

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 1, 1907.

WHO PAYS THE TAXES?

We have had occasion to observe before that the anti-Mormon sheet for revenue always furnishes the complete refutation of its own stories and fabrications. Like all who are in the habit of prevarication, it contradicts itself. The most recent illustration of this peculiarity is found in its sensational argument based on alleged tax figures. The sheet has for a long time told its dupes that "Gentiles" cannot do business among the "Mormons," and that the Saints are prohibited from selling their real estate to outsiders, or to have any dealings with them. That is one of the terrible tales with which the outside world has been regaled from time to time.

We have always thought that the sheet would refute that falsehood itself, if it were given a reasonable time in which to do it. The refutation has come in the shape of an allegation that non-Mormons own most of the real estate in the business district, and pay most of the taxes. So you see, non-Mormons not only have a prosperous business in the very center of the city, but they own valuable real estate that once belonged to "Mormons." The Tribune tax figures utterly destroy the Tribune yarn about "Mormon" boycott of "Gentiles." One story refutes the other. Both cannot be true. Neither is true, in fact. The Tribune has once more, like the scorpion with a sting in its tail, made an assault upon itself.

The question, who pays the taxes, is not important from the point of view of the anti-Mormon sheet for revenue presents it. It would be easy to enumerate a score of "Mormons" who pay more taxes than an equal number of non-Mormons. If the selection is left to the party that presents the argument, the "Mormons" are assessed just as much on their property, and pay just as high taxes, according to the value of their estates, as any other class of citizens. This is indisputable. If they, as a rule, are poorer in temporal possessions, that is a special veil for them, rather than otherwise, when it is remembered by what means some people obtain property. But that is neither here nor there.

It is of more importance to remember that the poor man, the day laborer, the home-owner of limited means, the consumer of food and other necessities of life pay a heavy share of the taxes. They are, therefore, most interested in honest government. Graft and theft fall heaviest upon their shoulders.

The figures may show that a merchant pays \$1,000 in taxes, but they do not show that he, of necessity adds that amount to the cost of the goods he sells, and that his patrons pay it. When a community is plunged into debt, which necessitates a higher rate of taxation, the cost of living rises in the same proportion. The man that rents a house pays the taxes on it. The consumer of whatever commodities are necessary for the maintenance of life and happiness, pays heavily for the mismanagement of public affairs. The business man, the capitalist, the wealthy landlord can afford to pay high taxes, as long as times are prosperous and business good, because under those conditions a large part of the earnings of the consumers are at their disposal. But the man of moderate means and small wages cannot afford to support grafters and wretches in office. They are vitally interested in good, honest government.

TIMES DO CHANGE.

Two years ago the Los Angeles Times sent a man to Utah to write up the "Mormons." He camped with the "American" element while in Salt Lake and made the Tribune his headquarters. The stories printed over his signature were what might have been expected from his associations and sources of information. The Tribune lovingly reproduced some of his choice efforts, adding a few trills on general principles.

The Los Angeles Times has again sent a man to Utah in the person of Allen Kelly—no relation to J. Ellitt—who is contributing long and really interesting illustrated articles on "Impressions of 'Mormon' Dixie Land."

Mr. Allen has given a page last Sunday and among other things he said:

"Simple, serious, toilsome people are these Mormons. Just the same sort as you meet in the country districts of the states. They might be Methodists or Campbellites or Second Adventists, or Christian Scientists, for all you could judge from their appearance, behavior or speech. The 'Mormons' of fiction and the Salt Lake Tribune does not exist in Dixie. The most unwholesome old sinner, riding hard on a barren and boring children's abuse, by the name of 'Mormons,' is at all. He is an invention of the nation makers, and the comic papers, fastidious to criminal that by black-coated fanatics, apostates, consumed with envy, and malice, and malice, there is no sign of polygamy in the Mormon farming settlements. Forget it!"

It is not good grammar, but it is certainly a fact that the Times do change and the Los Angeles Times is no exception to the rule. We appreciate the tacit acknowledgment of our contemporary that its former attitude, under the influence of the anti-Mormon crowd is untenable.

LOUISIANA POLITICS.

