DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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Charles W. Penrose, - - - Editor
Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager

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SALT LAKE CITY, - - FEB. 1, 1899.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.

We advise the readers of the Deseret News to give special attention to the message of the Mayor to the City Council. It is a comprehensive document and contains information of value to the public, and many practical suggestions which should be carefully weighed by the people as well as by the Council.

The financial reports it contains show that the efforts to promote economy, on the part of our city fathers, have not been in vain. There has been a decrease of expenditure with an increase of income in several departments. Water-tax payers will be pleased to learn that while the revenue received was $1,614.55 more than for 1897, the expenditure was $3,440 less. This suggests that a reduction of water rates would be in order.

The joining of the irrigation and street departments under one supervisor has worked admirably and saved the city $11,500.04 for the year. That speaks well for the movement and for the officer in charge of the work.

We are doubtful as to the advisability of increasing the borrowing power of the municipality, as recommended by the Mayor. The purpose he has in view is excellent and should be pursued to its accomplishment, but the tax-payers will shrink at the idea of enlarging the debt-contracting authority of the City Council. An adequate supply of water should undoubtedly be secured to the city. It may be that this cannot be done without borrowed capital. If so, the people should determine, by popular vote, whether the debt should be contracted, and, as we understand it, that is what the Mayor intends in the event that legislation is obtained enlarging the borrowing power of the city authorities.

The recommendation of the Mayor to abolish the board of public works we think is sound, and his reasons for it are cogent. So with his reference to fees for the inspection of buildings, etc. The fee system is a nuisance and should be entirely abolished, at least so far as it gives the money thus collected to public officers. Pay them fair salaries for their work, and when fees are proper let them go into the public treasury. As to building inspection, that is all right, but it is nonsensical to compel a householder who wants to add a kitchen or a porch, or some little improvement to his premises, to pay a fee for a permit—something for nothing, which it is in effect. Pay the inspector a salary for the actual work he performs.

The Mayor's proposition for one government including the city and county may be well enough on the score of economy, but we do not think it will meet with general favor. The needs and expenses to meet them within city limits, are necessarily greater than those of entirely rural districts, and it would not be fair to tax those remote parts for privileges that can be only enjoyed in the comparatively crowded center. City government has its specialties and they should be specially provided for. We believe the two governments had better remain separate for the present at least, and with the spirit of retrenchment that prevails in both, the reduction of expenses will be continued, lightening the burdens of the taxpayer without decreasing the efficiency of the public service.

All the suggestions of the Mayor, however, are offered with a view to the public welfare, and in a manner such as might be expected from that gentleman whose courtesy, fairness and efficiency are appreciated by all who have watched his official career. His recommendations deserve thoughtful and close consideration.

AGAINST PREMATURE BURIALS.

The fear of premature burial is one that very often lingers in the hearts of relatives and friends who have been called upon to lay away their loved ones. Stories of awakenings in the coffin occasionally are related, and the fact that even physicians admit the difficulty, in some cases, of determining the true boundary between life and death, does not serve to allay the fear that some have felt in this regard.

In the New York legislature a bill has been introduced, the object of which is to prevent the occurrence of premature burials, and the matter might well be considered by other legislative assemblies. It provides that in cities where there are one hundred or more interments annually, each cemetery shall have a mortuary, with a number of rooms in which the remains shall be placed and kept for a certain time. The doors must be unlocked and friends of the dead must at all times have free access to the chambers.

The attending physician or coroner must state in the death certificate whether or not any or all of the following signs of death have been noted: 1. Permanent cessation of respiration and circulation; 2. purple discoloration of the dependent parts of the body; 3. absence of blistering around a part of the skin touched with a red-hot iron; 4. rigor mortis; 5. signs of decomposition. Bodies of those who have died of certain epidemics are not to be exposed, nor those in which death is the result of the destruction of any of the vital organs; but in all cases the death certificate must be made out as given above.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

The "News" has been asked for some information relating to socialism. That is a wide subject to treat on in a brief newspaper article. There are socialism and socialists of many kinds and shades—educational socialists, Bellamy socialists, Fabian socialists, progressive socialists, theosophical socialists, and so on, but their common belief is that social reconstruction is the need of the age.

"Socialism," says one writer, "is every doctrine which teaches that the State has a right to correct the inequality of wealth which exists among men and to legally establish the balance by taking from those who have too much in order to give to those who have not enough, and that in a permanent manner, and not in such and such a particular case." More properly speaking, socialism is an effort to unite capital for the benefit of all, doing away with private competition in which many must necessarily go to the wall, and perish. It demands the application of this principle to the community, to the State, to the entire world. The modern movement in this direction commenced in England, where, in the year 1835, a society was founded under the [illegible] of Robert Owen, under the name of the Association of All Classes of All Nations.

