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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

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A SPLENDID OFFER.

Mayor Morris, the City Council and the people generally are to be congratulated on the placing of the bonds that were voted for by the citizens at the special election for that purpose. When the bonds were put upon the market a number of firms dealing in that kind of business made offers on different terms, each of which, however, involved the payment by the city of a considerable sum by way of commission. It was understood, too, that the agents for these firms or companies had made a sort of pool for the purpose of holding up the price to be paid by the city in the transaction. If this alleged combine had prevailed, the city would have had to pay several thousand dollars to the firm or company taking the bonds at par. But on Monday evening Rulon S. Wells, manager of the Mutual Life Insurance company, stepped forward with an offer from that company to take up the \$1,000,000 bonds and give a cash premium of \$15,000. This paralyzed the dealers in bonds; none of whom offered any premium, but, as we have stated, all required a bonus by way of commission or otherwise, so that the offer of the Mutual Life Insurance company, which was accepted at once, means a saving to the city of \$15,000 to \$30,000. This is very gratifying and insures the prosecution of the work, which is to result in the accomplishment of the great project for supplying this city with an ample volume of pure water for all necessary purposes. We shall look with interest for the commencement, continuation and perfection of this long desired enterprise.

THE FRANCHISE PETITION.

The references to committees of the City Council of the application of the Utah Light and Railway company for a franchise covering the various franchises the company now holds, and consolidating them in one, and also for the extension of that franchise for 50 years, was what might have been reasonably anticipated, as it was a proper course to pursue.

The letter addressed by the Mayor in explanation of his correspondence with the company is quite satisfactory, and when it is compared with the petition presented by the company, will be seen to convey no actual conflict or discrepancy. The misunderstanding, if any, that has arisen over this matter, has come from a misconstruction of the statement made by the petitioners through their counsel, which in substance alleged that the beginning of negotiations between the city and the company was the request of the city, that the company transfer to it certain properties which were necessary to the carrying out of the project for bringing in the water of the Cottonwoods for municipal use. The statement of the Mayor coincides exactly with the statement of the company, that the city took the first step towards the acquisition of the properties referred to.

As to the privileges that were to be given the company in lieu of a payment of money, it was not claimed that the Mayor offered an extension of the company's franchise for fifty years, or for any period. The petition states plainly that the request for the extension of the company's franchise came from the company to the Mayor. So that a careful comparison of the company's petition and the Mayor's letter of explanation harmonize them in all essential particulars, and the attempt to create a conflict between them falls flat and need not be considered further.

The committees to which this matter has been referred should give it fair and full consideration. No notice should be taken of the gross misrepresentations of the facts in the case and the purposes of the Utah Light and Railway company, nor of the vile threats that have been made against members of the City Council by unprincipled opponents of a corporation that has been of immense benefit to this municipality. The needs of the city, the proposals of the company, the equities of the case and everything pertaining to it should be well weighed, in the light of the general interest and the public welfare, as well as of the just claims of the company. Personal matters, popular excitement, false reports, improper influences of any kind whatever should cut no figure in this plain business affair, but only that which is just and proper should be done in the premises. This will be expected of the joint committee and of the City Council, and we believe that this anticipation will be fully realized.

"WHERE WE ARE AT."

We have received a letter from an experienced Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose name and communication we do not publish out of personal consideration for him. It betrays such a lack of understanding of fundamental principles in Church discipline that it would do him no credit if it appeared in our columns, but as it makes complaint about a matter that some of our people may not fully understand, we give the gist of his grievance with an explanation which we hope will be of benefit. The writer alludes to the testimony of Senator Smoot, and also of President Joseph F. Smith, before the Senate committee on privileges and elections, in regard to the proper method of dealing with members of the Church against whom charges are preferred; to the effect, as he puts it, that "under a rule of the Church a man could not be dropped, excommunicated or disfellow-shipped from the Church, without first having a chance to defend himself." This, he admits, is not only right, but "in harmony with the spirit and genius of the Gospel."

