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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 20, 1901.

AN OPEN QUESTION.

We have received a circular urging the claims and showing the benefits of the New Utah Home telephone company. A franchise is wanted for the occupation of the streets of this city, by the poles and wires necessary to the construction of the service. This suggests a very important question: Are we to have a new network of wires in the already crowded thoroughfares? These obstructions are becoming very much of a nuisance, which ought not to be encouraged and increased.

The Bell company is proceeding to place its wires underground, which is a very laudable improvement. If franchise should be granted to the new company, ought it not to be made on condition that its wires shall also be placed underground? We think that is a reasonable requirement, considering the conditions existing, and the rights of other companies, and the public interest.

The electric light is a necessity, now, both of a public and private character. So also is the electric street railway. The poles and wires of the companies supplying light and power and means of transportation, have the right of way and should not be interfered with. But another set of poles and wires in the streets is likely to become a nuisance. Let it go underground.

Of course the public like to see competition of any kind, that reduces cost of an article or system which is necessary, or adds to the public comfort or convenience. Therefore the offers and promises of the new company are likely to prove attractive. And the system may possibly become permanent. Time, however, will have to prove that.

The new scheme may do for local communication. But how about long distance service? The present system reaches over a vast extent of country and furnishes facilities for intercourse with many towns and cities far apart. How long will it be before such advantages can be secured by the proposed company, as will serve the public interest and commercial requirements?

These points are not raised by way of opposition to a measure designed for the public good. We would all like cheaper telephone service; if it will answer our purpose. It has been often argued that the Bell company was charging too much. But that cannot be established without investigation of both costs and returns. To keep in repair and in good order a telephone system like the Bell, requires large expenditures and we are not prepared to say that the company is making excessive profits. A full inquiry would set that matter at rest.

It is not to be expected that any business firm or corporation will operate just for fun, or solely for the good of the public. Dividends are expected in return for the investment of capital. However, we believe full information on this point can be obtained on proper inquiry, and if lower rates can be given than those now demanded, they ought to be established.

It will be well to look before we leap, and be sure we are right before we go ahead. If the change proposed will insure permanent benefits, it ought to be effected, but we are of the opinion that this is at present an open question.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

We are of the opinion, notwithstanding several protests received from gentlemen in country districts, that the proposed increase of salaries of State officers ought to be effected. Folks who labor for a living on a farm, or at some occupation that is not very remunerative, cannot appreciate the condition of affairs surrounding the public officers, who must be men of exceptional ability in order to fill their positions, with credit to the State. Nor can they gauge the value of services which are outside of their means of computation.

Only persons who know what the time and talents of men adapted to important stations are worth, can fairly determine this question. To put all kinds of labor on a common basis, is a common error among working people in the ordinary fields of human exertion. Its folly and injustice are evident, when a little free thought is exercised. We might as well claim that all products should be sold at a common price, regulated by size or weight or some other similar criterion.

The usual earnings of men in the learned professions form a far juster and more sensible guide in the settlement of this question. To put the salary of the Governor of a State on a level with that of a bookkeeper, and less than that of a manager of some ordinary mercantile business, is not equitable nor reasonable. The position he must maintain and the people he must entertain, show at once the need of a salary attached to the office commensurate with its requirements. The same applies to all the State officers, the pay for which was started very low

by the Constitution, but which it was expected would subsequently be regulated by law, according to the value of the services rendered.

What we say concerning the State officers now under consideration by the Legislature, applies with at least equal force to the compensation of the judges of the Supreme court of the State. The present sum is far below that which is earned by prominent lawyers, and it ought to be placed at a figure which would be somewhere near the standard for eminent ability. The most important cases that come up for judicial determination are submitted to that court, and the decisions that have to be rendered require critical research, the exercise of great judgment, and the expression of opinions conformable to the law, as construed by the wisest and most learned of the enlightened ages. All that is worth something to the State and should be so considered.

