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SALT LAKE CITY, OCT. 9, 1902.

CITY WATER AND INSURANCE.

People who go around town with their eyes open and their brains active, wonder why it is that trees in the north-west part of the city are allowed to die out for want of water, both in orchards and along the sidewalks, when a stream is continually running down City Creek and on into the Jordan without being utilized for any purpose whatever. They ask why that water is not turned into the ditches, and conducted to the spots where it is so greatly needed. We are not able to answer the question, but we direct the attention of the water department to the situation, with the hope that something will be done to satisfy complainants. From what we know of that department, we believe that it only requires a wise suggestion to move the proper officers to action. In this dry time every drop of irrigating water should be utilized, and none of it be allowed to run to waste. It looks wicked to see valuable shade and fruit trees withering up, and water that might be used to give them life running away and doing no good to anybody.

While we are touching on this matter, we will make a suggestion as to a simple method of increasing the flow of water in City Creek. Investigation will show that much of the water in the upper part of the creek is lost, through sinking and percolation. It finds its way in different directions through the subsoil and comes out in springs, or spreads so as to form water sheets away down below the surface of the soil. We believe that if the city authorities will institute measures to dig down in the bed of the creek, they will strike a large stream which will greatly increase the volume of supply, and that without very great cost. The same method will apply to Parley's and other canyon creeks.

There seems to be a misunderstanding as to the present means of fighting fire in this city. The insurance companies have raised their rates, influenced largely by the assumption that this city is poorly furnished with water in case of a conflagration in the business district. They also complain of inefficiency in the fire department, and the accumulation of inflammable material at the rear of many business houses. The raising of the rates has caused a great future. It is felt to be unnecessary and oppressive, and the facts alleged are likely to do much injury to the business interests of Salt Lake. The reports which will go out to the world will doubtless do much damage to the reputation of the city as a business center.

Investigation will show that while dry-goods boxes and similar receptacles for goods received, must of necessity be piled up occasionally to some extent in the vacant places at the center of business blocks, they are usually removed as soon as practicable, and the danger likely to arise from that source is greatly exaggerated. But supposing it to be all that is claimed, it is something that can be remedied by a stricter enforcement of the city ordinance in relation to it. This can be accomplished without any great trouble, and thus one of the reasons set forth for the raising of insurance rates can be swiftly swept away.

Now, as to the inefficiency of the fire department. It is true, perhaps, that some better appliances and a few more men are needed in the fire department. Complaints have been made of long absences on the part of the fire chief, who should be at his post, ready for action, instead of spending time in political work which should be occupied in attending to the duties of his office. With that which needs to be done at home, but we believe that these have usually been arranged for by action of the City Council. Improvements in these particulars can be accomplished readily, and thus another of the objections raised by the insurance people can be met effectively. This leaves for consideration the most formidable ground taken as an excuse for the raising of the rates. We believe it to be without substantial basis. While it is true that, through the folly and obstinacy of certain city officials, the water supply in the city was reduced for a short time, it is now adequate for fire purposes as well as for street sprinkling. More than that; much water, as we have shown in one instance, is running away to waste. We do not believe there is any need for the close restrictions as to lawn sprinkling. There is water enough at hand for all necessary purposes.

The reservoir built for the very purpose of security in case of fire is full to the brim, and the pressure upon the mains is greater than that to be found in the majority of the cities of this country. It is kept at from 95 to 105 pounds. How much more do the insurance men want? Why not state the facts on this point, instead of giving the city a black eye to her prejudice in face of the business world?

We affirm, with substantial reasons for the declaration, that Salt Lake City

is in a better condition to fight fire than it was a year or two years ago. The construction of the reservoir already alluded to, and the substitution of large mains for the smaller pipes that have been removed, have afforded greater facilities for the conveyance of water to the business districts and a stronger pressure upon the mains, so that streams can be forced into the highest part of any of the structures where it may be needed. Any instance that might be cited to the contrary can be proved to have been but a temporary trouble, brought about in the way that we have herein suggested.

