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CHARLES W. PENROSE, - EDITOR

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POLITICS.

We publish today the full text of the annual reports of the President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. They contain many things which will be of use and which are worthy of attention. The only portion that we care to comment upon today is the "political" part of the report of the Secretary.

Common prudence and propriety would have suggested silence in regard to the infamy consummated by the "Liberal" party of which the secretary is a valid and rallied member, at the last municipal election in Ogden. That it was carried by the most flagrant fraud and political robbery, is well known and not disputed by candid men in either party. Total non-residents were imported to vote by the "Liberal" party by the handful, and that fewer bona fide resident voters were excluded out of their vote in the most shameless manner by the "Liberal" manipulators of election affairs, is indisputable, except by a small class of "Liberal" strikers and strikers who have no compunctions of conscience.

When these things are matters of history, it is the height of impudence on the part of the secretary to refer to Ogden as a sample of the effects of Liberal ascendancy, and to infer that recent material growth in this city has been a consequence of the small majority obtained by that party in certain districts at the last legislative election.

As a matter of fact, it is not true that in Ogden realty has "advanced a hundred per cent," or that the population has "increased fifty per cent" since the steal of that city by the "Liberals." Properly will sell today for a dollar more than it would previous to the "Liberal" seizure of the municipal government. The advance in real estate took place long before that event. The improvements that have been made in Ogden were the work of the People's Party officials, and there is nothing striking as effects of the "Liberal" fraud but an increase in the number of drinking houses, and the establishment of vile dens for the encouragement and practice of "Liberal" recreations.

But the tax list has been cited in support of the claim that property has trebled in value or, as the secretary more modestly puts it, "increased a hundred per cent." This, it is true, shows that property has been assessed under "Liberal" rule at amounts vastly above the valuation under the management of the People's Party. But what does this prove? Simply that taxation has been trebled, in some notable instances quadrupled, by the "Liberal" manipulators of public funds. They have not increased the rate of taxation, but, as the record proves, they have increased the valuation to suit themselves, and the property thus assessed is not actually of any more value in the market than it was under the low assessment made by People's Party officials.

In this anything to boast off? Is it not on the contrary a warning and a beacon signal to the citizens of Salt Lake? Ogden "Liberals" have collected $70,000 taxes in one year against $37,000 collected by the People's Party in four years. And, remember that all the substantial public improvements in the city were made under the low taxation, and scarcely anything in this way has been done under the present sky-high taxation. If trebling the taxes by this peculiarly "Liberal" process is anything to be proud of, we fail to see where the boasting occasion consisted. The Ogden taxpayers do not see it in that light by any means.

Under the People's Party management the assessment was made at an average of thirty-three and a third per cent of the actual value, being perhaps a trifle under what it might fetch on a forced sale. But under the "Liberal" manipulation it has been assessed in many instances, not only far beyond the price it would bring under the hammer, but more than its full actual value. So that property has not really increased in selling value under "Liberal" rule in Ogden, but the owners have been compelled to pay inside the amount of taxes that they paid before, and that without one single corresponding benefit.

As to the increase of population there has been nothing remarkable, except the influx of a class which is not desirable in any decent community. A few solid, home loving citizens have been added, though not at a ratio at all above that of previous increase. But others have been attracted to the place by the news of the license allowed to gambling, his amusements and scandalous vices, and in those no respectable person, be he ever so much of a partizan, ought to express any pride.

The Secretary's political paragraphs are misleading and untrue in fact and to inference, and while they are entirely out of place in an official report on commerce, are distinctively and characteristically partisan and "Liberal."

JUST AS WE SAID.

Not many days since the San Francisco *Chronicle*, which rarely misses an opportunity to manifest foolish and unreasonable bitterness toward the "Mormon" people at the expense of truth, published an account of the suicide of a depraved wretch, named William Martin, in a low "dive" in that city.

The fact that Martin was formerly a resident of Utah was sufficient ground to cause the *Chronicle*, without a peg of evidence on which to hang the assertion, to attribute his beastly course and final self-murder to the attitude of "Mormons" toward him. The assumption was, however, idiotically absurd on its face. The theory of our disturbing Coast contemporary was that Martin had married a "Mormon" Elder's daughter, and that the opposition and bitterness of his father-in-law had driven the poor profligate to debauchery and finally to suicide. This method of manufacturing depraved characters is so novel that the *Chronicle* should at once proceed to patent it.

We stated at the time that a thousand chances to one Martin never could have been spoiled any more than could a rotten egg. He was in all likelihood clean gone before he married at all, as men do not reach the lowest level of vileness and abandonment at one downward leap. We also ventured the guess that his having been married to the daughter of a "Mormon" Elder was unadulterated fiction. And so it turns out.

