

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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Hercules G. Whitney, Business Manager

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 31, 1902.

## THE CITY'S FINANCIAL STATUS.

We publish today the treasurer's report to the Mayor, for the year ending December 31, 1901. Although it is a mass of figures and details, it will be found a very interesting document. The tax-payers will be able to see the exact condition of the city's finances. The income from all sources is given and also the various expenditures. The balance on hand of the several funds are specified, and when the appropriations already arranged for in the disbursement of those amounts are fully understood, it will be readily seen that the city is in actual financial straits.

In our reference to the very excellent message of the Mayor, we made one exception, which was to the item of the financial report that read "cash on hand December 31, 1901, \$223,797.48." We explained that while this was in one sense apparently correct, it would be found on investigation that the amount included money belonging to special funds, that cannot be used except for the specific purposes for which they were obtained and designed. The inference to be drawn from this was, that the city did not have the actual cash named at its disposal for general city purposes.

Now if our readers will take the trouble to look at the balance on hand of the several special funds set forth in the treasurer's report, they will find that the whole of them added together to make up the sum said to be "cash on hand." The fact is, that nearly all of it has been already appropriated, and is not available for the general expenses which must be met from month to month. There is but a small amount actually on hand for the contingent purposes of streets and sidewalks have been already anticipated. This leaves the present City Council in a position in which it will have to confront a serious financial situation. Last year's taxes appear to be almost entirely swallowed up, and with the obligations now resting upon the municipality, it is clear that overdrafts will have to be made in anticipation of the taxes to be levied during the present year.

We present this matter without any desire to cast blame upon past or present city officers. That is not our purpose. We only desire to draw the attention of the taxpayers of this city to actual conditions. There is neither honesty nor good sense in trying to cover up the facts. We ought to know just where we stand, and what the City Council has to meet. We are drifting financially in the wrong direction. Ever since the city plunged into heavy debt, we have been talking about extrication from its bondage. But we are getting no better very fast. Instead of having a real balance on hand, which was the condition when "Liberal" rule took hold of city affairs, we have been compelled to anticipate coming taxes in order to meet necessary expenses. Year by year this has been continued, and now we have to commence earlier than ever to obtain favors from the bank or banks where city money is deposited, unless funds are drawn upon unlawfully, which have been set apart for special purposes.

Some city officials may not approve of this plain statement of the truth. When a disagreeable fact is made plain and cannot be controverted, it is customary with some folks to impugn the motives of the person or paper that presents it to the public. We do not care a pea-shell for any such objection. There is nothing partisan or personal in what we have set forth. It is a matter that ought to be and must be understood, and measures should be taken as soon as practicable, to get out of the depths and place the city on firm financial ground, with power to take an upward tendency, and rid it of the load which it has to carry or it will be permanently crippled and its progress retarded.

We believe, however, that under careful management and wise economy, which does not by any means signify parsimony, our fair city will be at some time not very far distant, relieved from such financial obligations as are injurious to it as a great center of business, and a model of order, intelligence and advanced municipal government. "So mote it be!"

## PLEASE BE DECENT!

The people of Salt Lake City, though somewhat interested in the dispute over the attempted removal of the Chief of Police, care a great deal more about the conduct of public business and the course pursued by officers elected to transact it. There was a recent hope and a distinct expectation in the public mind, that the new City Council would keep out of the disreputable bickerings, personalities and angry exhibitions which disgraced many sittings of that body previous to the last municipal election.

It seems, however, that a similar

spirit agitates the council as that which was so objectionable in times past. It animated the contestants on either side as to the presidency of the council. It flamed out in the discussions over the removal of the Chief. It is not so much partisan as personal. The opponents of the president of the council seem to be deeply chagrined over their defeat. Their anger is manifest in the proceedings of the council as to other matters. This provokes responses in kind from the other side, and the result is a jangle and a wrangle that is very offensive to respectable citizens.

We suggest to the City Councilors that their remarks on any question before the body, or in committee, will have much greater weight, both with their associates and with the public, if they are couched in respectful and impartial language. Taints as to the standing, politics or personal character of an opponent are out of place in such a body. Expressions hurled at one another by men elected to do public business, such as have passed quite recently, are low-lived and unbecomingly.

Why cannot a public question be discussed on its merits, without impugning the motives and attacking the character of those who have dissenting views? It ought to be understood that a city councilor is honest and candid in taking any position he may assume, and if he is mistaken in his views, attempts should be made to convince him of his error, not to blacken his character or drive him into a rage.

