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SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 7, 1905.

A PRESSING DUTY.

Councilman Hiram S. Wells is certainly entitled to credit for the manner in which he championed the resolution for the building of a bridge over City Creek, where the Wasatch boulevard will cross the stream. And also for his calm and dispassionate defense against the attacks of the obstructionists, who for some unexplained reason endeavor to block the way for every important public improvement which does not coincide with their personal schemes and devices.

It was hoped when the present city council was elected, that the personalities and disreputable modes of proceeding which were common to the previous council would be avoided. But it seems that the majority of the voters in some of the municipal wards of this city prefer persons of the stripe that cannot rise above a certain level, to the class of citizens who in their very character would give tone and respectability to our public affairs. There are a few members of the council who are of that coarse grain and manner that when disputes arise they cannot take the role of gentlemen, but must needs resort to barroom tactics, and instead of following the line of fair argument, descend to scurrilities and personal vilification.

It is absolutely necessary to the welfare of this city that business men of a high class of character, familiar with city affairs and devoted to municipal interests should be chosen to conduct the public business. Now is the time for the voters, and particularly the taxpayers, to be looking around for the right kind of men on whom to place the burden of the city's affairs. The matter of selection ought not to be left to the little cliques which meet in secret and arrange schemes to control the primaries, and to the various orders and societies which plan to place their members in public office. But choice should be made by the majority of the citizens, irrespective of creed and party, and the mantle should fall upon persons distinguished for their ability, honesty, upright character and public spirit. They should be bona fide taxpayers, personally interested in the general welfare and in the upbuilding, adornment and progress of the municipality.

We have some gentlemen in the city council, in whom the public may repose the utmost confidence. They find it difficult, often, to restrain their indignation when assailed unjustly and in a manner likely to provoke resentment. They should not be made subject to such low-down assaults as are frequent in that body from certain sources. The people of this city should see to it that future city councils shall be composed of high-class, business citizens, whom they will be proud to present to visitors as their civic officers.

It is in the power of the people of Salt Lake to elect to office men of such a character as to be worthy of the high distinction, and who will so conduct themselves that they will bring no reproach upon the municipality. The quarrelsome and bullying spirit frequently displayed in city council debates is a disgrace to those who exhibit it and a reproach to our beautiful city. Let the public take immediate steps to prepare for the duty which will devolve upon them at the next election, and look around for men who will be an honor and a credit to the city. Politics and religion should not go flailing in the matter of civil concern, but the fittest men for the places to be filled should form the great desideratum. Now is the time to get ready.

UNDER A HEAVY CLOUD.

The verdict against Senator Mitchell of Oregon is no doubt justified by the evidence presented at the trial. Yet there is a general feeling of sympathy and regret toward the distinguished defendant who suffers under the disgrace that has fallen upon him. That he has not profited very greatly from the improprieties of his course in lending his name and influence to questionable transactions, does not alter the fact that he has violated the law. Nor is it any just plea in his defense that he has done no more than many other public men have done without censure. Senator Mitchell has, without doubt, had similar opportunities to make large sums of money that are open to other public men in high station. That he has not taken advantage of them is proved by his financial condition. He is comparatively a poor man. After serving his state and nation for many years, he will have to retire in poverty, as well as in disgrace. The offense of which he has been convicted is a crime under the national laws. There have been gross frauds in the acquisition of timber lands in Oregon; the firm of which he is a member is tainted with

the wrong, and the evidence shows that he had guilty knowledge of the aid that was rendered to the perpetrators of the offenses complained of, and that he received money, although but a small sum, in consideration of the services of his firm and his personal influence.

The Senator has exhibited many excellent qualities as a man and a statesman. He has also fought a winning fight for years against his political adversaries. He has stood high in the estimation of the people who placed him in the United States Senate, and who now mourn his condition and would fain see him relieved from the strain that is upon him. It is possible that by a new trial, or through appeal to higher tribunals, he may escape the legal consequences of his offense and appear in a better light than that which is now cast upon him. But from the disclosures during the trial it looks as though he can never fully recover from the blow he has received in the verdict of "guilty" rendered against him, and that henceforth he will walk under a cloud and lose his place among the great ones of the nation.

