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THE DESERET WEEKLY

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Gas and City Governments.

Mr. Albert Shaw, writing in The Century, reminds us that in Paris and the French we owe the remodeling of the modern city, making it a bright, clean, healthful and beautiful abode for mankind. An entire change has come over civilization in modern times. A new race of mankind is springing up, the race of city men instead of countrymen. The majority of the inhabitants of a country are gradually drifting from the farms to the cities. This is true all over the world. The French have first recognized this fact and remodeled the city to make it meet the needs of the new race.

Paris is the model on which the new modern city must be built, with cellars under its streets, with its huge, clean, riverlike sewers, through which a boat may be rowed. Paris, with its broad, straight, brilliantly lighted streets, its shade trees, its miles of parks and everything that can be brought to bear toward making a city like a beautiful country landscape, is the place after which the rest of the world must pattern in city building. As for us Americans, we may well sit at the feet of the French and learn of them not only in city building, but in municipal administration.

Paris is governed by a council, elected by the people for four years. All come in together and go out together, though they are eligible for re-election. The council itself elects the mayor, and he is sole executive officer under the council. Every department of city administration is under severe inspection. In the matter of gas manufacture, for instance, the French long ago discovered what many Americans have not yet found out, that no real competition can exist between gas companies occupying the same territory. Therefore the six companies which supplied Paris with gas were all thrown into one in 1855 and put under rigid city inspection. There is a municipal gas bureau, whose duty it is to test the gas, watch its manufacture and look after the excellence of the gas fittings that are put into buildings. There is a gas engineer-in-chief, who has a hundred assistants. Paris under this system is the best lighted city in the world, and will become still more brilliant when the present plans for lighting by electricity are carried out.

There will be no question about trouble from overhead wires, for in the roomy street cellars of Paris there will be space for all. It must be remembered that to make these subways under the streets the enthusiastic French ruthlessly tore up everything that obstructed their way, and did not hesitate to destroy sewer or gas main or any existing work. The spirit of the French revolution was still on when the French began to remodel Paris.

Meanwhile Americans may well see and consider how Paris makes a large revenue out of the gas company:

The financial aspects of this charter can be briefly summed up. The company must furnish gas to individuals at a price not exceeding a fixed maximum. It must supply gas for public uses at what is practically the cost of manufacture. It must pay the city 200,000 francs a year for the right to pipe the streets. It must pay a tax of [illegible] francs on each cubic meter of gas supplied in Paris. Finally, it must not "water" its stock, but must keep its capitalization at 84,000,000 francs, and after paying 11-1-2 per cent. out of net profits as dividends to the shareholders it must divide the surplus profits with the city. Finally, at the expiration of the charter, all rights revert to the city, which becomes also owner of all the subways, piping, etc., that pertain to the plant. The city's share in the profits has steadily increased until the receipts from the gas company have become a large item of revenue.

In 1855 about 1,000,000 francs were received from the company. For the year 1855 the amount exceeded 1,000,000 francs. In 1881, 11,000,000 francs were received, and in 1887 more than 15,000,000. For several years past the annual payment of the gas company to the city has been approximately 20,000,000 francs. As compared with American cities, this huge sum is clear profit, for we do not in this country ordinarily obtain any public revenue from gas companies.

The industrial and commercial resources of the Spanish-American countries are being developed as they never were before. In the same proportion their trade increases with the United States, the country to which they all look up as to a protector and friend. Our commercial interests of the future point to Mexico, South America and the West Indies more strongly than to Europe. This will be the case more and more as we increase our manufacturing industries. It is plain, therefore, that Spanish is the language to be learned by young people who wish to advance themselves commercially. Spanish speaking clerks and stenographers are already at a premium.

"Cornering" a staple, such as grain or meat, is against the law in Russia, but in the face of the famine there at present some speculators have succeeded in cornering rye and putting it up to an immense price. They accomplished this by bribing government officials. In Russia anybody can do anything by simply paying a high enough price to public officers for the privilege. How thankful we ought to be that we live in a republic where no official ever takes money for winking at an unlawful transaction.

The largest of all the summer assemblies has been the Christian Endeavor convention at Minneapolis. It numbered sometimes audiences of 15,000 persons, and the society has already a membership of over a million. On the way to the convention some of the members were badly insulted. "New York, those sinners for sure. Does this mean to imply that New York is regarded as a field that especially needs the labors of good Christian Endeavor people?

