

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Herbert G. Whitney—Business Manager.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 25, 1909.

YES, LET REASON RULE.

The Sunday Times, in its issue of Nov. 21, continues the discussion of the proposition to get together for the purpose of settling local political difficulties. "Would it not," the Times asks, "be a blessing to every man, woman, and child in Utah if in this crisis some other could come forward and accomplish in the political world what Fisher Harris accomplished in business and industrial circles?"

It would. And that is best proved by the experience of business men themselves. They know that although this city has industrial advantages, yet the policy pursued by anti-Mormon agitators and centralized first in the so-called Liberal, and then in the alleged American party, has retarded its growth. They know that but for that suicidal agitation Salt Lake today would have been at least the size of Denver, if not Los Angeles.

This fact was again brought home to the people here, when Mr. Edwards, vice president of a large business concern, according to a published report, made the statement that the reports of Salt Lake received in the East had been adverse to the city and State and that in the reports that had been circulated by the enemies of the State there was nothing to encourage investment of eastern capital here. "When I stopped in Salt Lake," he continued, "I saw that these impressions were all wrong. Salt Lake impressed me as one of the coming cities of the country and an excellent field for business investment and we decided immediately to enter this field."

That is but one instance of many, of which business men are aware. The concern in which Mr. Wise is interested did not think of investing here on a large scale, owing to the vile and slanderous tales circulated by enemies, until chance brought about a personal investigation and it was found that the rumors were false. But how many investors have passed us by, on account of those malicious slanders? How many good home-seekers have refused even to come here and see for themselves? And, on the other hand, how many bad characters have been attracted by the supposed prospect of loot under a veritable Tammany regime?

It would certainly be a benefit to every man, woman, and child in Utah, if anti-Mormonism were forever removed from the domain over which the American flag waves, and normal political conditions were restored.

The Times suggests a conference between the representatives of the Church, the Republican, the Democratic and the American party. Would it not be better to leave the Church entirely out, since the Church is not a political factor, and claims no political influence, except that which its members can lawfully exercise as individuals and American citizens? Leaders of the parties mentioned could settle the trouble at once, if they were willing to do so. But perhaps it would be just as well for leading business men to take the initiative. They are vitally interested in the healthy growth of the city, and they have it in their power to bid the wind and the waves be still.

MR. HILL'S PESSIMISM.

Is James J. Hill a pessimist? Or do coming events so "cast their shadows before" that several of the great minds of the nation are enveloped in a gloom that is actually due to a coming reality?

We hope, of course, that the "Yes" which must be answered to one or the other of these queries will be found to apply to the first rather than the second, and that no national calamity is impending as a result of high prices and general extravagance.

As noted in these columns on Monday, Nov. 22, Mr. Hill has had an interview with President Taft, in which he gave out the foreboding thought that the country may probably be facing a national decline on account of the high cost of living, national extravagance, etc. He said:

"We must economize, economize. Economize both individuals and as a government. We are spending too much money. We are too extravagant. We are living beyond our means. The cost of living is way up beyond all reason."

What is the basis in fact of Mr. Hill's pessimism? The question is important because we have here the gloom of a man who is not only one of the most successful and naturally optimistic of the railroad "kings" of the world, but is himself a veritable "builder of empires." The fears of such a man must have some foundation.

As to the high prices of commodities, there can be no question of the fact that there has been an average rise of 50 per cent in the price of goods of daily consumption. This is a tremendous figure for the average rise in thirteen years of the necessities of life. Real life in many cases rises in even greater ratio. Wages have generally risen not nearly so much. Perhaps this year's census will show how the workingman now shares in the division of his product, but already in 1909 the wage fund in manufacturing was shown to be growing only half as fast as capital and only one-third as fast as miscellaneous expenses. In 1909 the workingman, clerk or professional toiler could buy

more food, shelter, clothing and other necessities and comforts at any time since the Civil war. Today the man of moderate means can buy less with his income than in 1894. In his case, economic progress has simply turned backward, and he is deeply dissatisfied. No doubt he would wreak political vengeance upon whatever or whoever is responsible, but the cause seems difficult to locate.

The London Statist points out that in 1909 we sent abroad, on balance, merchandise exports of \$245,000,000, and silver and gold worth \$125,000,000. In nine months of 1909 the balance exports of merchandise and of bullion were \$200,000,000 and \$100,000,000 respectively. It is reckoned that this country must send abroad nearly \$600,000,000 a year as interest on debts and dividends, for tourist expenses and in immigrants' remittances. So there was a shortage last year of about \$225,000,000 and of \$130,000,000 in nine months this year. By fresh borrowing the interest payment has thus increased in two years by some \$24,000,000.