The majority of the members of the City Council were elected as members of one political party. It is expected that they will stand on the principles of that party when they are called into question. But there is very little room in the conduct of municipal affairs for the presence of party influences. The welfare of the entire city is to be kept in view, not some petty partisan object. The public do not expect that members will band together on any such petty ground, either in relation to public appointments, the expenditure of funds or the regulation of any kind of public business.

The people of this city are taking notes of the proceedings of their public servants, and will readily detect movements that are made for personal and party interests at the expense of the public welfare. And they already notice with disgust the small squabbles, high temper, and improper expletives in which some of the members indulge. Decent people want that kind of contention stopped, and the council and committee meetings conducted with a due regard to common decency if not to parliamentary decorum.

## A PARAGON.

A friend has sent us the Paragon monthly for February containing an article on Fatal Kisses, from which we take the annexed paragraph:

"A single kiss has been known to cause but one death alone, but many a wife years ago a white woman, a waitress in a restaurant at Granger, near Salt Lake City, permitted a negro to kiss her publicly. Witnesses of the episode were so enraged that they commenced a five days' campaign against all the negroes in the city, who, of course, took the part of their colored comrade. Thirty-six white men were either killed or wounded, to say nothing of eighty negroes, and at the end of that time the waitress astonished everybody by marrying her colored lover. This by no means settled matters, for the negroes thereupon joined forces with the white men, and the newly married couple only just succeeded in escaping from the city with their lives."

We do not think the romance narrated in the foregoing will have any detrimental effect upon persons, of any color, who have the kissing inclination. Kissing and being kissed is a very ancient diversion and bids fair to last till the end of time. We are not sure that it will not be perpetuated in eternity. But that the terrible incident portrayed in the Paragon may not cut any figure in the continuance or discontinuance of the custom, we will state that it is a bit of absurd fiction without any substantial basis. The gory tale, the restaurant at Granger, the miscegenatory osculation and the rest of it, are baseless fabrications, and justify the paper that published them in taking the title of The Paragon; for the biggest number of untruths in the smallest paragraph it surely is unexcelled.

## A GOOD REAPPOINTMENT.

We noticed several days ago an announcement in Wyoming papers that the President had sent to the Senate for confirmation the appointment of Charles Kingston as Register of land office at Evanston. We have looked for a report of the action taken by the Senate but it does not appear to have yet been reached. However, we have no doubt that the appointment will be confirmed, for Mr. Kingston has heretofore filled the office with honor to the government and credit to himself. He is a man of affairs, active and efficient in every position he has been called to fill, and his numerous friends both in Utah and Wyoming will be pleased to learn of his reappointment to the office which he has occupied so ably and satisfactorily. We congratulate him and the people of Wyoming on his appointment to succeed himself.

## NO RICH, NO POOR.

In this country the fact that the rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer, is by many regarded as an evil with which the people at no distant day will have to reckon. The multiplying of millionaires is a phenomenon viewed with alarm by some.

It may therefore not be without interest to hear that there is at least one great country in which there are no millionaires. That country is Japan.

One of the leading papers of the Mikado's empire is quoted to the effect that there are in the country only 41 persons who are worth \$250,000, and none who are richer than that. In other words there is only one quarter-millionaire to every 100,000 population, while in the United States there is one millionaire for every 20,000 population.

And yet Japan is not a poor country. The wealth is more equally distributed. It appears that while there are no millionaires, there are practically no paupers either. There are no fabulously rich.

In Rome the reports that the government of the United States intends to

men and no pitifully poor ones. Misery and suffering are so little known that the people generally are noted for happiness.

The picture drawn by a Japanese journalist may be somewhat roseate, but the facts presented should not be difficult to verify or refute. Of the quarter-millionaires found in Japan, Tokio, the capital, is said to possess one-third, but eight neighboring provinces have scarcely any. The other large cities ranked in proportion to their capitalists are Osaka, Kobe, Nagoya, Kioto and Yokohama.

The wealthy men of Japan are said to be principally noblemen, farmers and merchants, and their fortunes represent the accumulations of several generations. This, too, is contrary to the rule in this country, where great wealth sometimes is amassed in a few years, and very often as a result of the toll of wage-earners.

If civilization were to be measured by the facility with which the few can accumulate the means of living instead of by the happiness of the many in passing through life's pathways, Japan would yet be considered far behind her western mentors and educators. But it is quite possible that the Occident has something to learn from the Orient, as well as vice versa. Even progress may at times come too high, especially if the vehicle is let go at such a speed as to leave the greatest number behind, and to crush all who may not be able to get out of the way of the huge wheels.

## A FRENCH PROBLEM.

The question of the depopulation of France is to be considered in earnest. The French premier, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, in an address to the parliamentary committee appointed to investigate the subject, stated that the statistics for the past fifty years show that there had been too few births and too many deaths in the country. The commission would have to study how to combat the great infant mortality and how to prevent the diminution and increase the number of births.

