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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 18, 1908.

GO SLOW.

The prospect of higher taxes this year will not strike the citizens of Salt Lake City as very encouraging. The conviction is wide-spread that the people are already taxed sufficient for all legitimate purposes.

The proposition is to raise the valuation on business property considerably, and on residences in proportion. We believe the assessors would do well to consider all the interests involved, and especially those of the common taxpayer. The year so far does not look particularly promising for a considerable increase.

As for residence property, a home from which the owner derives no income, is not worth any more to him this year than it was last, and unless his wages have increased, which is not probable, his ability to pay is no greater than it was. Under present conditions it is not easy to sell real estate. What is the owner of a home to do, if all his worldly possessions are in the home? With falling prices or a sluggish movement in the market there is no justification for a general increase of valuation with the sole object of obtaining more taxes.

It is undoubtedly true that an adjustment in the valuation of business property is justified by the southward move of the business center. Business property is worth more than ever in the history of the City. But even when this is admitted, it should not be forgotten that the taxes on all business property are paid, in the last instance, not by those who own the property but by the patrons of the stores, banks or offices. The burden is distributed among the public, the great majority of which consists of more or less poorly paid laborers and wage earners. The question how far a raise in taxation is justified at present should not be decided without full consideration of the ability of the common people to pay, for upon them falls the heavy end of the burden. The tax is added to the cost of the food they eat, the clothes they wear, the rent they pay, the interest charged on loans, and so on. We believe we speak for a majority of the citizens of this City, if we warn against any artificial inflation of the valuation of property at this time.

AGAINST THE CHURCH.

A gentleman who says he is a stranger who has "become very much interested in the Tribune's fight against Mormonism," asks the Deseret News: "Why is it that the 'News' does not defend itself?" That is a somewhat odd question.

Our correspondent refers more particularly to certain charges made recently against a formerly prominent member of the Church, and he seems to be of the opinion that it is our duty to either prove or disprove such charges.

We can only say that we are not in the habit of copying, or paying any attention to, scandalous stories that appear in the columns of any paper, whether they relate to members of the Church or citizens outside the Church. We conceal no facts that come to our knowledge from reliable sources. Our court reports are as impartial and full as those of any of our contemporaries. We aim at publishing all the legitimate news, but do not rush into print with all kinds of stories and rumors, that may, or may not, be true. How this can be construed as failure to "defend" ourselves, we fail to see.

We have stated repeatedly, and again say, that the charges against the Church and the Church leaders, that they, or any of them, teach, or encourage, the construction of plural marriages are without any foundation in fact. That was proved beyond rational controversy by the Senate investigation. For, if there had been one scintilla of proof for the contention that the Church leaders had broken faith with the nation, Senator Smoot, notwithstanding his many personal friends in the Senate, would have denied his seat in that body. The most searching investigation covering every phase of the question, failed to bring to light any reason for granting the petition of the anti-Mormon agitators. We have, time and again, called attention to this indisputable fact. What stronger defense can we offer against the calumnies than the utter failure of their cause before the highest tribunal in the land?

It is true, the anti-Mormons, instead of loyally accepting the decision of the Senate because it went against them, have charged the United States Senators with pro-Mormon sentiments. Senator Hopkins of Illinois was even said to be in favor of polygamy. But the Senator has effectively answered that insinuation by introducing in the Senate a proposition to add to the Constitution an amendment prohibiting both polygamy and polygamous cohabitation. Even the Northwestern Christian Advocate accepts this as proof of his sincerity. "The fact remains, then, that the accusers of the distinguished senator, Senator from Utah, and the assailants of the Church failed to prove their accusations. That individual cases of law-breaking have occurred has not been denied. But it is admitted by all fair-minded persons that they have not been any more frequent in Utah than in other states; also that some other

denominations have very little to boast of, if compared with the "Mormons." We believe that even some of the leaders in the onslaught upon the Church would, if the search light were turned upon them, be found to be utterly unfit to sit in judgment upon their fellow-men.

There are many reasons why we should not pay too much attention to the anti-Mormon railings against the Church. The anti-Mormon spokesmen are, as a rule, not sincere. They do not believe their own charges. They loudly and persistently decry against pledge-breaking and Church interference in politics, not because they believe what they say, but because they know that by such clamor they can kindle the flames of prejudice and persecution, and further their own political ends in the confusion. To debate with them is as useless as it was for the lamb to argue with the hungry wolf. On special pleadings and polemists reason is lost. They are only trying to hold their side of the question, right or wrong, straining every nerve to make points in their own favor, but they are intellectually quarantined, and insulated against every spark of truth.