An eastern contemporary contains a notice of the appearance of a new party in the Louisiana legislature.

It is in the state of Louisiana. Its name is The American Equity League. It has a platform of ten planks, one of which reads as follows:

"The unconditional judicial abolition and abolition of all enrolled laws, statutes, decisions, precedents and customs that are contrary to, or in conflict with, or in contravention of, the basic principle of our government." Other planks are said to cover the following subjects: Abolition of land monopoly by recognizing occupancy and use as the only just and legal title; public ownership of all public utilities; absolute free trade with all nations; abolition of all liquor license legislation and all other forms of special privilege legislation; payment of the national debt; direct vote on United States senator; changes in currency system; initiative and referendum and right of recall; the election of a President and state governors who "have a true conception of the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

The Presidential candidate of The League announces his willingness to resign in favor of any of the following gentlemen, provided they will adopt his platform: W. J. Bryan, President Roosevelt, Thomas E. Watson of Georgia, Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, Justice Gurney of Iowa, Governor Folk of Missouri, Governor Hughes of New York, Governor Campbell of Texas, Judge K. M. Landis of Chicago, and Thomas W. Lawson of Boston.

The candidate of The League is modest enough even if his platform is not.

A QUESTION OF WEALTH.

An authority on high finance has recently sought to maintain that it is perfectly feasible for a man with financial genius in this country to accumulate a hundred million dollars, honestly and legitimately.

Perhaps it is. Some deny it. But, assuming that it can be done, is it advisable to do it? Can it be done without injury to the moral character of the one who may try the experiment? It is an old truth that where a man's treasure is, there his heart will be. But what is that but saying that when a man's faculties are entirely absorbed in the process of making money, they cannot at the same time be employed for the attainment of moral and spiritual excellencies. They are all diverted to one activity. No one can serve two masters. An instrument cannot be used successfully both as a saw and a razor. And so it happens that the money-getter who has no other object in life; the worshiper of mammon, becomes cold and indifferent to human suffering, and indifferent to the higher and nobler activities of life.

And then, of what possible use is a hundred million dollars to any one man? As the Washington Herald remarks, "no matter how honestly made—if there be degrees in honesty—let there be too much on one side and too little on the other? They, as a rule, do not see the excessive accumulation of money but rather to diminish the milk of real, genuine human kindness in the best-intentioned of men originally? It is an absolutely useless waste of effort, to accumulate more than can be put to good use. Sometimes the accumulation becomes a curse. A staff on which to lean is sometimes necessary for the wanderer, but a large bundle of sticks would be a cumbersome burden.

AN AWFUL STANDSTILL!

It appears that this paper has dreadfully slandered the "American" party. We have happened to overhear, in the course of discussions of the approaching election, opinions expressed to the effect that the "American" party must win "because it has on the city pay-rolls and public contracts some 1,400 men employed."

For this statement we are denounced as an "organ of vice, crime and treason," that is "seeking and finding new depths of depravity every day."

This is refreshing. But what follows is more so. We stated that the "Americans" "forgot that those whom they have hired with the money of the taxpayers to vote against the people who pay the taxes, may not, after all, outnumber the plain citizens, whose money is being thus used to purchase an election." This suggestion causes the "American" organ to go into a paroxysm of rage. It says: "The laying of this baseless and scandalous assumption at the door of the 'American' party campaigners adds insult to the injury of depravity and utter indecency of the whole stupid and unbecoming discussion carried by the 'News.'"

It is "baseless and scandalous" to say that the "American" party is so expending the people's taxes as to purchase an election? Then why did the "American" convention, as we said in the same article, flout in the face of the public the resolution that if successful at the polls that party would pledge itself to expend public money thereafter in such ways only as would conduce to the future success of the party? Did not that resolution, as we stated, declare emphatically that no person should thereafter have his name upon the city payrolls unless he had been an active member and supporter of the "American" party at the polls? What is there "base and scandalous" about quoting what the convention did?

