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SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 11, 1900.

THE ALL-IMPORTANT ISSUE.

One of the absolute necessities of the times in this city, is a reorganization of the system of pipes, by which water is conveyed from sources of supply to the dwellings of citizens. The original pipe system was suited, perhaps, to the conditions existing at the time of its establishment. It has been added to from time to time as exigencies demanded. The work that was done was good enough, when performed, but the consequence of this patchwork upon a small original design, is imperfect and unequal distribution, and a lack of force in places where it is essential to a full flow. A glance at the maps and plans in the office of the City Engineer would make this much plainer than any words in print could explain it.

Before the needed increase in the water supply can be utilized, if obtained, the improvements that have been projected in the means of distribution must be completed. The cost of the new system is placed at \$75,000. The contract has been let for the piping. This would have been less if the Engineer's recommendation as to wooden piping, for a large portion of the work, had been adopted. We will not stop to argue the question as to whether wooden or iron pipes should be used, because the matter is settled and the contract is let for the latter.

Feeding large sized pipes from small ones, is a proposition the futility of which can be understood by every sane citizen, no matter how uninformed as to hydraulics and civil engineering. Yet that is one of the hindrances to the distribution of water which is in the way of the water department today. The money will be well spent which rectifies this error, and secures a free flow for the water at command, even though it does not increase the volume a single drop. This is one of the expenditures to come out of the money raised by issuing bonds, and which will have to be paid, bonds or no bonds.

So with the work in progress on the reservoir. That will cost about \$200,000. The receptacle has to be laid with concrete to prevent seepage. It is an excavation in the solid ground, and therefore brings no danger to the city, like that which threatens places where the water is held back by a big dam. The contract is let, the work is going on, the money must be had to pay for it, bonds or no bonds.

Agreements have been entered into with water-owners in Parley's canyon by which the city will have, for immediate use, the water now being used for irrigation on the lands to be acquired. Early in the season ten million gallons was diverted daily by irrigation. On July 1st this diversion was reduced to five million gallons through the rights acquired by the city. That amount can be had as soon as the money is assured to meet the purchase cost. This, we understand, will reach in the aggregate \$50,000. The engineer thinks, however, that the volume will be gradually reduced as the season advances, to about two million gallons in the extremely dry time. This water is wanted at once, the money for it can be had by issuing bonds.

The Jordan and Salt Lake City canal water could be used for sprinkling the streets, to the saving of at least a million gallons, daily, for culinary and lawn purposes. But this will require a special system that ought to be permanent or money will be wasted. The engineer has devised a plan for permanency which will be no waste on temporary expedients. This will cost about \$40,000 and will remain good for the purpose designed. The money for it will come out of the bonds now proposed. If not, the plan must fall through.

The work now being done in lowering the channel to convey water from Utah lake and straightening the course for its flow, promises to give the greatest volume of relief of anything that has been suggested. It will not only give the city water wherewith to trade for drinking water from the Cottonwood, but make a bigger supply for the farmers interested in several canals in this country, who will no doubt be glad to join in the expense in order to secure what they need for irrigation. Money for this draining work is needed, and the bond issue is looked to for that purpose.

The flowing wells in Liberty Park, not counting the surface water there that is unfit for domestic uses, give by actual measurement a million and a third gallons in twenty-four hours. The engineer has not at any time called that flow surface water. He does not deny its artesian character. He does question the relative value of that source of supply and others that are in view. It is yet a question of how much permanent benefit can be derived from that quarter, and whether it would be commensurate with the cost. It is, however, under consideration, and if a plan for its use should be adopted, the expense would have to come out of the funds raised by bonds.

If our readers will foot up the

amounts contracted for, and those actually needed for the projects already in view, they will see that every dollar of the contemplated bond issue is wanted for the purposes named in the call for the special election; namely to increase the water supply and improve its distribution.

There is no danger of the use of this money for any other purposes. It would be illegal, and every cent of it is absolutely needed for these legitimate objects. The city is pledged to this disposition of the funds raised by bonds. If they are not voted for, there is no alternative but to levy a considerable special water tax, for the payment of expenses already incurred for water improvements, even if the absolutely necessary plans for increasing the supply have to be abandoned, to the great loss and suffering of the people from scarcity.

We believe that when the taxpayers tear from their eyes the partisan film which is being pulled over them, they will see clearly that all the money to come from the bond issue is needed, now, for water purposes, and that the full amount could not be raised by additional taxes. The levy would have to be heavy to meet present contracts, and enough could not be drained from the people by special taxes for the projects that if perfected will bring needed relief. Let us be sensible rather than partisan and reasonable instead of radical and rash.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

The year is one notable for losses by fire in this country. The figures for the six months ending June 30, are given as \$105,298,900, as compared to \$65,699,750 for the corresponding six months last year, and \$58,237,100 for the year 1898.