What can you hope from a defense in a forum where the verdict is a foregone conclusion? What could the venerable Eleazar have gained by an appeal to the reason of the tyrant Antiochus? Or Polycarp by pleading with the enraged Proconsul? Or Savonarola by arguing with the mob that took his life? Sometimes the most effective defense is silence, and the faith that always comes out triumphant, ultimately.

While on this subject, we may be permitted to say that the Tribune cannot, seemingly, touch the "Mormon" question, without misrepresenting it, grossly and maliciously. It is, for instance, untrue that the "News" has at any time refused to print the testimony of President Joseph F. Smith before the Senate committee, although this has been said time and again. We printed every word of that report as sent by the Associated Press, and that report gave every material point in the testimony. It was, in fact, a very full account of that part of the proceedings.

Again the Tribune says: "As to liberty. There is absolutely none in the Church, except that which is afforded to the leaders to break the law and deride the pretended word of God. The 'News' is compelled to often, as it enters upon the work willingly, by a rule to pursue its false course in behalf of those who are the masters of its destinies. The rule of the Church demands of every holder of the priesthood that he give unquestioning obedience to his superior priest, and this rule holds all the way through until the Prophet is reached. He is responsible to no man on earth, but all are accountable to him and must bow to his edicts."

Every word of this is absolutely false. There is no church on earth whose members enjoy more liberty. In the Church no one demands unquestioning obedience to anyone else. There is no such rule of the Church. And no one, no matter what his, or her, position may be, is exempt from responsibility to the Church.

The custom of representing the Church as composed of slaves that tremulously obey a tyrant as their master, should strike every reasonable being that reflects a moment, as idiotic and absurd. How could any man in free America hold a church together by tyranny? The leading anti-Mormons are tyrants themselves. They have proved that. They naturally judge others by themselves. But in that they are wrong. There is no coercion in the Church. There are teachers of correct principles, but the members govern themselves. Even obedience is voluntary in the Church of God.

The Tribune has already opened its fall campaign, it seems, Slander, falsehoods, misrepresentations, appeals to the passions and prejudices of men and women, and resort to all the black arts of hell will be its daily program.

Our correspondent correctly characterizes the entire controversy as "the Tribune's fight against Mormonism." It is nothing else.

RETRENCHMENT.

It seems to be a fact that Americans are at last beginning to economize. After several years of wasteful living and over speculation, people are now cutting down their expenditures. An interesting feature of the detailed returns of the country's December foreign trade, which came to hand this week, was the striking curtailment shown in the import of a few "luxuries" compared with a twelvemonth ago. The following table shows the percentage of some of the decreases:

	Per cent.		Per cent.
Diamonds	91	Sugar	50
Jewelry	60	Art works	20
Silks	50	Opium	50
Leather goods	50	Furs and skins	33
Automobiles	45	Hats and bonnets	25
Tobacco, leaf	50	Cheese	23
Tobacco, mf.	10	Spices	40
Wine, etc.	30	Wool	40

It is good to observe that the greatest saving is in the use of diamonds and but little in cheese; but it is surprising to note that curtailment in the use of foreign tobacco amounts to only ten per cent.

Nevertheless it appears that while less of certain articles is being consumed, the selling prices are not yet reduced. Our new convention with France has been somewhat discussed lately. Champagne was that formerly taxed \$5 a case has been charged only \$6 since February 1. "It means," said a wine expert interviewed by the New York Tribune, "a difference to the importer and retailer, but the consumer is willing to pay the old prices." The consumer of luxuries is generally willing. Champagne is a luxury, and perhaps it is best, from the standpoint of temperance, to have it as expensive as possible.

Moreover, it appears that a very determined effort is being made to maintain the recent high level of the prices of the great staple articles of daily use. At the recent conference of iron and steel manufacturers in New York, it was announced that the prices of all iron and steel products in this country should remain unchanged. But it is easier to vote than to carry into effect such a resolution.

It is said that the meetings were hardly over when the long-distance telephone was used in efforts to get business at prices under quotations publicly made. It is likely that the manufacturers, when together, learned

of price cutting, and determined to get a share of the business, if possible. A former manufacturer, who would have no object in misrepresenting things, reports that he knows of orders taken under the market, and that the seller told him about it.

Similarly it is now the view not only of independents, but of Steel Corporation officials as well, that the hope of speedy recuperation hinges on lower prices for commodities.

