

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 14, 1909.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

For years it has been the custom in the wards throughout the Stakes of Zion to commemorate the birthday of the Prophet Joseph, by special services, on the Sunday nearest the date of that anniversary. In accordance with this practice we suggest that Sunday, Dec. 26, this year, be devoted to the memory of the great Prophet of this dispensation, and that appropriate services be held in the Sunday schools, ward houses and other places where the religious services of the Church are held, on that day.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.
Salt Lake City, Dec. 11, 1909.

RESULTS OF PROHIBITION.

The detailed report of the Internal Revenue department for the month of October shows an increase in the internal revenue receipts from spirits, for the first four months of the present fiscal year, as compared with the year ending on the last of June, this year, but the income from special taxes paid by rectifiers, wholesale and retail liquor dealers, brewers, wholesale dealers in malt liquors, and retail beer sellers, all show a significant drop from the similar figures of last year.

According to the Internal Revenue report, up to November 1, 1909, there were 11,273 fewer retail liquor dealers in the United States, paying a "federal license" than for the first third of the fiscal year 1909. At the same time there were 1,431 fewer retail dealers in malt liquors exclusively. In other words, there were no less than 12,704 less saloonkeepers holding federal tax receipts than last year during the same period.

At the same time, there was a drop of 650 in the number of wholesale dealers in malt and other liquors, 579 of which were dealers in beer exclusively. The same report shows that during the first four months of the present fiscal year from seventy-five to one hundred distillers have gone out of business, and over one hundred brewers, making a total of more than 12,500 liquor sellers and makers who have dropped from the ranks of the liquor trade during the past twelve months.

As regards beer, the month of October showed an actual decrease in receipts from the "barrel tax" of brewers' product withdrawn for consumption, of \$194,869, or in other words, nearly two hundred thousand barrels of beer less during the month of October, 1909.

There is little doubt that these results are to be credited to the prohibition movement. Prohibition does prohibit, except when the officials are in league with the dealers and refuse to prosecute the violators of law. But sometimes public officials fail to do their duty. They are a failure. And when the public fails to make them do it there is a double failure.

SCUTTLE FISH TACTICS.

An inexcusable personal assault of the "American" morning paper upon Elder B. F. Grant was based on a review in the "News" of some remarks made by Elder Grant at a meeting in the Pioneer stake hall concerning conditions in this city.

From beginning to end the Tribune editorial contained nothing in the way of denial or excuse, but was devoted to personal slurs and insinuations against Mr. Grant. Just what it expected to prove or hide is not clear to the casual reader, but the points at issue were studiously ignored, as is customary in that sheet.

We happen to know that Mr. Grant is not only a sincere reformer but a broad gauge worker who is ever willing to make personal sacrifices for the public good and to give unreserved credit to all who are working to the same end, whether they are of his religious or political faith or not.

In public addresses delivered by him in Utah and Idaho since he united with the Church some twelve years ago he has frequently referred to the fact that he ran a saloon at Millard thirty years ago, and that his experience has enabled him to understand the evils which surround such business far better than could any information obtained from hearsay.

He has been so openly and unreservedly frank in his treatment of these matters that there was no call for the Tribune's attack and certainly no excuse for its willful misrepresentations. Elder Grant's reply to the morning paper apparently left nothing for the champion of the city administration to stand upon. After a spiritless attempt to justify its conduct and a proffer to open its files for his personal, the Tribune, returns "like a dog to his vomit," and shifts the fight to the Church of which Elder Grant is a member, but it has no word of condemnation or censure of the deplorable conditions well known to exist here in Salt Lake City. The Tribune as the organ of the party in power, by failing to urge the officials to perform their sworn duty to enforce the laws, reveals its true sympathies.

If our morning contemporary could not abuse one who is interested in

municipal reform, or attack the Church of which the reformer is a member, what excuse could it assign for refusing to discuss issues of importance to the taxpayer?

Isn't it about time for the Salt Lake public to stop these scuttling tactics of muddling the water so that graft and incompetency may be concealed from view?

BIG LAND OWNERS.

Owners of large estates in England are as adverse to paying their share of the government expenses, as they are in other countries. They prefer a system of taxation whereby the wage earners are made to pay, out of their scanty wages, just as much as the property owners, out of their princely incomes. Western nations generally are horrified at the Oriental system under which tax-districts were auctioned off to the highest bidder, and then sublet, the last purchaser being permitted to invade the district and lay hold of whatever property he happened to find in the possession of the poor classes. But some western countries are not very far from a similar system, and it suits the large land-owners very well.