The subject of losses by fire is widely commented on. Mr. Boies, in the July Forum, makes some suggestions about the matter. He draws the conclusion that the almost perfect system of fire-extinguishing contrivances are becoming inadequate, and that new provisions must be made, to save the property now consumed by fire every year. "It is a question," he says, "whether many of the improvements of the nineteenth century civilization have not more than counterbalanced the advantages of improved construction, as regards the fire hazards of large cities."

Mr. Boies thinks, however, that this can be easily remedied, if common sense is exercised and a few dollars are judiciously spent. "Any city big enough to support an elevated railway, is certainly important enough to maintain an elevated fire service. With our magnificent modern buildings towering in the air as high as church steeples, we must find something better than the step-ladder device of the water-tower with which to protect life and property."

That is one suggestion. Another is that stand-pipes be attached to high buildings and extending to or above the roofs with a Y inlet at the base, so that fire department engines can be connected and water forced to the tops of buildings and far beyond.

This idea, we understand, has been tried and found practical. When the large fires of the present year are considered, five of which have consumed property worth millions, it will be admitted that measures for protection are called for. And they should be adopted before insurance companies deem it necessary to increase the rate.

REVERENCE FOR ANCESTORS.

The Chicago Times-Herald quotes authority for the observation that one of the great obstacles to an understanding between western nations and the people of China is the attitude of the latter toward their ancestors. Lord Salisbury recently said the Chinese are not religious fanatics, but tolerant, and if approached in the right way, would offer no serious objection to the missionary propaganda. He specially cautioned the missionaries not to deal unwisely with the prevailing sentiment toward ancestors.

Concerning this feature of Chinese belief, Mr. Calquhoun, author of "China in Transformation," declares that the family idea is the fundamental principle of the national and private life of China, and that to call it idolatry is to beg the question. The authority of the ancestors, he believes, is the power which keeps the nation together, and in every sense the ancestors are at one with their posterity. They assist at the family council and sanction its proceedings. The author concludes that this idea is too firmly rooted to be successfully attacked, and he advises all foreigners who would co-operate with the Chinese for their elevation to reckon with it and modify it by spiritual means instead of provoking bitter enmity by condemning it as a degraded superstition.

Our Chicago contemporary also quotes this from Carlyle: "He [the emperor] and his three hundred millions visit yearly the tombs of their fathers; each man the tomb of his father and his mother; alone, there, in silence with what of worship or of other thought there may be, pause solemnly each man; the divine skies all silent over him; the divine grave, and this divinity grave, all silent under him; the pulsings of his own soul, if he have any soul, alone audible. Truly, it may be a kind of worship. Truly, if a man cannot get some glimpse into the eternities, looking through this portal—through what other need he try?"

Another writer, Harold E. Gort, has these observations:

"They [the Chinese] are indifferent to the nominal creeds of the country and to the existing sects, but all sacrifice to Shangti, the supreme lord, and perform the ancestral rites. As long as they [the missionaries] insist on maintaining an offensive crusade against the ancestral cult, the natives will remain implicitly opposed to the presence of the foreigners, and it is abundantly clear that by maintaining their present attitude of uncompromising hostility to Chinese institutions the missionaries will only succeed in permanently defeating their own ends."

It is a pity that so many of the representatives of the West, understand so little about the great principle of truth indicated by the ancient and modern leaders of religious thought, when speaking about the work of the Prophet Elijah, to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the

children to their fathers." If this were understood by modern theology, perhaps the missionaries would find, in the peculiar attachment of the Chinese for their ancestors, the stepping stone by which that vast nation might ascend to a higher level of civilization and receive more light. Probably their ideas are crude. Probably superstition enters into that form of worship to a large extent. But who can say that under, and mingled with, the rubbish of ages there is not a stratum of precious truth, which the best of the people feel justified in guarding against destruction by the ruthless hand of a foreigner incapable of comprehending the true nature and value thereof?

There is no comparison whatever between the conflict of Christianity with the Roman empire, and the conflict of missionaries today with pagan powers. The primitive Christians were among the most loyal Roman subjects, upholding the emperor and the state in everything lawful. The combat came from the natural opposition of the powers of darkness to the Priesthood of the Almighty.

It is different in China. The foreigners are there to tear down everything inconsistent with their ideas, and to build upon the ruins a new structure, possibly as little suitable to the needs of the people, as a Chicago skyscraper would be to the circumstances of a seal hunting tribe of Esquimaux.

JAPAN TAKES THE LEAD.

