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THE SITUATION AS IT IS.

Shorn of its intricacies and book-keeping technicalities which only an expert accountant can understand, the long overdue financial statement of the City (printed in the Tribune, at double rates) reveals several things with distinct clearness. Summarized, they are as follows:

The city owes in borrowed money, about \$470,000.

The claim that the special funds on hand, amounting to about \$225,000 are in any way an offset to this overdraft, is a deception pure and simple. That \$225,000 is a trust fund, held for specific purposes, and is no more an asset of the city than the sun, moon or stars. An honest city treasurer would not dare to touch that trust fund for the general expenses of the city. He could not do so without being liable under his bonds. No one knows this better than the Salt Lake Tribune, which goes on day after day claiming that the trust fund may be deducted from the city's overdraft. If that is the system on which the Tribune's books are kept, Messrs. Keith and Kearns should lose no time in having its accounts experted.

As the City owed about \$470,000 six months ago, what must its debt be now? Is it not a shameful condition that a corporation of the importance and magnitude of Salt Lake can not tell day by day, down to a cent, just how it stands with the world? The United States treasury, immense as it is, has a system that enables it to strike a balance at the close of business any day, and to know exactly what its indebtedness is. So has any bank in the country. Why should Salt Lake City have to wait six months before its stockholders know "where they are at"? A whole herd of horses could be driven out, before the owner had a warning to lock the stable door.

It is fair to assume that the City owes half a million dollars, in round numbers, to a bank which could call for the amount at any time, and which would probably do so, if there were a recurrence of last year's panic. Then where would the city's credit be? The bank would doubtless expect payment of its half a million from the proceeds of the \$600,000 bond sale, if the people authorize the issue. What is the result? The bank overdraft will be paid, and the promised improvements will either be postponed or a new debt created to pay for them. Is there any escape from these conclusions? If there is, an exasperated community of taxpayers would be obliged if Mayor Bransford—not the fearful and wonderful bookkeeper of the Tribune—would point it out.

GETTING TRADE.

A friend of Mr. Browning of Ogden is authority for the statement that his automatic revolver is being made in America by the Colt factory, and in Belgium by the National Manufacture of Arms of War, and that the Belgian factory is making more of them for the South American trade alone, than the entire Colt output amounts to. The reason for this is that one factory keeps the price up, while the other caters to the world's trade.

Americans who were in Manila soon after the American occupation of the Philippines, noted with surprise the difference in money value of goods in the islands and here. Passage by first class ticket to Spain was less than a third of the passage from San Francisco, although the distance is greater. An invoice of goods from America was usually preceded by bill and three tracers demanding to know why it was not paid, before the goods were heard from. A much less restless spirit characterized the trade from other countries, and consequently it shifted this way very slowly. At about \$10 with sixty-day payments the slower going South Americans have ordered from Belgium 35,000 revolvers of a kind invented 40 miles from Salt Lake. At about \$20, and closer credit, an American factory has turned out a less number for a much longer period's sales to a great continent.

One cause of the late serious panic was probably that the acute organization of the commercial world, representing through the elimination of competition a tremendous power to charge, completely outstripped the combined power of the unorganized masses to pay. A possible result may be that one large trust, looking into its neighbor's hand may consider this trust its enemy, since it had exhausted the people's buying power and left both with difficulties in moving their goods. While we have yet to observe any serious friction between large organizations of capital, the lowering rate of interest indicates the gradual tendency towards fairer rates, and the restoration of trade through the asking for less in profit, and by the cutting down of extravagance in expense. America's position as a world's business center may possibly be strengthened through taking a new European observations.

EXTRAVAGANT AND IGNORANT.

The latest argument advanced in favor of the proposed bond issue is, miserable dictum that the extravagance and ignorance of the administration have made it an absolute necessity.

This is no joke. We are told sol-

ly that the American administration, by its extravagant plan of new construction in vogue last year, and appropriations made without even an approximate idea of the scale on which operations were being carried on, and with no accurate knowledge of the City's finances, now finds itself confronted with the alternative of a bond issue or an enormous tax levy.

That is, of course, too bad. But can the property owners trust an extravagant and ignorant administration with another \$600,000? The first question is really not what this extravagant administration needs to satisfy its extravagant taste, but to what extent can such an administration be trusted with funds?

It is not sufficient to say that some of the officials are respectable and successful business men, because they have proved themselves powerless against the self-appointed gang of dictators that has assumed control. The question is, can that gang be trusted with more money to squander? The argument advanced that unless the bonds are voted the tax-levy will be raised is really not worthy of consideration, for the simple reason that after the bonds are voted, the tax-rate will, in all human probability, be increased too, to meet the interest on the bonds. The gang that has broken faith with the citizens before, is capable of any trick, to obtain control of public funds.

It is for the citizens to say whether they want to increase the public debt at this time. But before doing so, they should reflect that the City council is at the mercy of a professional plunderer that even refuses to give a true account of its administration as required by law. Before deciding, they should remember that even friends of the administration designate it as extravagant and ignorant.