The question of taxes comes in when this matter is discussed, and is pertinent to the issue. But really the proposed annual increase of expenditure for the proper payment of our public servants, will not make sufficient, in the aggregate, to be felt as a burden by the smallest taxpayer in the State. It will be too low to figure as a substantial objection. In any event, what is just and right should be paid, even if it does add a little to taxation.

Viewing the matter from the standpoint of proper remuneration for services rendered according to their value in the labor market, and the ability necessary to their performance, we have clearly perceived that the amounts mentioned in the organic law are insufficient for the times and circumstances of the present, and therefore favor the passage of a law as required by the Constitution, adequately fixing the salaries of all our State officials.

THE GAME IN CHINA.

The Chinese trouble, though now several months old, seems as far from a satisfactory solution as when it first attracted the attention of the world. The Chinese authorities continue to state their objections to the proposed peace terms, and add a demand for the cessation of hostile expeditions, and a return of public buildings. Under the circumstances, the German and French commanders deem it unwise to withdraw their forces. The French, particularly, have found, in the neglect of the "allies" to protect native converts, an excuse for prolonging their stay for another year, while the others suggest that a "gradual" withdrawal may be commenced in the near future.

The diplomatic proceedings appear very peculiar. Soon after the release of the besieged foreigners in Peking, Russia proposed that all the troops be withdrawn, and that the further settlement be left in the main to Russian diplomacy. The discussion caused by this suggestion consumed some time, but led to no united action. Russia, however, found time while the others were talking, to strengthen her positions in Manchuria. Then the United States had a proposition which seemed to meet with general approval, but it was not carried out. Curiously enough Germany and Great Britain then agreed on a course of action practically identical with that proposed by the United States. France, too, has submitted some plans, but with no practical results.

The one great obstacle in the way of a final settlement is the demand for retaliation. The conditions imposed upon China are to some extent of such a nature as to make it impossible for the Chinese government to comply with them. In all probability they were made so intentionally. The European powers have admitted the soundness of the policy of preserving the integrity of the Chinese empire. If they, notwithstanding this, are looking for an excuse to make the occupation permanent, they may find one in the inability of the Chinese government to comply with their demands. When the same shall have been played to a finish, it will probably be found that the European powers went into it with a perfect understanding and agreement that the final outcome would be, either a complete breaking up of the Mongolian empire, or such a regulation of its affairs, as would leave the Chinese government no voice in the management of the country. Russia's policy in Manchuria, by which the Peking government is to appoint a governor who must receive his instructions from St. Petersburg, is perhaps the pattern secretly agreed on even before the game had entered the stage of diplomatic negotiations.

It is announced that Great Britain has dispatched two more battle ships of the Mediterranean squadron to Chinese waters. That may be regarded as an indication that no withdrawal of English troops is contemplated in the near future. It will give an excuse for other powers to strengthen their naval forces there, in order to be prepared to act whenever the Chinese government shall finally state its inability to comply with the conditions of the preliminary treaty of peace.

The part of our country in the present proceedings is not entirely clear, but it does not appear that our government has changed its position as defined some months ago. Minister Conger, however, has recently refused to support in writing the demands of the other powers, though he stated that verbally he would do so. Our position in the game must be judged from this singular attitude of our representative among the players.

STATISTICS OF CHURCHES.

The New York Independent has made it a rule to present annually a review of the growth of the religious bodies of the country. This year it gives three different tables, one of which shows the number of churches, communicants and ministers of the different organizations in 1890 and 1900, thus furnishing an estimate of the growth during the last decade of the 19th century.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of this table is the increase shown in the number of Christian Scientists. They are given as 8,721 in 1890, and 1,000,000 in 1900. This increase is exceeded only by Roman Catholics, who have

grown from 6,242,261 to 8,610,226 in the same period. Among the Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and Lutherans the growth has been rather slow. The Latter-day Saints are estimated at 200,000 in 1900, as against 144,640 in 1890, but the "Reorganized" church is said to have increased only from 21,772 to 45,590.

