DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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A Chicago subscriber says of the statement in Harper's Weekly:

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CUT THEIR HOGS!

A reduction of some ten thousand dollars per annum in the official salary part of the running expenses of a city like Salt Lake is no very great stroke of economy, and can certainly escape the odious designation of cheese-paring. Still, it is an indication not a hopeless and promising. The City Council in this first ordinance may have only inserted the thin edge of the wedge. At some later hour they may again wield the axe of wise retrenchment with forty vigor, and in a particularly economical mood they may even vote to reduce their own stipend. Patience, dear public, yet a little longer!

An argument frequently used against low salaries is that they are an inducement only to cheap and incapable men. There is some truth in this, as there is in almost every sophistry—but not much. None of the best officials the city ever had, worked for nothing. In fact, the best qualification we can think of in any office-holder is that he obtained and occupies his place without thought of the monetary emolument. A man who seeks election or appointment to any place merely for the money there is in it, is a good man to defeat. That ideal political condition where the office seeks the man, and not the man the office, can rarely be attained where fat salaries are the rule. In such cases it is men's cupidity, not their desire to promote the public interest, that makes them hunters or competitors of place. We'll warrant that plenty of equally good men for the public service can be found any day at much less compensation than even the reduced salary existence specifies. Honor has still a high and fixed value among our citizens, and patriotism is not altogether a lost attribute.

But is not the laborer worthy of his hire? Most certainly, we only need a recollection of the terms "cabotes" and "sure." Shall a man be asked to give his time and energies to the public without compensation at all? No; the people are able to pay their servants and ought to do so. Isn't a good man cheaper at a high salary than an incapable man at a low salary? Yes; but high salaries are not always an assurance of good men, any more than low wages and a cheap coal mark invariably an ignoramus or a scrub.

We would have salaries so low that there would be no scramble for the places as a means of making a living and of feeling robustly at the public crib. We have seen too much of the practice, among party-workers and pensioners of "Hell-house," of scanning the list of offices, calculating the compensation of each, and then bravely and boldly-loudly setting out to explore this, that or the other position—anything, so long as it pays so much per year. It is a disgrace. If the City Council under the pressure of heavy financial burdens and a sense of the need of rigid economy can help to correct this evil by removing a portion of its cause, well and good—we're with them. Meanwhile we yield the floor to the carping critic who now will doubtless want to say the News is arguing that an experienced man is worth no better wages than a green.

FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.

Quite unexplainable, the News thinks, is Dr. Parks's argument, published in another column, for an improvement in the public school system of the Territory through amendment of the present law by the Legislature now in session. Some months ago this paper suggested a convention of educators to discuss this very question, and on the occasion we felt the position, which the Doctor now asserts and maintains so admirably, that efficiency, economy and simplicity would all be promoted by the change. Not in the latter at recent as it at first sight might seem. The proposition is merely to extend to the counties of the Territory the privilege that republican slowly are adding to cities of the first and second class. The doing away with a great number of petty school boards, each pulling in its own sweet way and without any idea of harmonious and progressive system with reference to even the nearest neighboring hamlet, would seem to be so evident a benefit that no discussion of it is necessary. Further more, this is the opportune time, the native moment of opportunity, to make any such change if it is to be made at all. It cannot be done so cleanly after the reorganization of precinct schoolhouses and the wholesale duplication of numbers, apparatus, etc., has been going on a few years, and school boards have more or less settled into a certain rate of procedure and precedent, as it now right now, when our educational interests are in a state of flux, and a mighty advancement. Particularly effective as an object lesson in the respective merits of the new and the old systems, is Dr. Parks's comparison of results in two contiguous Michigan communities under the two systems.

In fact the proposition all through is so clearly outlined and so strongly urged, that we cannot believe it will arouse any opposition worthy the name. We warmly commend the Doctor's address to the solicitude of every parent, every citizen and every school trustee in the Territory—there all to every member of the Territorial Assembly.

PREACHERS' PECULIARITIES.

Recently a number of our church friends have treated the readers of the News to a number of suggestions for the health and guidance of preachers. Some of these hints have been quite pertinent and worthy of being adopted. Some particular habitual peculiarities are legitimate to both preacher and congregation. A common one is for the speaker to make the introductory announcement that he is dissatisfied, sick, etc. It is bad enough to be in such a condition, but the situation is made still worse by making a statement of its existence, for the following reasons: The information is not edifying; it creates a feeling of discomfort in the minds of the congregation, who, in their sympathy, are thinking of the speaker's infirmities, and it is a particularly unnatural mind