DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Wednesday, May 27, 1891.

TAXPAYERS, CONSIDER!

THE opinion of the City Attorney in reference to the bonding power of the city, reported in the City Council on Tuesday evening, opens a serious question for the consideration of the taxpayers. He holds that the limit of four per cent. of the value of taxable property which, under the law of Congress, restrains municipal corporations in contracting debts, does not include the bonding power of city school districts. That while the boundaries of the school district of this city correspond with those of the municipal corporation, the organizations are separate and distinct and their bonding powers are separate and independent.

This position may be legally correct, though many lawyers take an opposite view of the matter. But it raises the question whether, in view of the extended borrowing powers it concedes to the City Council, and the disposition of that body to exercise them to the fullest extent, it will be wise for the taxpayers of this school district to shoulder the extra burden of bonds to the amount of $300,000 for school purposes.

We do not wish to raise any impediment in the way of the School Board to raise the funds necessary for essential improvements. We only draw attention to the effects of the view of the case taken by the city attorney, so that citizens may understand the situation and the prospects.

The city bonds now issued amount to $600,000 and bonds for $200,000 more are placed on the market, making the bonded indebtedness of the city a million dollars, which with other liabilities will run up the total present city debt to not less than $1,200,000. Add the $300,000 which the School Board ask the taxpayers to assume, and we have the sum of $1,500,000, the full amount to which the city can go in the line of debt. But if this debt of $300,000 is to be contracted outside of that limit, then the city may issue bonds to the extent of $450,000 more, making the total indebtedness to be that $2,400,000.

Considering the propositions for paving and for the public building, it is almost certain that the City Council will go to the full extent of the borrowing powers of the city, and therefore the question of the propriety of saddling that $300,000 extra upon the overburdened shoulders of the taxpayers becomes exceedingly grave and important. The time for its determination at the polls is drawing near, and the matter should be carefully weighed, with its consequences.

When the last political campaign was in progress the effects of "Liberal" rule were plainly foreshadowed. It was shown that under it taxes would be excessive, debt inevitable, official extravagance certain, and multiplication of officers and salaries probable. All this has been realized to the full extent. The benefits arising from the policy inaugurated and the course pursued are not yet visible to the naked eye.

Money must be had, of course, for public improvements, among which better school accommodations cut a prominent figure. But whether it is for the true interests of the city to plunge heading into debt to the utmost limit of lawful power, is a question in which every taxpayer is materially interested, and one that should engage the serious attention of the people, irrespective of party or position or creed.

Economy in the administration of public affairs, taxation limited to public necessities, and regard for the future as well as for the present, ought to be kept in view by all who are entrusted with the powers of government. The change which has come over the municipality in these respects is marked and discouraging. And conservative men of all shades of political opinion should pause, view the situation, look at the prospects, and decide whether this era of extravagance, debt and misrule shall be permitted to continue.

THREATENING ELEMENTS.

THE drift of public sentiment in Utah appears to be in favor of a decided change in political methods. Old issues are dying out. Old local parties are losing their grip upon the public mind. "Mormon" and "Gentile" cringe to humanity and the majority are desirous of excluding religion which now pollutes political discussions and the ordinary affairs of life. The development of the Territory and the advancement of the whole people are time worthy the efforts of the adherents of all parties and all creeds. And those who are entwined and chain-bound to bigotry and intolerance are tempted to inquire if not for the public good, desire to bury past dissensions, and drown angry feelings, and meet on common ground as citizens and members of the same community, leaving each individual to think, worship and live as seems best to him so long as he interferes with no other citizen in the enjoyment of equal rights.

This appears to necessitate the disenfranchisement of local organizations, and advancement in the direction of those national matters which engage the attention of the country and unite people to rally under national party rules and banners. The most thoughtful and conservative of Utah's citizens deplore the bitterness and strife which have hindered the progress of the Territory, and prevented the full enjoyment of that liberty in which freemen are entitled. They are willing and anxious to drop the old disputes and engage in a united effort to insure permanent prosperity to the whole people.

But there are many persons here who cling to the old methods, harbor the old animosities, and refuse to move out of the old ruts. Shall they hinder the more progressive from changing front and taking the course of manifest destiny, or shall they be let severely alone until they become better minded? This is a momentous question.

One thing we should think all citizens who desire the welfare of this city and Territory will unite upon. That is, that those classes of society which tend in ruin in other parts of the country shall not be allowed to gain the upper hand here. They are figuring now as a threatened contraction, and the thoughtful, conservative and refined of all parties should be determined that the prospects which are opening for the good of Utah, shall not be clouded over by the dark and financial and disreputable elements that are endeavoring to mass themselves and thus if not destroy the coming glory.

