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### A BIG PROBLEM SOLVED.

The fraternal meeting of Salt Lake and Ogden business men and leading citizens at the annual banquet of the Commercial Club on Monday evening was very significant. It was not only a very pleasant gathering of influential gentlemen, but a striking sign of progress in our State. It formed a rebuke to those strife-breeders who endeavor to promote unfriendly rivalry between the two largest cities in Utah, which have mutual interests and ought to work together instead of pulling apart.

But this is not the particular feature of the entertainment to which we desire to draw attention. The most important subject presented, as we view it, was that explained by State Engineer A. F. Doremus, and recommended to the attention of the Commercial Club by its president, Col. E. F. Holmes. It has been under consideration for some time by the Arid Land Reclamation Fund commission, of which Mr. Doremus is chairman and Hon. F. S. Richards is the legal adviser. The commission has been diligently inquiring into the most feasible ways of increasing the water supply of this city and state, and the danger of the decrease of humidity from the rapid recession of the lake, has been gravely considered. A remedy was sought for and recent events brought one into view.

That great and successful engineering feat, commonly known as the "Larkin Cut-off," has made possible a change in the depth of the larger portion of the Great Salt Lake, and this was the theme of Engineer Doremus' speech at Monday night's banquet. The expenditure of millions of dollars by an enterprising railroad company, has furnished a practical division of the lake which may be utilized if proper arrangements are made, so as to increase, by about fifty per cent, the volume of that part of the lake fed by mountain streams, through practically drying up, or at least leaving to itself, one third of that body lying to the north of the cut-off from the point of the promontory westward. This can be clearly understood by a glance at the map of Utah.

By making the embankment solid, which has been already effected partly by the railroad, the State Engineer and his associates have decided that the cutting off of that northern part of the lake can be accomplished, thus increasing the volume of the other and larger portion. It is proposed to build openings in that embankment, protected by dams, so that in the event of a great rise in the lake it may not overflow the railroad, but be let into the bed of the lake thus shut off from the body.

The value of this project to Utah may not appear at the first view. But the more it is inspected the greater it appears. The loss of the bathing attraction means much to the city, but that is a mere trifle when compared with the loss of humidity, supplied by evaporation from the lake to this whole intermountain region. If that source is dried up, the result will be an arid, rainless atmosphere, intense cold in winter, dry, parching heat in summer, the consequent damage to our grain and fruit products and our cattle, sheep and horse interests, and finally ruin to this basin as an attractive place of residence.

We might enlarge greatly on this theme, but we simply wish to place it before the public in brief. Now the question is, what should be done? The answer is given in Col. Holmes' letter. Let the Commercial Club take up the matter and confer with the railroad authorities, and see what measures can be adopted for mutual benefit. A permanent and safe highway is wanted on the one hand, and an increase in the volume of the greater part of the lake is needed on the other. Both hands should meet on the proposition, and the work can be accomplished.

The solution of the puzzling lake

problem is thus in sight. We regard the grand railway scheme as providential, and we commend the division plan to the consideration of the Commercial club, to the railway magnates and to the public generally, as something scientific, practical and profitable, and worthy the support of all progressive and thoughtful citizens.

### AN EXPIRING KICK.

The course taken by the outgoing city administration, in filling the office of Chief of Police when it was well known that the incoming Mayor had made his selection of the man to act in that capacity, in association with him as chief executive of the municipality, does not meet with favor by the majority of our citizens. It bears too much evidence of petty obstruction and party malevolence. The nomination might have been made months ago if it had been considered of benefit to the city. Springing it upon the public just as the Mayor and many members of the council are going out of office, is regarded as a mere trick of nearly defunct officials, unworthy of high-minded men and an exhibition of partisan spleen that will be remembered in future.

These remarks bear no word against the gentleman appointed to the office of Chief. He has served the public with credit in other positions. He is well known in the community. While he is in office he should receive the support of all law-abiding people as well as of his subordinates. It is only the manner of his appointment in thrusting him into a place which, by common courtesy and in the interest of the public, should be filled by the administration recently elected and to take charge of municipal affairs in a few days at most, that is objectionable and to be regarded in a shameful light. It holds up to the public gaze the character of those who were engaged in it, and if they can take any satisfaction from it they are to be pitied for their lack of comprehension of right conduct and public opinion. It is too miserably paltry for extended comment.