We said that the party convention had approved of this infamous proposition as to the future use of the people's taxes. Was this not true? We said that certain "American" leaders, perceiving the rankness of the proposed resolution and the flood of light, which, if passed, it was likely to shed on the time and methods of their party, managed to get the resolution stricken, so that it did not come to a vote. We added that there was no doubt that the resolution would have passed with an overwhelming majority, since it was really declaratory of a condition already existing but not generally known to the public. All of which was a plain and sober statement of published facts.

The same paper says that "for the purpose of making a lying campaign charge, the organ of vice, crime, and treason stoops to such villainy as this." And it winds up by saying: "We now call upon it again to say who it is that is the cause of this villainy." It is the "American" party.

claims were made. Failing in making the showing, we shall simply have to brand it, as we have done heretofore, as a stupid, malicious liar, without confidence and utterly unscrupulous, villainous, and depraved."

It is truly a pity that the enraged and charged editor could not find still other terms from his choice and much used vocabulary of billingsgate and defamation, with which to brand as false what its own party convention openly admitted. The "admissions" were made, not by one delegate, or one campaigner only, but by the representatives of the whole party in convention assembled. To pretend that the "American" party as a whole did not openly, in general convention, make the very admissions about the reality of which the organ now raves so wildly, proves quite clearly that the long line of adjectives quoted above from its columns from "stupid" to "depraved" will exactly fit the paper that flouts them in the place of argument.

Now, we have heard these "admissions" in individual conversation since the convention. So, we believe, have many others. Has not the editor of the "American" organ heard them? Have not the "American" leaders based their main reliance on the "hired" vote? Is there one of them that has not mentally, if not orally, congratulated his party upon the supposition that in hiring the vast number of men now employed on the public works, the "American" party was in effect securing men for party support? What the convention blurted out have not individuals also meditated?

How innocent and guileless is the party spokesman who never heard of the party proceedings! And how the bit bird flutters.

ESCHER UNFAIR POLITICS.

Clean politics may be ever so vigorous, yet it calls for admiration in a contest between citizens of different political parties for supremacy in administering government affairs. On the other hand, that which is unclean and unjust in political campaigns merits the censure of reputable citizens, and generally receives it when the facts become known. A recent notable instance of this unjust politics in the present city campaign calls for censure.

We refer to the distribution of anonymous circulars, or dodgers, making a personal attack upon the character of one of the candidates for mayor of this city. As is always the case when ordinary events which in themselves involve no legal or moral wrong are used as a basis for assault upon personal character, these are distorted by interpretation or inference into working a serious injustice that the fairness of this community does not approve of. The candidate attacked is a man of good repute in his profession, a broadminded, capable and educated gentleman, a Regent of the State University, Colonel of the National Guard, and generally occupies a position of esteem in public and private life. In these circumstances, the making of his selection for candidate for mayor, the occasion for an assault upon his personal character is all the more reprehensible, and the attempted injury doubtless will be resented by the public. A similar attack upon any other of the candidates deserves similar emphatic condemnation, no matter which party ticket he is on. It was not our purpose to refer to this incident which properly belongs to the field of partisan politics, but silence on our part has been construed as an endorsement of what we consider unfair and reprehensible tactics; hence this brief reference to the matter.

In political campaigns there come to the front politicians and politicians, one class, in its intense desire to win, frequently resorts to trickiness that is unjust and scurrilous, and consequently injurious to the community. The other class, equally desirous of success, will not stoop to despicable methods, even in retaliation, but maintains that dignified policy which characterizes an honorable citizenship. We commend the latter as exemplars to political leaders of whatever party presents itself to the public judgment, which in the end will be on the side of that which is above unjust methods.

"When the leaves begin to fall," just rake 'em up.

How much will Tom Lawson "clean up" in the house cleaning?

May cause for Thanksgiving increase as the 25th approaches!

The banks are having a rather checked career just now.

Aeronauts should make good politicians, they go so with the current.

"Predatory wealth" is not making many aggressive campaigns these days.

A clearing house certificate is a bank's certificate of good character these days.

"Do voters think?" asks an Iowa exchange. Very rarely until after they have voted.

Proclaiming legal holidays as a pander to financial fias is something new under the sun.

"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank," says the depositor who feels that his money is safe.

"Can man fly like a bird?" asks the Westminster Gazette. About like the ostrich and the dodo.