THE IDAHO CONSPIRACY CASES.

THE Idaho conspiracy cases have gone over for the term, and it is doubtful whether they will ever be resurrected. One of them was recently tried at Boise, before Judge Beatty. The defendant was a man named West, who had been indicted for wilfully and fraudulently registering, notwithstanding that he was alleged to be a member of an organization which taught, preached, aided and abetted the practice of polygamy.

The defendant did not deny that he was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, nor that he registered, but he did deny that that religious body did at that time teach or had since taught, preached, aided or abetted the practice of the doctrine of plural marriage. It was shown in evidence that he had no fraudulent intention, because before registering he asked the advice of an attorney, who told him that he had a right to have his name placed upon the lists. It was also proved that although he registered he made no attempt to vote at the subsequent election.

The district attorney worked hard to make a case, but it was uphill work. He was driven to one point, upon which the case necessarily hinged—did the Church at the time the defendant registered, teach, preach, aid or abet the practice of polygamy. The Judge was fair and impartial, exhibiting no perceptible bias. Consequently he refused to permit the district attorney to go behind the time of Mr. West's registration for evidence as to the teachings and practice of the Church in reference to plural marriage. The prosecutor had but one recourse—the standard publications of the Church, with special regard to the book of Doctrine and Covenants, which was frequently quoted during the trial. In his argument the district attorney insisted that the Church still taught polygamy, as there had been no repudiation of the expressions contained in its publications, which exhibit the faith and doctrines of the members.

While the prosecution was dwelling with much emphasis upon the statements favoring polygamy contained in the books, President Budge, who was one of the witnesses in the case, sent someone who was present to procure a Bible. When it was obtained the attention of Mr. Hawley, attorney for the defense, was directed, without comment, to three particular passages. One of these references was Deut., twenty-first chapter, 15 to 17 verses inclusive. It lays down the law for the prevention of injustice to the first born of a family because of bias on the part of the husband toward any one of his two wives. Another was Deut., twenty-fifth chapter, 5th and 6th verses, which requires, in case of the death of a married man without issue, that the brother of the deceased should take the widow to wife, without reference whether or not the surviving brother was married or single. The third quotation was II Samuel, twelfth chapter, where the word of the Lord through Nathan to David is to the effect that He had given the king the wives of Saul.

Mr. Hawley's attention had been called to these passages just before the prosecutor closed his argument, and he had barely time to glance at them. When he addressed the jury he made no reference to them, but treated upon the other points, and some of his remarks were about as bad as "caught on." But this was a mistake, as Mr. Hawley is one of the sharpest men in Idaho. He got around to the point in due time, and got his quotations in in good shape, not telling, of course, to depict in terms of sadness the dire consequences that would follow if the theory of the district attorney were lived up to. It would be disastrous, because the various churches had failed to publicly repudiate the sacred book—which constitutes the foundation of their faith—those of their members who had registered and voted in Idaho should be placed under arrest and punished.

This argument appeared to produce quite a favorable effect, in addition to which was the announcement in the stereotype fact of Mr. Hawley—probably for the first time in his life, or at least since his Sunday school days—quoting the scriptures.

The jury stood ten for acquittal and two for conviction, and the eleventh man was heard to say after dismissal that if one more ballot had been taken he would have gone with the majority. All the cases of this class went over for the term, and it is doubtful whether any attempt will be made to bring them out of the oblivion they deserve.

THE NEW NATIONAL PARTY.

"THE People's Party of the United States" is the official name of the new political organization begotten in Cincinnati two weeks ago. That it will figure in national politics during the next Presidential election is universally admitted. But whether it will cause injury to one or both the old parties is not so clear. Republican papers say that the Cincinnati convention was projected and developed by Democratic agents; Democratic papers say the same of the other party.

Analyzing the convention from a purely non-partisan standpoint, it would seem that if any party is likely to be hurt by it in the future, the Republican party would be the victim. The leaders and the mass of the delegates were from Republican strongholds.

There were 1418 accredited delegates in that convention. Of these 726—more than half, were from Ohio and Kansas. The most prominent advocates of a third party movement in that convention were all of Republican antecedents. Taubeneck, the chairman of the national executive committee of the new party, was formerly a Republican. He is one of the three farmers who caused the deadlock in the Illinois Legislature last winter. He held out to the bitter end, and would not vote for Palmer. The Southern Alliance was poorly represented in Cincinnati, and those Alliance men who were there did not heartily endorse a third party movement. And it was observed during the proceedings that delegates of Democratic affiliations did not endorse warmly the idea of a new party.

