

the gladdening features of the new year's dawn, so far as the people of this city is concerned, is the cheering fact that an unsavory half dozen or so will permanently retire from the business of dealing in municipal affairs. Vale, a happy vale!

#### ANNEXATION UNNECESSARY.

The Springfield Republican is opposed to the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, and holds that such a step is not necessary "to the proper conservation of the interests of the United States," and in support of this position reasons as follows:

"(1.) The United States already has a perpetual grant of Pearl River harbor as a naval and coaling station, and, as Gen. Foster says, that is the only place suitable for such a station within a radius of 2,000 miles.

"(2.) With that harbor possessed by the United States no other nation would have any inducement to annex Hawaii.

"(3.) The mere understanding that the United States would oppose the absorption of the islands by any other power would act as an effective prohibition of such an absorption. The United States is powerful enough to have its proclaimed wishes in such a matter respected without any bloodshed.

"(4.) The Hawaiians themselves will not seek absorption by any other power, because Hawaii's commercial interests bind it to the United States. Hawaii seeks commercial union as naturally as the islands of the West Indies, and the economic fate of the Antilles would be that of Hawaii in case it was deprived of the American market.

"(5.) As a point of strategic importance in the defense of the Pacific coast Hawaii will still further diminish in value, as it is already diminished by the British naval station at Esquimaux, after the completion of an isthmus canal. That canal would weaken the Pacific coast in a military sense, according to Captain Mahan, and the struggle to defend San Francisco would be diverted from Hawaii to Caribbean waters at the eastern entrance to the waterway, in case of war with any European power."

This is a concise and forcible statement of the views of the opponents of annexation, and shows incontestably that there are at least two sides to the question. The Republican continues:

"But if Hawaii need not be annexed, neither is it necessary to completely abandon it. The islands should not be allowed to pass under the dominion of any other power because:—

"(1.) The military argument in favor of American control, while not conclusive when used in support of formal annexation, does possess sufficient weight to render actual European or Asiatic domination in Hawaii prejudicial to our interests and a menace to the Pacific coast.

"(2.) The only civilization in Hawaii worthy of the name was derived from the United States, and Americans in commerce and politics rule there through their natural force of character and superior attainments. The Anglo-Saxons the world over naturally dominate weak races. It cannot be helped.

"(3.) For some sixty years it has been the settled policy of our government to prevent the absorption of Hawaii by any other power.

"The problem, then, is to find a policy which shall meet the needs of the situation as thus outlined. Is it difficult to find one? For statesmen it should not be difficult in any exceptional degree, for we need only to follow the natural lines of development as al-

ready revealed by the lapse of years. The independence of Hawaii should be guaranteed by the United States, as has been substantially the case in the past. This would prohibit the absorption of the islands by any other power, and indirectly would prohibit the islanders themselves from seeking such absorption. Furthermore, to insure local government devoid of anarchy, disorder or recurring revolutions, such as characterize civil government in many Latin-American countries, we could logically afford protection from our war ships, to the Hawaiian authorities, under proper circumstances, in case of such outbreaks. This, indeed, would be due from us if we prohibited the interference of other nations. And, inasmuch as the present government under President Dole is the best Hawaii has ever had, this protection might well be extended to it immediately, and thus the danger of disorder obliterated from the moment of our formal declaration of the national policy.

"This policy, of course, would amount to a protectorate of Hawaii by the United States. But it would be a protectorate in its mildest form, not even necessitating official occupation, like England's occupation of Egypt. The responsibilities incurred would be hardly more than those incurred in the past, while its advantages would be the removal of all fear lest we should sometime have Hawaii as a state or a troublesome factor in our body politic. We should thus conserve American interests in all respects. While holding Hawaii, we should hold it at arm's length."

The enthusiastic temperament of the American press predisposes it to respond quickly and sometimes rashly to the appeals of jingoism; hence the zeal with which many papers have been advocating the absorption by this country of the little mid-Pacific republic. There are weighty considerations on both sides of the question, and the American government should act with calmness, fairness and a due regard for the principles of right, which ought to control in national as well as personal affairs.

