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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 3, 1903.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

The message of the Mayor to the City Council has the merit of conciseness and simplicity of language. The ordinary reader can understand it. The few recommendations it contains are sensible and business-like. The paper covers the ground of the city's principal affairs, and places them in a clear and explicit light before the public. It should be read carefully by every taxpayer and by all who take an interest in the municipality. The City Council should give full and candid consideration to it in all its details, and no member should regard it from a partisan standpoint.

The Mayor avoids reference to the question of increased remuneration for certain public officers, which has engaged the attention of the Council and the public. This may be prudent on his part, as it is a matter of dispute and may cause some protest from taxpayers. He does recommend an increased salary for the clerk of the Board of Health, for good and sufficient reasons, and the advance, in our opinion ought to be made.

We think the increase proposed by the council as to other city officers is reasonable and right, in view of the services required and the advance in the cost of living. We do not believe in extravagant salaries for public officers, but, on the other hand, we think the city, the state and the nation are each able to give fair remuneration for work done, and that it ought to be paid even if some so-called economists object.

The report of the Mayor as to the status of municipal affairs is, on the whole, encouraging, and as it contains no reference to the dark part of the picture painted in high colors by some papers and reformers, the sensational side of the city's complexion casts no deep shadow for public depreciation. We congratulate the Mayor and the city on the good presentation made of its condition and prospects.

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Readers of the Deseret News will probably remember an account of the mobbing of a number of Elders, who had met to hold a conference in Yavapai county, Texas, some time ago, and were driven out by several hundred nobocrats headed by a Baptist minister. Well time changes public sentiment and reason takes the place of rashness and turbulence. Here we have the Yavapai City Sentinel talking sense on the "Mormon" side of a public question and that is why, considering the storm that has passed by, we clip the following editorial from that paper, in reference to the Utah senatorial controversy. The Sentinel says:

"What's the matter with Smoot? There seems to be a whole lot of kicking because the probability is that Apostle Smoot will represent Utah in the United States Senate. Suppose he is elected to represent the Mormon side of Utah. Can he do as much harm as the Senators who represent the trusts, who represent the coal barons and who represent the interests of large railroad companies or money? Time and again we read of corruption funds having been used to bribe the Legislature of some of the States in order to purchase a seat in the Senate for no other purpose than to protect some interest. The fact that he is an Apostle shows that he stands high with his people and his election, which is almost certain, adds dignity to the Senate as well as elevates Washington society."

"When one of those yellow-skinned fellows who happen to be born a prince of the blood, being possessed of a large fortune, arrives on this side of the ocean and takes a trip through our country, you find that from an everyday policeman down to the President they vie with each other to do him honor. Utah is now a State, and he has a right to select their representative without being dictated to."

A CONTEST FOR PREEMPTION.

The Venezuela embargo does not appear very near its termination. The southern sky is again overcast. But, perhaps, it is only the dark before the light. Possibly the United States diplomacy will again prevail and avert the disaster that otherwise seems impending.

The negotiations now are about "preferential claims." There is a clash among the creditors. The "triple alliance" insists that Great Britain, Germany and Italy be paid first, on the plea that they have been put to the expense of sending warships to Venezuela. France, on the other hand, represents that she by peaceful means gained an agreement with Venezuela as to her claims, and that the country is bound by that agreement, regardless of the later action by the allies. The United States, too, has been receiving payments from Venezuela, as agreed on. Now these and other countries are to be asked to stand aside, while the blockaders secure more advantageous terms of settlement.

President Castro, it seems, has definitely refused to accede to that demand. He could not very well do otherwise. He cannot break the treaties made with the friendly powers, and

the "allies" are perfectly well aware of that fact.

The people in this country have viewed the proceedings in Venezuela with great calmness, and that is still the popular attitude, but now the question naturally arises, whether the so-called allies really are willing to have a settlement on just and equitable terms, or not? President Castro is quoted as having expressed grave fears for the future peace of the world. He may be inclined to see only the shadows at present, but even from an American point of view the affair seems to have taken a peculiar turn.