Our great exports were in 1907-8: Cotton, \$453,000,000; breadstuffs, \$198,000,000; most and dairy products, \$190,000,000; steel products, \$184,000,000; oils and oil-cake, \$145,000,000. Of gold and silver we sold \$125,000,000. "A desperate set of numbers are trying their best to ruin the cotton trade and to compel Britain and Germany to develop colonial cotton," says a high authority. Wheat and meat are sent to home while our manufactures are not increasing in foreign sales so much as formerly. The American consul at Birmingham, England, in a report just published, notes that American shoes have failed to meet expectations about capturing much of the British trade, and their sale in England is either stationary or declining. "Chiefly because our manufacturers cannot secure good or long-lived leather for soles, the English makers are now turning the tables on them."

The New York Times has estimated that to pay interest upon the duties of six American women, \$9,000,000 pounds of cotton must cross the sea this year. To pay the rentals of one absentee landlord of New York will take 5,000,000 bushels of wheat. Tourists and health-seekers' trips help the country by promoting trade abroad and bringing back information; but when to the growth of extravagance and to the waste of an artificially heightened cost of living is added the burden of supporting "American colonies" in European capitals, the balance of trade is affected with no corresponding advantage.

In the last four years Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines cost us \$298,000,000 in trade balances. In the first eight months of 1909 the adverse balance was \$88,000,000. Cuba is negotiating a more favorable trade treaty with Spain. High tariffs and the lack of steamship lines hamper us in trade with Latin America. Farm produce we cannot move longer export, unless we do better farming; and both France and Germany are expected to meet the Payne bill with reprisals.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean thinks that it is really a good thing for a country to have a few intelligent and authoritative pessimists on hand; not an undue proportion of them, but just enough to lighten the lump of thoughtlessness, recklessness and humbugginess which prosperity generates.

"The optimistic inflations of commercial credit are beautiful while they last," says that paper; "but just below the top of the wave is often the yawning gulf into which the crest is sure to sink." It adds:

"The pledging of government credit to all sorts of expensive schemes, the squandering of public funds as if they came from some fountain that could never be lowered or run dry, is a delightful diversion in which all find excitement and many profit. But the end thereof is most unpleasant."

It is evident that the great problem of "paying the bills" is now before the nation. Up to Oct. 1 we sent abroad this year 27,768,301 bushels of wheat, against 68,128,355 last year; of flour 6,288,253 barrels, against 3,753,347. In breadstuffs exports the five-year period is 40 per cent behind the previous half decade.

The usual course of commerce is for the exports to pay for the imports—for goods to be exchanged for goods. When this natural balance between exports and imports is thrown out of operation, financial crises may occur from the efforts at liquidation by means of bonds and securities, and the money metals. But since the supply of these commodities cannot be increased at will like manufactures and farm products, any sudden and great demand for them from abroad may result in financial stringency at home.

THANKFUL IN RHYME.

Wall Mason, in the American Magazine gives vent to the following, under the caption, "A Crank's Thanksgiving." But, like so much else emanating from that class, there is a great deal of sound philosophy in it. It is worth while copying:

"Like others, I'm grateful for plenty to eat; For pies in the cupboard and roast in the bin, for fires that are kindled and stoves that spin; for all of my treasures, for all that I earn, for comforts and pleasures, my thanks I return. I'm glad that the nation is great and rich, accounting high station with many a hitch; her barns are bursting with mountains of grain; her people are thirsting for glory and gain. She'll never backward linger, this land of our backs, for she is a dinger at mauling the snake. I'm glad that our vessels bring cargoes across, while counting-rooms wrestle with profit and loss, that men know the liberties of figures and dates, and tariffs and duties, and railway rebates."

"I'm glad there are dreamers not in industry-drunk, surrounded by schemers whose greed is the plank, I'm glad we're remaining incompetent jays, not always a-straining, in four hundred ways, to run down and collar one big trouble more, to add to the dollar they called just before. I'm glad there are writers more proud of their accretes than board of trade fighters of options and dead. I'm glad there are preachers who tell of a shore where wealth-seekers people need schemes never more."

"For books that were written by masters of thought for harps that were stricken with the hammer of truth, for verses painted by monarchs of art; for all things untamed by tricks of the mart, for hearts that are kindly, with

virtue and peace, and not seeking blindly a goal to increase; for those who are grieving over life's sad and plan; for souls still believing in heaven and joy; for homes that are lovely with love at the board; for things that are holy, I thank thee, O Lord!"

One advantage of the tariff is a drawback.

The easiest way to even things up is always to be on the level.

Some people cannot hear the voice of conscience with a microphone.

There is a remedy for every ill. The trouble is to get them together.