The Chinese situation appears at this writing as puzzling as ever. Is the emperor still alive and well? Has the empress resumed authority? If so, when? And was she dethroned just for a few days, shortly before the time of the reported massacre of the foreigners? If the foreigners are still safe, why can they not communicate with the outside world through the channels by which "rumors" are allowed to proceed from the Chinese capital?

It does not seem possible at present to form any correct idea on these points. The outside world can only await developments, and hope that when the facts become known, they may prove that the fears now entertained are without foundation.

One piece of information seems to be found among the many contradictory rumors, and that is that the powers have finally agreed to suffer Japan to take the lead in the rescue work, and that this country is preparing for a campaign of vast proportions and long duration. In a short while Japan is expected to have an army of 65,000 in China. This means, of course, that the compensation has been agreed on, and this can be nothing less than a slice of the Asiatic continent large enough to satisfy her ambition for the time being. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Japanese may succeed in forcing their way to Peking, and to clear up the mystery that now envelops the situation there.

But their task is by no means an easy one. Fifty years ago the allied English and French forces, on their road to Peking, were opposed by Tartar troops armed with bows and arrows. They had Armstrong guns and did terrible execution among the barbarians. Today many of the Chinese are well armed. They are capable of meeting their opponents with an overwhelming force, and the Japanese will not have an easy task before them.

During the last war with China, the Japanese were accused of indulging in unnecessary barbarities, reveling in blood after victory had been won. It is to be hoped that enough western influence is with them this time, to restrain any savage outbreaks. Everyone must hope for the success of the expedition, but also that the representatives of civilization, even in a war of revenge, will show their superiority over the barbarians.

Martial law at Nome means there was no other kind to be had.

What is more natural than that an explosion should follow the launching of a boom?

Startling political news should be taken with much salt. This merely that it may not lose its savor.

It is not bouquets that the inhabitants of the Flowery Kingdom are throwing at foreigners just now.

The "open door" policy in China seems fraught with as many and dangerous evils as was Pandora's "open door" policy.

In the United States that imperial decree dated the third day of the sixth moon will be looked upon more as moonshine than anything.

If it were really war to the knife between the empress dowager and Prince Tuan, her Chinese majesty would take her knife and cut his highness' head off. The empress dowager has more cunning than had ever Ah Sing.

The empress dowager has promulgated an edict expressing sorrow for the death of Baron von Ketteler. Clearly this is a case of crocodile tears; or rather (Chinese) dragon tears.

So it is proposed to boycott Councilman Hartenstein because he introduced the new bicycle ordinance. It is a silly and absurd proposition, one that, if tried, will meet with no success and will be condemned by the public. The proposers of this scheme should submit gracefully to the inevitable and the sensible.

Now the return tide of miners from Cape Nome has set in. It is but a fresh repetition of an old, old story. That there is gold at Nome there is no question; that it is so abundant as reported is no doubt an exaggeration. In the case of the discovery of new gold diggings, distance always lends enchantment to the view. And the greater the distance the greater the enchantment, and eventually the disenchantment.

In sending troops to China no pledges were required of Japan, it is said. It is more than likely that when she was invited to send her troops there, Japan made it a condition precedent to the acceptance of the invitation that she should give no pledges, and that she was to determine her indemnity for her trouble and the manner in which it should be paid. Heavens Japan's cur-

pidity is quite as great as that of any Christian power.

Considerable attention is now given to the mosquito, and, since the discovery that the little beast is a distributor of malaria germs, the question is how to get rid of the insect. It breeds in stagnant water, and drainage is one remedy. It is also suggested that the dragon fly, known as the "snake doctor," feeds on mosquitoes. Experiments are said to be under way for breeding dragon flies in great numbers and turning them loose in localities where mosquitoes abound.

If London reports may be believed (they are given credence there) a clever prominent American who renounced his native citizenship that he might become a subject of Queen Victoria, has fallen from social grace. The Prince of Wales is said to have "cut" him, while his name is conspicuous by its absence from the list of guests invited to the queen's garden party. The man's whole career in London has been that of a snob, and none, save himself and his immediate entourage, will regret his fate. He has committed social hari-kari.

The story from New York that the late Rear Admiral Philip was offered the nomination for Vice President on both the Republican and Democratic tickets, is amusing in the extreme. He is said to have regarded the whole affair as a huge joke. It shows how over-ready politicians are to offer any position to a man who has become prominent and is regarded as more or less of a hero. And this without the slightest regard to whether he belongs to one party or another or whether he is completely without any political convictions. Admiral Philip was the only one who emerged from the affair with his reputation unharmed.

TWO VIEWS ON THE CANDIDATES

Chicago News.

