DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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Thursday, - January 30, 1896.

THE CITY'S DEBTS.

Now that there is a ray of hope that the conservative citizens of Salt Lake—those who bear the burdens of municipal taxation—will be given heed to in the conduct of city affairs, it is well for them to look the situation squarely in the face, and determine what course will be best to pursue. There has been a great deal said about the present condition of city finances and the impossibility of running another year without greatly increased taxation, except by creating a very large deficit; but we are in a flourishing condition compared to the appalling state into which the next decade will plunge us unless great care and judgment are exercised. To-day the bonded indebtedness of the city is $2,546,000, bearing an interest of $127,000 annually. The past year's administration cost $606,464.81, including interest on bonds, of more than $100,000 in excess of its receipts. The estimates for 1896 show an apparent deficiency of $114,179.31. The first lot of bond calls for a sinking fund reserve of $56,000 per year after 1898, and the whole lot will be on the 10 per cent reserve basis after 1904.

The amount received by the city from property taxation at the present rate is $115,000, or just about what the deficiency for 1896 is estimated to be. To meet the latter and keep even under the proposed economical procedure, will require the property tax to be doubled up on its present figure; and what property holder is ready to welcome that proposition, and keep the ale up from year to year?

Then after three years of this doubled taxation comes the reserve fund operation on the 1888 bonds—$50,000 per annum for their payment; three years later an additional $70,000 on the 1891 bonds; one year more and there is added $54,820 on the 1892 bonds; and two years thereafter $80,000 on the 1894 bonds. Then in less than ten years from now, or by 1905, there must be raised $254,820 annually for the sinking funds on bonds, besides the $127,000 interest, making a total of $381,820 per year to be collected entirely outside of regular municipal expenses.

To meet these obligations on the accumulated basis of the estimate for 1896, which is a hundred thousand dollars below the expenses of 1895, will require an addition of three and a half times the present property tax—this besides the doubling up referred to—so that the property owner will have to pay five and a half times as much as now! that is, if he is paying $10 in city taxes now his assessment by 1905 must add four and a half times that amount, and he must pay $55. Or if, in 1896, the city's expenses are cut another $115,000 below 1895, and are kept at that figure for ten years, the property holder will be paying $45 city tax where he now pays $10 and considers himself heavily burdened.

These figures partly lift the veil from off what we are coming to in Salt Lake City; unfortunately they reveal only the certainties, and all variations therefrom will but make the burden heavier. Within the next ten years, and for a long time thereafter, Salt Lake property owners must pay very dearly for the whistling of the city administrations from 1890 to 1895. Such a condition does not appear encouraging for present or prospective owners of real estate, and will go a very long way toward preventing the investment of capital here in that class of property.

This calculation is based on the contract to fulfil bonded obligations as they become due, by clearing off the debt. There is one way to meet the case, and that is by issuing bonds to pay one lot after another as soon as they become redeemable, and in less than the 20-year limit. But that is merely a prolongation of the bondage of debt, though it is probably the only course to pursue to protect the people from being "taxed out of house and home." The burden can be lightened somewhat by a sweeping reduction in current municipal expenses—a relief which it is hoped the City Council will give at once. The cost of administration should be cut down at least to the point that there shall be no deficit for 1896, and if possible to show a little gain. The people never will be content with mayors or city councilors until the city is placed on the road to a better financial situation.

A POOR CURE.

The new constitution of South Carolina contains a provision which, like many a law elsewhere, is excellent in motive and purpose but is liable to prove hideously defective in practice. The provision in question is that officers in charge of a prisoner who becomes the victim of mob violence—that is, is lynched—shall be tried for misdemeanor and if found guilty shall be removed from office and made ineligible to any position of trust or responsibility unless pardoned by the governor; furthermore, that the county where the lynching occurs shall be made liable for damages to the legal representatives of the victim.

Any legislation calculated to put an end to mob murders or to restrain people from their commission, will be warmly welcomed throughout the civilized world, and that this is the intention of the South Carolina legislature may not be doubted. But the plan proposed is open to very serious objections.

In the first place, every officer who may be in charge of a lynched prisoner is by no means guilty of a misdemeanor or anything else, and ought not to be compelled to stand trial on that grave charge.