"Can the Mauterndia tan the Louisiana?" asks the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Certainly, with her bark on the sea.

Edison claims to have perfected plans whereby one may build a three-story cement house for \$1,000. It is quite impossible to believe such stories.

The telegraphers have gained one thing by their strike, and that is experience. But will they profit by it? If they will, it will be worth more than a raise in wages.

After the experience of those Navajos in Southern Utah the Southern Union

fore going out to hunt trouble with Uncle Sam's soldiers.

The war department is doing all it can to make service in the army more popular and attractive. It certainly would make the soldier's life easier to substitute a bed of roses for the regulation cot.

Already several gentlemen are being introduced to audiences as "the next President of the United States." It is a pleasing flattery and harms no one if it isn't so.

One of the worst and most-to-be-dreaded results of the present financial stress will be the flood of bills that will be introduced in Congress next winter "to remedy existing monetary evils." Somehow or other, almost every congressman regards himself as an authority on finances.

THE BEST MISSIONARIES.

Philadelphia Press.
 The French have probably been the most successful missionaries. Their early settlers in every land got along with the natives far better than do the English, because the latter are domineering and intolerant. Where one tries to persuade by gentle means the other endeavors to compel by force. There were countless instances of this contrast in the colonization of America. It is probable that the self-assured English or American style transplantation of Frenchmen into the new world caused serious friction where it might have been avoided by the use of a less bullying method.

IS MARRIAGE IN AMERICA DECLINING?

Philadelphia Ledger.
 The next United States census may throw some light on the inquiry whether Americans are less inclined to marriage now than in former years. The popular impression is that they are. The charge that the extravagance of modern women accounts in a great degree for the decline of marriage is refuted by the Englishwomen who are entering the discussion in the press, and they establish a strong case against the men who exclude themselves from home life by expensive diversions.

LABOR-SAVING IMPOLITENESS.

New York Tribune.
 We wish some record had been preserved of the time saved by changing from the old-fashioned profound inclination of the head toward the earth—perhaps itself a labor-saving improvement on an earlier ceremonial greeting in which the forehead was brought, or at least nearly, in actual contact with the floor—to the modern brisk nod. We wish there were statistics to show how much time mankind has gained in cutting courtesy down from paragraphs to grunts. We doubt whether all the vaunted economies of labor-saving machinery have equaled those of labor-saving impoliteness.

JUST FOR FUN.

In Case of Sickness.
 The New York World advises New Yorkers to stay away from the theatres for the undoing of the speculators. But suppose a man has a bad case of insomnia and has tried every other remedy?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

While the Band Played.
 Tuesday night our citizens were aroused by an alarm of fire. Great excitement prevailed, but the people dashed bravely to the fire hall, whence the alarm came. All were firmly resolved to die fighting the deadly flames which threatened the very existence of our beautiful little city. But it was a false alarm—there was no danger; the noise which was mistaken for the fire whistle was made by the Hazleton band playing their first piece—Hazleton (Pa.) Advance.

"Well, Harry," said the lady, "don't you think you have a chance to be president of the United States?"
 "Oh, I don't know," answered Harry carelessly. "Maybe I'll try for it after I get too old to be a pitcher."—Exchange.

"How do you expect to get people to vote for you if you don't hustle?"
 "My friend," answered Senator Scroggum, "the time has come when hustling is taught with danger. The way to do is to act modest, and let the opposition keep talking until it cures itself by saying something clumsy."—Washington Star.

Blobs—He used to be a doctor but now he is a minister.
 Blobs—Well, you know it's easier to preach than to practice.—Philadelphia Record.

"In a few years," said the inventor, "we will be traveling by airship." "I hope so," answered the automobilist. "It will be a joke on the country sheriffs."—Washington Post.

Impulsive—I suppose you miss your husband very much?
 Widow—Indeed, I do. Do you know, when my corns bother me I haven't a friend to turn to who will lend me a razor.—Detroit Free Press.

Parliament—"Yes, Mr. Churchy, I am troubled greatly with insomnia." Rector—"I shouldn't have thought so, looking at you while I was preaching last Sunday."—Somerville Journal.

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