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SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 16, 1903

THE CITY SCHOOL SITUATION

The school question in this city i causing some commotion, much of it in consequence of misunderstanding and some unjust criticism. That the Board of Education is in face of a financia difficulty is beyond dispute. There is not enough money in sight to meet expenses for the last month of the school year. And there is a debt of \$30,000 which ought to be liquidated. Foreseeing the trouble, the board proposed a change in the State law raising the tax limit from five and a half mills to seven mills. This raised a storm of opposition from the taxpayers, and the Deseret News voiced the public sentiment. A measure finally passed the Legislature which, while a modification of the first plan, was objectionable for several reasons, and at the request of many prominent and influential citizens the Governor, very properly, we be-Heve, vetoed the bill.

The next step of the Board of Educa. tion was to order the closing of the schools a month earlier than usual, and for that the board is receiving some very pronounced censure. The general opinion is that if the board had the disposition to do so, it could devise ways and means by which the present emergency might be tided over. Several plans have been suggested, but the idea seems to prevail that the board, being chagrined at the defeat of its taxing scheme, desired to retaliate by closing the schools, to teach the obstinate taxpayers a lasting lesson.

Now, all that may be largely conjecture and inference, and the board may be acting upon its best judgment, and in view of a situation not commonly understood. The closing proposition is perhaps the safest that can be put into practice. The tuition scheme we beheve to be inadvisable and of doubtful legality. The subscription expedient is not likely to be successful, although due dredit ought to be given to Mr. Geoghegan for his liberal offer

In any event, improper motives ought not to be attributed to a body of gentlemen, who are endeavoring to promote the cause of education in this city even if we do not agree with all their plans. Certainly they do not deserve any imputation of wilful waste, great extravagance, or dishonest or dishonorable conduct in any sense of the term. Insinuations of that sort are unworthy tremely unjust to the Board of Educa-

Nor is it right to saddle upon the present board the liabilities incurred by a former administration, or blame the incumbents for unexpected outlays consequent upon fire or other accidents. Close investigation will show that some of the charges made against them are based upon conditions over which they had no centrol, and which they had to meet without being responsible for their creation. The people of this city ought to look at these facts fairly, before they pass condemnation or hurl epithets of anger or discontent.

If it were not for the disarrangement of the graduating courses, and the consequent postponement of promotions which are a beneficial feature of our school system, we would not regard as very serious the clipping off of a month from the current school term. A large number of schools in country districts will close about that time, and no trouble will arise or murmur be heard about it. Just for once it will bring no great calamity to the city nor to the cause of education therein. That it would be better to continue them to the end of the regular school year we do not dispute. But the board is following the advice, "Cut your garment according to your cloth." In the way that seems easiest and best, and if there is no other practical way out of the difficulty, we will have to submit and it will be well to do so without needless grumbling.

One thing will have to be kept in mind; that is, the people baye reached the full limit of their endurance of the tax burden. It has been growing for many years and they do not mean to stand additional weights. Retrenchment will have to be the policy of the future and those who will not adopt it will meet with little favor from the voting citizens of this city, county and State "Cut your garment according to your cloth," will have to be practiced in the spirit of the instruction, and politicians had better open their eyes to its clear

significance. A WORD OF SYMPATHY.

The Deseret News extends the most heartfelt sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Geoghegan in the loss they have sustained, under terrible and agonizing circumstances. The partial destructionof their elegant home by fire is a great pfillction, but the death from suffocation of their dear little three-year-old son, is one of those awful bereavenients that subdue the stoutest hearts and call for the condolence of every humane being. The cup of their serrow is full to overflowing, and their only consolution must come from a divine source, and the knowledge that a host of friends of

all views and persuasions sympathize with them in their misfortunes, and are eady to aid them in any way that can ring possible relief. Particulars of the lisaster are given elsewhere in this paper, and these we are sure will not only shock the entire community but cause tears of sorrow to dim the eyes of our readers. May comfort come to the bereaved, and may they be strengthened to bear their afflictions with patience and fortitude and reliance upon that Divine Providence, whose loving kindness can bring forth out of our severest trials undevelop 11 qualities in our nature, that tend to glorify our being, and prepare us for blessings that

shall endure forever! SELF-CONVICTED!