It is learned, from a source whose reliability cannot be questioned, that the widow of the late William Martin is the daughter of a resident of Manti who is not a member of the Church. In fact none of the family are latter-day Saints. The same informant states that any one who wishes to take the trouble to enquire can find out from residents of the town of Provo, where Martin is known, that this alleged victim of a "Mormon" father-in-law's harshness, was an unmitigated rogue and swindler.

We would suggest to the *Chronicle* that if it cannot find anything less childish through which to throw mud at the "Mormon" people, it let out its sluice in that line by contract to something or somebody with a vein of ingenuity.

CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE ZANE.

THE dispatches state that the Senate has confirmed the appointment of Charles S. Zane as Chief Justice of Utah. All things considered, the selection might, to say the least, have been a great deal worse. We have some things against him, but a good deal in his favor. About the only objectionable feature of his administration of the law, as we have remarked on other occasions, are his extreme bias and severity in the treatment of "Mormons" accused of infractions of the Edmunds and Edmunds-Tucker acts; yet even in that line his course has not been worse than that of other judges on the Utah bench. Among the points in his favor is his wide knowledge of the law. Indeed we have never pretended to say otherwise than that in many respects he is an able jurist. While pursuing what we have always held to be an extreme, not to say cruel, course in a line in which he very likely presumed he was sustaining the general government, it is to his credit that he has always endeavored, in accord with sound law, to uphold the local government as well. Taking it all in all, a much worse appointment than that of Chief Justice Zane might have been made.

FROM WASHINGTON.

A Few Jottings Upon Things in General.

WASHINGTON, January 4th, 1890. [Special Correspondence of the DESERET NEWS]—We are just emerging from the heat of the holiday season. Christmas is regarded in Washington very much as in the West. Turkeys went up to thirty cents a pound, champagne went down in the usual way, and the toy and other stores put on their most fascinating appearance.

The Supreme Court adjourned at half past twelve o'clock on December 23rd, leaving undecided cases to patiently await the return of the judges on the 6th of January. Congress did likewise, and instead of speeches from senators we were regaled with sensational performances at the various theatres.

As to the theatres, the Duff Opera Company are giving us "Paola" at Allaugh's Grand Opera House; Wilson Barrett does "Hamlet" at the New National, assisted by Miss Eastlake as Ophelia; the "Two Mays" are at Kernan's. Then we have Indian lectures, mesmerism and science, and concerts of every description, with, in addition, Marshal P. Wilder at the Church of Our Father, giving a humorous lecture. Harris' Bijou Theatre furnishes a pretty performance in the play of "Alone in London." By-the-by, an excellent performance in this same theatre was given a short time ago. The play was entitled "Will for Wife," in which Mr. Logan Paul, one of your old Salt Lake performers, appeared in the character of a Frenchman, and made quite a hit. If this company should visit Salt Lake, your readers would do well to patronize them.

The theatres here seem to have abandoned the old spectacular productions. "Cinderella, and her Glass Slipper" is now seen only in the shop windows; and "Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp" have gone beyond the hope of recall.

The weather has been remarkably fine of late, in fact, quite warm; but the Signal Service informs us that we are to have a cold wave.

The departments are running on about one-fourth of their force, the remainder being off on leave of absence, which they are obliged to take during the year for which it is allowed, or lose it altogether. Most of the members, however, have returned so that they may take a month's holiday during the hot weather, for the summer season here is of that description which gives paper collars the appearance of a streak of soft sam.

The receptions at the President's mansion on New Year's day was a brilliant affair. Surely the President's arm must have ached more than on any previous occasion in his life, for after receiving the most demonstrative expressions of good feeling from everybody who held an office, he had to go through with those who wanted one. They came in battalions, and even the Grand Army of the Republic was there—500 strong. Mrs. Harrison was unable to be present owing to a death in the family. Everyone went in uniform; those who had carriages used them, and those who had no private conveyance found it difficult to be supplied. Some of the horses looked very skinny with their gold-plated harness, and their dark-complexioned drivers seemed to be proud of the dignitaries whose avoirdupois they conveyed to and from the mansion. Those who were late in procuring vehicles appeared in some of the "toughest" outfits I ever saw. Grant Bros., of Salt Lake, would have made a lifelong sensation here if they could have driven up with their six-in-hand, and the guards at the White House would have thought that Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales had come to call on the President.

In conclusion, let me wish all the readers of the News a happy New Year. C. W. STAYNER.

Snowed In.