In the large cities where business is dull this summer the cry is, The crops, the crops—wait till they move, then money will be plenty. Fortunately, in most parts of the country crops are abundant and of fine quality. It may possibly bring more to the commercial and speculative mind remembrance of the fact that in no other way the prosperity of a country comes out of the ground, in one shape or another. The farmer and the stock raiser literally carry the world on. In years when crops are abundant the merchant looks to sell goods, because the farmer will buy generously. The railroads expect good dividends, for they earn large freight money carrying the agriculturist's products to market. In view of these facts, business men and railways may well understand that their success does not lie in squeezing the farmer, but in making freights, taxes, mortgages and everything else as easy for him as possible. His prosperity means the prosperity of all.

Whose Fault Is It?

A government clerk in Washington, sixty years of age, makes doleful wail. He got a government clerkship thirty years ago, when he was a young man. He has "served the government faithfully" for thirty years. Now he finds himself about where he began thirty years ago—with no money laid up, beginning to be an old man, no pension and no nothing, liable to be turned out at any time to make room for a younger clerk. In turn the younger man will doubtless settle down in front of a desk on a leather covered chair, and dry up and blow away with a pen behind his ear. Thirty years from now, in 1921, when this second fellow, too, shall be sixty years old, he in turn will doubtless wail that he is just where he was when he started, and has no money laid up, no pension and no nothing.

But these fossilized government clerks will have nobody to blame but themselves. In the enthusiastic days of youth, when with strong young arms they might have breasted the waves of life and fought and gained a sure harbor and support for age, they got a government clerkship at $1,200 a year. In time it increased perhaps to $1,500. They staid and grew round shouldered and dyspeptic and gray headed. Courage and perseverance would have built for them a business independence outside; for there is money enough and opportunity enough in this country for every intelligent person with average health and business good luck to lay up a competency. But they did not take their fighting chances, and now they are left. Probably the most unfortunate thing that can happen to a young man is to get a government clerkship in Washington.

Mr. Booker, British consul general at New York, makes this official report to his government on the execution of Kemmler by electricity: "Notwithstanding the efforts which have been made to proclaim it a failure, and to invest it with an air of repulsion, brutality and horror, it is confidently believed that when all the facts are rightly understood the first execution by electricity will be regarded as a successful experiment, and that in time due credit will be accorded to those whose duty required them to act on principle in carrying out the law, the establishment of which is destined in the not distant future to be regarded as a step in the direction of a higher civilization."

The Worst Blow to Matrimony.

While Christians and sages have been deploring the decline of marriage in our modern civilization, a far more insidious than every other agency to the good old ordinance of marriage has been working in their midst, under their very noses, without their opposition—nay, even in some cases with their approval. It is the technical education now being introduced into the public schools in many cities. In these manual training departments a girl is actually taught to drive a nail and to do it well. Wood carving and the simpler forms of carpenter work are in many cases taught to girls. On the other hand, it is slowly leaking out that in these same manual training departments boys, real boys, must learn to sew on buttons, to darn their own hose and to put patches neatly upon their trousers and underwear.

In England this innovation of teaching boys to sew began first. The little fellows of the poorer classes were instructed with a view to making them independent when they departed for the colonies to which they were destined to go. But the experiment worked so well that all boys at length were put into the sewing classes and taught the mysteries of the needle, even to the feather stitching of patches.

Well may one ask, What are we coming to? When boys sew on buttons and darn stockings, and girls know how to drive a nail, what more need will they have for each other or for matrimony?

Those Kansas Mortgages.

The public is not quite unfamiliar with the tale of how eastern monsters waxed fat and bloated by gathering in the farms on which they held mortgages in the west, and particularly in Kansas, and driving the poor agriculturist to ruin and suicide.

But a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune tells the reverse story. He says that in south-western Kansas a number of years ago some men, "alleged farmers," began preempting claims. They made known far and wide that they wanted money for developing their land. They sang a siren tale in the ears of the eastern capitalist, did these unsophisticated rustics. They gave mortgages at high rates, showing to the sharp eastern capitalist how great they were to think they could pay such interest. The shrewd eastern capitalist smiled as he thought to himself that in a few years he would have a snug Kansas farm, all improved, to settle a son-in-law on.

Time went on. It was as the eastern capitalist thought when he sealed that note. The unsophisticated farmer could not pay his mortgage. He did not. He simply pocketed that mortgage money and jumped his claim. When the capitalist came to take possession of his Kansas farm he found that a grasshopper would starve to death on it. There never had been any idea of cultivating the land. The rustic pioneer had simply been sharper than the eastern capitalist, and cheated him like a lamb. And now the abandoned land claims go to swell the amount of Kansas mortgages.