CIVIL LIST OF THE PRESIDENT.

The proposition to increase the salary of the President from \$50,000 to \$100,000, is not likely to meet with serious opposition at this time. The country can better afford to make that raise now, than it could change the salary from \$25,000 to \$50,000 thirty years ago. Fifty thousand dollars is a ridiculously small sum as the compensation of a United States president, when compared to the civil lists of European monarchs. The emperor of Austria-Hungary receives \$4,575,000, and the czar is supposed to make about \$12,000,000. But even the smaller rulers are better paid than our president. The king of Bavaria has \$1,312,000; the boy king of Spain, \$1,400,000 and \$300,000 besides for family expenses. The king of Wuerttemberg receives from his 2,000,000 subjects, \$450,000.

The American people would not care to go to any such extremes as that. In fact, under our system of government, it might be dangerous to imitate the European standards of compensation. Were the presidential office yearly worth a vast fortune, the financial Napoleons might go to extremes in a contest for it. It might lead to civil war. It is safer for a country with popular government, that its officers are not so lucrative as to invite greed to a criminally desperate effort to secure them. It is better that the honor of the position and the confidence of fellow-citizens constitute the chief reward for public service. Those to whom these are no consideration, or who cannot afford to accept the comparatively small salaries, are always at liberty to refuse the positions offered.

At the same time, the compensation of the President should be large enough to defray the expenses of the office and then leave him some margin as a reward for personal services. They should be somewhat in harmony with the dignity of the office. And this should be said of the recompense of all officers which the public bestows upon its servants.

FROM THE FAMINE REGION.

The Chicago News has a special correspondent in the famine-stricken regions of Finland and Sweden, and, judging from his latest report, the conditions must be serious indeed. Notwithstanding the relief measures that have been taken so far, people and animals are reduced to nations less than one-third of what they have ordinarily. In one parish practically the entire population of 2,000 souls, it is said, is trying to eke out an existence on the scantiest of diet, and in a number of other parishes semi-starvation prevails. As a consequence, sickness is spreading, especially among the children. Many of those tramp to school clad in tattered calico. They are sent from home hungry and are expected to beg enough to sustain them till their return. Many families are eating the carcasses of horses that have died from starvation, the people themselves having consumed the fodder intended for the animals.

In the region of Gellivare and Kimna, the correspondent says, the Lapps are enduring peculiarly distressing conditions. The famine is hastening the extinction of that fast vanishing race. In the village of Juckasjervi 300 Lapps are actually starving to death. They have been accustomed to live on the most meager diet and often to starve, but their powers of resistance are unequal to the present crisis. Day after day they may be seen lying on the tops of ovens in their own huts girded with the traditional starvation belts which they pull tighter each night as they get thinner, until they waste away and die.

Private philanthropy has quickly responded to the calls for aid made in behalf of these stricken people. But government aid is needed, it seems, on a large scale. Months will come and go before another harvest, and the sufferers are not beyond the reach of famine, before their barns and granaries are again filled with food for man and beast.

The Chicago Record-Herald has also taken up the work of relief. In its appeal for aid, the paper specially points out that there is no rivalry between the Swedes and Finns in this matter. The Swedish committee has voted to divide its receipts between the two peoples, except in those cases in which there is an explicit direction from the donor, and the president of the Finnish committee indicated his willingness to pursue the same practice.

IN THE BALKANS.

There have been sundry predictions of an outbreak of rebellion in Macedonia, as soon as spring comes. The rumor may possibly have originated among the enemies of the people, in order to give a plausible pretext for the harsh treatment the Macedonians are said to be subjected to.

The Macedonians would have been practically free now, had not the European powers torn to pieces the treaty of San Stefano, and substituted that of Berlin. But they have never ceased dreaming of independence, and they have the sympathy of their neighbors, who were made the beneficiaries of the Russian victory over the Turks.