We understand that the insurance business is conducted usually on a safe basis, whether it be in reference to life or to fire. The science of mathematics is employed, with official and well ascertained statistics to start with. It is probably true that insurance has been conducted along and throughout the Pacific coast, lately, at small profits and in some instances at positive loss. Why not state the truth, and if it is necessary to raise the insurance rates, explain the reason frankly, instead of holding up this city in an untruthful light before the country?

Of course there are two sides to this rate-raising question. If the insurance companies will give our business men good and sufficient reasons for the movement now started, we are of the opinion that they will not complain. But in the attack which has been made upon our city they have only damaged their cause, and the feeling prevails that they are "holding up" the men and firms and corporations that have means invested, because the power is at present in their hands to do so.

We join in the general denial that this city is in the condition pictured by the insurance companies, and ask that the undesired stigma they have manufactured be removed so far as possible, that Salt Lake City may not appear in an improper light before the great commercial world.

FORCE A SETTLEMENT.

The failure, so far, of the attempts of President Roosevelt to bring about arbitration of the coal strike, only emphasizes the necessity of forcing a settlement without too much delay. The President did not approach the operators and the miners in his own name, but he spoke for the people of the United States, and the refusal to consider his propositions was more or less of an affront to the nation. It is a challenge to the people to force conclusions.

New York papers claim that coal now is paid for by the poor, who buy in very small lots, at the rate of \$37.50 a ton. For a number of years the Salvation Army people have bought large quantities of coal to sell to the poor at the lowest possible figure, but this year they have been unable to obtain a supply for the winter. At the same time, the idea that coal may be imported in large quantities seems to be exploded. The president of a coal company is quoted as saying that, "there has been but a small quantity imported, and there will be scarcely any more, for practically the entire anthracite output of Wales is contracted for on the continent. We have received a small quantity of Belgian and Scotch coal, inferior to our bituminous coal, and it is hardly to be considered. The strike," he added, "of the soft coal miners in Alabama has made matters much worse than they were, and the stringency is growing day by day."

One effect of the situation is said to be the increase of larceny. In Rochester, N. Y., wooden sidewalks are disappearing and timbers used in street repairing vanish during the night. A similar effect is noticed in Chicago, where coal dealers are said to be taking advantage of the situation and doubling prices, though without sufficient cause. Wooden sidewalks, billboards and building material are being stolen right and left, and wooden street paving is being torn up and carried off in the darkness. On one street the other day about 1,000 feet of sidewalk vanished and men engaged in repairing the street found the wooden blocks disappearing about as fast as they were torn up. If this is the effect before winter has come in earnest, what will happen later on, unless an end is put to an intolerable situation?

But how? We fancy that is what the President and his counselors are now considering. They have the American people behind them in this matter, and a sovereign people cannot be at a loss for a remedy of an evil that is recognized as such.

There is some talk of an extra session of Congress to be called for the special purpose of passing an arbitration law. It is claimed that the fall-session of the operators to agree to arbitration was a great disappointment to the President, because it was understood beforehand that both sides would submit to the decision of an impartial tribunal. That it is claimed, was decided by a meeting of operators held at the Standard Oil company's office. If this is true, they went back on that decision and left the President of the United States, who had taken the matter in hand with the understanding that there would be no serious objection to an adjustment, in a rather humiliating position, for the first representative of a great nation. It cannot be supposed that every effort at settlement must end now. On the contrary, the work must go on, and if an extra session of Congress is necessary, let it be called, to deal with a question without parallel in the history of the country.

FOREST FIRES.

According to a bulletin issued by the Bureau of Forestry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, investigation shows that, on an average, 60 human lives are lost annually in forest fires, while \$25,000,000 worth of real property is destroyed, 10,214,000 acres of timber land are burned over, and young forest growth wanes, at the lowest estimate, \$75,000,000 is killed. A special canvass of the country by the Department of Agriculture in 1901 discovered 12,900,000 acres of timber land destroyed by fire.