Secondly, if he is guilty of connivance in the mob's crime, or can be shown to have omitted any proper precaution to protect his prisoner from its fury, misdemeanor is a gentle term for the enormity of his wrong doing; instead of being merely deberred from holding office, he ought to be imprisoned for life or otherwise punished to the full extent of the law as an accessory to the crime of murder.

In the third place, the payment of damages to the heirs of a lynched person by the county where the crime occurred is unjust in that it visits the penalty—that is, the tax—upon the innocent as well as the guilty; indeed, the perpetrators might every one be a non-resident of the county where the lynching occurred, which would nevertheless have to pay the bill.

Fourthly, the crime of murder is one which by the laws neither of God nor man can be squared off by the payment of money damages. It does not come in the category of Hamlet cases at all. A sensible for damages by the heirs-at-law of a mob's victim would be about as sensibly and dignifying a spectacle as could be thought of; and there might sometimes be room for the horrible suspicion that some of these same heirs had themselves a hand in the lynching by reason of the assurance that out of the tragedy they might be financially profited and helped to "raise the wind."

There may be other phases of this extraordinary anti-lynching provision which are open to criticism, but we pass them by for the present. In the meantime it occurs to us that the best remedy for the crying evil would be to provide for the lynchers a swift, strong dose of their own medicine—chase them down and then hang them like the murderers that they are.

TILLMAN'S SPEECH.

The address of Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, in the upper house of Congress on Wednesday may make very interesting reading for some people, but its style is not such as to do the country any good either at home or abroad. The southern senator has become known as an extremist, and therefore his words will have less effect than if this impression did not prevail. Their utterance, however, will be an encouragement to the class which would remedy existing evils by violent means, and therefore should be avoided by every senator who desires the welfare of the Union. It may be urged that there is much truth in the word pictures he paints. Be that as it may, it is unbecoming in a senator to couple with statements of fact utterances so violent in their nature as to be an inducement to override law and order. The senator may believe there is danger that armies of unemployed men will march toward the national capital "with rifles in their hands," to enforce their demands. But he is not consistent with his position as United States senator in making the declaration of his belief in such form as to encourage the mobocratic spirit rather than to do otherwise; besides, considerable feeling is likely to be aroused through the memory that the state Senator Tillman hails from was a leader in a movement against the national authorities a third of a century ago. This, and other considerations in the interest of a peaceful solution, should teach the fiery southerner that in moments of anger towards certain government officials he should bridle his tongue and refrain from remarks that may invoke serious consequences to the government itself. Such violent speeches in Congress once before were an important factor in bringing the Union to the verge of destruction.

A PERSONAL DEITY.

When the Prophet Joseph Smith, in the early part of the present century, declared the existence of God the Father as a personage of tabernacle, and when this was followed by the preaching of the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the same effect, a great cry went up from professed Christian ministers everywhere. The latter loudly vociferated that the personal God doctrine was an attempt to "dethrone Deity to the level of man;" although the assertion failed to convince those who believed in a personal Deity that His children must not be in some respects like Him, and their form in some measure suggestive of His. Many and warm have been the discussions with Mormon Elders upon this topic, with the result that in all cases the Elder, and in many cases his opponent, felt sure that the victory of light and truth was on the side of God with piety, parts and practice, as tangible as man's.

But, as has been the case with many of the religious ideas first promulgated in this age by the Latter-day Saints, there has been a marked development among man toward recognizing the truth as a principle, whether a Divinity to supplemental thereunder was or was not given. In the case of the personal Deity doctrine, gradually it has found favor among thoughtful investigators, and although there are many religionists who maintain the old heterodoxy, the correct doctrine has augmented steadily the number of its adherents until now, in denominational churches, the ministers preach without question or contradiction the truth their predecessors of a few years ago denounced as preposterous and even blasphemous.

An illustration of this is in the sermon of Rev. W. A. Gardner, in the Westside Christian church in San Francisco on Sunday last. Mr. Gardner's subject was "A Personal God." He confessed that formerly he would not have preached such a sermon, but said: "As I have grown in years and experience I have changed my opinion." Then he proceeded to give some of his reasons for believing in a personal God, and after this he closed by declaring his conviction that "our greatest philosophers and scientists are deeply impressed with the belief in a personal God—Lord Bacon, John Locke, R. A. Proctor, Professor Tyndall and Professor Huxley."