The writer then alludes to the release, some time ago, of the Presidency of one of the States of Zion, and also a number of Bishops and Presidents of auxiliary associations, without any complaint or trial or defense in their cases. In view of these "uncontroverted facts," as he terms them, "where we are at," he explains, if possible, "where we are at."

We might echo the question, "where we are at?" when a man of his experience appears to be unable to distinguish the difference between excommunicating, disfellowshipping or depriving a man of his Priesthood, and releasing him from some temporary duty or responsibility. Were the officers, or either of them, referred to in the letter addressed to us, cut off the Church or deprived of the Priesthood? Were they charged with any offense against the Church? Was anything done in their case but simply to relieve them of onerous duties that had been imposed upon them during a series of years?

When a man is appointed to a presiding position in the Church, no additional Priesthood is conferred upon him by that appointment, nor is it understood to be of life tenure. He is liable to be removed at any time when it is thought to be necessary, either for his own good, or for the welfare of the Church or the benefit of the people placed under his watchcare. His removal takes from him nothing of his Priesthood or standing in the Church. It is no more of a reflection upon him than if he were released from laboring on a foreign mission or some home duty to which he had been called.

In the case alluded to, the Presidency of the Church, in the exercise of their undoubted authority, through some of the Twelve who were appointed to attend to the matter, saw fit to make a change in the affairs of a Stake of Zion by the release of a number of its officers and the appointment of other persons to fill their places, giving due credit and expressing appreciation for the effective labor and fidelity of the persons thus relieved of those responsibilities. None of them were placed under an accusation of any kind, therefore there was no complaint and no defense. They were not "dropped" from the Church nor from their Priesthood, their membership and their respective callings in the Priesthood have remained as before.

It appears to us that any man of ordinary ability and understanding of the order of the Church should see, that there is no similarity between the process of procedure against a Church member charged with an offense, and that of relieving a presiding officer of the duties of presidency. In the first case, it requires a complaint, a trial, an opportunity for defense and a decision by a competent Church court. In the other, it requires simply the action of the Presidency, consequent upon either the resignation of the officer or the decision of the Presidency that a change is required or would be beneficial. There is no parallel between them, and we must confess to some surprise that any man who has himself been a presiding officer in the Church, should so confound the two instances as to give them the appearance even in his own mind of anything like identity. That is "where we are at."

If our correspondent is still desirous that his letter should be published in the Deseret News, with his signature attached, we may perhaps accommodate him, with the addition of some further remarks on the subject, but we should judge that this allusion to it would be sufficient, both for him and for any other persons who have confounded the two cases, when they are totally dissimilar, have no bearing one upon the other, and their extreme difference ought to be perceived even by the youngest Deacon in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

NORTH SEA DECISION.

As previously pointed out in these columns, the first reports of the findings of the commission investigating the North Sea incident, were misleading. They have been corrected by later reports, according to which the story about the presence of Japanese war ships in the North Sea is relegated to the domain of myth. The blame, however, is laid, not on the Admiral but on one of the subordinate commanders.

The English press feels better. It now remains for the two governments to agree on how to settle the affair, and especially what indemnity is due the fishermen, and the families of the dead. If the diplomats of Great Britain and Russia can arrive at an understanding as to these points by the usual methods of international negotiations, the incident will soon be closed. If not, the arbitration of the Hague Tribunal is available, and all danger of war is averted. Undoubtedly Russia will now willingly

ABUSE OF WEALTH.

It has recently been asserted that thousands of children in New York go hungry to school, every morning. By actual test it has been found that the condition is not quite as bad as at first represented, but it is bad enough, if such children can be counted by the hundreds, only, instead of by the thousands. And there is no doubt that hundreds of children never get a chance to go to school hungry. They die, prematurely, for lack of proper nourishment, and necessary care in cases of sickness.