The table in detail, as condensed by Public Opinion, is both interesting and instructive. It is as follows:

Denominations.	1890.	1900.
Adventists:		
Seventh Day	28,991	55,316
Life and Advent Union	1,013	3,009
Armenians	335	8,509
Baptists:		
Regular (North)	800,450	972,820
Regular (South)	1,250,066	1,678,413
Regular (Colorado)	1,348,939	1,854,509
Brethren in Christ (Ohio)	2,488	4,690
Roman Catholics	6,242,261	8,610,226
Christians	169,722	113,835
Christian		
(Dowie)	40,000	
Christian Scientists	8,724	1,000,000
Church of God	22,511	35,900
Church of the New Jerusalem	7,995	7,679
Congregationalists	512,771	629,874
Disciples of Christ	871,017	1,149,982
Dunkards:		
German		
Conservative	61,101	95,009
German Baptists (Old Order)	4,411	3,500
German Baptists (Progressive)	8,089	12,787
Episcopalians:		
Protestant Episcopal	532,054	716,431
Reformed Episcopal	5,435	8,743
Evangelical Bodies:		
Evangelical Association	133,313	118,865
United Evangelical Church	54,000	60,992
Friends, Orthodox	80,655	51,368
German Evangelical Synod	187,432	203,574
Greek Church:		
Greek Orthodox	100	20,000
Russian Orthodox	12,594	45,000
Jews	419,469	521,627
Latter-day Saints:		
Mormons	144,552	300,000
Reorganized Church	21,772	45,590
Lutherans:		
General Synod	164,640	194,442
United Synod in the South	37,497	38,659
General Council	324,846	379,409
Synodical Conference	257,153	351,029
Independent Synods	246,976	481,359
Mennonites	17,087	22,443
Methodists:		
Methodist Episcopal	2,849,354	3,716,457
African M. E. Zion	249,738	536,271
Methodist Protestant	141,989	181,316
Wesleyan Methodist	16,492	17,201
Methodist Episcopal South	1,209,976	1,457,864
Moravians	11,781	14,817
Presbyterians:		
Presbyterians in U. S. A. (Northern)	788,224	973,439
Cumberland Presby. terian	164,940	180,192
Cumberland Presby. terian (Colorado)	12,556	39,000
Welsh Calvinistic	12,722	12,000
United Presbyterian	94,402	115,901
Presbyterian in U. S. (South)	179,721	225,580
Reformed:		
Reformed in America (Dutch)	92,970	107,594
Reformed in U. S. (German)	204,018	240,745
Christian Reformed	12,470	15,096
Salvation Army	8,742	40,000
United Brethren:		
United Brethren in Christ	202,474	248,841
United Brethren (Old Constitution)	22,807	226,817
Unitarians	67,749	71,000
Universalists	49,194	48,426
Families		
Families		
Population, 1,053,125.		

It is one of the notable signs of the times that Roman Catholicism and Christian Science seem to show the numerically greatest increase during the period covered. One is above all a practical religion, its strength being in charitable institutions, by which it appeals forcibly to human sympathy, and touches the tenderest strings in the human heart; the other is mysticism in its most modern garb. Between the two the various divisions of Protestantism, with their antiquated theology, barely hold their ground.

Theodore, Comte de Lion Montagne is the way in which the gallant colonel is now spoken of.

When a "bull" becomes excited by a "red flag" it's a sign that the animal is not fit to run at large, and should be avoided or penned up.

Mrs. Nation has declined a medal offered her by a Kansas temperance union. She may decline a medal but she still "takes the cake" for certain things.

Sir Thomas Lipton feels sure that he will "lift" the America's cup with Shamrock II. Let him not be too sure. There is many a slip between the cup and the lift.

The legislatures of Oregon, Montana and Nebraska are still balloting for senators. Carried to excess it becomes very wearisome but otherwise it is a harmless and pleasant pastime.