Thus the Gospel light is spreading preparatory of the time when it shall fill the whole earth. In these days the Spirit is being poured out upon mankind to the extent that all who will may have an understanding of the truth. And although wickedness seems also to be increasing among men and leading them to destruction, yet knowledge of truth, too, is growing, that people may have fair opportunity to reject evil, and if they are condemned it will be a just judgment because of refusal to receive the light that is brought to them. The Gospel leaven is working for the victory of righteousness.

WE HAVE received a copy of the Massachusetts Ploughman containing a report of the farmers' meeting referred to in last Saturday's NEWS, and the full text of the essay by Mr. Benjamin F. Ware on the subject of Mormonism in relation to the development of agriculture in Utah. The paper is a review of the history of America as given in the Book of Mormon, of the experiences of the Latter-day Saints, and of their methods and success in agricultural matters in Utah, as well as a general statement of their condition here. A perusal of the whole address confirms the impression received from the synopsis, of its fairness to the people of Utah.

HEROR GOMEZ of Cuba, having failed to stay dead after all that the correspondents have done to kill him off, is now declared by them to be in an advanced stage of galloping consumption. If the tough rebel survives this ailment as well as he has his several newspaper assassinations, the tree may not be planted yet from which the boards for his coffin will be sawed.

THE ARIZONA Gazette suggests to the ministers' Union of El Paso, Texas, which requested prayers to prevent the prize fight in that city, that "prayer without faith is not the kind that removes mountains, and a faith without active works available nothing."

IF ANY other ruler than the sultan of Turkey were in charge of Constantinople, what a place for a real estate and business boom it would be! Chicago, London, even Ogden, has no such dazzling facilities for commercial greatness as the ancient Byzantine capital.

OF ONE of the Salt Lake county members of the Legislature it was duly observed yesterday by a rural representative, "until he opened his mouth you did not know he had put his foot in it."

THERE ARE some days yet before the second of February, but the quality of local weather lately must have kept the ground-hog busy guessing what he is going to do about it.

IT TAKES much compulsion to make some men do things voluntarily.

Electric Bitters.

Electric Bitters is a medicine suited for any season, but perhaps more generally needed in the Spring, when the languid exhausted feeling prevails, when the liver is torpid and sluggish and the need of a tonic and alterative is felt. A proper use of this medicine has often averted long and fatal bilious fevers. No medicine will act more surely in counteracting and freeing the system from the malarial poison. Headache, Indigestion, Constipation, Dizziness yield to Electric Bitters. Only fifty cents a bottle. Z. C. M. I. drug department.

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From a letter written by Rev. J. Gundersman, of Dimondale, Minn., we are permitted to make the extract "I have no hesitation in recommending Dr. King's New Discovery, as the results were almost marvelous in the case of my wife. While I was pastor of the Baptist Church at River Junction she was brought down with Pneumonia accompanying La Grippe. Terrible paroxysms of coughing would last hours with little intermission and it seemed as if she could not survive them. A friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery; it was quick in its work and highly satisfactory in results." Trial bottles free at Z. C. M. I. drug department. Regular size 50c and $1.00.

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An Old Soldier's Recommendation.

In the late war I was under in the First Maryland Volunteers, Company G. During my term of service I contracted chronic diarrhoea. Since then I have used a great amount of medicine, but when I found any that would give me relief it would injure my stomach, until Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was brought to my notice. I used it and will say it is the only remedy that gave me permanent relief and no bad results followed. I take pleasure in recommending this preparation to all of my old comrades, who, while giving their services to their country, contracted this dreadful disease as I did, from eating unwholesome and uncooked food. Yours truly, A. E. Hammond, Helsey, Oregon. For sale by druggists.

Some time ago Mr. Simon Goldhorn of Bear Lake Roy, Cal., was troubled with a lame back and rheumatism. He used Chamberlain's Pain Balm and a prompt cure was effected. He says he has since advised many of his friends to try it and all who have done so have spoken highly of it. It is for sale by druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is famous for its cures of bad colds. It opens the secretions, relieves the lungs and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. If freely used as soon as the cold has been contracted, and before it has become settled in the system, it greatly lessens the severity of the attack and has often cured in a single day what would have been a severe cold. For sale by druggists.

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