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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 12, 1900.

THE MOMENTOUS QUESTION.

Every taxpayer in this city should

read the address issued by the special

committee of the City Council, on the

necessity of bonds to secure an

increased water supply and a better dis-

tribution thereof. It is endorsed by a

committee of citizens, one from each

municipal ward or precinct, invited to

meet with the special committee of the

Council, and by J. F. Fawcett Smith, the

well known civil engineer, who has been

familiar with our water system and its

needs and defects for many years.

We believe that a fair and candid

consideration of the plans set forth in

the address, and of the absolute need of

funds to complete them at once, will

change the views of a large number of

intelligent people who, through preju-

dice against bonding and other ob-

jections, had about made up their minds

to vote "No" on Monday next.

In an emergency like that which now

confronts this city, there should be no

paralyzing obstructions to the most feasi-

ble way to meet it. More water for

culinary and lawn purposes is needed

now. In a few years the lack will be

still more formidable, because of the

increased demand as the population in-

creases. Not only is the present sup-

ply insufficient, but the system for its

distribution is so imperfect that it is

impossible to render it fully available.

These two defects are to be remedied

at once, if money is obtained to do the

work.

The necessary increase of supply can

be had in the manner and by the means

set forth in the address. And the im-

provement needed in its distribution al-

ready in process will be also effected,

as therein explained. It is all practical,

simple and easy to understand. It will

meet present pressing emergencies and

open the way to obviate future threat-

ened dangers.

The only rational question to be de-

cided by the taxpayers is, how shall the

money be obtained to pay for the work

projected, most of which is under way

or contracted for? Shall the city issue

bonds drawing a low rate of interest—

it cannot be more than four per cent—

or shall we raise the money by a heavy

special tax this year, and probably next

year as well?

The contract is let for the improved

pipe system that will cost \$75,000. So

with the reservoir project, \$30,000. The

Parley's canyon purchases arranged for

require \$60,000. The dredging work to

lower the channel from Utah lake and

bring in an adequate supply, and for

the defense of the city's rights to Utah

lake water, and the plans to use that

DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

The Deseret News is requested to

reply to the annexed letter of inquiry

from a resident of this city:

"Will you kindly explain what the

rules are in regard to the delivery of

letters? Does the postman fill the re-

quirements when he deposits various

letters in an open paper box on the

steps by the sidewalk, and does not

even blow a whistle? This has hap-

pened to me several times and I have

been quite a loser by it."

We are of the opinion that our cor-

respondent would have no trouble in

this matter, if he would inform the

carrier in his district that he wishes to

have his letters delivered at the house.

We have usually found the carriers

courteous and gentlemanly, and ready

to accommodate within the rules of the

department.

But to answer the question directly,

we will say that letters should be de-

livered, as addressed, at the house and

not the fence. Some people, however,

place a small box near the gate, pre-

fering to have letters as well as pa-

pers deposited there. But the rules as

we understand them, that delivery of

letters must be made at the house, es-

pecially when so desired.

In the regulations established under

the annexed postal laws we find these:

"Carriers are forbidden—

1. To deliver mail matter in the

street, even to the owner, unless he is

personally known, and the delivery is

made without unreasonable delay.

2. To deliver mail matter in boxes or

other receptacles at premises not occu-

ped in whole or in part by the ad-

dresser, except by the special order of

the postmaster.

3. To throw mail matter into win-

dows or halls, unless specially instructed

to do so. They must ring the bell

and wait a reasonable time for an an-

swer, and deliver mail to some one of

the household in the habit of receiving

it."

"Mailed carriers must dismount and

deliver mails at the doors of residences,

except in cases where the patrons at

their routes consent to respond to this

call and receive the mail at the side-

walk."

This makes it very clear that the

intention of the law is to require deliv-

ery of letters at the house. But it is

also evident that if people choose to re-

spond to a whistle from the carrier,

and step out to the fence or gate and

receive mail matter, that will come

within the rules. A mutual disposition

to accommodate will do much to pre-

vent annoyances. Carriers have no

too much time for their rounds, and

people should do all they reasonably

can to facilitate delivery.

Carriers who have neglected to com-

ply with the regulations of the postal

department would do well to be more

strict in this regard, and also to be

as pleasant as possible with the fol-

low in their respective delivery districts.

A letter is not legally "delivered" un-

til it reaches the person to whom it is

addressed, or the house indicated by

number and street on the envelope. That

appears to be the law as well as good

common sense.

A FATAL DAY.

Every year the thoughtful portion of

the American press is raising its voice

against the dangerous play with fire-

works, which has become the feature

of our national holiday. The protes-

t is sustained chiefly by the numerous ac-

cidents that are the result of that mode

of celebration.

The list of casualties this year is ex-

ceptionally long. The Chicago Tribu-

ne has received reports from the principal

THE COST OF WAR.

A contributor to an eastern exchange,

writing about the expenses wars entail

upon the nations, says in part:

"A careful estimate, we are told by

a contemporary, places the amount

spent by Great Britain and Ireland,

during the queen's reign, on wars and

preparations for wars, at the almost

incredible sum of \$2,500,000,000. That

is not an overestimate, becomes

clear when we reflect that the Crimean

war alone drained \$115,000,000 from

the exchequer, and that England is

spending every year more than \$2,000,000

in maintaining the army and navy. If

the United Kingdom were called to pay

the Victorian war bill today, it would

absorb four shillings out of every sov-

ereign of its entire wealth, and would

be called upon to raise a sum which

would extinguish our gross national

debt four times over. Even the interest

on the war debt is colossal. If it

were invested at 5 per cent, ignoring

altogether the accumulated interest of

over sixty-two years it would yield a

revenue of \$125,000,000 a year, a sum

which would be sufficient to meet all

national expenditure, and leave a year-

ly balance which would go far towards

solving the question of old-age pen-

sions, or to replace all the sums raised

yearly for charitable purposes."

At present the war spirit seems to

rule the world, and the cost of destruc-

tion does not enter largely into the

calculations of statesmen. But that

spirit will subside in due time, and

then the cost of war, will, when the

nations have become sober, form a weighty

argument for universal brotherhood

and peace.

PHILIPPINE AMNESTY.

Baltimore Herald.

That the tender will go far to con-

vince the natives in the islands of our

good intentions may be assumed. Its

magnanimity must appeal strongly to

the hostile Filipinos and can hardly

fail to persuade them that we are not

actuated by a feeling of vindictiveness

or by lust for power. The leaders re-

alize now, if they did not before, that

a continuance of the insurrection is

useless and can only retard recovery

from the ravages of war. They can

no longer delude themselves of their

followers with the idea that opposition

to American occupation, if persisted in,

will induce a change of policy at Wash-

ington.

NEW YORK WORLD.

The Philippine Patrick Henrys may

be tempted to reply: "We demand free-

dom! Give us liberty or give us death!"

They have been getting the death all

right and at a rapid rate. A Malay's

word is not considered a serious affair

when there is anything to be gained by

giving it. And unless the character of

the people has changed, the President

is not likely to make more out of this

proclamation than he has from former

ones.

PHILADELPHIA TIMES.

The real significance of the present

situation at Manila is that the com-

missioners sent out there to establish

a civil government are going to work

in consultation with such representa-

tives of the native population as they

can reach, and that the occasion ap-

pears to them and to the military com-

manders opportune for the suggestion

of a peaceful settlement. The odds are

that these expectations are well found-

ed, only the result can show.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The current number of Cassell's Na-

tional Library, new series, gives in a

pleasant and convenient form,