#### THE CHINESE PUZZLE.

The sudden disturbances in eastern Asia perhaps owe their origin largely to the fact that the trans-Siberian railroad is about to be completed. The gigantic undertaking is so nearly finished that in an emergency the remaining rails could be laid in three months, according to the estimate of experts. What this railroad means to the Russian empire has probably not yet been fully realized, but it is easy to see that it will give the northern giant an immense advantage over the rest of Europe, and it is therefore quite conceivable that the ambitious rulers of the Old World at last should venture some bold move for the purpose of check-mating their antagonist.

The road opens up to settlement at least a million square miles of fertile land situated in a latitude with climatic conditions favorable to agriculture. It also passes through districts rich in minerals of every kind, and forms a connecting link between the great basins watered by the rivers Obi, Yenesei, Amour and Lena. Still more; it places the extreme Orient within ten days' reach of St. Petersburg. That is to say, in that brief space of time, the czar can send half a million soldiers to China in case of war, and for peaceful purposes 400,000,000 Chinese and 35,000,000 Japanese are placed in easy communication with European Russia. The importance of these advantages to the empire are easily understood. The road will secure for it in Asia a similar position as that held in

Europe. Whatever Russia now lays hold of in that part of the world she will retain. Naval demonstrations by her rivals after the opening of the railroad will have but little effect. It follows that if Germany or England think it necessary for the balance of power, or for commercial purposes, to secure some part of the Chinese empire, they must also see the necessity of moving without delay. Postponement would mean the loss of the only opportunity to accomplish their purpose.

Whether there is going to be a war or not about China depends, perhaps, upon Japan. But that country, if she does not overestimate the willingness of Great Britain to take an immense risk in an oriental war, will naturally hesitate to take the first step. Russia certainly needs peace for the furtherance of her plans, and there are signs that England will have something to do in Africa in close proximity to Egypt.

#### LESSON IN FINANCIAL SCIENCE

Few Latter-day Saints realize the scope and force of some of the lessons the Almighty, through them, is teaching and establishing among mankind. It is often remarked, metaphorically, that the Temple in this city is a great sermon, but it is usual to regard it as bearing a great testimony and conveying great truths of a spiritual or religious character only; and it is not often spoken of as conveying an impressive lesson in finance.

But there are reflecting persons who view it in the latter light. Among them is Warren Foster, editor of Living Issues, a weekly paper published in this city and devoted to the principles of the People's party and the innovations and reforms which that party advocates. In the number of that paper dated Dec. 24, under the heading "Two Methods," appears a lengthy argument in favor of the financial theories advocated by the political party named, in which the Salt Lake Temple is used as a striking object lesson. We quote:

"This city contains two very fine structures—the great Mormon Temple, and what is known as the city and county building. They are both constructed of our native granite; both very beautiful and sufficiently substantial to last many thousands of years.

"The Temple cost about \$3,000,000 and is paid for. The city and county building cost about \$1,000,000 and is not paid for, and if you ask when it will be, you have asked a question that neither we nor any other person can answer.

"The county of Salt Lake owes \$420,000 on its one-half of the building. This amount is represented by 5 per cent 20-year bonds. The interest on this amount is \$21,000 per annum, or nearly \$2,000 per month; about \$75 per day, \$3 per hour, or 5 cents per minute. At the end of twenty years the county will have paid \$420,000 in interest and still owe \$420,000. An encouraging picture, surely! The city's half of the building is about in the same condition.

"As we stated above, the Temple is paid for, the city and county building is not, and, unless there is a change in matters and things, never will be. This leads us to look into the methods employed in the building of the two structures.

"The Temple, as all know, was built by the Mormon people and without any outside help. There never was a cent of interest paid on a dollar that went into its construction and never will be. As we understand it, all the labor and nearly all the material was paid for with tithing scrip. The scrip drew no interest, and has all along been redeemed by the Church, which, when it was done, paid for the Temple. The system was practically this: A man would work a month on the Temple.