The premier did not state the facts fully. It is claimed that not only do the statistics show too few births and too many deaths, but an actual diminishing in numbers of native-born Frenchmen. In the year 1900, it seems, the deaths exceeded the births by 25,585 and the population was kept stationary by immigration.

But this is not the only anomalous condition. The financial status of the country is also said to give cause for serious reflection. During the last year, while the entire indebtedness of Europe increased four billion dollars, France's debt increased nearly half of that sum, and now the national debt of the country is \$160 per capita, while in other European countries it is about \$70.

France is a rich country, and there is no fear among its statesmen for the immediate future, but the question suggests itself whether the military and other burdens in time will not become too heavy even for the thirty population of France.

The financial condition of the country may be intimately connected with the status of the population as to increase. Make the burdens of life easier, and there will be more happy marriages. Make life more living, and there will be more to enjoy it. France would benefit, too, by an exchange of blood with other nations. Frenchmen might emigrate in greater numbers to the colonies, and make room for newcomers from the northern neighbors. But that cannot be until the conditions of life are changed in many respects. People are not going to move in great numbers to places where they are taxed almost beyond endurance, and where their necks are to be bent under the military yoke. They leave the Old World, to escape such conditions, and seek homes where personal liberty awaits them. France could profit by her experience. She certainly furnishes an example by which other countries may profit.

Old King Corn is still king of the Chicago corn pit.

Any federal "plum" is better than any California prune.

The Hawaiian gubernatorial situation still remains doubtful.

The new United States marshal may very properly be called a Ben.

The white dove of peace has spread her wings over the Senate once more. May she keep them there.

It begins to look as though Miss Stone would secure her release through death rather than through ransom.

Mr. Carnegie should round out his career as a philanthropist by writing a book on "How to Succeed in Business."

If war were abolished there would never be any necessity for war revenue taxes. But as yet no man can see the dawn of that day.

From the stress laid on the turn of the Brooklyn by Messrs. Lemly and Hanna one might think that the famous loop was an infamous loop.

Professor Pearson can never hope to attain the same notoriety that Professor Briggs did, the market value of horses having fallen very materially.

"We are in the forefront in the application of the sciences," says Captain Hobson. It would be rather difficult for the country to be in behindfront.

Stuart Robinson says that "writing comedy is the most serious business in the world." Serious as it is, it can hardly be so serious as the hangman's duty.

Senator Tillman says that South Carolina has made more history than any other state in the Union. It may be, but all of that history is not of a kind to boast of.

It is small aid and less comfort that the public will get out of Admiral Schley's appeal to the President and the navy department's "comment" thereon. In reality the whole matter amounts to no more than a threshing of old straw.

In Rome the reports that the government of the United States intends to

send an ambassador to the Holy see are revived with increased confidence. Should this be done the administration responsible for it would most likely be east adrift.

An Illinois judge has decided that army officers have a right to raid "blind pigs," located near military camps. And why should they not, seeing that every American citizen holds it to be a constitutional right to raid the stock market?

Admiral Sampson is to be placed on the retired list. He deserves well of his country for he has been a brave and efficient officer, and all will regret the dark cloud that has settled upon his mind in his closing years. It is an affliction to which death is far preferable.

"When you have no case abuse the other side." That is an old rule which the Tribune quotes and which is specially applicable to its own course. We have had to cite it for its consideration many times in years gone by and it will be benefited by its present application. Next time it attempts to misrepresent the Deseret News it will probably accept the advice of Punch to people asking counsel when contemplating marriage: that is "Don't."

The action taken by the Commercial Club on Thursday evening for the purpose of securing the railroad cut-off by way of the south end of Salt Lake, which would place this city on the direct line of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads, will be approved by all our citizens, and we hope it will have the desired result. But we fear its effect on the Ogden Standard will be to give that paper another of its extraordinary convulsions. Let us hope, however, that the sensible people of Ogden will either see to it that a strait jacket is provided or that the contortions of that peculiar paper will have no effect upon the good people of the Junction City.

## CONCERNING MISS STONE.

Springfield Republican.  
Rev. J. F. Clarke, the American board missionary at Samokov, Bulgaria, writes concerning Miss Stone's case in this week's Courier. He offers his encouragement as to her final rescue, without pretending that the affair has been well handled by her would-be rescuers. Clarke offers a little fresh light on the causes of the abduction, or the identity of the abductors. The brigands evidently were Bulgarians, but Mr. Clarke has "no tangible proof" that the act was inspired by the Macedonian committee.

