting and wish to remind them that their subjects abroad are still in their sovereign's care and that their interests are dear to the hearts of their sovereigns.

The visit of this party should do much toward the re-establishment of cordial feelings between the two countries. The Chinese commissioners, whatever their real mission here is, should be made to understand that our policy as regards China will be fair in every respect. Undoubtedly China will, as for her future conduct, be largely influenced by the reports of these commissioners concerning the countries they visit. They should be able to say truthfully that China has a friend in the United States, willing to aid her in her struggle for advancement.

It is claimed that trouble is again brewing in the old Asiatic empire, and that the War department is preparing for a possible emergency, by dispatching additional regiments of infantry to the Philippines. It is pointed out that the situation resembles very much that which preceded the Boxer outbreak in 1900. Be this as it may, it is time to wake up to a realization of the fact that China is moving forward, following the lead of Japan, and that soon she will have to be reckoned with. The visit of these commissioners should be a reminder to us that America and Asia ought to clasp hands in friendship across the great Pacific.

ANOTHER PRETENDER.

According to a dispatch from Porto Rico, a preacher has appeared in that island, who draws large crowds after him. He claims to be St. John, the Evangelist. What his special doctrines are, is not stated, but it is said that he teaches people to follow him and to wear three crosses hanging from their necks, so that Satan may not carry them away. He is said to have thousands of converts.

It should be noted that one of the signs of the approaching end of the Jewish polity was the appearance of false Christs and false prophets, and so numerous were these, and many of them were so much like the messengers of truth, that even the elect were in danger. The same signs may be expected, as the end of the present dispensation and the advent of the Savior are drawing near. False Christs and false prophets. Perhaps never before in the world's history were they more numerous. Some of them claim to be the Christ. Others pretend to be Elijah, and others John, the Evangelist! And credulity is ever ready to be imposed upon.

AN IRISH FAIR.

Ireland, it seems, is preparing to hold a World's Fair next year. It was thought, when the St. Louis fair was ended, that that would be the last of big shows of that kind, in the present generation. But more World's fairs are planned now than there seems to be time to prepare properly for. Paris, Louisville, San Francisco, are talking fairs, and even a permanent exhibition is suggested.

In the fair that Ireland is about to hold, the purpose is to show the industrial revival that has swept over the island during the past decade. A large plot of ground has been bought in the city of Dublin and the erection of buildings upon it will begin in a few weeks. The requisite guarantee fund has been raised. The main feature of the fair will be the exhibition of Irish manufactures.

It is safe to say that if this enterprise materializes, as planned, it will attract many travelers to the Emerald Isle. Thousands of Irishmen abroad will take advantage of the opportunity and visit the places of their birth, while others will join the throngs of pilgrims and take in the fair. It should result in both political and financial benefit to Ireland.

A MILLION AND A DUCK.

Mrs. Chadwick has commenced her ten-year term of imprisonment for her financial transactions. Attention is called to the fact that on the same day she was conveyed to the penitentiary, John Shannon, another convict, also commenced his term. This has suggested a comparison.

Mrs. Chadwick wrecked banks, forged checks, and obtained large sums of money under false pretenses. Once before she was charged with forgery but escaped conviction, her lawyers having successfully set up the plea of insanity. Later she was sentenced to a term

in the penitentiary for forgery, but was pardoned by the governor. Then she continued her career and lived in luxury upon her forgeries and thefts. Finally, she was again caught. She had accumulated debt to the amount of over a million dollars. And so she got ten years.

Shannon stole a duck last Thanksgiving day. He was also given ten years, all but ten months and a few days, this fraction of a year, then, represents the difference between the offenses of the Chadwick woman, and Shannon—a million, and a duck!

Mrs. Chadwick, perhaps, be released after a short term of punishment. A kindhearted physician has already intimated that she is too delicate to endure the incarceration. But will Shannon, who stole only a duck, have any public sympathy in favor of a pardon?

What Portsmouth was Algerias now is. There seems to be very little strength in the English Unionists. "Marriage is egotism," says a female writer. Alter-egotism generally.

What a funny word it will be with no football and no rebates!

"The man behind the gun" isn't firing the employees from various departments.

It is much to be hoped that, "for the good of the service," the holdups and burglars will all be caught.

An authority on electricity gives a cure for seasickness. The only infallible one is not to go to sea.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain must feel that his "fair trade" theories have been knocked higher than Gilderoy's kite.

Senator Brackett never experienced a feeling of true loneliness until the vote was taken on his anti-Dewey resolution.

Sir George Doughty, Unionist, has been re-elected for Great Grimsby. He wouldn't have been re-elected if he hadn't been such a doughty champion of his party.

The revolution in San Domingo is ended and all is quiet. That may be, but so often has the same thing been said before that, like the cry of wolf, no one believes it.

Midshipman Meriwether has tendered his resignation as a member of the naval academy. Of late his career has been quite as stormy as though it had been spent in the roaring forties. He has set an example that might be followed by others with profit—to the academy.

It is not improbable that civil suits will be instituted against the officers of some of the big insurance companies for funds improperly diverted. If they should be, it is very certain that the money could be recovered, and that would have a most salutary effect on "grafters" in all big financial concerns. In the interest of public morality it is to be hoped that the suits will be brought.

