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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 30, 1908.

IT IS BONDS.

The bond proposition is said to have carried by a majority of 501 for the water system and 250 for sewers. Those are rather small majorities considering the political combination effected and the extraordinary efforts made by "American" party leaders to secure that money. One reason the majorities are not larger is, we have no doubt, the fact that even many "American" followers among the small property owners have lost confidence in the financial management of the party leaders, and value their pledges just at what they are worth. That was evident to anyone who happened to hear bits of conversation at the polling places on that subject. "American" weather prophets, before the election, boasted that they would carry the day, three to one. To those who had such expectations the result must be rather disappointing.

The opposition to the bond issue was determined and well considered. It was based not on a desire to resist necessary improvements, but on doubt as to the ability of the administration to spend the money as promised. It was founded on a generally known fact thus stated by the Herald:

"The mayor and the chairman of the finance committee, Mr. Ferry, are both pledged to the execution of specific works and the specific application of the bond money to certain purposes, and no other. Both of them have the confidence of the people regardless of a rapacious band of grafters within their own party who would not hesitate to break any promise if it held out hope of personal profit."

An administration that has proved itself not only "confronted" with a rapacious band of grafters, but dominated by it, is not to be trusted with the disbursement of large sums of public money. That was the sum and substance of the opposition.

And this opposition has been productive of good. It has forced the bonders to come out with solemn pledges as to their honest intentions and their integrity. It has forced them to obtain the names of prominent citizens as an endorsement and guarantee of future good behavior. They will stand condemned before this community, whenever they break the promises made. The opposition is worth a great deal to the tax-payers of this city, if the bonds are sold and the money obtained.

TRAMP LABOR.

A recent number of Le Matin, received at this office, contains an interesting article on the tramp evil.

It seems that a French parliamentary commission has just visited Belgium and Holland for the purpose of studying the measures adopted by those two countries for the suppression of vagrancy and begging. In the report of this commission the fact is emphasized that the evils cannot be eradicated without special attention to the young. "If the army of bad men and women is to be destroyed," says the Belgian minister of state, "the recruiting must first of all be stopped by proper attention to children who are abandoned, or criminally inclined."

Belgium and Holland have established their "schools of benevolence," and "reform schools."

The commissioners visited first, the School of Benevolence at Ypres, Belgium, and then the Reform school at Nimwegen, Holland. These institutions they pronounced admirable.

The first of these schools, the commissioners say, has but one fault and that is "the excess of its perfection." The first rule in the countries mentioned, we are told, is that culpable children are never sent to mix with delinquent adults. The child is judged in a council chamber, in private. The child does not have to cross the threshold of the prison. If it cannot be redeemed, under the surveillance of justice, by the parents or those whose duty it is to bring it up, it is taken to the School of Benevolence or Reform school, as the case may be, where it is forced, first of all, to learn a trade and become well equipped to meet life.

The young vagrant is first placed "under observation." Those in charge seek to find out all about his past, and the antecedents of his people and from this they judge of what he probably can do. When he has been under observation for a week, or two, he is registered, according to the best judgment of the superiors, either in the agricultural or horticultural department, or one of the industrial departments. In the agricultural department he can learn everything belonging to work on a farm, or in a garden. In the industrial sections he is taught to work in wood, or iron; he is given an opportunity to become a carpenter, joiner, typographer, tailor, etc. When he is taught a trade he is placed somewhere where he can work. If he has, however badly, or leaves his place without permission, he is again remanded to the school, and subjected to rigorous discipline.

In the treatment of adult vagrants the Belgian authorities have taken a bold initiative. They have considered that the mere fact of begging, when a person is without resources, does not constitute a crime, per se, although it exposes society to a danger against which it has the right to take measures of self-defense. They have

declared the offense of vagrancy and begging a transgression to be dealt with by the police court. No more imprisonment, but "placed at the disposition of the government" for a time long enough to make even the hardest cases reflect. The law fixes the term the judge is authorized to pronounce, from two to seven years, but it can always be abridged by conditional liberation.