If there was anything lacking to prove the folly as well as falsehood of the Salt Lake Tribune in repeating its consense about the Crosby incident, it was furnished this morning by itself, n a reported interview with the 'young attorney" printed on its first bage, Comparison of the flaring headines given to it with the matter that ollows them, will show beyond doubt that the Tribune was NOT right in quoting Crosby, that he contradicts nstead of confirming its "story as printed," and that, as is often the case n that paper, the headings and the body of the article are directly at

And that is not all. The reporte who was detailed to get the interview turnished Crosby with a copy of that which was sent to the Tribune, and Crosby writes us the following letter with the copy furnished him enclosed a which he directly repudiates nearly all of that paper's fabrications. He

Richfield, Utah, April, 15, 1903,

ditor Deseret News:
I had said that I would take no hand he controversy between the Trib and the News, but the Tribun shed for an interview and I gave l requesting a copy. The copy he gave ne I enclose. I did not say that I wa called," but I did say that I was go ng there at the advice of certain he "church people" and they can o t what they please. I underline t it what they please. I underline the n the original and make other change that are needed. Now, I have only the to say: I have been an employe went to the office by invitation at after talking some about the matte asked what was wanted of m me a little "send off" and thought nothing more of the matte Imagine my indignation on finding the article of the next day. I do no are at all as far as I am concerne said but I do object to their miscon truction as regards the Church par ut one part that I think relevant t this subject. Its reporter asked, "Ar you compelled to go?" "No, not at all will still be in good standing if I do not go as advised."

GEORGE H, CROSBY, JR. It is as we have stated from the first. The untruths about Crosby's being

"called" by the Church authorities and "set apart" to go to Arizona to practice torneys to remove to that territory to control its politics; and all the stuff set forth editorially as well as locally in that paper about this being part of the "policy" of the Church, were manufactured by the Tribune and plastered upon Crosby. Its editorial ravings this morning deceive nobody who knows what that paper has been in the habit of doing when caught in its lying ways. We have to state once more on the authority of the Church leaders, that George H. Crosby Jr. has not been 'called' by them to go to Arizona or elsewhere, and further that they did of any fairminded citizen, and are ex- not even "advise" him to do so. When he incidentally mentioned the matter they simply told him that they had no advice to give but he should do as he pleased. The only feature of the entire controversy that we have cared a cent about, is that which the Tribune manufactured for the purpose of maligning the "Mormon" Church, and deceiving the public as to its alleged plans and purposes. Its story was utterly false, and was not even made up from Crosby's statement about his expected removal, but was one of the characteristic fabrications of an anti-'Mormon' sheet, that seems to be unable to gain sense or better behavior from the experiences of the past.

FREEDOM IN RUSSIA.

The general comment on the famous decree of the Czar touching the freedom of Russlans, is still commented on, and appears that the more the document is scrutinized, the clearer it becomes that its real meaning is well hidden in the obscurity of the language. The freedom it does promise is that enjoyed by Russian subjects of unorthodox faith, and of foreigners having other eligions. The members of the ortholox church do not share in the blessemain in force.

The Outlook, publishes the law pararaphs bearing on the subject. They re interesting reading in this age of nlightenment. It will be seen that it a serious offense to leave the Ruscan church and become a Catholic, Profestant, Mohammedan, etc. The aws prescribe:

"All persons who leave the Orthodox surch for the church of any other pristian denomination shall be turned or to the spiritual authorities for adition and instruction, and shall then dealt with in accordance with lesiastical rules. Until they shall turn to orthodoxy, their minor childen shall be taken in charge by the overnment, in order that they may become perverted, and their lands, ecupied by orthodox Christians, be put under guardianship and hall not be permitted to live there-

Still more serious is the offense of reaching anything, except the official

rand of religion. The law says: For inducing an Orthodox Christian become a member of any other bristian church, the guilty one shall daprived of all special, personal, and quired rights, and shall be exiled to Sibetia, or imprisoned at hard labor, for a period of from one year to a year

According to Russian ideas of jusoin the Jews, commits a greater oftense than the preacher of "Christian" heresies. The law is:

or any other non-Christian faith, the guilty one shall be deprived of all civil right and sent into penal servitude for a period of from eight to ten years."