Never was the power of a strong, insistent personality, dominated by sincerity of purpose, more strikingly demonstrated than in the nomination yesterday of William Jennings Bryan as the candidate of the Democratic party for the office of President of the United States, and upon a platform of his own forming an against the judgment, and wishes of a majority of the country. Quite apart from the question of the right or wrong of Mr. Bryan's personal views on the silver question, there is no doubt that common faith in the absolute honesty of his convictions on this subject won the day for him as against the determined opposition of the majority.

New York World.

The personal triumph of Mr. Bryan, not merely in his own unanimous and fervent renunciation but in his dictation of the platform, is unexampled in our political history. Single-handed and single-minded he has dominated the situation. The convention has not deliberated. It has not decided. It has ascertained Mr. Bryan's will and yielded to it. Such supreme individual control of a national convention was never before seen. Such power is not seized in that country, unless it is accidental. It might be profitable for those who decry Mr. Bryan to examine thoughtfully into the source of his extraordinary influence and popularity.

New York Evening Post.

Almost every leader of any consequence regarded a separate silver plank as fatal to the party's chances of success. In short, the conditions were such as apparently to assure the defeat of the scheme. But Bryan had made up his mind that there should be a 16-to-1 plank, as emphatic as language could make it; he made his influence felt in the committee-room, and the majority shifted to his side; and the same influence caused all opposition to his policy, to die out among the mass of the delegates. The candidate thus forced his own issue upon a reluctant convention by an exhibition of personal power which recalls the way of Andrew Jackson, two generations ago.

Springfield Republican.

If Mr. Bryan should be elected he would enter the White House with no man holding pledge of place or power under him. This is his own positive statement. He would seek to do the best thing for his country. But in considering the possibility of his election it is, of course, fair to weigh the party behind him, and especially the fact that from a standpoint up to this campaign, the conservative elements have been so largely eliminated. He would naturally be beholden to those who stood loyally by him in 1896. But no man stands up to the responsibilities and opportunities of a new day. This campaign is likely to enlarge Mr. Bryan's following, and by so much his range of choice.

Evening Wisconsin.

The voters of the United States want a continuance of prosperity. They do not want a disturbance of confidence. A disturbance of confidence would be the certain result of superseding President McKinley by William Jennings Bryan. The people know this.

Chicago Record.

Mr. Stevenson has filled with dignity the office of Vice President, and doubtless would do so again if elected. He is a survival of the Democratic party as it was before it joined forces with Populists and Silver Republicans, and he should win favor for the ticket with conservative Democrats. Because of this element of strength he should prove of considerable assistance to his brilliant yokefellow, Mr. Bryan.

New York Herald (Dispatch).

The intensity of the gust of passion is almost beyond description. It was all the more remarkable in view of the fact that many of the men who were cheering him could scarcely have forgotten the conviction that nearly all of them have expressed that Bryan is merely to lead a forlorn hope in November.

Philadelphia Record.

The contention over the silver plank has demonstrated clearly that the break in the Democratic party that existed when Bryan was nominated in 1896 still continues, and still makes it impossible to maintain the position of 1896 and elect the Democratic candidate.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The main disadvantage under which Mr. Bryan labors, as he presents himself, a second time, as a candidate for the presidency, is that the people have come to know him too well. He has conducted, during four years past, what he calls a "campaign of education" among the people. That education has consisted mainly in a revelation of his own character and idiosyncrasies, as illustrated by his political theories and by his attitude toward the subjects which have engrossed popular attention.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Lee's Texas Magazine for July, continues the article "On the Pacific Coast," by Olive Lee. The other articles are, "Whose Heart?" a poem, by Swain Gilbert, and "Undeceived," by Grenville Atkins. There are also notes

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T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

on Literature, book reviews and editorials.—Dallas, Texas.

The Fourth of July number of Collier's Weekly has a political map of the United States professing to show the political complexion of each State. Tables of political data furnish additional information for the politically curious. The whole diagram is framed by portraits of all the Republican and Democratic candidates and party managers now engrossing public attention.—New York.

The July number of the National Geographic Magazine devotes some space to Chinese questions on which it gives valuable information. "The Chinese Boxers," "The Tung-shi-Yamen," and maps on the far east are all timely contributions to the literature of the day. "The Expansion of England," and "The Road to Bolivia," are other subjects treated on in this valuable publication.—National Geographic society, Washington.

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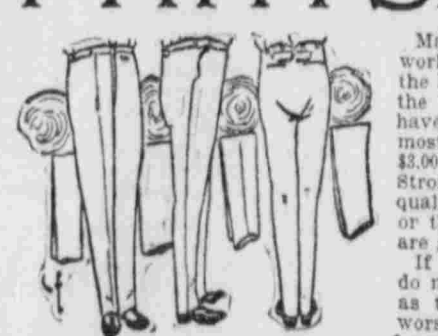
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