The justice of the peace orders the confinement. He is a doctor of law with learning and experience and independent of political intrigues. When a professional vagrant is brought before him he orders him sent to Merselas. There are 3,000 vagrants there, upon a domain 1,400 hectares in extent. Under the direction of a sufficient corps of overseers they are employed, each according to his aptitude. There are masons, cabinet makers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, plumbers, printers, bakers, decorators, etc. Each one works with others of a similar occupation as his, and there is very little transgression of the rules of the institution.

The colony at Merselas has become a veritable city full of activity. It has an uninterrupted succession of construction. All homes are built by the colonists, all the materials extracted from the soil, or manufactured by them. All this is their work; they produce very nearly all they consume. In order not to compete with free labor, the colony of Merselas takes no orders except from the administrations of the state, but this is sufficient and the income regularly exceeds the expenses.

The French commissioners also visited a colony of vagrants in Holland. For miles they traveled through uncultivated territory, without a house, without a tree; then, all of a sudden, they came upon a large fertile plain, admirably cultivated. It was all the work of vagrants. It was a remarkable proof of what can be done when idle persons are set to work.

The tramp question is one of interest to this country. In the report of the French commissioners, as reproduced in Le Matin, there should be some valuable suggestions.

PLATFORM OR PRESIDENT.

The extent to which a vigorous President may emancipate himself and his party from the platform upon which he was nominated is signally illustrated in the case of President Roosevelt. His policies were in some particulars different from some of those advocated in the platform; yet he won the hearty applause of perhaps a majority of both of the great political parties by taking an independent view of some great questions before the public.

Mr. Taft seems to be proceeding in the same direction. He is writing his own platform. Some planks that the convention voted down he endorses. Among these is the question of making public the campaign contributions. The Chicago convention, as will be remembered, voted against the proposition, but Mr. Taft comes out in its favor.

On the question of the advisability of a federal income tax, Mr. Taft personally almost goes beyond the Democratic position. He says he is in favor of such a tax in case the present systems of raising revenue shall not be found adequate to meet the needs of the government, and expresses the belief that a constitutional amendment is not necessary to the validity of a law that might be drawn up for that purpose.

In some other respects, the candidate offers to supplement or to vary from the platform. It is probable that the opinions of the candidates will receive as much weight in the minds of the voters as do the party platforms themselves. If, under our form of checks and balances in government the President could carry out his policies the voters would have a simpler task in deciding than now confronts them. However, neither Mr. Taft nor Mr. Bryan, whichever is elected, can hope to do more than to influence legislation, and to contribute somewhat to its scope and tendency. The voters, therefore, have the difficult task of estimating the whole situation—the worth of party platforms, the significance of the views of candidates, the conditions of the country, the opinions of Congressmen, etc.—and of voting in view of all these complex and shifting conditions.

FREEDOM IN TURKEY.

The dispatches say there is great rejoicing in Turkey because the Sultan has called a parliament. It certainly is a great victory for the progressives in that country. And if the "Young Turks" take a conservative course and do not try to force reforms for which the country in the nature of things cannot yet be prepared, their work will be productive of good results. Constitutional government with the Koran as basis of legislative and judicial acts will, we fancy, be a difficult proposition.

Turkish sultans seem to have been in the habit of appealing to the people, through liberal reforms, whenever they have faced a dangerous crisis. Thus, Abd-ul-Mejid was prevailed upon by Reshid Pasha to issue an edict providing for liberal reforms—among others, a regular method of collecting taxes. The minister, however, came driven from the palace. Little came of the promised reforms. Again, in 1876, when the Balkans were in revolt and war with Russia was certain, Abdull Hamid, who had succeeded his brother Murad V in the same year, promulgated a constitution for the empire. The first Turkish parliament met in March, 1877. It put forward demands which the throne would not grant, entered into conflict with the ministers, asserted its own supremacy in the state, and got itself dissolved after a session of eleven months. It is to be hoped that the present forward movement may not again be checked.