The House of Commons has proposed to make the land-owners pay their share of the government expenses. The budget subjects land to, first, a 20 per cent. tax on unearned increment; second, a tax of two-tenths of 1 per cent on the value of undeveloped land and on mining royalties, and third, a ten per cent. duty on benefits accruing to the owners of leased land at the termination of the lease. To these features the House of Lords object, and their objection is as natural as selfishness. It appears that the British peers own, in the aggregate not less than 16,411,986 acres, or one-fifth of the total area of the United Kingdom. The Lords whose votes defeated the budget own 10,078,879 acres. In the matter of individual holdings the average dual domain is 142,564. Marquises own an average of 47,609 acres, earls 30,217, viscounts 15,324 and barons 14,152. Seven titled landholders derive an annual income of above \$70,000,000 from their property holdings in London. The Duke of Westminster receives \$15,000,000 a year from this source. Lord Howard de Walden half a million less, the Duke of Bedford \$11,500,000 and the Duke of Norfolk \$7,500,000.

There is no good reason why the land of these nobles should not be made to bear as great a part of the government expenses, as it would do if it were distributed among and owned by tillers of small farms, or owners of small homes.

WHAT WE CONSUME.

Someone has taken the trouble of making calculations to give the public an idea of the enormous quantities of sugar, coffee, and tobacco consumed yearly in the United States. They tell us that in 1908 we got away with 6,941,450,839 pounds of sugar, and then they add if this were piled up in a pyramid, we would have a structure large enough to bury the great pyramid of Egypt 250 feet deep.

The great pyramid is an immense building. Originally it must have been very nearly 500 feet high. It is a veritable mountain. According to Herodotus 100,000 men were engaged for a number of years in the construction of it. Just fancy a pile of sugar covering that building and burying it 250 feet! And all this sugar consumed in one year in this country!

As for tobacco, the same authority says that the Americans consumed, in the year 1908, in various forms, a pyramid of leaves 550 feet square at the base and 350 feet high. In this pile there would be 491,644,450 pounds of tobacco. If this could be put in the form of giant cheroots 550 feet long it would make a bundle 288 feet in diameter.

Coffee is next on the list. We consumed 958,507,200 pounds, in 1908. This pile, we are told, would make a pyramid 160 feet square at the base and 339.37 feet high.

The consumption of intoxicants, including wines and malt liquors, for 1907, is given as 2,032,207,313 gallons, which would form a considerable pond, if poured out in one spot.

A closer scrutiny of the nation's drink bill reveals appalling conditions. The use of alcoholic drinks of all kinds in the United States last year was 232 gallons per capita. Twenty years ago it was less than 15 gallons. Half the families of the country use no alcoholic drinks at all. In the families where they are used young children drink little, many of them none. Women drink much less than men. So we get to the conclusion that multitudes of our people consume an average of nearly 100 gallons of "booze" per year.

We pay \$1,524,392,929 for alcoholic drinks; \$153,907,841, for coffee; \$76,068,960, for tea, and \$10,000,000, for cocoa, a total of \$1,764,358,830 for non-alcoholic stimulants. The average for five years rises to \$1,622,453,944 for all stimulants. In five years we spent over \$8,000,000,000 for drink. The average per capita is nearly \$20 a year, and per family nearly \$100. If we follow the same reasoning as in the quantity, we find thousands of our people must spend an average of nearly \$100 per year for stimulants, or by the family nearly \$500.

In considering the problems of the cost of living it would be well to try to find out how much the average family can save by not wasting money on things not necessary. Sugar, in reasonable quantities, is, of course, one of the necessities of life, but that cannot be said of liquor, coffee and tobacco.

GOOD FOR LOS ANGELES!

The election of George Alexander for mayor of Los Angeles is hailed, by the Express of that city, as an epoch-making victory for good government.

Alexander stood for decency in the administration, and for the protection of the home. He stood for economy of administration, for the prevention of waste, for the increase of efficiency, for business methods, for the best service at the lowest cost, and the voters of Los Angeles, by their vote endorsed the platform of decency, efficiency, and economy upon which he took this stand. Good for Los Angeles! The new city council, according to the Express, is also an honor to the city. It is composed of men who can neither be bought nor bullied by

any boss, that can neither be bribed nor browbeaten by any machine. They are men of character and efficiency, integrity and ability.

Thus public interest triumphed over private interest. Again, good for Los Angeles!

We are pleased to notice the victory of decency over immorality, efficiency over incompetency, honesty over greed wherever the lines of battle are drawn, for every such victory brings the triumph of right over wrong nearer in other places. In the grasp of the oppressors. We hope the redemption of our own City will be next on the program. Salt Lake needs an awakening among the citizens to the vital importance of civic righteousness, and their own individual responsibility for the government they elect.

The matchless girl—the old maid.

In spite of the poem it is the beautiful snow.

Dr. Cook seems to be on the trail of the hunted.

Everybody, including Santa Claus, is talking shop.

Senator Zelazky positively refuses to wear a Knox hat.