Senator Aldrich says he has never asked the President for an office. To him there should be erected a shaft just one foot shorter than that which stands on the banks of the Potomac to the memory of Washington.

It is to be feared that the Filipinos who have been swearing allegiance to the United States with such alacrity of late, may renounce it with equal facility should matters in the islands turn out not to be to their notions altogether.

Before our legislative friends drop their tools and playthings and run off on a visit to another State and its lawmakers, would it not be prudent to wait for an official invitation? Most people generally do that, even if they are not great sticklers for etiquette. Don't be in a rush, but rather wait till you are asked.

The McMillan bill is NOT to stop or hinder vaccination. It is to stop a vicious, partial and tyrannical raid of a few doctors upon the public schools. Vaccination can go on as far as its advocates can extend it by lawful and rational means. The effort is merely to stop the exercise of violence and force.

may be far more important than it has been deemed to be.

They have yellow journals as well as black eagles in Germany. An instance the wild story of the Berlin Vorwaerts, that Emperor William's sudden departure for England was not only due to a desire to bid farewell to his dying grandmother, but still more to the Prince of Wales' urgent wish to settle a private debt affair to the emperor before ascending the throne. The amount named—24,000,000 marks—is truly a royal sum, but the story sounds very "thin."

It seems almost an inconsistency that Queen Victoria should have desired a military funeral. Military funerals are generally reserved for those whose lives have been largely spent in camp and on battlefield. But Queen Victoria was pre-eminently a lover of peace and a decider of war. That her body should be borne to the grave on a gun-carriage almost shocks and certainly jars the finer feelings. But who can tell of the promptings of the heart or trace the inconsistencies of human nature?

Oliver Schreiner-Crowright and her husband are practically held prisoners in their home in South Africa. She is the author of two novels—The Story of an African Farm and Private Trooper Hackett—that are very superior works, works that should give her enduring fame. Edouard Rod, the French critic, pronounces the latter work among the very foremost productions of English literature during the nineteenth century. And he does not value it one bit too high. May the lady in her captivity produce and give to the world works of equal worth!

THE DEAD QUEEN.

Kansas City World.
It is said to think that the promise, "At the eventide there shall be light," was denied her and that her declining days were made unhappy by the horrors of the South African war. Constantly calmed with the promise that a peaceful end was near, she lingered on from day to day only to hear news of fiercer disasters. There is no doubt but this hastened the end, which, in the course of nature, could not have been far off at best.

Los Angeles Express.
No breath of scandal ever assailed her fair name. Her influence was cast always and persistently for the home virtues of purity and blameless conduct in all the walks of life. Hers was an ennobling influence in England because of her beautiful womanly qualities as much if not more than because she was queen. In all the tributes that may be paid to the aged sovereign whom death has claimed, none will mean more, nor will any be higher than those which emphasize the traits of gentleness and tender womanliness which she possessed to so eminent a degree that the world mourns her passing into eternity.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The story of Victoria's life is of a queen the prayer of whose life is a "Give peace in our time, O Lord!" and whose personal efforts have been more than once successful in saving her country from war, and even in helping the peace of Europe, but whose closing hours were saddened with the spectacle of England engaged in a cruel war that has brought grief to thousands of English families, her own included, and the result of which will reflect no honor on England, no matter what the outcome may be.

Chicago News.

Queen Victoria lived to see the dawn of the new century, but she lingered merely as a survival. Now that she also is numbered with the dead of her great century, England and the world feel that an era has closed. Of her more truly than any of her predecessors, perhaps, upon the English throne, is the phrase "of glorious and blessed memory" that occurs in the proclamation which calls England to swear loyalty to a new king. As to her epitaph, that is characteristic and was written by herself against the time, now at hand, when she should be laid in the marble sarcophagus at Frogmore beside that of Prince Albert:

"Victoria-Albert,
Here at last I shall
Rest with thee.
With thee in Christ
I shall rise again."

New York Mail and Express.