Pistols and politics are a bad combination.

There are also distinctions in law and theatricals. It has been decided that stage kissing does not count as kissing in the proper sense of the term at all, and that a jealous husband or wife can lose no kind of an action on the "professional kiss," as it is called.

Our beef and pork exports for the month of June were a third less than for the corresponding month last year. Perhaps the time predicted by the economists is already near when we shall need all our meat and grain at home on account of increase of population.

The territorial supreme court of Washington decided three years ago that woman suffrage was unconstitutional. This decision disfranchised the women of Washington, who were already voting. Their case has been carried to the supreme court of the United States, where it will be decided during the October term.

A new municipal law in Massachusetts will be watched with interest. By this law cities and towns are permitted to own and operate their gas works. If two-thirds of the municipal city councils is obtained in the shape of a two-third vote, and after this such consent is ratified by the whole people at an election, then the city is empowered to buy or build electric or gaslight works. The plant is to be paid for by appropriation of public money, and will be operated by regularly appointed officials. If cities themselves can furnish to citizens cheaper light than private corporations can they will now have in Massachusetts opportunity to prove it.

Wood More Fireproof Than Iron.

In his recent lecture on fire prevention Professor Goodman states that, generally speaking, wooden joists are better for buildings than steel or iron joists. The two latter materials, he explained, lose their strength at a not very high temperature, whereas wood would sustain a heavy strain for a much longer period when exposed to great heat. Besides when wood has once been charred it does not burn so readily again.

Iron and steel soon expand under the influence of heat. Brick and stone are objectionable; the former becomes fused under great heat, and the latter is liable to crack or fly when suddenly cooled after heating. The drawback to tiles is that when fire plays upon the joists of floors fitted with them the joists expand and allow the fire to play upon the joists through the tiles. Portland cement is objectionable, as it flakes off when heated, but if wire netting or bars are imbedded in concrete this defect is remedied.

A joist padded with slivers of cotton and housed in salamander plaster (a mixture of silicate, cotton and plaster of paris), the professor holds, is a splendid fireproofing material. Such a material is not only a nonconductor, but it is elastic and would yield with the joist. In an experiment undertaken by Professor Goodman it was found that a joist of this kind withstood very fierce heat for eight to nine hours without sustaining any serious damage.—Builder.

A Cat Setting on Eggs.

A cat story comes from Bridgeport, Conn. Mike is a brindle puss belonging to Miss B. Ferris. Twenty eggs packed in sawdust were standing in the window of Mr. Ferris' saloon, when Mike took it into his head to go to sleep on them. Every attempt has been made to drive him away from the box, and every inducement in the way of soft beds was offered to him, but he persists in lying on those eggs all day, only leaving them long enough to eat and drink. Next week the period of incubation will have expired. What Mike will do with his brood if he is successful is an interesting question. But perhaps he knows what he is about, and is hatching them for his own especial benefit.—Cor. New York Sun.

Two of a Kind.

De Science—I do not object to paying high prices for books, but I do hate to spend money for clothes.

De Dude—Same way with me, bah jove. I haven't paid a tailor's bill for a yeah.—Good News.

Horse Sense.

There is a trick practiced by one of the west end car horses on the Cambridge street hill which the Listener has no doubt has been noticed by a great many people, and which is well worth being put on record. The horses stand in line at the foot of the hill, each, when he returns from a trip, taking a position at the rear. In this way each horse gets his turn at towing.

Among the tow horses at this hill is a big marked gray, a stout and wise old fellow. He has been seen, when the towboys are temporarily absent, the corner, as they sometimes are, to sneak out of his position when he has got to the head of the line and quietly move around to the rear. In this way he dodges his turn of pulling the car up the hill.—Boston Transcript.

"IT NEVER LIES!"

Truth is Mighty and will Prevail.

Farmers should read Utah Experiment Station

BULLETIN No. 7

On Government Trial, in which

Wood was Victorious!

Read what the "Logan Journal" says in its issue of July 22nd, 1891.

It is much more exhaustive than the trials at the World's Fair, Philadelphia, in 1876, according to Mr. Scott, which were concluded in one day, while in present Experiment two long days were consumed. The grass and fields were conceded to be even and of the best for fair trials.

Professor Sanborn kept the matter in his own hands, and all the parties active in the contest—active in handling the machines they represented on the ground—agreed that the trial had been fair and impartial, and signed an affidavit to that effect.

The test is of the utmost importance, as it has taken place under government direction, and will be noted all over this country and elsewhere, and will be taken as authoritative.