If assessments are raised too high it will raise Cain.

Who will get the north pole in his Christmas stocking?

Easier said than done—apprehending and punishing Zelazky.

Most disappointments come from lack of common sense.

Politically, Nicaragua is becoming a regular Pandora's box.

America! The land of the brave and the home of the trusts.

Some people wear a sweater while others wear a haunted look.

Those Central American revolutions are veritable wheels within wheels.

Of course, the speaker of the High school house of representatives will be the "Czar."

There is a vast difference between a boy's college capacity and his earning capacity.

The wise man, from force of habit,

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

THE FLOWERS THAT COVERED DICKENS' GRAVE.

By J. E. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and prominent figures of the past, have 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' notebook, and either in whole or in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, garnered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions of the "Human Interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

Charles Dickens died in June, 1870. In September of that year I found myself in London, and being shown through Westminster Abbey by Mr. William Shaw, one of the editors of the London Illustrated Graphic. After the conventional round of the abbey had been made, but before we had visited the Poets' corner, Mr. Shaw excused himself for a few minutes, that he might seek out from the throng in the abbey a friend of whom he had had a passing glimpse a little while before. "I will rejoin you at Dickens' grave," he said. "You know he is buried in the Poets' Corner."

I asked how I was to identify the grave. Mr. Shaw smiled. "You will not find any memorial or monument to him upon the wall," he said. "A simple slab in the floor covers his grave, and there is no other inscription upon it than his name, still, and I thought I detected a note of tenderness come into Mr. Shaw's voice—"You will have no difficulty in finding it. Your eyes will be directed to it as soon as you enter the corner. I won't tell you how or why. But you will see something, I am sure, that will lead you straight to Dickens' grave." A moment or two later, as I reached the enclosure famous the world over as the Poets' Corner, my eyes were caught and held by a quantity of flowers lying near the center of the enclosure. My curiosity aroused, I went up to them, and found that, loose though they were, not one of the fragrant blossoms extended beyond the slab over which they were strewn. Then, bending down to catch the inscription on the stone, between the blossoms and buds I read the two words, "Charles Dickens."

COBLESS CORN.

National Magazine.

And now it's an Illinois farmer presents the country with an almost cobless corn. Perhaps the time is coming when the diner munching corn will not have to wrestle with the cob, and rising generations will bless the man who eliminated it. The new corn is described as having each kernel growing on the parent stem instead of adhering to a cob. The Illinois grower says that he eliminated the cob by taking the tip of each ear and setting only the very top kernels, and shortly expects to evolve a perfectly cobless corn. The agricultural college of that state is looking after the experiment. Of course, like all improvements, there are some drawbacks, which the grower remarks: "Where would be the delight of munching corn if there were no cob on which to sharpen the teeth?"

THE LIMIT IN WYOMING.

Charleston News and Courier.

Wyoming courts have decided that, even though a man had promised to marry a girl, he was justified in refusing to do so when he discovered her with a different color of hair three nights in one week. He must have been shrewd to have noticed it.

INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Philadelphia Public Ledger.

What we call international law is no more than the accepted custom and usage of civilized nations. It is to some extent expressed in treaties and conventions, but to a greater extent in diplomatic correspondence, out of which emerge certain recognized principles of justice and reason that govern the relations of the United States with the Spanish-American republics is wholly the creation of our own national policy. It begins with the assertion that no European power shall establish a foothold upon this continent or in any way oppress any of these states. This

sometimes hideth himself when there is no danger.

There are as many ways of looking at a question as there are lookers at the question.

No more playing in "our backyard" without the permission of the playground society.

Dr. Cook seems to have lost himself while Commander Peary appears to have lost his voice.

The annual report of Secretary of Commerce Nagel says that seals marry. But their fate is sealed.

Good morals are to be taught in the public schools of Philadelphia. There should be compulsory attendance for the politicians of that city.

Senator Rayner has made it quite plain that he is no partisan of Zelazky. In fact his speech shows him to be somewhat hostile to the Nicaraguan president.

Many an old man would be delighted to have Santa Claus bring him once again a pair of red-topped, copper-toed boots. It would be for him the fountain of youth.

Census supervisors guilty of using their offices for the furtherance of political schemes will be summarily dismissed, says President Taft. A word to the wise, from such a source, should be sufficient.

Representative Mann's bill for the suppression of what has been called the white slave traffic should be enacted into law. No measure can be too severe against that awful form of evil.

The secretary of commerce and labor is his annual report says that it has been discovered that off the coast of Florida we can produce our own sponges. And why not? We produce the largest and finest grafters in the world.

Judge Lurton, who was yesterday nominated for associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, is sixty-five years old, the greatest age at which any judge was ever nominated to a seat on that august tribunal. Joseph Story was the youngest, his age at the time he was nominated being thirty-two.

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