There are significant springs in human nature that are untouched by the commonplace functions of government, but that respond richly to the promptings of high example held up on the beacon of national tradition, and in some sense associated with national destiny. As the center of a hundred ameliorative and philanthropic agencies as the helpful friend of honor, merit and innocence, as an embodiment of inspiration to the ideal in national life, Victoria has done her own personal part in the great era that, in the successive steps by which a kingdom became an empire, has seen popular rights defined and enlarged, British commerce vastly advanced, Australia and Canada federated, India reconquered, Egypt reclaimed and Africa marked out for future dominion.

Boston Transcript.

The Victoria Era must be famous in British annals so long as Britain has annals to be read. In art and science, in letters and in arms it has been luminous. It was touched by the waning light of the galaxy of stars that marked the close of the Georgian period. It witnessed the rise of great constellations whose light still lingers with a power that will reach far forward into the future. Nor was the association of Queen Victoria with the intellectual development of the era that will bear her name wholly casual. The age of Anne was the age of brilliant wits, who puzzled and annoyed a dull queen. George II was the dullest kind of an Augustus. Queen Victoria was in quick sympathy with all the great intellectual development of her time. She had the brain to perceive it and the heart to sympathize with its beneficence. She could with truth say that all of it she saw and part of it she was.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the current issue of Collier's Weekly, Winston Spencer Churchill explains "What Americans Think About the Boer War." Mr. Churchill is the British war correspondent and late Boer prisoner. In view of the recent changes wrought by the great naval powers of the world, special interest must needs attach itself to a series of new naval drawings sketched by Henry Reuter-dahl. Mr. Reuter-dahl opens the series of special articles on this subject with his own observations on recent naval developments in Great Britain and on the Continent—New York.

The January number of the National Geographic Magazine has for leading article a paper on "The Influence of Submarine Cables upon Military and Naval Supremacy," by George O. Squier, captain of the Signal corps, United States army. Another paper given at The Indian Tribes of Southern Patagonia, Sierra del Fuego, and

Z. C. M. I.

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T. G. WEBBER, Supt

The Allpining Islands" by J. B. Hatch-
er. "Other articles deal with "Location
of the Boundary Between Nicaragua
and Costa Rica;" "Recent Contributions to our
Knowledge of the Earth's Shape and
Size;" by the United States coast and
geodetic survey, and "Explorations in
Central and East Africa."—McClure,
Phillips & Co., New York.

The February number of the Cos-
mopolitan has a varied and interesting
list of contents. "The Millionaire's Art"
is an illustrated article by Charles de
Kay. "Modern Mahabharata in the
French Army," are treated on by Fritz
Morris. "Jerome Park Racing Days,"
are described by John Beveridge Dane.
"Flinzin' Jim and His Fool Killer" is
an illustrated story by Fred Chandler
Harris. Another story, quaintly illus-
trated, is by Millicent Ophstead, and is
entitled "The Festival of Love." The
list is continued by "Maledictione de
Castelfranc," by Adolphe Ribaux; "Sci-
entific Joy," Harry Thurston Peck;
"The Life of a Vandyke Artist,"
Norman Hapgood; "The Requiem of
the Drums," Bucky O'Neill; "The First
Lay of Our Land," Mrs. Horton Har-
rison. "The First Men in the Moon," H.
G. Wells; "Questions of the Day: Pub-
lic Control of Private Corporations,"
Richard T. Ely, and "The Secret Or-
chard," Agnes and Clayton Castle.—
Irvington, New York.

The February number of the Chau-
taquian, a magazine for self-education,
has several interesting articles among
which are "Uncle Sam as a Business
Man," by Richard J. Hutton; "Sanitary
Superstitions," by F. L. Oswald; "The
Rivalry of Nations," by Edwin A. Star-
r; and "Race Problems in the United
States." Its frontispiece is a portrait
of Victor Hugo.—Cleveland, Ohio.

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Sunday—Night of "Idol's Eye."
Monday—Mignon.

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50c, 25c. Matinee, 75c, 50c, 25c.

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