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THE SCHOOL TAX QUESTION.

The decision of Judge Lewis in the mandamus case against the Board of County Commissioners, was just what most people expected, who understood the case and appreciated his legal acumen. The demurrer was sustained and the case dismissed. The chief contention of Attorney C. S. Varian was that after the commissioners had determined the tax levy, and had passed upon and announced it, the levy could not be lawfully changed, as requested by the City Board of Education; also that the tax-leaving power for educational purposes was vested in the Board of County Commissioners, and could not be divided with the Board of Education. The ruling of the court settles this question against any increase of the levy this year.

There has been much misunderstanding of some features of this dispute, and reflections have been cast upon the Board of Education that were not justified by the facts. It has been repeatedly charged that the Board of Education made "a blunder in its estimates" at the first, and had to change them afterwards, and that this was the cause of the trouble. Investigation shows that the board officially estimated its financial requirements to amount to the sum of \$352,500. In order to assist the County Commissioners in dividing this sum among the different sources of revenue, the Board of Education named them so as to show what would be needed from each. The state tax was expected to yield about \$52,000; land sales about \$5,000; the county tax \$100,000, leaving about \$195,000 to come from the city tax; cost of collection covering the difference allowed, make up the total.

This estimate has not been changed as to the necessities of the Board of Education, nor the amounts required from each source of revenue. But when the County Commissioners made the levy for the county school tax, they concluded, (with the County Superintendent) that the county would not need as much money for schools as would be raised by the tax rate asked for by the City Board of Education. In reducing that rate, the amount for the board would only reach \$67,000, instead of the \$100,000 expected. The rate fixed for the city school tax—five and two-tenths mills, was found by the commissioners to be enough for the sum expected from that source, taking into consideration the increase in property valuation. But this still left a deficiency of about \$33,000 in the amount expected from the county school tax. That is why the Board of Education asked for the increase of the city school tax levy to five and a half mills, so as to help make up the difference.

The great point in view on the part of that board in the litigation on this matter, was to have determined the respective rights of the two boards in fixing the tax rates for educational purposes in the city. Members of the Board of Education say they did not care so much for the settlement on the extra three-tenths of a mill rate, as on the point here mentioned. Although the court has not directly decided that part of the controversy, it appears to us that further litigation, just now, would be unwise and unsatisfactory. The whole case is dismissed on demurrer, and so far as that is concerned there does not appear a ghost of a chance to get a change by appeal.

As to any hindrance in the collection of taxes, no matter what other steps may be taken by the Board of Education, we think our contemporaries are mistaken in supposing there can now be any stoppage. The notices will be sent out and the collection will go on, whatever may be thought or done about it. If there is anything imperfect in the law as to the duties and powers of the two boards, it will have to be rectified by legislation; and mean while the city board will have to manage with the funds that will be available under the present levy.

It is pretty certain that notwithstanding the increase in property valuation, there will be a shortage of funds for city school purposes for the coming school year. The board, in making its estimate, cut down expenses as closely as possible, economizing at every corner. What will be done cannot now be decided on. The shortage, however, comes clearly from the difference in the amount anticipated from the county school tax which in round figures will be about \$30,000. The Board of Education need not have divided up the total required into the various amounts specified, but did so for the convenience of the County Commissioners. It is a pity that the deficiency occurs but it cannot now be helped.

We may be pardoned, we hope, for making a suggestion to the sensitive members of the school board, who we believe are doing good work, and naturally feel touched when anything is said that seems to reflect upon their acts. It is that it would be better to cultivate the county board rather than get into a dispute too readily. That body is, no doubt, just as anxious

to do what is deemed best for the community as any other set of officials, and we believe that harmony of views and unity of action could be effected between the boards. If they would "get together" and mutually arrange matters for the general welfare. This litigation has not been fairly or completely reported. The Board of Education did not miscalculate or change its estimates as to the financial needs for the coming school year. Auditor Tingey was not made a "defendant," but was simply a witness in the case; there were other inaccuracies of a minor character, and the school board was put in an unfavorable light, not warranted by the nature or the facts of the case.

We think this explanation is due to the parties, and we desire that the Deseret News shall be right in its statements and also correct in its conclusions. We hope the Board of Education will find means to carry on the schools efficiently with the means at its disposal. Again it will have to "cut the garment according to the cloth."