### A MISUNDERSTOOD PHRASE.

Herbert Spencer originated the popular phrase, "the survival of the fittest." It is one that very often has been employed in the defense of brutality, and crime, and thus put to uses never intended by the great philosopher. "The survival of the fittest" does not mean that the morally fittest always survive. A murderer sometimes survives, but that is no proof that he is more "fit" to live than his victim. The coward may survive a battle in which many a hero falls, and a physically weak person may be saved from the jaws of death in which others, strong and healthy, have perished. So that the fact that an individual lives, is no proof that he is more fit to live, either physically or morally, than others. Abel was more fit to live than Cain, and thousands of martyrs slain in the Roman arena, were more fit in every way to live than Nero. "Natural selection" is a better phrase than "survival of the fittest," and it means practically the same thing. It is less liable to misunderstanding. Nature certainly selects forms of life suitable for the various conditions on earth, and propagates those fit for the surrounding conditions. It will select the Polar bear to inhabit the Arctic regions, and the elephant to dwell in the tropics. But that does not say that the bear is "more fit to live," in the sense that it is a better, nobler, more intelligent animal than the elephant. Natural selection, in fact, sometimes seems to work backward, so that the "survival" means a lower order than the previous one. Entire civilizations seem to have perished and given room, temporarily at least, for barbarism. "Survival of the fittest" is a phrase much misunderstood.

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

In a paper by Mr. George Burnham, Jr., treasurer of the Municipal League, Philadelphia, the author points out that Chambers of Commerce are taking a lively interest in municipal elections, notwithstanding the natural aversion of such bodies to "meddle with politics." Thus the New York Chamber of Commerce, in the campaign to elect William L. Strong Mayor of the city in 1894, appointed the "Committee of Seven" that was to conduct the campaign, and did conduct it, as will be remembered, to a successful issue.

In January, 1893, William H. Lincoln, president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, appealed to its members to unite their efforts to promote the well being of the city. Instead of meeting with condemnation as being inappropriate in the deliberations of a commercial organization, the entire press of Boston commended the views of Mr. Lincoln and the result was the appointment of a committee representing not only the Chamber of Commerce, but the New England Shoe and Leather Association, Associated Board of Trade, Real Estate Exchange, Merchants Association, Fruit and Produce Exchange, and the Boston Bar Association, to further municipal reforms. This committee has already secured the passage of an act by the Massachusetts Legislature providing for the nomination and election of Aldermen for the city of Boston "at large" instead of by wards and now proposes to direct its efforts to securing the defeat of "unscrupulous and corrupt politicians" on the Board of Aldermen and the election of men of high character and ability.

In San Francisco, the Merchants Association has taken an active part in civic improvements. In Cleveland the Chamber of Commerce has instituted a special committee with a secretary, whose time for the past three years has been almost wholly devoted to the betterment of the store, factory and home-conditions of the wage-earning class of that city.

The author of the article does not believe that this is a sign of the passing away of the time-honored principle that business organizations have no "business" in politics. That principle, he says, is regarded as sound and unassailable as ever. But he continues:

"Thinking men have come to realize, however, that the government of cities is mainly a question of business administration, and that such questions of

policy as must and should divide the citizens, are quite separate and apart from questions of state and national policy. They have come to see therefore, that the cities must first be freed from the grasp of the political machine masquerading as 'political' organizations before real questions of policy can come to the front; and that, in any event, it is vital to a city's commercial interests, that its business affairs and administration should be honestly conducted in a business-like way. It is notorious that the machine in any city always reflects the popular sentiment in national politics, being Republican in Philadelphia and Democratic in New York, but it is also well known that it is always ready to sacrifice the national party interests for the control of the city's revenue, the real object of its existence."

### THE TRUTH ABOUT IT.

Warden A. S. Meserve of the Wilmington Workhouse, has recently held a lecture in the interest of prison reform. It is notable because of his testimony as to the effect of the brutal form of punishment in vogue in Delaware and advocated elsewhere—the whippingpost. Some persons have asserted that this relic of a time when the people were savage, is restraining criminals. But Mr. Meserve, whose testimony on that point certainly deserves consideration, takes an opposite view. He said in his lecture, and produced the proofs, that Delaware's prison population was higher in proportion than that of other states. He also asserted that that form of punishment had a tendency to degrade the people. "I find," he said, "the character of the men at the post determines the character and size of the crowd attending. It excites their sympathy, and they defy against justice and the laws of the state. They are not as good citizens as before." It is queer that there should be a difference of opinion on this question, in this country. It may be felt that certain crimes require peculiar treatment, but that treatment should never be of a nature to injure the morals of the entire community. It is, strange to say, not true, that the severer the punishments are, the more malefactors dread doing evil and the more earnestly they try to do good. It is not a fact. The best effect of punishment is obtained when it is just, prompt, and impartial. Severity is no substitute for the lack of these elements of justice.

Emperor William has recovered his voice. Hoch der Kaiser!

The coal strike seems to be about all settled but the bills.

The oaths taken in Carbon county would naturally be black.

When Panama gets that ten million dollars it will be doubly parvenue.

When the bill is presented the people will know what a real militia charge is.

Perhaps Secretary Root will not be so severe on General Arthur MacArthur now.

Mr. Ziegler may forego the pleasure of visiting the Louisiana Purchase exposition.

If Missouri doesn't get Ziegler at the January hearing she will simply have to eat Crow.

Dowie's wonderful recuperative powers justify entitle him to be called John Alexander the Great.