We are certainly living in an age of great events. Russia, humiliated by an Asiatic power, assembles a Duma and gives to the people a measure of representation. China studies constitutional governments with a view to the adoption of a constitution. Persia adopts a constitution. India is hoping for self-rule. How wonderfully swift the march of progress has been lately. It is like the rays of light from another world falling upon our planet

and tracing a path around it in a day. The "little stone" of liberty is growing into a mountain and filling the earth.

Great events are passing. Greater still are coming. For all these changes in governments and the necessary readjustment of the relations of nations to one another are but preparations for the unification of mankind under the reign of the King of kings.

"Figures" don't lie. They repose.

Mr. Bryan's strength does not lie where Samson's did.

Everything, except wages, is having a high old time these days.

Camping out isn't so much of a strenuous as an in tents life.

In the Independence party the path of glory leads but to the Graves.

Mr. Hearst's party will retain its Independence if not its self respect.

Kansas finds it hard to turn her spellbinders into binders of wheat.

Artist Reuter's pictures of the navy are impressionist rather than real.

The man with a full dinner pail owes more to his wife than to any party.

The steam roller of Mayor Busse of Chicago is said to be a regular omnibus.

It is the candidate who carries the most states that feels his load is the lightest.

An actress will keep herself in evidence even if she has to be a principal or witness in a divorce case.

A "struggling" writer is one who can't find just the right word when describing a wrestling match.

The tears that the Sultan shed when he promulgated the constitution were extra large crocodile tears, no doubt.

When a politician from one party goes over to the other it instantly makes him "prominent and influential."

A morning contemporary says that Mr. Ben B. Heywood is not a gubernatorial candidate. Still he might have Ben.

When Mr. Wu Ting Fang has lived a couple of centuries let him tell how he did it. Not until then will he be an authority on longevity.

While "coming events cast their shadow before them," it is hard to tell from looking at the shadow which particular event is coming.

Evidently Mr. George J. Gould does not consider Mr. E. H. Harriman an undesirable railway official, no matter what he may be as a citizen.

The people having voted the bonds may the money resulting from their sale be economically used for the greatest good of the greatest number!

"There are water melons and water melons," says a Georgia paper. There are also mush melons and mush melons, and cantaloupes and cantaloupes.

"Mrs. Francis Dewey Park, author of 'How to Keep a Husband,' is suing for a divorce," says an exchange. Perhaps she got tired of keeping him on the royalties from her book.

HUMAN SACRIFICE IN HAYTI.

August Metropolitan Magazine. There is some evidence to show that human beings have been offered as sacrifices to the god of the serpent in the United States. It is probable that such instances have been recorded. There is ample proof of like horrors in Hayti. A French bishop of the island describes a visit made by one of the priests to a voodoo assembly. The man had disguised himself as a negro, and he was thus able to mingle undetected with the crowd in the obscurity outside the sacred circle. After the white cock and white goat had been slain and offered up, and their blood had been sprinkled on the company, a burly young negro came forward and prostrated himself before the priest. Then, still kneeling, he made his prayer:

"O mannan, I have a favor to ask of thee."

"What is it, my son?" said the negress, encouragingly.

"Wilt thou not give us, to complete the sacrifice, the goat without horns?" The priestess gave a sign of assent. The crowd roared about separated, and there was revealed a child, sitting with its feet bound. The French priest rushed away in search of assistance in preventing the unholy rite, but the authorities on whom he called were strangely slothful. When, on the day following, they arrived at the place of assembly, they found the gruesome remains of a sacrifice and a feast, among them the boiled skull of the child.

PROPINQUITY IN MARRIAGE.

Woman's Life.

There are so many attractive and amiable women that, unless a man is brought into constant contact with a bright particular one, and her individuality impresses itself upon him, he seldom wakes up to the desirability of marriage. On the other hand, when there are many desirable women easily within reach, he does not trouble to search out the one woman in the world, and so, through an unkind fate, many women who, from their charming qualities are cut out for wives and mothers, have witholden from them one of their sweetest privileges, that of being sought in marriage by the partner who really should be theirs. Again, late marriages are constantly being accounted for by the argument that the modern woman has grown beyond matrimony, and that life has so many other interests for her. True as this may be from some points of view, yet many feel in their hearts there is something sadly lacking in their lives unless they know the happiness of love and marriage.