A man's character, however, should be weighed in the scales of justice. He should not be forever condemned for one fault, even though it be great. His whole life and works and endeavors in the public interest should weigh in his favor in the public mind, and while his faults may not be properly condoned, yet his virtues and his great efforts for national and state advancement ought not to be forgotten by men, and certainly will not by the Eternal Judge of all mankind. If there is a way out of the mire into which Senator Mitchell has been plunged, we shall be pleased to see him emerge from it and stand once more on as honorable a plane as possible in the sight of heaven and earth.

OUR SAILORS IN PARIS.

The presence of 500 American Blue Jackets in Paris, unfurling the American flag and enthusiastically received by the Parisians, is certainly a unique event. We would not be surprised if political importance should be attached to it by some European diplomats, although the occasion was entirely without connection with international politics. The American representatives went to Paris to receive the earthly remains of Admiral Paul Jones. The honor bestowed upon our sailors by the French was an expression of the genuine friendship the citizens of one great republic naturally entertain for those of another. Even the soul-stirring strains of the Marseillaise should not inspire fear in any quarter. The ceremonies attending the delivery of the remains to the Americans were very impressive, and the occasion was most happily chosen for an exchange of compliments.

THE CANAL TROUBLE.

If the Panama canal is to be built at all, it will be necessary to decide on some feasible plan of construction, and to adhere to it, no matter what inducements may be offered to change it in favor of some other plan. The opponents of the canal used to play Panama against Nicaragua, and Nicaragua against Panama, and thus postpone action from year to year. They should not be permitted to follow out similar tactics on the pretext of suggesting changes in the plans of construction.

Just now there seems to be serious friction regarding the sea level project. Engineer Wallace is said to have intimated prior to his departure for the isthmus that he was not favorable to the Walker plan, which calls for a canal 90 feet above the sea level. He admitted that the sea-level plan would take twelve years and \$230,000,000, as against \$140,000,000 for the lock canal. But he claimed that the Walker plan will not stand for more than a decade, while the sea-level scheme will remain forever. The technical associates of the chief engineer do not entirely agree with him in holding that it would be better to build a sea-level canal at first. Considerable stretches of the canal would in any event be a sea level, but to decree that the entire ditch should be put through on a level with the ocean would be, they agree, to commit the United States to an undertaking of such stupendous proportions that it might well be viewed with alarm.

A third suggestion has also been made. If this is acted upon, it is said, \$100,000,000 would be saved, and several years in time. This plan contemplates turning the river Chagres into the two marshy regions on either side of the isthmus, thereby converting them into lakes, which will be deep enough for all purposes of navigation and will save the digging of ship channels through the malarial marshes. If this plan is carried out, there will be no great, high, permanent lake, no tunnel and no costly experiment. As the water in the two terminal lakes will stand about twenty feet above sea level, locks will be required at each sea end to raise or lower ships between the sea and the lake levels. But once having reached the lake levels, ships will pass on through the canal without any obstruction. In fact, it will not be a "canal" at all, but a canalized river with two diverging outlets. The people have decreed that the canal shall be built. It will devolve upon the executors of the will of the nation to see to it that the work is not obstructed by conflicting plans of building. It will be necessary to select one and follow that up.

PEARY'S PLANS.

According to the published full accounts of Commander Peary's plan for reaching the North Pole, on the expedition that is to start this month, he has excellent chances of reaching the goal before returning to civilization again. His ship is especially constructed and equipped for the voyage, and his long experience in the Arctic will enable him to proceed with deliberation and an intelligent understanding of the difficulties to be encountered. He has already been within 395 miles of the Pole, and his chances of covering the remaining distance are good.