Professor Langley would be glad to have Santa Claus put an airship that would fly into his stocking.

General Reyes would accept the Colombian presidency, if elected to it, under a "so sudden" impulse.

Maxine Elliott invariably refuses to be interviewed. It is merely her way of advertising; nothing more.

Those mixed up in the postal frauds think that all those indictments should be sent to the dead letter office.

Russia and Japan need improved postal facilities, their correspondence having grown so rapidly and to such proportions.

Holland and Great Britain want Panama to pay fifteen millions of Colombia's debt. It is quite likely to be a "long felt want."

If the militia is to be used for the suppression of profanity, it can find far more duty to perform right on Main Street than in Carbon county.

Senator Hanna doesn't have to be a presidential candidate if he doesn't want to. This is an inherent right and not a constitutional one.

There is promise of a guerrilla war on the Isthmus. Now that will highly please some of the boys who have had much practice in the Philippines.

The attorneys in the Northern Securities case are now trying to make the Supreme Court believe that a merger is not a merger, and that what is, is not.

Will Mr. Rockefeller raise the price of coal oil and make the University of Chicago a Christmas present, or will he lower it and make the American people a present?

If the St. Louis hoodlums are to be let loose from the penitentiary through a decision of the Missouri supreme court, it will be a blow to justice and a calamity to the whole country.

Dr. Schurman of Cornell says that every student should be expected to study eleven hours a day. So long as he says "should" instead of "will" his university will not suffer in popularity.

An eastern railroad will in future require its employees to take lessons in first aid to the injured. It will not be necessary for engineers and firemen to do this as they are usually killed in collisions.

The announcement is made of the marriage of a daughter of Prof. W. E.

Ayrton to Israel Zangwill, the famous Zionist and author. The bride belongs to a Christian family of decided views, while Mr. Zangwill is a Hebrew and one of the most active of the Zionists who are trying to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. Which of the two will convert the other?

### HERBERT SPENCER.

Portland Oregonian.  
Faraday, Tyndall, Huxley and Spencer in science never enjoyed a university training, but their self-training and self-discipline in order to obtain knowledge and enlarge its domain was better for their purpose than a university course. Men of positive genius and thirst for knowledge no more need a university life to it than do men for the walks of science than Patrick Henry, or Bright, or Cobden, or Disraeli needed a university training to teach them the art of swaying popular assemblies and directing the action of states by their eloquence and their political wisdom.

### Pueblo Chieftain.

Fortunately for the world Herbert Spencer was one of those men who had a most intense conviction of his own power and of his ability to accomplish the task to which he had devoted himself. He was not the man to be a character his work would never have been done. The thirty-seven years of effort necessary to accomplish his great work were years of toil, of deprivation, of bodily suffering and of actual poverty. He gave his life to his work, and his work to the world, and in return the world gave him 83 years of life and the consciousness of an immortal fame.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
The book "Facts and Comments" is in truth a defiance of the unimpaired forces of the time. In it he exhibits a settled aversion for the increasing activities of government, for the modern "educational mania," for the boasts of communism, the development of militarism, and he has the hardihood to make this distinction: "Were anyone to call me dishonest, or untruthful, he would touch me in the quick. I would be to say that I am untruthful, he would leave me unmoved." However, men who are stung by the last sentence will remember that he was honest and truthful in that he fought disease and practiced a patient self-discipline with fine heroism, that his life was a long and wonderful mental discipline, that he acquired learning beyond any of his contemporaries, that he kept an unblemished character and set a noble example.

New York Evening Post.  
The great system-maker forced badly by the hands of the highly cultivated of their little garden-plots, friends of his thought they were. Huxley said that he often caught himself laughing in the heart of Spencer. He defined Spencer's "creative work" as in reality nothing but "spinning his own cobwebs," and when asked what objection he had to Spencer's philosophical system, replied, "No objection except to the whole." Darwin's less vivacious verdict was really more weighty: "Such parts of Herbert Spencer as I have read with care impress my mind upon the facts of life. He gathered the whole world into his nervous hands. He could handle the world because he was neither afraid of it nor covetous of it. He desired his honors and scorned its distinctions."

New York Mail and Express.  
Herbert Spencer, though his life was absorbed in his philosophy, was nevertheless a keen observer of the life of men and women. No philosopher has ever approached him in sympathy and upon the facts of life. He gathered the whole world into his nervous hands. He could handle the world because he was neither afraid of it nor covetous of it. He desired his honors and scorned its distinctions.

Boston Herald.  
Of political development in this country he said: "Conventions formed of delegates supposed to represent the will of their respective localities have become bodies which merely register the decisions of certain heads who nominally advise but practically dictate. And completely has this system submerged individual freedom that now the assertion of such freedom has become a discredit and the independent citizen, here and there found, who will not surrender his right of private judgment bears the contemptuous name of mugwump."

LIFE OF A PIONEER.  
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