A report comes that the people are all snowed in at Lewiston. Because of the great mins before the recent snows, the roads became impassable in that vicinity. Then the snow fell, it is said, to the depth of three feet, and this kept the people in. They have got out of flour almost entirely, and the result was it became necessary for the community to organize and get out into the rest of the world.—*Logan Journal.*

Lady Forester, of London, is a practical philanthropist. Each week she sends to the factory girls of London upwards of two thousand bunches of flowers gathered by the servants on her estate.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer Submit their Annual Reports.

AT THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

Ex-Governor West Elected President for the Ensuing Term.

POLITICAL BIAS DISPLAYED.

The third annual meeting of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce was held last evening in the Chamber Hall, with about fifty members present and President Lawrence in the chair. After a reading of the minutes of a year previous, and the defeat of an attempt at a roll call to ascertain, R. H. Tarbuck was elected assistant secretary pro tem, and President Lawrence read his annual report as follows:

The President's Report.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, January 8th, 1890.

To the Members of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce:—We enter the third year of our organization under the same favorable circumstances. The prosperity of Salt Lake and the Chamber and the city are very commendable. Personal activity has been attributed to the success of industry during the past year, but only upon the values in real property steadily advance, but the volume of all kinds of business has increased to a degree unparalleled in any three years of our existence. The profits on invested capital have been satisfactory, and the outlook for the coming year is full of promise for the inauguration of many extensive enterprises. New capital will be placed in our midst and manufactories, also industries that will be of benefit to the people, with modern conveniences will take the place of the old adobe houses, the streets, gas and water mains extended into new districts, the city paving million worked and improved, the streets and sidewalks repaired and the city generally will take on a more metropolitan aspect.

In addition to this there will be increased railroad construction centring in our city and stimulating throughout Utah. Prominent in the promotion and stimulation of these local improvements and general enterprises the Chamber is entitled to no small share of credit. It has always counted on influence at home in favor of advanced methods and lower rates, and it has persistently placed before the country the attractions and resources of our city and Territory, and the attractiveness of capital and our comparatively cheap rates as a place of residence.

During the year a special effort was made by your Board of Directors to secure a building for the Chamber of Commerce. In this they were only successful as will be seen by reference to the secretary's report. In the course of a few years the Chamber will be able to come into possession of a building, as very many towns that are not as much in the Chamber and do not contribute to the city.

The membership of the Chamber is constantly changing, while the actual number participating remains about the same. Some members are lost sight of, some members are lost through transfer of certificates have been surrendered to the Chamber and some new members have been connected. At the beginning of the year annual dues were largely delinquent and the Board of Directors found it necessary to compel payment, or secure payment by additional subscriptions. This temporary embarrassment is over, and it might not be followed as a precedent. The actual expenses of the Chamber will be seen, and we ought to be able to rely on the annual payment of dues by members instead of resorting to the unusual expedient of a subscription. No doubt it is a special effort of the Chamber to secure a building, but it is a laudable one, and one in which we have a strong interest from our new offices.

During the year a number of special committees have been effective work in the duties assigned them. Our standing committees appear to be a most valuable adjunct of the Chamber if they could take a much more interest in their respective departments. Much valuable information and useful suggestions would be made to the Chamber, and I trust that the new committees will be appointed and exercise a concerted interest in the business of the week.

We have during the past year lost by death three of our members and respected members—Frank Fouts, James H. Glenn and Franklin Grant. They will long be remembered in the business and social circles of this community.

During the year the exhibits of the products of the Territory have repeatedly received attention, appearing in the Industrial Department. These exhibits have proved attractive alike to our citizens and visitors of this city. They should be greatly enlarged in variety and volume when the new building is occupied. Meanwhile the attention of the manufacturers, the farmers, the miner and the producers generally in this Territory should be directed to the fact that there is no more effective means of advertising than the placing of samples in the show cases of the Chamber.

During the year the Board of Directors has met in regular and many special meetings to the discharge of its duties. They have given a patient hearing to every worthy petition for the promotion of the objects of the Chamber. They have the Utah Sugar Company's application in the efforts to have the duty collected on imported beet seed and to have silver restored to its old and rightful place. They expressed a goodly portion of the year's revenue of the Chamber in advertising to pamphlets, newspapers and to agents sent to visiting from the attractions and resources of our city and Territory and they have made liberal donations to the interests of the general good.

Our hall has been thrown open for most large meetings for various public purposes. The Chamber has a leading part and contributed with the citizens of Salt Lake City to the generous reception to Senator Sherman, the Utah and Idaho Central and Rio Grande Western railroad celebrations, the Jubilee of the Utah Commission, the Mormon Jubilee,