Golfers are to the present administration what rough riders were to the last.

People who express their true sentiments on every subject are usually called kickers.

What a difference between the pure food show and the show of foods of some hucksters.

He who says he is an angel generally thinks himself just a little below them yet far above his fellow man.

Collector Loeb now lops off official heads with the greatest ease and grace. Much practice makes a man perfect.

All have reason for rendering thanks that the price of the necessities of life has not been raised in the last twenty-four hours.

And if the University of Copenhagen O. K.'s Dr. Cook's records, will the National Geographic society acquiesce or protest?

A watch tower for the discovery of fires in Chicago skyscrapers has been suggested. If erected, doubtless it will have seven watchers upon it.

In this Nicaragua business the administration is proceeding on Davy Crockett's theory: "Be sure you're right, then go ahead." A safe and sane theory in all things.

A man will make more allowance for

his own weaknesses than for all the world's. And he will also, as a rule, make himself a greater weekly allowance than he will his wife.

Commander Peary announced that he will not go on the lecture platform. Perhaps this is a wise decision as the platform might prove as barren as the rich man's table was to Lazarus.

Chicago paid thirty cents a pound for its Thanksgiving turkey, dressed. For its Thanksgiving turkey not drawn Salt Lake paid the same price. But here we have an expensive "American" administration to keep; and that not for benevolent purposes, either.

"I am glad to greet you as the only man who reached the north pole," said Walter Wellman when he first met Commander Peary. Wellman is a great authority on who didn't reach the pole.

Among American universities North-western university enjoys the unique distinction of making money. If it will impart the secret of its success to other institutions of learning they will be glad to confer all sorts of honorary degrees upon it.

There is gloom among the rear admirals of the navy because the first international rumple in which the United States has figured in years, is with Nicaragua, a country entirely too weak to permit them to fight with dignity and self-respect. Let the gloom be dispelled and the rear admirals cheer up. They can challenge the winner of the Jeffries-Johnson bout.

Rumor has it that a bill drafted by Congressman W. B. Wilson and providing for old-age pensions, will be introduced in Congress at the coming session. This measure, it is said, provides that persons who have passed the age of sixty-five years, who do not own property worth more than \$1,000, and whose annual income does not exceed \$200, shall receive from the government \$120 a year, payable in quarterly installments. Will Congress consider such a bill? Or will it refer it to the various state legislatures?

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NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

THE BRITISH CABINET LADIES WHO BEFRIENDED AMERICA.

By E. J. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events of the past and present, has been collected by Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil War. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards's memory, and either in whole or in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, gathered from the men who made the new history—or from equally authoritative sources. As the series continues, it will be a most valuable addition to American history; these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

One of the many things, both past and present, that this country has to be deeply thankful for this day is that a little group of women whose husbands were in the British cabinet at the time the north's seizure of Mason and Sillid during the Civil War, deliberately revealed to President Lincoln's personal representative in Europe, Thurston Wood, a state secret, in order that all possibility of war between this country and Great Britain might be averted.

If you have read Mr. Wood's autobiography, you doubtless remember that in the chapter in which he deals with the Mason and Sillid affair, he states that Lady Russell, whose husband was Great Britain's foreign secretary, surreptitiously gave him to understand that Queen Victoria was our friend, thereby assuring him, by indirect means, that he need have no fear of war with England. Mr. Wood does not say how Lady Russell knew this; he says it was assumed that her husband told her. The story of how she really did come in possession of this information was told to me shortly after the death of Queen Victoria by Frederick W. Seward, our assistant secretary of state during the Civil war.

"The day before Lady Russell spoke to Mr. Wood," said Mr. Seward, "a number of the British cabinet ladies, including Lady Russell, met at Lady Palmerston's house, to take luncheon. At all events, they were present when the prime minister himself came abruptly into the room. The ladies saw at once that he was greatly irritated about something. He carried his dispatch book, which showed he had been with the queen. He threw it half angrily upon the table, and after giving the ladies a greeting that was almost curt, he stalked out of the room."

"Something must have gone wrong at the cabinet meeting," Lady Palmerston announced to her guests. Then she beheld the dispatch book still lying on the table. "Look," she said, "he has left this behind. Perhaps, if we peek into it, we shall find out what the trouble is."

"She opened the book and discovered there the draft of the letter which the cabinet had prepared for Lord Lyons, the British minister at Washington, to present to the government as Great Britain's demand for the release of Mason and Sillid. It was a very drastic

and peremptory note. Sent in that form, it would have occasioned serious friction and, very likely, war.

"Lady Palmerston glanced hastily through the note," she exclaimed, "I see the cause of the trouble. Here are inter-l