A contributor to the North American Review, Mr. Charles Johnston, describes the situation in Macedonia, and the cruelties practiced upon the people there. He says in part:

"The Turks are accused of making bold a search of revolutionary propaganda, and in order to make conviction the more certain, of bringing circumstantial evidence with them, in the shape of inflammatory pamphlets and

speeches, which they scatter through the houses of suspects, who are present to trial and condemned to exile in Asia dungeons on the strength of the evidence thus found. The better class of Bulgarian merchants, priests and school teachers, are considered most dangerous as being best fitted to arouse and cherish national feeling; and no expedients are spared to obtain their conviction, on Turkish evidence, before Turkish judges. On such grounds, for example, a teacher in the Adrianople gymnasium, was imprisoned for three years, and then banished to Asia; in March last, another, a teacher in Philip, was arrested under like conditions, and has since died in prison; in April, Mikhael, superintendent of the Bulgarian schools in Velea, was suspected of complicity in the revolutionary movement, arrested, and taken to Ushub for trial. He was tortured, but confessed nothing—as was only natural, seeing that he knew nothing of the proposed outbreak. The authorities, desiring to liberate him with the marks of torture on his body, decided to make away with him, and he was shot in prison. The matter was brought to light by the efforts of the French consul who had evidently failed to 'accuse his nerves' to the amenities of Turkish rule."

How long, it may be asked, is Europe—"Christian" Europe—to tolerate conditions under which the blood of Abel constantly cries out to heaven against Cain? It would seem to a disinterested observer, as if a "triple alliance" for the purpose of adjusting the wrongs of the Balkan peninsula, would be nobler and more worthy of the civilized rulers of civilized nations, than the combination that ostensibly has been formed for the purpose of collecting a debt.

Salt Lake was McGregor's Heath last night.

The street cars held up for the hoodlums though their heed not the halting of others.

Even Great Salt Lake is on the rise. Another evidence of good times—next summer.

In the matter of snowstorms small favors are thankfully received, larger ones in proportion.

Whatever is the aim of the allied powers in Venezuela it does not appear to be an unerring aim.

General Miles has been and approved King Edward. Now Americans will know that his majesty is all right.

The Standard Oil company will soon be in the position that Alexander of Macedon was—sighing for more worlds to conquer.

In certain events President Castro may annihilate the allied powers. They had better look out for he is making threats.

And now Minister Bowen has issued an ultimatum to the powers. An ultimatum is about the easiest thing in the world to issue.

In the matter of adjusting her claims against Venezuela surely it may be said: "They order this matter better in France."

Miss Clara Barton's letter to President Roosevelt about Red Cross society matters, reads very much like a missive from a woman scorned.

One of the Marquand rugs, an old Persian one, once trod upon by kings, was sold for thirty thousand dollars. How snug could a bug lie in that rug!

It is to be hoped that the Connecticut militia now maintaining the peace of the commonwealth in Waterbury, have nothing worse in their muskets than wooden weapons.

The United States Supreme Court holds that lithographs of a ballet is a proper subject for copyright. The supreme court knows a good thing when it sees it.

The Sultan of Morocco's victory over the pretender's army was dearly bought. He had to purchase it from the Beni Oulens tribe, and oriental corruption is always expensive.

Policeman Heath deserves and has the thanks of the community for his excellent work while arresting a gang of hold-ups. The only thing to be regretted is the injury to himself.

The railroads have modified Colonel Waterston's celebrated saying: "Through a slaughter house into an open grave," so that now it reads, "Through an open switch into an open grave."

There are things even more expensive to burn than coal. A Springfield, Mass., man has been throwing into the furnace, for the purpose of saving money on coal, New England primers. One recently sold in New York for twenty-five hundred dollars.

A Colorado boy gets the first Cecil Rhodes scholarship awarded an American. And he got it in competition with two hundred aspirants for the places. He graduated from Yale last year. It was a Colorado boy, General Hale, who graduated with the highest honors ever attained by a cadet at West Point. Hated off when the Colorado boys pass by.