Justice to the subject will, perhaps, be best done by setting forth the principles of the Socialist Labor Party of the United States as expressed in their platform, as follows:

"With the founders of the American Republic we hold that the purpose of government is to secure every citizen in the enjoyment of this right [to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness]; but in the light of our social conditions we hold, furthermore, that no such right can be exercised under a system of economic inequality, essentially destructive of life, of liberty and of happiness.

"With the founders of this Republic we hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be owned and controlled by the whole people; but in the light of our industrial development we hold, furthermore, that the true theory of economics is that the machinery of production must likewise belong to the people in common.

"To the obvious fact that our despotic system of economics is the direct opposite to our democratic system of politics can plainly be traced the existence of a privileged class, the corruption of government by that class, the alienation of public property, public franchises and public functions to that class, and the abject dependence of the mightiest of nations upon that class.

"Again, through the perversion of democracy to the ends of plutocracy, labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessaries of life."

In accordance with these principles the party advocates the reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production. It urges the national government to take possession of the railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones and all means of public communication and transportation; the municipalities to control all local railroads, water works, gas works, etc., and all industries requiring municipal franchises. Employes, under this arrangement, are to work on the co-operative plan under the direction of the government, national or municipal, and no one is to be discharged for political reasons. The party further declares that the United States shall have the exclusive right to issue money; that inventions shall be free to all, inventors to be remunerated by the state; that all pauper, tramp and conspiracy laws be repealed; that public authorities provide employment for the unemployed; that the veto power of the executive shall be abolished and also the United States Senate and all upper legislative chambers; that all elections be direct and by secret ballot and that a uniform civil and criminal law be established throughout the United States. The party also demands the administration of justice free of charge, and the abolition of capital punishment.

This, then, is what may be called American socialism at its present stage of development. Its ultimate object is stated to be the universal brotherhood of man.

Probably the most remarkable feature of this movement is its rapid growth. Half a century ago it was placed in the same class as such fungus outgrowths of social disorder as bomb-throwing anarchy and Parisian communism. Today it counts millions of adherents throughout the civilized world. It has representatives in the legislatures of the nations and in other influential positions. It is claimed for it, by some of its enthusiastic supporters, that it is the very essence of practical Christianity. As a prominent Chicago lady, Dr. Cornelia De Bey, puts it, according to the Times-Herald:

"Christianity is socialism. The perfect Christian, almost a perfect Christian even, could not help being a socialist. It would be inevitable. 'Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you.' What is this but basic Christianity and socialism alike? Of course, it isn't churchianity, but then the religion too often taught and practiced nowadays, as always, is a superstructure [illegible] upon Christianity, not the real Christianity at all. Socialism would be, it is applied or genuine Christianity. Next to the socialism which is Christianity, I hold dear the socialism which would teach us, induce us, compel us if need be, to become one great family, as God designed us to be, instead of millions of small isolated families, each one wrapped up in its own welfare and doings instead of in the welfare of all. The ideal family, such an ordinarily happy and devoted family, is a beautiful thing, of course, but all too often the family under present conditions means simply a set of selfish interests and people. Which of us would do for the nicest and most attractive of our neighbors, for instance, as much as we would do for 'our own'? And yet in very truth and in the name of all Christianity and humanity, is not all the world 'our own'?"

It will be sufficiently apparent from this what socialism professes to be and what are its aims. It may well be regarded as the awakening of the conscience of humanity to a realization of present conditions, and as an effort to right some grievous wrongs. But will it succeed? Is socialism coming with salvation under its wings? We believe not. The fact is that any plan for the regeneration of the world, which does not first contemplate the moral regeneration of the individual, must ultimately fail. Governmental reforms may be palliatives; the curative must be applied to the root of the evil. For the social structure of the Millennium, new plans and drawings may be necessary, but new material is also indispensable, and as far as socialism neglects to consider this fact, its labor will be in vain.

GATHERING TO PALESTINE.

Notwithstanding the recent decree of the Turkish sultan by which Jews are prohibited from settling permanently in Palestine, it is asserted that more than 4,200 Jews have left their homes in the various countries of Europe and gone to the land of their fathers, since the Zionist congress in Basle last summer. The movement, led by the Zionists, is quietly gaining in proportions and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the time is approaching when it will become a factor in European politics. It is augmented by a contemptible spirit of persecution that holds sway in some countries, notably France.

What can be done in this direction is shown by the arbitrary regulations of one mayor, who is reported to have ordered cafes frequented by Jews to close earlier than others, and who has even sent photographers to Jewish shops to take snapshots of customers in order to "expose" them as patrons of the hated race. No wonder, that under such circumstances Hebrews are looking out for a place where they can enjoy liberty, and no wonder if they lend willing ears to the message that encourages them to look forward to the national regeneration of their people.