These are enormous losses. A formidable squadron of war ships could

be built for the money lost in one year by the burning of young trees and houses, to say nothing of the timber destroyed. The loss sustained in one year would go far toward the reclamation of the so-called arid region of the United States. Were the money thus lost saved, it would take only a few years to have enough on hand to build the Isthmian canal. And yet, the figures are only estimates which fall far short of showing in full the damage done. No account at all is taken of the loss to the country due to the impoverishment of the soil by fire, to the ruin of water courses, and the drying up of springs. Even the amount of timber burned is very imperfectly calculated, and the actual quantity destroyed is far in excess of that accounted for. Forest fires in this country have grown so common that only those are reported that are of such magnitude as to threaten large communities. The lumbering industry in remote sections of the country may be ruined and people forced to flee for their lives without a mention of the disaster beyond the places near where it occurred. The following comments by Dr. Henry Gannett, of the U. S. geological survey are quoted, to convey an idea of the damage done by forest fires to one single state:

"In less than a generation two-fifths of the standing timber has been destroyed in one of the richest timber regions of the continent, with the result that destruction more than half has been caused by fire. Assuming that the timber would if standing, have the value in 1881 burned the forest on 45 towns, \$90,000,000 worth has gone up in smoke, a dead loss to the people of the state."

The bulletin gives the following brief list of disastrous forest fires within recent years:

"According to the Bureau's record, the most disastrous forest fire in the history of this country occurred in October, 1871, simultaneous with the burning of Chicago. It extended all across northern Michigan and Wisconsin and into Minnesota. At least 1,000 persons were burned to death and 15,000 were made homeless. The property loss has never been calculated. The Hinkley fire of 1894, which destroyed Hinkley, Minn., and five other villages, turned to death 415 persons, destroyed \$750,000 worth of farm and town property, and about 400 square miles of forest. A fire in southeast Michigan in 1881 burned the forest on 45 towns, \$90,000,000 worth has gone up in smoke, a dead loss to the people of the state."

The point to note is, that all these fires at first were no more than smoldering sparks that might easily have been extinguished, had an effort to do it been made, before the fire fanned the flames and the fire went beyond control. Legislation can do much to ward off such disasters, as is shown in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Massachusetts and New York. But the laws must be upheld by the people. Our country has had a vast supply of timber, and the necessity for economy in taking care of it has hardly been fully realized by the people. It should be apparent by this time, though, that unless it is guarded against destruction as much as possible, the supply will give out, and the consequences will be widely felt, especially in the climatic changes that always go with the denudation of the hills and mountains.

Like Banquo's ghost, the coal strike refuses to down.

There are corn cures and why shouldn't there be coal cures?

The fall story of hats can be seen in profusion any windy day.

An unregistered voter in the sea of politics, is like a fish out of water.

Congested schoolrooms do not necessarily produce congestion of the brain.

They are not letting any white doves of peace loose in the anthracite regions. Mitchell is smooth faced, but he is not so smooth faced as Baer, who wears whiskers.

Why doesn't Uncle Russell Sage try sage tea for his cold? It is said to have many virtues.

To the uninitiated it looks as though the fire underwriters were trying to start a panic.

The strikers say that only a Stone-hearted man would have called out the Pennsylvania militia.

If the water supply is found abundant for all purposes will the insurance companies reduce the rates?

The Boston Herald would strike the duty of coal as though there were not enough coal strike already.

The story of the finding of a mountain of opals in Idaho reads very much like an opalescent dream.

Has Harvard put up anything more strenuous of late than the Yale students' attack on the police?

Some people cannot distinguish the difference between patriotism and speculation though it is very great.

In New Orleans the street railway company can't run its cars and the municipal authorities can't run the city.

If elected to Congress will Editor Hearst attempt to put the Congressional Record into his yellow journal combine?

There is much talk these days of the government's duty. Anyone having a racking desire to know what it is can find out by looking up the tariff schedules.

What Horace Greeley said about the resumption of specie payments is applicable to the coal mining situation. "The way to resume is to resume."

Judge Lacombe of the United States circuit court has decided that Porto Ricans are not citizens of the United States. They may be viewed as Utopians, citizens of nowhere.

Importing Pennsylvania anthracite coal from Germany, to which country

it had been shipped, comes pretty near being a hooping of coals of fire upon the hearts of the coal barons.

According to the census bureau's bulletin, Louisiana is the most illiterate state in the American Union. The misdoings of the strikers in New Orleans tend to substantiate this.