It is urged against the admission of Arizona as a state that another rotten borough would be created. The same silly and vicious charge has been made every time a mountain territory has been admitted. The west is not perfect nor does it pretend to be; it does not want itself as the purest of the pure, but it is as perfect and pure as the states whence these charges emanate.

BOMBARDMENT OF SAN CARLOS, New York Tribune.

For what is the "prestige" which is due to be preserved by wantonly bombarding innocent towns and helpless villages and slaughtering peaceful inhabitants? It is not the prestige of a law-abiding power. It was agreed by Germany some days ago that her dispute with Venezuela should be submitted to arbitration. Since then Venezuela has done nothing save to take every step in her power to expedite arbitral proceedings. In such circumstances a law-abiding power should have been moved to await in respectful patience the result of the arbitration to which it had made application. It is not the prestige of a nation which is treated as a nation which would itself be treated. For while Germany expects Venezuela to treat her

with all diplomatic courtesy, she lets her naval officers treat Venezuela or the people of Venezuela, as some German colonial administrator might treat breech-clouted cannibals in the Cameroons.

Boston Transcript.

It is to be hoped that the advice from Berlin to the effect that the German warships in shelling Port San Carlos were acting without orders, represent the matter as it is, and that the commanders who have acted so irresponsibly, not to say wantonly, in complicating negotiations looking to a peaceful settlement of the international troubles in Venezuela will be brought to book for their temerity. Otherwise it would seem to be necessary for the United States to interpose Germany as to her precise meaning in this matter. The reason given for this drastic action was entirely insufficient. Rather there is an evident disposition to improve this opportunity to test the fighting quality of the German navy and to do all the mischief possible before terms can be arranged.

Springfield Republican.

It is curious that the papers which are so industriously trying to foment antagonisms between the United States and Germany ignore so persistently the joint responsibility of England for everything of a belligerent nature that the German warships do. The two powers divided the Venezuelan seascape between them, Germany taking one end and England the other. But they remain allies. If English ships do not happen to be bombarding any forts, that is because, probably, there are no forts left on the coast. It is well to recall this fact just to keep down the gorge of those who see the very devil in the Germans and our best friends in the British.

St. Paul Globe.

This much is plain: That the Panther, in order to be attacked, if it was attacked, had the advantage. It was the blockade line and steam six miles inland to the entrance of Lake Maracaibo; that the Venezuelans hitherto had shown no disposition to be aggressors, while the Panther and other German warships had been distinctly aggressive; that the fortress had nothing to gain and everything to lose in provoking destruction; and finally, that the acts of both Venezuelan and German forces both before and after the first bombardment showed which was anxious for a fray and which was anxious to escape one.

Baltimore Sun.

The British populace may rage and the German people may imagine many sinister things, but the "harmony" between the two governments is unimpaired. Kipling may indite a savage poem and the German bards may resort in scathing verses, but the "harmony" existing between the British foreign office and the German foreign office is perfectly beautiful. It is absolutely intact and warranted to keep in first-class condition until the alliance is formally dissolved by the terms of the compact.

Portland Oregonian.

After Great Britain, Germany and Italy have been satisfied with Venezuela's payments and promises, some apprehension is expected over the facilities that will be available for similar enjoyment on the part of France, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Spain, the United States, Norway and Sweden. The other creditors have doubtless been overlooked in the hurry to get the Venezuelan matter to a strenuous borrower.

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Other Suits, 25 to 33% per cent discount. Men's Stiff Bosom shirts, values 75c to \$1.00; your choice, 45c. Men's Soft Bosom shirts, values \$1.25 to \$1.75; your choice 50c. Children's Suits, 25 per cent discount. Children's Overcoats, 50 per cent discount. Men's Hats, values up to \$2.50; your choice 95c. These prices ought to make the dollars fairly jump.

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