WILL IT ELEVATE?

YES. Malicious Competition equally as well as all crops.

Lehi, Utah, July 21st, 1891.

Messrs. Co-operative Wagon & Machine Co.,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Care of People's Co-operative Institution, Agents, Lehi, Utah.

Gentlemen:—With a pair of horses weighing about 800 pounds each, I have cut, elevated, bound and delivered successfully with a Walter A. Wood Binder, owned by Lawrence Hill, ordinary crops of grain on ground where the main drive wheel would cut into the sandy soil from three to six inches.

Signed, W. J. Hitch.

I certify to the above work, having seen the machine in operation.
J. L. Cotton.

Pleasant Grove, July 31st, 1891.

Messrs. Bullock & Wadley,
Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Gentlemen:—The Walter A. Wood Single Apron Harvester and Binder we bought of you, and for which we gave our order in Salt Lake City, has been in operation now for several days. We have cut, bound, elevated and delivered all kinds of grain, heavy, light, and tangled, to our satisfaction, and better than any other machine we have ever seen at the same work. We consider the Single Apron Open End Machine far superior to any three or four canvas machines, both in point of workmanship and economy. We have just finished cutting five and a half acres and have not missed tying one bundle.

(Signed), Isaac Carlson, J. J. Carlson.

Pleasant Grove, July 30th, 1891.

Messrs. Bullock & Wadley,
Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Gentlemen:—We have had one of your Walter A. Wood Binders since 1885. Have cut at least 1500 acres of grain successfully for ourselves and customers. The machine is good for further service with a few slight repairs. This same machine was in contest with McCormick Binder in 1885, and won the laurels in James Ballinger's field, Pleasant Grove. The Single Apron Harvester and Binder bought of you in 1891, in our opinion, does equally as good work and in many respects better than any other machine, and up to date has cut, bound, elevated, and delivered to our entire satisfaction.

We consider the Single Apron Open End Machine far preferable to three canvas closed end machines.

A. Holman, J. Holman.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, July 30th, 1891.

Messrs. Bullock & Wadley,

Gentlemen:—The wood platform W. A. Wood Single Apron Harvester and Binder, just sold us in 1890, has cut 250 acres of all kinds of grain, shortest, longest and tangledest. We can cut, elevate, bind and deliver equal to work done with any binder known to us, have given entire satisfaction to our customers, and can get more work than we have time to accomplish. We never pull out of a field until the grain is all cut and satisfaction given. In 30 hours with two teams and three men we cut 60 acres. The Open End Single Apron Machine is a world beater.

Bryant, Wright & Hooley.
J. O. Wright.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, July 30th, 1891.

Messrs. Bullock & Wadley,
Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Gentlemen:—The Wood Binder I bought of J. O. Bullock, in 1887, has cut about 500 acres. It has cost me less than $2.00 for repairs. I cut, bind, and elevate one acre of grain every hour I am in the field. The first time it was operated I cut five acres and missed but one bundle on account of poor twine. I do not know of any binder equal to the Walter A. Wood.

Jeppa Nielsen.

Spanish Fork, Utah, July 24th.

Co-operative Wagon and Machine Co.,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gentlemen:—The Walter A. Wood Single Apron Harvester and Binder, 5 feet 6 in. cut, bought from your representative, J. M. Creer, this month, cuts, binds, and elevates to our entire satisfaction.

(Signed), Isaac Hansen, Nephi Hansen, John Hansen, Ephraim Hansen.

Spanish Fork, July 24th, 1891.

Co-operative Wagon and Machine Co.,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gentlemen:—The 5 feet 6 in. Single Apron W. A. Wood Harvester and Binder operating on our farms and for custom work cuts, elevates, and binds equal to any other binder we ever saw, and in some respects much better. It will work evenly with all kinds of twine. We have cut and bound four and a half acres in one piece at one time without missing a bundle.

(Signed), John Rees. Thomas R. Jones.

Spanish Fork, Utah, July 24th, 1891.

Co-operative Wagon and Machine Co.,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gentlemen:—I have used my Walter A. Wood Harvester and Binder four years; it has cut, bound, and elevated some of the heaviest crops in Spanish Fork, and has given equal satisfaction to myself and customers, and is now in good running order after having cut 700 acres. The entire expense for repairs during the four years has not exceeded $5.00.

(Signed), David Williams.

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Provo East Co-op., Provo,
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C.W.&M.Co., J.M.Creer, Agt., Spanish Fork,
J. S. Page & Son, Payson,
Eli Openshaw, Santaquin,
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