

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

OBJECT LESSON IN OGDEN.

Our esteemed cotemporary, the Herald, has the following in relation to the city ticket nominated at Ogden by the Democratic party, or rather, if what the Herald says is true, by a clique within that party:

"It is claimed, and there is little doubt about the truth of the declaration, that the Washakie club controlled the convention, and while the convention was able to select a good ticket under the guidance of the braves, all things considered, the method is not to be commended. It is not a wise plan in politics to blind men by means of secret pledges to support men for political position, come good or ill. The better plan for Democrats to pursue is to fight out in the open, when the choice of candidates is determined by the individual merits and special qualifications of the man to fill the position. If, as is claimed by the Washakies, other groups of men and women were conspiring to control the primaries and convention by unfair means, this is no excuse for their own course.

"With all due respect to the tribe of Washakie we do not hesitate to say that some of the people who are apparent leaders of the war dance do not inspire that confidence which is calculated to arouse the enthusiasm of the voters of a great party like the Democracy. The Democrats of Ogden must remember that they still have a great battle to fight. The ticket is made and with the exception of one man, who is nominated for the council, should have the hearty support of every Democratic voter in the city. With regard to the one exception above referred to, we wish to say that we do not think Mr. George W. Jones, who has been nominated for the council in the Second ward, ought not to be elected as a Democrat. Mr. Jones is a good citizen, a congenial gentleman, full of push and enterprise. He is objectionable, however, for purely political reasons. Two years ago he was nominated and elected a member of the city council as a Democrat, but at a time when he could have been of service to the party he failed to carry out the obligations he assumed as a partisan when he accepted the nomination and election. During the time he was a member of the council the record will prove that he was not faithful to the party to which he claimed to belong at the time of his election, and if we mistake not he has represented this county since his election to the council as a delegate to a Republican State convention.

"Mr. Jones has a perfect right to change his politics just as often as he may wish, but he must not complain if his party fealty is questioned. With all due respect to Mr. Jones as a citizen and resident of Ogden and with the kindest feeling towards him personally, we say he should not be elected a member of the council as a Democrat."

What a sermon on the evils of partisanship in municipal affairs is contained in the foregoing extract! The contest which resulted in a ticket was not fought out "in the open," but from an ambush. Men were bound "by secret pledges to support men for political positions, come good or ill." "The choice of candidates" was not "determined by the individual merits of the man to fill the position." But "other groups of men and women were

conspiring to control the primaries and convention by unfair means," and it was deemed necessary to beat them in the disreputable game.

And so, according to the organ of the Utah Democracy, the Democratic ticket in Ogden was made up pursuant to "secret pledges," and without regard to the "merits of the man," and by a contest not fought "in the open," and in a game of plot and counter plot. Is there a voter in Ogden who doubts the truth of our cotemporary's representations? Its lack of truthfulness consists only in having failed to tell half the truth.

If the cover could be lifted from the seething cauldron of plot and conspiracy, bargain and compact, barter and sale, envy, jealousy and malice out of which was at length evolved a ticket, and if all the voters of Ogden could gaze upon the offensive mass in a light which would fully reveal all of its elements, how many of them would support that ticket at the polls? And yet the chief framers of that ticket used as one of their chief arguments the stale, flat and unprofitable cry of Church interference in politics; and every one of them could confidently be counted upon to denounce the "star chamber" methods of a non-partisan nominating committee!

How many such conventions will be held in Ogden before the voters of that city will be impelled, by self-respect and a sense of decency, to arise in their power, for they are all-powerful, and decree that such methods shall prevail no more? How much longer will the overburdened taxpayers of that city endure to be ruled and robbed by men who achieve power by "secret pledges?" How, in the name of all that is reasonable, can a ticket, nominated and elected by such practices, be expected to result in honest government?

When water can flow higher than its fountain; when an evil tree can bring forth good fruit, then can such methods as the Herald says resulted in the Democratic ticket in Ogden, produce a city government that is not thoroughly venal and corrupt.

This is not said by way of hostility to the Democratic party. The chances are that the Republicans of Ogden will lay themselves wide open to the same condemnation, and that when the voters of the Junction city go to the polls they will merely find themselves permitted to choose between two evils.

Not many years hence, we hope and believe, the voters of Ogden will decide that it is best to rescue the government of their enterprising but politically afflicted city from the grasp of politicians and give business men control of it.

AN IMAGINATIVE CORRESPONDENT.

Some newspapers employ correspondents who are earnest and honest men; earnest in their work of collecting the news, and honest in stating it. Other newspapers sometimes employ as correspondents men whose chief qualifications are unscrupulousness in regard to statements of facts, and liveliness of imagination. The Chicago Times-Herald retains in this city an individual of the latter sort.

Writing to his paper of President Woodruff's address in favor of honest municipal government, delivered at the recent general conference of the Mormon Church in this city, this individual says:

There is great excitement in this city

tonight over the new order—for order it is—since President Woodruff is recognized by Mormons as the mouthpiece of God. It has all the force of a revelation among the devout Latter-day Saints. There is no doubt that it will cause thousands of Mormons in the State to vote only for Mormons in the election.

The Gentile leaders realizing this, are greatly alarmed and are discussing the advisability of reorganizing the old liberal party, which formerly united all the non-Mormons. This party controlled Salt Lake City, Park City and some important mining camps between 1887 and 1893, when it was dissolved on national party lines.

The Supreme Court of the State is composed entirely of non-Mormons and its complexion cannot be changed for three years. The important district court, which controls the capital and rich mining region, also has non-Mormon judges. It is almost certain, therefore, that the Church can be held at bay for a long time in the metropolitan region of the State.

The re-entry of the Church into politics will break all the pledges which were given as a condition of Statehood. President Woodruff and his counselors solemnly promised that no attempt would be made to unite church and state. They have been accused many times of bad faith, but have always denied any intention of influencing Mormons in their political affairs.

The time has been when such an inflammatory dispatch as the above sent from this city and printed in such a paper as the Times-Herald, would have created a sensation all over the country. But this one didn't even make a ripple. Very few of our eastern exchanges have commented upon the subject matter of the dispatch, and some of them have justified President Woodruff's remarks. The fact is, the newspapers throughout the Union understand existing conditions in Utah too well to be seriously deceived by a sensational and untruthful correspondent. Anti-Mormon mare's nests have become a drug in the newspaper market.

PROHIBITION IN LOGAN.

The Republicans of Logan have made prohibition an issue of the municipal campaign by adopting the following plank:

Believing that Logan city's pre-eminent station as an educational center demands that sobriety and morality should be made of first importance, we pledge ourselves to the abolishing of the retail liquor licenses, also the pool and billiard halls.

The absolute prohibition of the sale of intoxicants at both wholesale and retail, is not proposed. While the Republican platform does not distinctly specify where the line shall be drawn, expressions uttered by prominent members of the party favor permitting quantities of not less than one pint to be sold, but forbidding all drinking on the premises where the liquor is dispensed. This with other restrictive measures, would, it is urged, do away with the saloon and the pool and billiard tables.

The Republicans insist that the highest welfare of Logan demands the abolition of the saloon. They cite the facts that it is the site of two of the State's most prominent institutions of learning, the Agricultural college and the Brigham Young college; that hundreds of young men from various parts of Utah and neighboring states are being educated in them; and that it is in the highest degree desirable that these young men, and the youth of the town and its vicinity, should be