This side of social conditions forms a strange contrast to another, which presents a picture of almost criminal abuse of wealth. A contributor to the March number of the Success, for instance, tells of the sums annually squandered upon dogs, by New York ladies. Some of them, he says, spend \$1,000 a year for dog clothes. They buy "house coats, walking coats, dusters, sweaters, coats lined with ermine at two hundred dollars each, automobile coats with hoods and goggles, and each coat fitted with a pocket for the poodle's handkerchief of fine linen or lace."

To quote further:
"These women buy for their pet dogs boots of different colored leather to match the coats, house boots, street boots, etc., that lace up nearly to the knee and cost from five to eight dollars a pair. They buy half a dozen pairs at a time. And they buy collars, set with rubies, pearls, or diamonds, at several hundred dollars each. A man who makes a specialty of such collars told me of women who imported from Paris a complete outfit for her poodle costing two thousand dollars. And one lady had a house built for her dog, the exact model of a Queen Anne cottage, with rooms papered and carpeted and the windows hung with lace curtains. Every morning a woman calls (a sort of dog governess) to bathe and comb and curl and perfume the little darling, and then take him out for his walk. He eats and drinks from silver dishes and if he gets a stomach ache, a specialist is promptly summoned."

We sometimes wonder, at the stringent laws of some ancient nations, that restricted citizens to certain limits in the matter of food, clothing, amusements, etc. But in view of the unspeakable folly that governs the acts of some wealthy people, it is not to be wondered at, that law-makers sometimes assumed the role of dictators in matters of private nature. If it is not a crime to spend \$2,000 on an outfit for a dog, while hundreds of children are starving and cold, the sentiment that demands that it be declared a crime, is easily understood. It is abuse of wealth, to use a very mild expression.

Tom Lawson still keeps up his frenzy.

Judge Swayne was not impeached but he received a pretty bad scare.

The Czar doesn't want peace. If he doesn't see what he wants, ask for it.

The Beef trust looks upon the hand of the President as the hand of affliction.

Why is it that a man's friends die off so much more rapidly than his enemies do?

Just as soon as Congress adjourns, the railroads and the Standard Oil company will puff and gush easier.

The President is a great admirer of Lawrence. To his lieutenants in Congress he says, "Don't give up the ships."

The figures for the construction of the Panama canal have been raised to \$200,000,000. This is the first raise. Others may be expected to follow as the work progresses.

And now Dr. William Osler rises to deny that he ever said that men over sixty should be chloroformed. Be that as it may, so long as he lives he will be credited with having said it.

Summed up, the decision of the International Commission to consider the North Sea incident comes to this: Rostovsky, isn't guilty, but he had better mind his P's and Q's in future.

In Warsaw a soldier accompanies every policeman to see that he does not go on strike. Russia has finally answered the great question, "Who shall have the custody of the custodian?"

Venezuelan revolutionists do not want the United States to interfere until they have deposed Morales and set up their own government. Clearly this is a case where it is expected that favors will follow fawning. But will they?

Bandmaster Sousa has written to the London Times protesting against the British government allowing his musical compositions to be pirated. Perhaps John Philip never heard of the piracies committed by American publishers on British authors. But of course it makes a great difference whose ox is gored.

"The Southern Pacific and its ally, the Santa Fe, put their own interpretation upon the adage, 'It's a poor rule that won't work both ways.' When the orange traffic was light they fixed the rate of carriage at a high figure; now that it has grown to enormous proportions they make their charges still higher. That is making a rule work both ways with a vengeance," says the San Francisco Chronicle. In other words, it catches the orange growers going and coming. But the Salt Lake, Los Angeles and San Pedro road may change all that yet.

Here is the comment of Senator Stewart of Nevada, who is seventy-seven years of age, on glad the doctor has given us the key to his numerous failures. I am sorry that a crank of his type treated Senator Hanna, Speaker Reed, Postmaster General Payne and other distinguished Americans. A man of sense might have saved

them to the country. I hope the English people will treat our contribution to their collection of insane or cracked frauds as the act of the doctor himself, and will not charge such an exhibit to the people of the United States."

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