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## THE CREDIT OF THE CITY IN DANGER

It appears from published statements, given without qualification, that for the first time in the history of Salt Lake City, its credit is rapidly sinking. More than that, it is in danger of being swamped. This is the first time in the existence of the corporation that even a shadow has rested upon its credit. But "Liberal" rule has, in the brief space of one year, brought it to the verge of ruin. This decline of financial solidity was the cause of the bonds of the municipality being sold at 96.

It is also broadly published that the proposed sale of the Old Fort block is based on the necessities of the situation. It is stated that the \$150,000 that would accrue from disposing of a piece of valuable property belonging to the people to a private corporation is needed to "save the credit of the city." Perhaps an adequate idea of the situation can be formed by a perusal of the annexed article from Friday's issue of the Salt Lake Times—a non-"Mormon" paper and a supporter of the "Liberal" party:

"The sale of the Old Fort block that has furnished the key for so much demagogic canting on the part of the politician for the wrinkled and horny-palmed son of toll," said a member of the City Council this afternoon, "is urged by more reasons than those that are visible from a bird's eye view. It's all right for men to talk sentimentality and to taffy the poor man upon his rights and what humanity owes him, but that sort of stuff has been served in such volumes that it has become flat and tasteless. The poor man can't get food or fuel out of sentimentality any more than a city or a moneyed baron of Wall Street. You can't settle bills with sentimentality. The city realized that when they unloaded those bonds at 96 cents. Our credit must be protected and the only basis of protection is bullion silver and gold—and bank notes, in case the thing is not left to our preference. But the sale of the old Fort block—"

"Would effect our credit?"

"Assuredly. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars in the municipal till at this writing would make us feel like a newly blossomed rose. It would obviate the necessity of appealing to a good many other alternatives that are at once expensive and embarrassing. I don't believe in paying extortionate tribute to the sordid Shylock until the avaricious son of Israel has got us in his merciless grasp. To be candid the city owes more, morally, than appears in the red. For example it owes the property

owners of this city \$110,000 for monies advanced!"

"How's that?"

"Very simple. It's for monies advanced by them on the extension of water mains and in round numbers it reaches \$110,000. The system here is somewhat eccentric. For example, if an application is made for a watermain the applicant under the ruling system is compelled to advance his proportion of the costs of the laying of the same. In consideration of this advance he gets a receipt from the tax collector and the advance is passed to his credit and applied in payment of his water tax. Say you pay \$50 and your water tax is \$10 per annum, you obtain a receipt for five years' water tax. At the present time the city owes property owners \$110,000 worth of water. That's a heap of money to some people and would carry many a man through a squall. Now, let's see. If we had \$150,000 we could apply \$110,000 of this to the payment of the people who have a credit balance on the city's books and redeem the receipts that they hold for water that it will require years to consume. Nor is this the only desideratum. There are other items to be looked after, but they are family secrets. However, it is better to take care of them while they are bagatelles than to permit them to become bugaboos and, hence I say, let us call in some of our resources and protect our credit."

We are afraid the "family secrets" have done more to demoralize the financial condition of the city than any other cause. Of course with those subtrosa concerns the poor public has nothing whatever to do. All that the people are needed for in that relation is that they may be mulcted of their money to meet "bagatelle family secrets" before they become "bugaboos." What does this family secret business mean? Does it signify, jobbery, crookedness, misappropriation of public funds, or what? "Family secrets" will not bear the light, so, as a matter of course, they must belong to the star chamber department of the city government.

Now the people are confronted, according to a member of the Council and a "Liberal" organ, with the imminent danger of a collapse of the credit of the city, after an expenditure by the "rule or ruin party of nearly a million dollars in one year, with no commensurate improvements to justify this profligate dribblement of public funds.

The present government is loading itself up with questionable transactions and unmitigated public suspicion and contempt.

The citizens of this municipality are rapidly realizing the force of the old truism—When the unscrupulous rule the people mourn.

## CONGRESS AND LEADING QUESTIONS

The Fifty-first Congress is fast nearing a close. It has only a few hours more to live. The Senate, it is reported, finished consideration of

the Sundry Civil and Legislative Appropriation bills on the night of the 27th ult. For the Industrial home in this city the usual \$4,000 was appropriated. Senators Plumb and Vest vigorously opposed this appropriation. Plumb is a Republican, and one of the three who voted against the McKinley bill. Vest is an old time Democrat. For the redistricting and reapportionment of Utah, \$1,000 was also appropriated. The present Congress will expire without doing anything on the silver question.

The Fifty-second Congress will meet in December. The question is, will that take up the silver issue. The House will be overwhelmingly Democratic. The Senate will be Republican by a small majority. The Senate, of course, is for free and unlimited coinage of silver. Will the Democratic House align itself on the side of free silver. If so, what action will President Harrison take? It is well known that he is opposed to free silver, but the San Francisco *Chronicle* says that if a free coinage bill should pass under the circumstances President Harrison would approve it. That paper also contends that the Democrats will gladly pass a free silver bill, so that silver would not enter into the campaign of 1892. And it asserts that the first thing to be done by the next Democratic House will be to pass a silver bill. By doing this, all impediments to the nomination of Grover Cleveland for the Presidency by the Democratic convention in 1892 will be removed. There are a number of orthodox Democratic newspapers which hold that no candidate so openly pronounced against free silver as Cleveland, can be put in nomination with that question unsettled.

The *Chronicle* further says:

● If these conjectures prove true the campaign of 1892 will be fought on a single issue, that of the tariff, and it is better that it should be. By no kind of ingenuity can the silver question be made properly a partisan question, while the lines have already been drawn so closely on the tariff that it is a recognized and well-understood political issue. There are honest differences of opinion among Republicans on the silver question, but it can hardly be claimed that one can be a Republican without being a protectionist. We may well afford to let the Democrats pass a free coinage bill in December or January next if it clears the field for the campaign which will begin in the following summer, for there is every feeling of confidence among Republicans that by that time the new tariff law will have so commended itself to the people as to insure a sweeping victory for protection at the November election."

LOUISVILLE, March 9.—Wm. Dabney Strather Taylor, aged 85, nephew and eldest surviving member of the family of President Zachary Taylor, died here today.