NOT A REVOLUTION.

The Editor of the Mexican Herald, in a dispatch to the New York Times concerning the recent border troubles in Mexico, says it is not a rebellion, or a revolution. The cause of the uprising, he explains, was the destitution of the men who were thrown out of work through the shutting down of mines and industrial plants. In some regions unemployed men, being in this frame of mind, were easily worked upon by Mexican agitators who had taken refuge in the United States, and two years ago began a movement designed to foment popular sentiment against foreigners. That unscrupulous plot, he adds, failed ignominiously, and since that time the agitators have been looking for a favorable conjuncture of circumstances to start a rising against the federal government. Their opportunity came when many people in northern Mexico were out of work and when the active criminal element could be easily enlisted in a scheme for looting towns where there was no military protection. The movement shows lack of careful organization and is destitute of strong leadership.

It may be added that northern Mexico has suffered from poor crops, which has aggravated the situation. Discontent often follows hard times, especially when there are agitators on hand to lead the disturbance.

TO STOP AN ABUSE.

Two years ago a law was passed under which naturalized citizens who reside abroad can be deprived of their citizenship, unless they take the precaution of registering with the nearest American consul. The Federal authorities have now taken steps to make that law operative in the case of one citizen residing abroad.

Abraham Moss was naturalized in this country in 1892. He left in a few months after securing his papers and has since been living in Pretoria, South Africa. He became involved in trouble with the South African government recently and promptly appealed to the State department at Washington for protection. The authorities, after investigating the case, began suit in the Pennsylvania district, where Moss has been admitted to citizenship, for the cancellation of his naturalization papers.

The law was enacted in order to stop the abuse of foreigners in coming here and obtaining citizenship and then leaving for the Old Country and claiming protection under the American flag. The existence of the law should be of interest to all naturalized citizens who go abroad and remain away for years, perhaps. Unless they register with an American consul, their citizenship may be jeopardized.

SKULL AND CROSSBONES.

They have some advanced ideas in Russia. A committee of the Douma recently attracted attention by recommending Prohibition in Russia, and now that same committee has made another recommendation to the effect that whisky-bottle labels be adorned with skull and crossbones and the following legend:

"Man! Although you have bought this liquor, yet know that you are drinking poison which destroys you. Before it is too late, quit buying another bottle!"

Signed by the Ministry of Finance. That sounds like irony, but, perhaps the idea is as good as it is original. In all probability many Russians drink their vodka without knowing the effect of alcohol on the human system. For their benefit the information of the label would, perhaps, produce good results. To make every whisky bottle a temperance lecturer is, at all events, a unique idea.

For weights that are dark the ice-man is peculiar.

The jaws of death—those generally used at a gabfest.

The Bell at Denver sounded no tocsin of alarm as many anticipated.

It is hard to divine what will be the outcome of Devine's nomination.

Straws do not tell which way the wind blows when there is no wind.

When Mr. Bell of California rang up Mr. Bryan by telephone he undoubtedly used a Bell telephone.

Faint heart never won fair lady, but

it never had any trouble winning those who were not counted fair.

Mr. Bryan's controversy with Colonel Guffy has at least added zest to the humdrum of campaign news.

The Atlantic fleet passes out of the Golden Gate today to continue its trip around the world. Bon voyage!

The gray mare proved to be the better horse but will the Gray horse prove to be the better horse at Denver?

It must be some comfort to actresses and others who have their diamonds stolen to know that generally they are paste.

Judge Taft's horses have arrived at Hot Springs. In riding over the hills and down the dales will he be perched on a Percheron?

King Frederick of Denmark has received Jacob Rits in special audience. And now shall we have a book on "A King in the Making"?

If truth were crushed to earth by a great big auto there is small chance that it would rise again.

"This is a white man's country," declared Temporary Chairman Bell at Denver. So Mr. Joseph Gans discovered in his argument with Mr. Battling Nelson.

"The more worthless a man, the more fish he can catch," says the Atchison Globe. And does it follow that the more worthless a man is the fewer fish he catches?

As a result of the celebration of the Fourth of July there were thirteen more deaths this year than last. The increase is about in keeping with the increase in population.

General Luke Wright is succeeding very well. He succeeded Mr. Taft as governor-general of the Philippines and now succeeds him as secretary of war. A man who can succeed like that deserves success.

"A Kansas doctor prescribed the liberal application of mud as a sure cure for gout," says a contemporary. The question whether there is virtue in mud, is respectfully referred to the anti-"Mormon" organ.

Even in the isolation of the Virginia mountains Judge Taft does not find quiet and rest. In his heart does he say with the Psalmist: "Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest?"

The Equitable Life Assurance society is planning to build a structure 62 stories high. The top story will be 909 feet above the ground and this is just a few feet less than the famous Eiffel tower in France, the tallest structure in the world. But the Eiffel tower is of no practical use, it is merely an affair for show.