Judging from this analysis it would appear that if the People's party becomes a force in national politics it will strike deepest in the Republican strongholds of the West. The Southern farmers cannot be said, however, to be opposed to the new party, though they do not support it warmly. The fact is the fear of the Lodge bill, or rather the Force bill still affects them. They saw how hotly that was pressed, and they note what a vigorous support that measure yet receives in the North. Hence they are shy of embarking on new ventures in the face of old dangers. Should the Republican press and the leaders of the party declare the Force bill a dead issue, it may have an effect on the South that would materially cripple the Democratic party there.

The glittering political baubles held out by the new party may dazzle the farmer of the South as they do his brother of the North. Subsidy, bounty, and unlimited money are catching fallacies, and were it not for the fear already alluded to, the People's party might have some showing in the South which at present, however does not appear.

QUEEN VICTORIA SNUBBED.

ON THE 24th inst. Queen Victoria of England completed the seventy-second year of her age. She has reigned over the British empire for thirty-four years. In 1819, the year of her birth, and for years after, England was in a very disturbed condition. Measures of reaction were adopted, political meetings were prohibited, and a number of people were shot down in Manchester.

Since Victoria's accession to the throne in 1837, England has attained the first place among nations as a wealth producer. Her closest competitor at present in this line is the United States of America. During Victoria's long reign, England has undergone little change politically. Whatever change has taken place is of a democratic or liberal nature. France, however, has passed from an Empire to a Republic. Germany established its powerful confederation under imperial sway. Turkey and Poland were dismembered, but England jogged along quietly enough. Whether the formation of the Australian Commonwealth, the discontent in Newfoundland, and the dissatisfaction in Canada mean anything important, it is hard yet to determine.

In all the British possessions for the last thirty-seven years, the Queen's birthday has been celebrated as a holiday. The people everywhere have entered into the spirit of the time, and were proud to honor their Queen. News of a different kind is heard this year. At Windsor, in Canada, the boats of the ferry now plying between that city and Detroit, refused to recognize the day in the usual manner. An officer of the British customs entered the boats to hoist their flags and bunting. One boat did so under protest, noting that being compelled to international trade she was exempt from such ceremony. The American officials in Detroit take this view of the matter, and the case has been laid before Mr. Blaine.

It is reported that Newfoundland as a colony, or state, refused to honor the Queen's birthday this year. The relations between that island and the mother country have been strained for some time, owing to the complications arising from the fishery rights of the French.

It must be disheartening to the aged Queen to learn that her seventy-second birthday was not honored to the usual way in her American colonies. She has been a good and virtuous woman, and on the whole a benign and honest ruler. Her career as Queen, as wife and mother deserves commendation. Will her death, which may soon occur, cause any change in the geography of the British Empire? This is one of the questions that are causing debate in other countries besides those which are under the dominion of Queen Victoria.

A PATHETIC CASE OF DROWNING.

THE New York Sun describes a pathetic case of accidental drowning in that city, which occurred a few days ago. Joseph Hart reported to the police late at night that his three-year-old girl Carrie was missing and he wished assistance to search for her. A general alarm was sent out for the child, and the distracted father searched everywhere that he thought the child was likely to go, but no trace of her was found until the following morning, when the unfortunate little one was found drowned in a cask of water, head downward, in the cellar. Clasped tightly in her little arms was an old rubber doll, which was little Carrie's inseparable companion. It is supposed that the child took her doll down into the cellar to wash it, and in leaning over the barrel lost her balance and fell headforemost into the water.

It seems that there was a fire in Hart's place about two weeks previous to the accident and that Carrie's toys were destroyed, excepting this one doll which was all black and charred from the smoke. The little girl spent most of her time since the unfortunate fire in endeavoring to wash and scour the doll's face so that it would be presentable. Her father found her thus engaged on the afternoon of the day she was missed at the water-hydrant in the back yard, and reproved her. The little one then disappeared, and it is believed she went into the cellar where she would not be detected and continued the work of scrubbing up dolly. By the side of the cask in which the body of the unfortunate child was found stood an old soap box. The box had evidently been placed there by the child in order that she might stand upon it. Even then the little one was not tall enough to reach over the top of the cask except by standing on her tip toes. Probably the doll slipped from her hands, and in her eager desire to recover it she had leaned too far forward and thus met her dreadful fate.

WHEN Chicago gets hot in sensational matters, it must be a very foggy day. That city talks about bringing the Collinsons from Rome, and rebuilding it on the bank of the ever-smelling Chicago River. This would be something grand and poetic, but it is not yet done. The latest news from the Windy City is that a line of steamers will be run from there to a port in the British Channel, and that this line will be in operation before the end of 1892. A syndicate contributing $5,000,000 capital will build ten steamships to run directly at first between Chicago and England, and later between that city and Hamburg and Bremen. The steamers will be built specially for navigation on the Welland Canal and on the St. Lawrence. Each will have an overall measurement of 255 feet, a breadth of beam of 40 feet, a loaded draught of 14 feet, and a capacity of 2,700 tons. Twin screws will be used for propulsion. There is every hope that the scheme will prove successful.