Some of the older experts in the trade have this week been comparing the decision of the manufacturers with the methods of Andrew Carnegie, under similar circumstances, in 1897 and 1898. This company at once cut prices to get business; and there was a quick recovery in prices, because the buying by important interests usually started a flood of other buyers who seldom secured the favorable terms granted early. Pittsburghers still refer to the cut in steel rails to about \$16 per ton in those days, and the big business that followed in its wake.

It is only a reasonable inference that a fair reduction in finished materials, which would still admit of good profits, would put an end to the uncertainties now existing, and would be conducive to the development of new business.

With the pay of privates in the army increased by Congress, shall we see them riding about in automobiles in the very near future?

That Finland who obtained a bath under false pretenses, despite its attribute of larceny, is worthy of some admiration anyway. The desire to be clean speaks a good deal for anyone.

With bankers over the country east and west and Pinkertons on the trail of even lowly clerks in our own city, the man who works in the streets with a broom may even look about now and then to see if he is being shadowed.

The report of the interstate commerce commission says the railroads are just as nice as they could be about obeying the laws. The district attorneys in behalf of the attorney-general are charging these railroads with all sorts of rebating and divers and sundry violations of the law in such cases made and provided.

Supreme Judge Massey of Nevada appeared before Justice of the Peace Beil in Reno last Saturday, pleaded guilty to beating Attorney J. B. Dixon, and was severely reprimanded by the J. P. and then was fined \$5, which he paid. When the east reads of this its people will surely think our neighbor is entitled to its title, the Sagebrush state.

B. F. Youkum said the other day in Ft. Worth that if he were governor of Texas he could bring 5,000,000 people to the Lone Star State in four years. Nevertheless Texans are likely to retain their present executive for another term if he consents to accept Youkum's vaporings, we believe, had no great moving effect on his audience. Texas is a state where people do things—not where people say what they could do if —.

A BIT OF PHILOSOPHY.

Bluegrass Clipper.

Did you ever consider how much trouble and turmoil in the world is stirred up by loafers? Do it, and you will be surprised. Investigate carefully and you will find that nine of the ten fusties and quarrels that you know in your town or neighborhood were started by loafers who had no business of their own to attend to and so go busy with other people's affairs. The old juvenile proverb that "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," is as true as gospel. There can be no such thing as absolute idleness. Activity of some kind is essential to life. Men and women have to do something and when they have no work of their own to occupy their minds they get busy with the affairs of others and make trouble all day.

ABSURD TACTICS.

Sacramento Bee.

The English woman suffragists are making a campaign that at this distance is far more suggestive of farce or comic opera than of serious purpose to influence parliament or public opinion. What could be more absurd, for example, than the attempt of a devoted band of petticoated suffragists to rush the door of the house of commons, a valiant effort that resulted in the arrest of forty or fifty women on the charge of disorderly conduct? What made the onslaught upon parliament the more ludicrous was that the suffragists were drawn in furniture vans to the scene of their exploit, so as to escape the attention of the police, and their grand charge was made. This maneuver is somewhat suggestive of the Trojan horse and the subtlety of the Greeks. If those valiant women had succeeded in getting into the jealously guarded chamber, what a piece of their minds the lawmakers would have received!

CHANGE YOUR CEREAL.

The Delineator.

As to cereals for a first course, while there are many excellent modern cereals with which every one is familiar, it is well to mention also the old staples: Oatmeal cooked all night in the fireless cooker or on the back of the range; boiled rice and raisins, or corn meal mush and raisins; hominy and sump, and plain but nourishing cracked wheat. To vary the cereal course, once a week have the main dish first, and have the corn meal mush fried and served with syrup after it. Or, have round cakes of boiled rice or farina with scraped maple sugar or with syrup. And once in a while, give the family a treat of waffles or crullers.

OIL AND CHAMPAGNE.

New York Commercial.

It now appears that, unless we had allowed France to send its champagne to this country cheaper, there would have been a prohibitory tax on our oil. Well, what's the odds? The oil men are about the only ones who can afford champagne, anyway.

LINCOLN IN CONTRAST.

Boston Herald.

Gov. Guild explains that in his reference to the demagogues in the Lincoln day proclamation he had in mind agitators of distant lands and times, and only intended a warning against possible dangers of the present day. Were his thoughts wandering as far afield to find the foe for Lincoln, when he described the martyred President as "other man's flesh nor sentimental," and declared that "displaced clasp," he embodied a cause, not a candidacy. He did not fight fire with fire. He faced hot excitement with cool reason and mad vituperation with clear truth."

A SERMONET FOR WORKERS

[For the "News" by H. J. Haggood.]

The technical man is the autocrat of the business world. His genius is the foundation of a large majority of commercial enterprises, and on his advice almost every undertaking depends for success. Even in the financial world bankers and brokers in making investments or in advancing money for new enterprises first seek his endorsement.