The foreign commerce of the United States for 1907 amounted to \$5,522,840,939. This averages in round numbers \$10,000,000 a day. But the domestic trade of the country for the same year is estimated at \$25,000,000,000, or an average of \$68,000,000 a day. It is no wonder that some people get very wealthy on the handling of such an enormous trade. The outcry against wealth is irrational. The demand for a more even distribution is rational.

The American Protective Tariff League is in the field with a document entitled "The Vital Issue Before the American People." This is a reproduction of the speech of Hon. Joseph W. Fordney, M. C., of Michigan, a member of the Ways and Means Committee of Congress. We are requested to say that a copy will be forwarded free to any person sending a postal card. Address W. E. Wakeman, Secretary, 239 Broadway, New York, asking for document No. 92.

Mayor Bransford is to be congratulated on the declaration of independence he has issued in the matter of appointment of chief of the fire department. "Any time," he said, "that a party wants to have me sacrifice my manhood and go back on my word, I am not with that party." If he will carry out this principle in his various official acts, he will break completely with the party dictators. But he will have the support of the decent citizens of all parties, instead.

CRUELTY TO SOLDIERS.

Washington Herald.
Representative O'Connell of Massachusetts has a bill to compel every soldier in the army to save 10 cents a day. As the average soldier never has 10 cents more than three or four days after pay day, this bill would seem to be a proposition bordering on impossible.

SPAIN NO MORE FOR THEM.

New York Globe.
It is ten years since we were at war with Spain for the liberation of Cuba, and yesterday, for the first time in ten years, a Spanish national vessel sailed into a Cuban harbor. The Cubans made it a triumphal entry. But there is no thought of turning back to Spain, whether in Cuba, Porto Rico or the Philippines. Cuba is independent; the Philippines look forward in time to the same or a more favorable status, while Porto Rico has become so nearly an integral part of this country that its thorough nationalization—the bestowal of full citizenship upon its people—cannot be long delayed. The sooner the president's recommendation of the plank in the Republican platform to that effect become law the sooner will we have discharged an obvious duty.

THE NEW YORK RECOUNT.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Nearly three years after the election, by the returns of which George B. McClellan assumed the duties of mayor of New York, the courts declare that he is entitled to the seat. The mayor by his attitude throughout the long contest waged by Mr. Hearst to dislodge him has furnished a good example of a man feeling from a shadow. While it was at no time generally believed that the chief executive of the city had stolen his office, as his opponent claimed, the mayor himself appeared to fear the possible result of a recount and was willing to exert every effort to prevent it. Exhausting every reasonable resource to hinder the reopening of the ballot boxes and obstruct the proposed investigation into the legality of his own election, he furnished a poor ex-

ample for believers in pure politics who look to their high officials for inspiration. It would have better become Mr. McClellan to lend his aid in securing the recount, content to retain his seat or retire from it, according to the results of the investigation.

JUST FOR FUN.

What They Meant.

After the new arrival had registered the hotel clerk looked down the page and read: "Jeremiah Gratchap, XX-XX, Hecolofore, Ind., U. S. A."

"What do all those X's mean after your name?" queried the puzzled official.

"They mean a job," explained the new arrival. "I'm ex-school director, ex-township trustee, ex-county commissioner and ex-mayor. See?"—Chicago News.

The Reason.

Mother—Why, Bobbie, how clean your hands are.

Bobbie—Aren't they? But you ought to have seen them before I helped Bridget make the bread.—Life.

Haste.

"What do you think of the fashion in women's hats?" inquired the store-keeper.

"They are typical of the rapid pace we are hitting," answered the customer. "Heretofore a hat had to go out of style before it looked very funny."—Washington Star.

Force of Habit.

"Does this car go to Twenty-fourth street?" inquired the elderly lady.

"No, ma'am, but I've something just as good," replied the conductor, who was formerly a drug clerk. "I can let you off twice at Twelfth street."—The Bohemian.

No Running About.

Mrs. Gadder (reading an ad)—Shopping by mail! How ridiculous!

Mrs. Assum—Why so?

Mrs. Gadder—Why, how can one shop by mail? You can only buy things by mail.—Philadelphia Press.

Lost His Title.

Simkins—You say that little man was formerly the lightweight champion?

Simkins—Yes.

Simkins—How did he lose the title?

Simkins—Oh, he didn't lose it. He merely sold his grocery and retired.—Chicago News.

Wrong Brand.

The prodigal son wrote the old man as follows:

"I got religion at camp meeting the other day. Send me \$10."

The old man replied: "Religion is free. You got the wrong kind."—Atlanta Constitution.

Ready for Them.

Friend—Now, if I were building a house, I'd—

Owner—Step around the corner, please, and you'll find a house I'm putting up to carry out the ideas of my friends. This is the one I'm building to suit myself.—Judge.

In Mitigation.

Magistrate—So you acknowledge having stolen the overcoat? Anything more to say?

Prisoner—Yes, your honor. I had to have the sleeves reined.—Punch.

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