DECORATION DAY.

Programme of Exercises at the City Cemetery on May 30th, 1891.

MR. L. Cohn, chairman of the committee on City Cemetery, and Mr. Daniel Dunne, city sexton, and by appointment at the office of Angus M. Cannon, President of the Salt Lake Stake, to take steps to arrange a programme of services and decoration of graves in the City Cemetery, on the 30th inst., it is proposed that Mayor Geo. M. Scott shall preside, associated with the committee on cemetery. The following is the programme:

Music by Brass band to commence at 10 o'clock a. m.

Instrumental music at 11 o'clock, when the exercises will be opened by prayer by Mayor Scott.

Singing, by Harmony Glee Club, and members of the Tabernacle Choir, "A Year ago this Country was Free."

Opening prayer by Bishop Leonard, of the Tenth Ward.

Singing, Harmony Glee Club, "God bless our Land."

Address by Bishop Orson F. Whitney.

Music by the band.

Address by Rev. J. H. G. Twell, of the Congregational Church.

Singing by the Harmony Glee Club, "When the Swallows Homeward Fly."

Address by President Angus M. Cannon.

Music by the band, "Hail Columbia."

A Raise Solomon.

Two Pendleton County farmers brought an old-fashioned pair of shaft-yards, each paying a part of the costs, and both used them for weighing their produce for market. After a time a dispute arose and each claimed to own them. The matter was carried into court. The jury disagreed. Then the case, on some technicality, was sent to the law court, and was again sent back for trial. The company in this point had reached about $200, about a hundred times the original cost of the shaft-yards. When it came up again Judge Peters was the presiding justice. He had the court hold, if continued, the costs would be so great that it would cost less for the owner of the yards than he would lose in order to pay, and advised them to enter a "mother party" and divide the cost as it was. After some solicitation the parties said that they were willing to divide, and it looked as though the case was settled. All at once one of the claimants stood over in his corner in the courtroom and asked the wife is going to get the shaft-yards? Should she have them? The other claimant stood same declaration. Then the counsel arose and said the case was just where it was before any talk of settlement had been made. They are willing to stop litigation and divide the cost, but what would be done with the shaft-yards? "Gill 'em fast," said Judge Peters. "Let the sheriff of the county take the shaft-yards at night and go down and throw them into the middle of the river, letting nobody know the exact spot, so that they never can be recovered by any one." The contestants agreed to this proposition, each paid his proportionate part of the cost, and the case was dropped.—*Louisville Journal.*

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NATURAL FRUIT FLAVORS.

Vanilla, Lemon, Orange, Almond, Rose etc. — Of perfect purity. Of great strength. Economy in their use. Flavor as delicately and deliciously as the fresh fruit.

SALT LAKE THEATRE.

CHAS. S. BURTON, - - - - Manager.

TWO NIGHTS ONLY!

Tuesday and Wednesday,

MAY 26th and 27th, 1891.

—THE GREAT—

LILIAN. ·. LEWIS

—IN—

CREDIT ·.· LORRAINE

—AND—

As In a Looking Glass!

—SUPPORTED BY—

MR. EDMUND COLLIER,

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TUESDAY—"Credit Lorraine."

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THURSDAY and FRIDAY,

MAY 28th and 29th, 1891.

BLACK MANTLES!

A Three Act Comic Opera by Herbert, will be presented for the

LOGAN OPERA CO.

Utah's Best and Favorite Vocalists!

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Miss Bessie Rancroft,
Mr. R. C. Easton,
Mr. W. S. Lamereux,
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Saturday, May 30, 1891.

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Open at 10 o'clock. Commence at 10 o'clock.

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" " "	25c., 35c. to	50c.
" " "	50c., 75c. to	$1.25

FRENCH CHALLIES Only 45c. per yd.

FRENCH FLANNELS, " 45c. "

On all SILKS 20 per cent off.

Including Black Taffie Francaise,
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2000 yds. Check Nainsook, 6½c. per yd., regular price 12½c.
2000 yds. Check Nainsook, 10c. per yd., regular price 15c.

Children's Ribbed Hose, Only 5c. per pair, worth 10c. to 12½c.

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WHITE BED SPREADS,
Only $1.00, regular $1.50
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Alike undisturbed by summer's heat and winter's storms. We have

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