With such laws in effect there can be no question of liberty. What is needed in Russia is the freedom of members of all sects to select in what manner they desire to worship. That means liberty of speech, of teaching, of discussion. Without this there can e no advance in other directions.

formerly declared in this way in Rusia. It may prove the first step in the lesired direction. We hope it does, Russia has millions of Catholics, Monammedans, Protestants, and dissenters within her borders. The figures are given as follows: There are 95.850,-600 Orthodox Greek Catholics, 12,150,-000 Ruman Catholies, 12,150,000 Moham medans, 6.750,000 Protestants, 4,050,000 Jews, 1.350,000 United Church and Armenians, and 2,700,000 fellowers of other faiths. Not until they are all placed on a basis of equality, will it be possible to make peace between the various factions. Russia should learn something from the rest of Europe, Still, the progress there must be gradual, and slow. It must be evolutionary, not revolutionary. Were the transformation accomplished with one Russia has been compared to a huge glacier, moving slowly, but surely, towards its goal. It might perhaps be ossible to melt this mass of ice in short time, but not without causing destructive floods in the wake of the waters. The time must come when Russia, like the rest of the world, will feel the conscious impulse of democracy; out that day is not yet come. The Czar's wisdom is apparent in his intention to reform that which already exists rather than to force upon the empire that for

which it is as yet unprepared. Clean yards are good but clean hearts are better.

The wise man foresees the danger and lisposes of his inflated stock holdings.

The Iowa idea so far as the bursting of big guns is concerned will never be

The Aspen tunnel should postpone its slides until May, when moving is in

Mr. Roosevelt is confronted by three listinct dilemmas: Bear, forebear and

Arbor Day being a holiday, of course the school children planted no tree of Captain Pershing's troops have been

attacked by Yellow Jack, a fee much more to be dreaded than the Moros. A St. Louis woman has just whipped male flirt. Perhaps in future he will

The national drink bill and the assets of the steel trust amount to about the same figure-thirteen hundred mil-

lepart from his evil ways and avoid

The baseball season has opened and soon the anxious public will be entertained with accounts of the mobbing of

on dollars.

If the Board of Health would make the little boys clean up their hands and faces, parents would be thankful ac-

Professor Pickering of Harvard observatory thinks he has discovered unnistakable evidences of hoarfrost on the moon. Moonshine!

It is being announced right along that the President is in seclusion. And all the while everybody has been thinking he was in Yellowstone Park.

Eastern financial editors are discussng the problem whether undigested securities are indigestible. The quickest solution would be to feed them to the goat and see.

to be run through with a sword for not properly saluting an officer, what sort of punishment would be given him should he assault an officer?

Mr. Roosevelt has not killed a mountain lion in Yellowstone Park nor has he fired a shot while he has been there. The fact is that the President and the lions have lain down together,

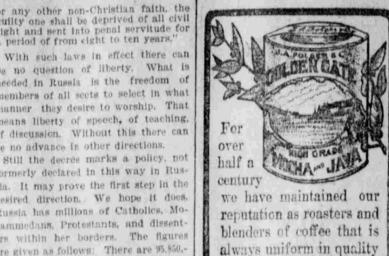
The good people of Joplin, Mo., have risen in their might and lynched a negro, accused of killing a policeman. It is to their credit that they did not burn and mutilate him as they do in the more chivalric states.

How good and thoughtful of the children not to want to put the burden of their tuition upon their parents. They ngs of liberty. The old intolerant laws | are willing to forego the benefit of a month's schooling to help father and mother along.

> Here is one of the things General Baldwin is alleged to have said about the Filipinos as soldiers and for which the war department has asked an explanation of him, "One of my reasons for liking the Filipino as a soldler is the same that gives me a preference for the negro in the same capacity-in a fight I am not worried about his safety, as it doesn't make any difference whether he gets killed or not." It is hoped for the sake of the American army, for the sake of humanity that General Baldwin uttered no such sentiment. A Filipino may have a brown skin and ways that are not all American, but he is a man with a God-planted soul in him.

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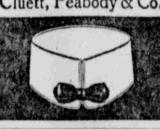
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