The explorer will endeavor to force his ship, Roosevelt, up through Smith

sound on the northwest of Greenland and through Robeson channel, making, if possible, permanent headquarters on the north shore of Grant land. From here the distance to the Pole is less than 500 miles. The journey from this point, northward, will commence next February, with the first appearance of the Arctic day. The expedition will start out with, say, 12 men, and sufficient provisions, and as the journey northward is progressing, the party will divide and send detachments back to headquarters for fresh supplies, which will be found on the route by the returning explorer, after they have reached the Pole. In case all goes as hoped for, the members of the expedition, whose luck it will have been to reach the pole, will be returning to headquarters and the ship next May. The Roosevelt will then be broken out of the ice in July or August, explosives being used to free her if necessary, and she will return some time in the fall of 1906. If, however, the obstacle most feared presents itself and the ice-pack prevents the Roosevelt from reaching Grant land this summer, the winter will be spent as far north as it is possible to get the ship and an effort will be made to obtain the desired location a year later. The dash for the pole will then be also delayed a year.

Commander Peary, although reported as having admitted the possibility of finding land at the Pole, is said to be of the opinion that no land will be found there, but that the journey from Grant land will have to be made over the frozen ocean. If there is no land there, there will be no occasion for a dispute as to the ownership.

Don't block the boulevard; pave it.

It is the automobile pace par excellence that kills.

A tornado could not sweep across Texas, the state is so huge.

The rebellious convicts have learned that it is hard to kick against the bars.

If the treaty of peace is made in Portland, Me., it should be well cemented.

If the czar will only call on Tokyo he will mighty soon find and fix the Kinkas Potemkine.

What a chance to repeat the story of the Tonquin the men of the Kinkas Potemkine have!

U. S. Circuit Judge Whitson sees municipal ownership coming. By express or slow freight?

If the peace plenipotentiaries hold their sessions in Washington they will have a hot old time.

The whole Crimean peninsula is on the verge of revolt. Surely Russia is standing on a precipice.

Mayor Dumie's municipal ownership plan is far from the Simon pure article. It is ownership by the public and not public ownership.

If Secretary Taft hastens to send congratulations to Mr. Root on his appointment to the secretaryship of state, will it show that he himself expected it?

There is some excuse for those blind newspaper peddlers who got into a war of words and were haled into the police court. They could not see that they were doing anything wrong.

Fourth of July fatalities and accidents keep pace with the nation's growth. Last year the deaths numbered 52 and the injured 3,043. This year the deaths were 59 and the injured 3,169. We are expanding in every direction.

The selection of ex-Secretary of War Elihu Root to be the successor of the late Secretary Hay is the happening of the expected. That he has the qualifications for the place there is no doubt, but he succeeds a man who had a very brilliant career in the state department and he will constantly be made the subject of comparisons. He will stand them very well.

Parisians are said to be interested again in alchemy. One Dr. Jobert, it is claimed, has discovered a process by which lead may be transmuted into silver and the latter into gold. The doctor says he is perfectly willing to reveal his method to a scientific committee.

Your guess is your money if you don't like it. While noting that scientists are still endeavoring to solve the problems that medieval savants spent so much time over, they are still searching for a process whereby to "make gold," they are still exploring unknown regions to find the sources of life. Will they succeed?

An ex-Methodist minister committed suicide the other day, says the Portland Oregonian. That was the end of a prolonged spree. One peculiarity of the case was that he left a letter to the public in which he designated his coreligionists as "liars and fakers." The seriousness of the charge against the church, the Oregonian truly observes, was materially modified by the action of the man who made it. Expert testimony can hardly be expected from men who make such an utter failure of life, as to commit suicide while on a drunken debauch. And yet, the testimony against the "Mormon" Church, which some consider infallible evidence, is largely of that class. It comes from ex-somebodies, whose worth should be measured by the fact that they, long ago, committed moral suicide.

NORWAY'S FUTURE.