Judging from all signs, the Zionist movement has come to stay. And when the hills and valleys of Palestine shall again yield their abundance, it will, perhaps, be remembered that as early as 1841, an Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints dedicated that country for the gathering of scattered Judah, and that ever since, the spirit of gathering has been more or less manifest among that people.

Washington dispatches this afternoon tell of a speech by Senator Rawlins of Utah on the Vest resolutions regarding the Philippines.

Mayor Clark's message makes a good showing for 1898. Salt Lake City's taxpayers will rest content in the confidence of a like successful economic administration in 1899.

That was a most painful death of Caspar Shoeder's at Mascoutah, Ills., this week. For six days he suffered from a violent hiccoughing, until death relieved him.

Spain has got a dozen warships at Fort de France, island of Martinique. The presence of such a fleet in West Indian waters cuts but a small figure now, compared to that of Cervera's fleet there last May.

Germany's promise to investigate the conduct of her officers in Samoa, and to dismiss them if they have disregarded treaty obligations, may be taken as an assurance that no international trouble will arise out of Samoan affairs.

There is too much alleged gold in the strike reported from Cripple Creek, Colorado, in the dispatches to the News on Monday. The mine manager failed to leave room in his story for the salt necessary to make it palatable.

A little more municipal courtesy would give a finer flavor to the proceedings of the City Council. The personal feeling which is permitted to prevail among the members does not strike the public as savoring of statesmanship or as tending to the general welfare.

The Filipino junta in Paris says it anticipates an outbreak. The junta must be influenced by the chronic promises of disturbances in the French capital. Gen. Otis, American military governor of the Philippines, says he does not expect serious trouble there.

It is said in Paris that the most ardent friends of Captain Dreyfus admit that there is not the least hope that justice will be done to the imprisoned soldier. His condemnation is a mere matter of sentiment—a feature that always has been a great danger to France.

The City Council is pursuing a proper course in giving attention to Pioneer Square park. The municipality cannot afford to go to heavy expenditure now in fixing up the place, but it can and should expend enough to keep it from being a public nuisance through such uncleanliness as has been permitted to exist there in the past.

The losses of sheep and cattle in Wyoming, through the recent storm, are expected to prove very heavy. Most of the Utah owners of sheep in our neighboring state are congratulating themselves, however, on the fact that the district where their flocks are located did not receive the full brunt of the storm, and therefore they have a fair prospect of escaping serious disaster.

The anti-"Mormon" local paper says: "It is not easy to defend a palpable, premeditated crime." That is the result of its own experience. Every day, for a long time, it has tried to defend its criminally libelous distortion and false construction of the words of an opponent. Its dismal failure has exacted the confession we have quoted. But no repentance accompanies the doleful lament.

Dr. Von Holleben, the German ambassador at Washington, says his government did not expect Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila. Possibly the doctor, with the example of that naval battle before him, and the additional information he may secure as Germany's representative in this land, may enlarge the sum of information possessed by his home government concerning the fighting qualities of Americans.

The announcement today, by a high railroad official, as stated on another page of the "News," that the Oregon Short Line is going to do some extensive railway building in Idaho, is good tidings. The determination of the company to build into the Yellowstone National Park is especially interesting to Utah people, since the line, which is to be constructed to St. Anthony, Fremont county, this year, opens up a large area of country in which very many people from Utah have established homes during the past few years. The line from Market Lake or Idaho Falls to the National Park ought to prove a good paying investment and be a potent influence in developing a rich portion of Idaho.

Omaha is now indulging in another trans-Mississippi Exhibition of a unique quality, with the captain of police in jail; the city attorney threatened with a like calamity; the city council debating the question of including the police court judge in the roster; the board of education investigating boodle charges against the American Book company; the city council laboring with charges made by the city engineer; the excise board committing contempt of court, together with an attempt to oust the present mayor from office. All this makes the Nebraska city somewhat of a lively burg. Why not adjourn the various proceedings to the house of correction to be held behind closed doors?

THE ARMY SCANDAL.

Chicago Journal.

The men who can tell more interesting stories about that beef than anybody else, the men who know more about it than anybody else, have not been asked for their evidence. The testimony of a private soldier is not of high value in a military court, but in a congressional investigation it would mean something. It would help bring out the facts, and the facts are what the people want and have a right to know. If the commission that has been investigating the conduct of the war is too good to listen to the testimony of private soldiers, Congress ought to go into the matter.

New York Independent.

The published rumor that Secretary Alger would resign because he had been unable to procure a court of inquiry before which General Miles as well as General Eagan would be on trial, appears to have no foundation in fact. General Eagan has submitted to the commission an amended statement, in which he contents himself with saying that the testimony of General Miles as to the experimental use of "processed" beef was "untrue and unworthy of more emphatic denial." He takes pains to declare under oath that Secretary Alger had nothing to do with the beef contracts.