M. Daniel, of the faculty of sciences of Rennes, has shown, it appears, that grafting is more widely applicable than is commonly supposed. He refers, of course, to the vegetable kingdom and not to the political.

There were, no doubt, good and sufficient reasons in the minds of the promoters of the measure, why the irrigation Congress should be merged into the Trans-Mississippi Congress. The dispute concerning it, however, has been postponed for a year, when it will doubtless be agitated again. Ogdon bumps up as the place for the next meeting, and we congratulate the Junction city on its prospects for that event.

General Bragg has been transferred from Havana to Hongkong. The cause of his removal is his remark about the Cubans that "Uncle Sam might as well try to make a whistle out of a pig's tail as to try to make something out of the Latin race." In Hongkong, as Uncle Sam's consular agent, the general can devote his spare moments to the task of making whistles out of the Chinese pigstails. This can be his queue there.

The subject of the location of a new city jail and police court and headquarters is not yet fully decided. The committee having the matter in hand will recommend retaining the old site, but a good deal will depend upon the wishes and action of the people of the Eighth Ward as to the final determination of the matter. Of course the convenience of the city officers will not come into the decision, and we believe the whole subject will be fully investigated before a final settlement is reached.

The Deseret News sincerely condole with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Leary in the loss, by death, of their beloved and much esteemed son, popularly known as "Count" Leary. He will be sadly missed from the circles of his acquaintances, and we all feel that a bright, intelligent and lovable youth has gone from among us, leaving an aching void in many hearts. We sympathize with the bereaved, and hope that they will be comforted in the assurance that he has gone to a brighter and better sphere.

SYMPOSIUM ON ZIONISM.

[From the Literary Digest.]

Lord Salisbury, Zionism is destined to succeed, in spite of the opposition it encounters. The Jews are capable of establishing a model government in Palestine, and raising the commerce of Asia Minor to an unprecedented height. If but 40 per cent of the Jews were converted to the project, it would become an assured reality. There is no reason why the Sultan should object to the establishment of an autonomous Jewish government within his dominions. There is enough energy and perseverance in the race that has resisted oppression for 2,500 years to accomplish the purposes pursued by Zionism.

Ex-Premier Bourgeois.

Zionism is essentially war upon anti-Semitism—a phenomenon even more injurious to the dominant nations than the Jews themselves, for it has a demoralizing effect, fostering hatred and checking the growth of the liberal spirit. The Jews are now asserting themselves as a new-born nation and vigorously proclaiming their status as one. We may expect much from them, as they possess much intellectual power. Zionism is to be hailed as the advent of anti-Semitism, which will lose its raison d'être with the unification and rehabilitation of the scattered and oppressed race.

Professor Herman, Basile.

If the Jews, with their glorious and historic past, abandoned their national spirit, they would be tantamount to the suicide of a nation. They not only have the right, but are in duty bound to struggle for the restoration of their national integrity. Zionism is no idle dream. History shows other instances of rebirth and revivification of apparently dead nations, and why should not this be possible for so richly endowed a people as the Jews? Their case would be hopeless if they attempted violent and warlike methods of recovering their own, but as their method is pacific and moral, success is not at all impossible.

Maxim Gorky.

I have profound sympathy with the Jewish people—great in their suffering; I bow before the strength of their spirit, bold and unconquerable in spite of ages of injustice. There is red, ardent blood in the veins of this people, and while Zionism may be the Utopian, the fact that it has taken hold and aroused enthusiasm is to me a welcome sign of vigor, reality, life, idealism.

V. Korolenko, Novelist and Publicist. Zionism is an alluring dream, and the whole question is one of feasibility. Usually, the establishment of a nation or government follows the creation of a society in a given country. First colonization by immigration, then a long course of preparation for autonomy, and finally an independent nation—this is the order of national evolution. In this case it is, however, proposed to reverse the order—to acquire territory, secure political rights and a national statute, and then gather the people to fill the ready-made political form, as it were, and to develop according to a prescribed rule. Besides, it would be necessary to reckon with the narrow, one-sided character of the Jewish social constitution. Their genius is predominantly financial, and a government requires more than that. These difficulties are formidable, even if the international political obstacles to Zionism be conceded to be surmountable.

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