MAKING NIGHT LESS HIDEOUS.

New York World.

New York has at last made the amazing discovery that many of the noises which disturb its days and nights are not only unnecessary but illegal. More than 100,000 people have found that they can be stopped and are actually beginning to take the trouble to stop them with the assistance of the police and the courts. Certain owners of amusement resorts at Port George, for instance, are pained to receive warning to close at midnight, which is a very effective way of suppressing their machine-made discord.

The perambulating hand-organ man has had his day in court and been instructed that there are hours of the night when his crank-handled music becomes an unnecessary noise. Peddlers who blow horns, street vendors who angle bells, gangs of street rowdies who make night hideous, are beginning to learn the road to the police station. Even the street-car companies are in line for discipline. They are among the very worst offenders, with their broken-down cars and rattle-trap running gear. If they can be taught reason, truly paradise may yet be attained. The wonder of it all is that New York should have tolerated this bedlam of noise nuisances so long and that the public should have been so slow in insisting upon its right to be protected in the enjoyment of at least a few hours' quiet.

JUST FOR FUN.

No Extremes.
"How about him? Is he straight?"
"Yes, he's straight; but he doesn't bend over backwards."—Kansas City Journal.

Healthy Exercise.
Faddist Visitor—Are you allowed in this prison any exercise beneficial for your health?
Convict—Oh, yes, ma'am. By advice of my counsel, I have been skipping the rope.—Baltimore American.

An Old Custom.
The smaller man bristled up.
"See here," he growled, "you have applied too unpleasant terms to me." Then he paused and scowled and came a little closer. "I just want you to understand that a third term doesn't go in this country."
Whereupon the big man drew back a little and said no more.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Howdy! Good-By!
"Money talks."
"Yes, but it goes past me so fast that I cannot catch what it says."—Houston Post.

Unreasonable.
"Are women unreasonable?"
"Well, in view of the fact that my wife is blaming me for the hot weather, I should say that they are slightly unreasonable."—Detroit Free Press.

Chicken Time.
"Ah gottuh git a chicken foh mah breakfast."
"It's nearly midnight, Mose; aren't all the stores closed?"
"Yaasah. Ah spec so; did yo'all wantuh buy sumfin?"—Houston Post.

Surely Not.
"A man lives and learns," remarked the husband with some bitterness.
"Well, the school of experience doesn't bar co-eds," retorted his wife.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Unkind.
"John," said Mrs. Spenders, "I have lots of things I want to talk to you about."
"Glad to hear it," snapped her husband; "usually you want to talk to me about lots of things that you haven't."—Cleveland Leader.

Dusty's Kick.
"These automobiles are a nuisance," growled Dusty Dennis, as he frowned at a passing touring car.
"What's the matter, pard?" asked Gritty George. "One of them run you down?"
"No, but last night dey put me in a cell wid a chauffeur, and I couldn't sleep for de smell of gasoline."—Chicago News.

Merely a Second.
"What brought you here, my poor fellow?" the Chicago settlement worker asked.

"I married a new woman, sir," the pauper groaned.
"Aha, and she was so domineering and extravagant that it drove you to desperate courses, eh?"
"No," the old woman turned up.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Case for an Expert.
"Have you made my will just as I told you?" asked the sick man, who was the possessor of many needy relatives and some well-to-do but grasping ones.

"I have," asserted the lawyer.

"Just as strong and tight as you can make it," asked the client.

The lawyer nodded.

"All right," said the sick man. "Now I want to ask you one thing—not professionally—who do you think stands the best chance of getting the property when I am gone?"—Pick-Me-Up.

"Doctor, I fear that I have kleptomaniac." "Do, eh? Well time will cure that."

"How much time?"

"If the magistrate were to consult me, I'd say about 60 days."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Gracious!" exclaimed the kind old lady to the beggar, "are they the best shoes you've got?" "Why, lady, I replied the candid beggar, "could yer imagine better ones fur dis bizness? Every one o' dem holes means nickels an' dimes to me."—Philadelphia Press.

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