Detroit Tribune.

There are only two facts which stand out clearly from the cloud of suspicious charges, and counter charges. One is that a man capable of deliberately framing such a document as Eagan presented is a disgrace to the service, without regard to his official integrity. The second is that until the merits of the controversy have been finally determined, and one or the other or both of the principals stripped of their uniforms, as the facts shall warrant, the army can not stand purged and honorable before the people. Some way must be found to accomplish this result, and, in the meantime, Congress must devise means for making incidents of this character impossible in the future.

Washington Post.

If anything were needed to prove the utter unfitness of Commissary General Eagan, his cry-baby letter submitting his revised report to the investigating committee, better known as the Alger relief board, would furnish it. It is on a par with his other performance, although of necessity phrased in cleaner and more respectful language. If the original testimony had been given in the heat of passion, as he now tries to pretend it was, there might have been some slight palliation for it; but the fact of the matter is that it was carefully prepared, written out, revised, corrected, and given to the press in typewritten form, and it was read to the committee from the typewritten copy. There was no sign of anything but absolute premeditation. The offense was all the greater because of this, and the country has so decided.

ELECTION OF SENATORS.

Portland Oregonian.

Many are the plans for securing popular election of senators without amending the Federal Constitution. Their persistence is a striking testimony to the poor impression the Senate makes as a piece of governmental machinery. All these plans, obviously, are makeshifts, and are not to be preferred to amendment of the Constitution, if that can be brought about. That may come in time. The States would likely indorse the measure. The hindrance now is in the Senate itself, many members of which are men who could not be elected by popular vote. But for practical operation these makeshifts have their weak points. If we nominate men in State conventions and pledge legislative nominees to vote for the party candidate, as was done recently in Ohio, men will be found in the legislature to set the pledge at defiance. Any system that includes compliant acts of men must always reckon on occasional lack of compliance. All laws are violated sometimes, party law among them.

UNEQUAL TAX BURDENS.

The Denver Post.

The poor of this country, it is claimed, are favored in many ways, as, for that matter, are the rich. A New York paper the other day contained a list of six residents of that city whose reputed wealth amounts to at least $650,000,000, yet the amount of taxes paid for the past year on that immense property valuation aggregate for the six only $317,274. From this it would appear that the tax-dodgers are not confined to any one locality. Let us take for example the case of John D. Rockefeller, whose reputed wealth amounts to $200,000,000. He is assessed on real estate valued at $280,000 and on personal property valued at $300,000, and all the taxes paid amounted to $17,226. Now what Rockefeller did not pay, someone else, blessed with fewer earthly possessions, had to make good; in fact, it took a good many to make up the amount of taxes which Rockefeller by right should have paid.

New York World.

If one hundred men were set to do a piece of work and ninety-five of them excused themselves the other five would have a very hard task. But if each one of the hundred did his part not one of them would be seriously burdened. It is that way in this matter of taxes. It is because the owners of 95 per cent of the personal property shirk that the owners of the 5 per cent are so sorely oppressed.

The Savannah News.

If taxes become much heavier in New York City real estate will not be worth a great deal there except in localities where it is in great demand for business purposes. New York complains of a loss of commerce. If the increase of taxes in the next few years should be as great as it was in the last two she will lose a very large percentage of her residents. The people will not be able to pay taxes there.

The Portland Oregonian.

"The real estate of the city of New York is assessed for this year at a sum within a small fraction of figure of $3,000,000,000. This is an increase of $211,217,876 over the valuation of last year. It is done for the purpose of appeasing the taxpayers to meet the conditions brought about by consolidation. Personal estate almost escapes taxation in New York. The 'single land tax' is practically in force.

House Furnishings.

We are early in the field for spring fitting up and renovating, and have secured the choicest and largest stock ever brought to this market. Patrons are invited to call and examine these goods, all of newest styles, latest patterns, and highest quality. No such extensive choice has ever been afforded before in this part of the country—the designs are the best work of accomplished artists. You may not want to fit up your house for a few weeks yet, as springtime is not here, although it is close at hand; but now is the time to look over House Furnishings, that you may have time to select with deliberation and care. It will pay you to come and see our immense and varied stock of

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15 Boys 6 to 14 Ulsters, were $2.50, now $1.00	5 Men's Ulsters, were $7.50, now $3.75
5 Boys 6 to 14 Ulsters, were $2.50, now $1.25	18 Men's Sack Suits, were $4.50, now $3.00
14 Childs 4 to 8 Kilt Overcoats, were $3.50, now $2.00	22 Men's Sack Suits, were $5.50, now $3.50
8 Boys 6 to 13 Ulsters, were $4.00, now $2.25	21 Men's Sack Suits, were $9.50, now $4.50
	19 Men's Sack Suits, were $12.50, now $7.50

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