All the conditions which may possibly confront the Scandinavian nations in general and Norway in particular, are not favorable. Norway is coveted by Russia, and long has been a prey to the guile of her Atlantic ports. Russia has been kept in check by the unwillingness of Europe to see Russia gain an Atlantic seaboard. If Europe remains of this mind Norway will not be disturbed, but suppose that there is a conference of the powers called to discuss the Norway-Sweden Question, may not Russia put forth a persuasive plea for compensation for her losses in the far east? May not Russia seek at least an entering point on Scandinavian

ground? Such bargains are not impossible when a weak country has to pay the cost of readjusting the balance of power that has been disturbed. Or, supposing Russian ambition to be eliminated, is it not possible that a congress of the powers may be called to work out an international agreement by which the independence of Norway will be limited until it almost touches the vanishing point? Only about 10 years ago the affairs of Denmark threatened the peace of all Europe, and the war of 1864 really arose out of a quarrel between Russia and Austria over the spell they had wreathe from the Danes.

SPAIN'S LINGUISTIC KING.

London Chronicle.
King Alfonso has a fair claim to be regarded as the best educated of our crowned heads. He is a linguist, being familiar with French, Italian, German and English. He never travels without Goethe, Schiller and the Austrian poet Grillparzer, whose name will be new to most people. Of the ancient classics King Alfonso prefers Horace, many of whose odes he has translated into Spanish. Moreover, he reveals in mathematics and history, and adores drawing. What attention he has paid to English literature is not made public.

DURATION OF DIGESTION.

Russian's "Strength and Diet."
The times of digestion of different foods are about as follows on an average: Rice, about an hour or even less; whipped eggs, barley soup, salmon, trout, about 1½ hours; peas and flesh, about 2 hours or more; eggs, 1½ hours; barley, boiled in milk, rice, cabbage with vinegar, soup with fat and bread, about 2 hours; raw milk, beans, potatoes, cabbage, ham, 2½ hours; boiled eggs, beefsteak, white bread, ham, beef, fish, mutton, pork, poultry, veal, brown bread, 4 hours; salt pork, hard boiled eggs, 5 hours.

WHO IS THE HEATHEN?

Louisville Courier-Journal.
The world may call the Japanese heathens because they do not bear arms or conform to the Christian faith, but it is their relative superiority of the Japanese over other adversaries, to whom they are teaching such lessons in all departments of high civilization, is that, Russia in the race at whose end the axe should be applied and not Japan.

HONORING THE FLAG.

Chicago Post.
It is commonly understood that the Briton has no real sense of humor, but an exception must be made in favor of George White, governor of Gibraltar, who asserts that England is sadly lacking in patriotism in comparison with the United States. And then he adds: "That vast and increasing population enjoys the blessings of peace and wealth, and, headed by the far-seeing President Roosevelt, neglects no opportunity of educating the children to honor the flag." Truly that is where we are strong. The star Americans honor their flag, has been the talk of the world for generations. Sometimes we advertise soap with it and sometimes we use it for other commercial purposes, when the government is not looking. We always take off our hats to the flag, when we wish to scratch our heads, and when the orchestra plays "The Star Spangled Banner" at the theater, make a bee line for the door that would have important results in a dash for the pole. Oh, yes, when it comes to honoring the flag we set the pace in patriotism.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The July number of Itinerary contains some of the most interesting hunting and fishing stories imaginable, and the departments are brimful of hints for the men who go to the woods and waters for their amusement and profit. The leading story is entitled "Buffalo Hunting Thirty-five Years Ago," written by Capt. James W. Dixon, an old army officer. The story is quaintly reminiscent and well illustrated. Carl E. Ackermann has an illustrated paper on the turkey buzzard, in which this strange bird is described in its native wilds and mountain fastnesses.—New York.

In the August number of Smith's Magazine, there are stories by Charles Garvice, Vincent Harper, Sir William Magney, Cyrus Townsend Brady and a number of other well known authors. The magazine is well illustrated, and opens with a series of art studies of well known actresses on the stage. Insurance, under the title of "Safe-guarding the Home," will prove of service to a good many people and the fashion department should win a great many readers to the magazine.—79 Seventh avenue, New York.

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