The President, it seems, favors a lock canal and is preparing a message to Congress urging his views. His reason for preferring this kind to a sea level canal is the saving in time and expense, two very important items, it must be admitted. But whatever kind is finally decided on, before it is completed the time will be long and the expense great, greater than now estimated, no doubt.

ABSTAINERS LIVE THE LONGEST

Pearson's Magazine. It has come to be generally recognized as a fact that the alcoholic habit is one of the main factors in determining length of life. Figures furnished by insurance companies in England show that the average life of the total abstainer is nine years longer than that of the drinker, and one of our own concerns in the same line of business, the Equitable, has published a statement to the effect that the death rate among "moderate" consumers of liquor is 23 per cent. higher than among teetotalers. Some of the companies on both sides of the water, indeed, put abstainers in a separate class among their policy holders, making them a special allowance of a per cent or more on premiums.

TASTE FOR SWEETS.

Portland Oregonian. The American nation has a taste for sweets that seems to be insatiable. Like other tastes to which prosperity caters, it grows by what it feeds upon. The average consumption of sugar per capita in the United States last year was seventy-five pounds. In two decades the importation of sugar has doubled, and its consumption has increased until now one-half of the crop product of the world finds its way into American commerce. This means cake and candy for the millions, and sugar in everybody's coffee, not to mention syrup upon everybody's hot cakes for breakfast. The domestic crop of 1904 represents 1,167,270,569 pounds, an amount that staggers conception either of bulk or weight.

GETTING CLOSE TO THE STORK.

Youth's Companion. Many substances have been employed in turn for making storks in surgery. Such substances need to possess peculiar properties, which are not readily found. Lately an American physician, Dr. C. T. Kieffer, has recommended a new material of this kind, the tendons of the legs of cranes and herons. His experiments have shown that these tendons are particularly well suited for surgical use. They form excellent ligatures, and are readily absorbed after the wound has healed. A writer in a French scientific journal, commenting on Dr. Kieffer's experiments, remarks that this stork he had news for the cranes and herons.

HIGH OLD SLEEPING PLACE.

After two years' dangerous work, a bedroom has been built on the summit of Mount Blanc. It is attached to the Janassen observatory, and is meant for Alpinists who have been overtaken by a storm on the summit or lost their way in the snows. A camp bed occupies all the floor of the room, and can hold 22 persons. The bedroom, which is the highest in the world, is also the most expensive, as every stick and stone had to be carried up by porters from Chamoni. During its erection it was demolished twice and filled with snow nine times.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Will Carleton's Magazine Everywhere, for January, opens with a poem on "Our Six Northeastern Stars," by Will Carleton, read at the 16th anniversary dinner of the New England Society. The little magazine has several short stories and miscellaneous readings of an excellent quality.—Brooklyn, N. Y.

Harper's Weekly for January 13 is an "Automobile number." That indicates its special features. Its editorial comments on current topics, stories, illustrations, etc., are up to the high standard of that magazine.—New York.

The February number of the Twentieth Century comes in a most beautiful cover and is printed on the very best paper. On the list of contents the following features are prominent: "Chicago's Street Railway Ownership Ceremony," "True A. D.," a clever story of a German-American life; "The Eleven Groups" of men who control Wall Street; "Jerome, a Puzzle," and "A Fairy Tale by Max Nordau." This is in every respect a twentieth century magazine.—Irvington, N. Y.

Social Service for January tells how the resources of the American Institute of Social Service have been placed at the disposal of the officials charged with the administration of affairs in the Philippine Islands. The government has taken official notice of the offer, and Secretary Taft writing from the war department says: "I thank you very heartily for this, and shall have pleasure in calling the attention of the governor-general of the islands and the commission to the opportunity thus opened to them, which I am sure they will hasten to improve."—287 Fourth Ave., New York.

In Success Magazine for January, Cleveland Moffett begins the second series of his articles on "The Shameful Misuse of Wealth." Juliet Wilber Tompkins contributes the second of her series of studies on child labor, entitled "Turning Children Into Dollars." "Hughes—the Great Modern Inquisitor" is a character study, by J. Herbert Welch, of the man who is pursuing the insurance investigation. In "Ben Franklin—America's First Self-Made Man," by Hosmer Whitfield, the bi-centenary of Franklin, which occurs on Jan. 17, is noted with a study of the character of the great patriot and the inestimable services which he rendered this country. A short resume of the progress of the present theatrical season in New York is illustrated by special photographs of a number of the leading actresses. The fiction is headed by Harold MacGrath's latest story, "The Wrong Coat." Michael White maintains his standard in a humorous story called "Himmelstein's Turtle Chowder." Elizabeth Jordan's "Assiduous Anne's Career" is a delightful and inspiring story for girls, and Robert Mackay's "The Offham Sawdust Corner" is a business story of the type that has lately proved so popular. Ernest Neal Lyon, Capt. Jack Crawford, Harold Susman, and Edmund Vance Cooke are represented by verse of an excellent quality.—Washington Square, New York.

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