Worcester Spy.  
Some brilliant statistician should mix a table showing how many times Miss Stone and her companion have been put to death, how many times the ransom has been accepted, and how many times it has been refused since her sensational capture.

## SPEAKING OF ADMIRAL SCHLEY.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
We shall hear no more of Schley presidential booms or Dewey presidential booms. The heroes of the two great naval victories of the present generation are secure in their places in popular esteem and no political honors could add to the luster of those triumphs.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
We are not of those who are disposed to place great dependence on any man's disclaimers of ambition. The history of the world is too full of instances of those protesting "I will never consent, consented." Therefore, when the time comes—if it should ever come—we should not expect that Admiral Schley's emphatic denial of any desire or aspiration for any civil office would embarrass his acceptance of any duty his fellow citizens might insist on thrusting upon him.

## PEORIA JOURNAL.

As a gentle hint to those who have been trying to array political prejudice against Schley, it may be stated that neither Sampson, Long, Potts, Chadwick, Lemly or any of the gang have deemed it necessary to state that they will be political candidates. There has not been even the suspicion of a loud call for them.

## CHINESE REFORMS.

Springfield Republican.  
It is cause for national pride that our government has returned to the Chinese government the sum of \$250,000, which was seized in silver bullion at the sack of Tien-tsin by American marines. The act is all the more praiseworthy because it is a confession that American marines joined in the looting of the city. The humiliation, however, is distinctly overbalanced by the moral courage of the act of restitution.

## ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS.

Chinese officialdom doesn't seem to have learned its recent lesson very thoroughly. China has to raise some \$18,000,000 to pay the charges on its recent indemnity. This is about as much again as it used to pay. But instead of adopting the reforms suggested, those responsible for the collection of taxes are making excuses and permitting the provincial governors to continue their old peculations. They are likely to learn that when a pocket is touched something drops heavily.

## SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE.

Any measures of real reform in internal administration will be bitterly opposed, not only by the reigning Manchuk dynasty but by all the mandarin class, which profits by the present corrupt methods. The reformers are being backed up by the intense national reverence for the past of which the worship of ancestors is the most striking manifestation. The stupid resistance of the superstitious masses will probably be found even a more serious obstacle to reform than that supplied by the resistance of the predatory mandarins.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The February number of Young Woodman's Journal opens with a new little story, "The Bidding in of Nance Merrill," by Josephine Spencer. This is followed by a very interesting, illustrated sketch by Alma O. Taylor, "My First Visit to a Japanese Home." "Valley Forge" is the title of a paper read at a meeting of the Utah society, daughters of the Revolution, by Julia F. Merckel Farnsworth. "On the Wings of the Night" is a Christmas tale, by Susan Young Gates. In the present number the second chapter commences "A Slide Trip to Guatemala," by Prof. Walter M. Wolfe, is concluded. "The Grief of Two" is a pathetic little paper by Susan Farnsworth. "The Spoken Convention" is a very funny farce by "Our Provo Girls." "Furnishing the Home," by Leah Dunford Wildrose, is a department in which many valuable hints are found. E. E. Johnson contributes a "Photographic Department." There are a couple of pages of editorials, and "Book of Mormon Lesson" and "Some Things Our Girls Should Know." It is a very interesting number of this useful magazine. Consultation building, Salt Lake City.

## THE CURRENT NUMBER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE.

A quarterly published by the West Virginia Historical and Antiquarian society, contains several illustrated articles of historical interest. Among these are "The Fairfax Stone," and "One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant, the First Battle of the Revolution, Oct. 10, 1774." The magazine is ably edited by W. S. Laidley—Charleston, W. Va.

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## Great January Sale!

Now on at Z. C. M. I. Will continue during the Week Commencing Monday, January 27th. We give a few items from our big list of Great Bargains for the Ladies. Note the lines of goods and come and examine our offerings.

## New Spring Wash Goods

Is of special benefit at this time—new goods ahead of the season. The reduction in figures ranges up to.....

Beautiful Zephyr Gingham, worth 12 1/2c to 15c, go at.....

Lovely Percales, 31 and 34 in wide, worth 12 1/2c to 15c per yard, go at.....

Full line of Calicoes, in light and dark, worth 6 1/2c and 7 1/2c per yard, go at.....

Double Fold Waistings and Flannel-ettes, worth 20c and 25c per yard, go at.....

Other Bargains in Plenty.

## Ladies' Tailor-Made Suits

Our entire stock of these new and fashionable goods goes in this sale at.....

Ladies' High Grade P. D. Corsets.....

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Half Price

1/3 Off.

1/3 Off.

1/3 Off.

1/3 Off.

1/3 Off.

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