The technical man comes closer to the life of every great business man than any other class of worker. This is shown by the fact that an unusually large number of men in responsible executive positions are men with technical training. The presidents of the largest railway systems in America, as well as 60 per cent of the executive higher officials in the steel industry are men with engineering education. In fact, such an education is almost an essential for men who are to direct the policy of any large company.

JUST FOR FUN.

A Matter of Custom.

Two ladies who had not seen each other for years recently met in the street. They recognized each other after a time and their recognition was cordial.

"So delighted to see you again. Why, you are scarcely altered."

"So glad; and how little changed you are. Why, how long is it since we met?"

"About ten years."

"And why have you never been to see me?"

"My dear, just look at the weather we have had."—TIT-BITS.

Her Bright Son.

Neighbor—I hear your eldest son won high honors at the graduating exercises of his school.

"Yes, Lapalis—Yes, George was the valedictorian of his class.—Chicago Tribune.

A Lady's Privilege.

"Don't you ever wish you'd been born a lady, Bill?"

"Well,—"

"Sose y'd pnyted yer face 'stead of washin' it."—Moonshine.

She Understood.

The Widow—The way to interest a man is to talk about what he is most interested in.

"The maid.—But I soon tire of talking about the man I am talking to.—Exchange.

Patience—Lessons are given now, you know, by means of the phonograph. Patrice—Is that the way your sister learned to sing?—Yonkers Statesman.

"I've never had any great luck," declared the pessimist. "Neither have I," admitted the optimist. "Made my money by hard work and advertising."—Louisville Courier Journal.

"How did you like the sermon today?" "Fairly well, but didn't you think the minister struck a rather pessimistic note?" "I hadn't observed it. The choir struck so many that I overlooked the minister's."—Judge.

Dennis—Goin' t' spend th' wake-end at Callahan's are ye? An' phwat do ye call th' wake-end? Perence—Shure, th' Saturday night from th' tolme yez dhray yure pay till th' saloons close.—Judge.

Small Boy—Do your glasses magnify things, granma? Granma—Oh, yes, dear. Small Boy—Then I wish you wouldn't wear them when you help me to jam. I don't get as much as you think.—Punch.

Contractor (coming out of his palatial residence)—Come, boy! No loafing! You ought to have had that snow off half an hour ago. Boy—Oh, I was waiting for it to rain, same as you do when you has a snow-removal contract.—Puck.

"My daughter," said Mrs. Newdow, "is positively delighted with her new piano. She's quite familiar, you know, with all the classical composers." "Familiar," exclaimed Mrs. Penney, "why, she's positively flippant."—Philadelphia Press.

"Bluffer is such a boaster you never know when he's telling the truth. He says he has been presented at court, so you think he is telling the truth." "I think he is." Who do you suppose presented him? "I guess it was the grand jury."—Baltimore American.

SALT THEATRE. GEO. D. PYPER, MANAGER. CURTAIN & CO.

TONIGHT LAST TIME.

Wm. A. Brady's Greatest Success.

WAY DOWN EAST!

Written by Lottie Blair Parker, elaborated by Joseph R. Grier.

PRICES—25c, 50c, 75c, \$1. Boxes, \$1.50.

NEXT ATTRACTION.

Wednesday and Thursday Nights.

Special Matinee Thursday.

PAUL GILMORE IN "THE WHEEL OF LOVE!"

PRICES—Night, 25c to \$1.50; matinee, 25c to \$1.00. Seats, 10c, 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c.

Look out for "Coming Thro' the Rye."

Supheum THEATRE

ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE.

ALL THIS WEEK!!

OLYMPIA DESVAL.

Edwin Stevens & Company.

Muscle & Morris Troupe.

Barry & Halvers, Carroll & Cooke, Kronenman Bros., Kinodrome, Orpheum Orchestra.

Every Evening (except Sunday), 8:15.

25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00. Box seats, \$1.50.

Matinee (except Sunday and Monday), 2:15. 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00. Box seats, \$1.50.

Look out for "Coming Thro' the Rye."

ONE DOLLAR And 25 Cents

buys a good Fountain syringe with our guarantee for one year from date of purchase.

We guarantee it not to leak or get clogged with ordinary use, to not harden or crack or rip open at any of the seams—Think of that—This is an extraordinary offer for the QUALITY of Syringe we are offering this week.

Our PEROXIDE SOAP sale last week was a record breaker. You will do well to investigate this offer.

GODBE - PITTS DRUG CO.

THE OLD RELIABLE DRUGGISTS.

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