GLAD TO GREET THEM.

The South Dakota editors who are favoring this city with their presence are truly welcome, and we hope they will enjoy their visit. We are a busy people and everybody here finds enough to do to fully occupy the time that is not spent in sleep. Therefore but few can be spared to show our friends around and extend the hospitalities of our city and state. But they are in good hands and will, no doubt, have an opportunity to see the chief points of interest and learn something about the people of Utah, their faith, works, experiences in redeeming the desert, and their prospects for growth, wealth and eminence in all that is good and great. We are sorry our friends cannot tarry with us longer than their program permits, and wish them a joyful journey and safe return to their respective sanctuaries and happy homes.

ON BOSTON COMMONS.

It has been said that our age, notwithstanding its boasted enlightenment, is as superstitious as any previous age. This statement does not appear exaggerated, if the modern features of city life are considered. In any large city of the country, the streets are, at evening, filled with religious enthusiasts, fakers, dreamers, and individuals who make religion a cloak for begging, and these mingle with cranks and charlatans, and frauds who sell their wares at a high profit to a gullible public.

An eastern contemporary notes what is going on, in the Boston Commons, the very center of the "hub of the universe." There are heard, we are told, the most marvelous discoveries on the field of religion and science. Under one tree we find, for instance, a theologian analyzing the body of man and by an exact method of exclusion demonstrating the probable weight of the soul. Under another, a gentleman in Quaker hat and blue frock, is estimating the number of the saved at 141,000 and warning his hearers that the end of the "present economy" is but five years off. Under a third, a gentleman from Toronto is holding forth in vehement and emphatic language, all directed against the old folly of supposing the earth to be round.

Naturally one wonders what can be said at this late day about such subjects as these. The gentleman who contends against the roundity of the earth argues that if our planet were round, there could have been no flood? How could the water lie on a curved surface? he asks. Moreover, wherever a man goes—excepting mountains and hollows—he finds himself walking on a flat surface; the whole is composed of the parts; therefore, the whole earth is flat. And there you are.

The question of the avoidpools of the soul is determined by a still more ingenious reasoning. The speaker divided up a man into all his components, carbon, iron, hydrogen, oxygen, etc., and having weighed each constituent, three ounces, he said, remained to be accounted for. How was this to be done? Why, by giving credit to the soul—weight, three ounces.

And this kind of spiritual pabulum is consumed by thousands in this age; for, if there were no hearers in sympathy with such cranky utterances, there would be none to utter them. A little more reason is highly needed, in this age of reason.

COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM.

The New York World of the 16th of this month is at hand, with the announcement previously telegraphed, that Mr. Pulitzer has endowed Columbia University to the extent of \$2,000,000, for the purpose of establishing a College of Journalism. In a general way the object of this institution is, to furnish students purposing to enter upon the career of journalism courses of study that will for this profession be equivalent to what other professional schools supply for other professions; while young men already engaged upon the newspaper and desiring to advance themselves more rapidly by the cultivation of their aptitude may find in these courses a valuable assistance. The object, as described by its founder, is still further declared to be "to make the newspaper profession a still nobler one—to raise its character and standing, to increase its power and prestige, through the better equipment of those who adopt it, and by attracting to it more and more men of the highest capacity and the loftiest ideals."

From this it would appear that the college will aim at both intellectual and moral education. The latter is even more needed than the former. The journalist is, in a sense, a public teacher. But if he does not occupy a higher plane than his pupils, it is easy to perceive that his influence upon them must be for evil, if he has any at all. The low moral ideals that are plainly visible in modern journalism, all over the world, both in the choice and the arrangement of material, sufficiently accounts for much of the moral rotteness that exists in the civilized world. Something is needed in the direction of a good school for journalists. Let us hope that Mr. Pulitzer's endowment marks a

new era in this field, and that the college will be eminently successful.

Changes in journalism have been given in London for a year, or more, under the direction of one of the editors of the Westminster Gazette. It is said that this has proved very successful. The pupils advance rapidly in their ability to judge the value of news, and to write acceptably. Attention is given to the principles of journalism and also to the practical side. The newspapers of all countries are studied. Copies of telegrams and cables are collected in the offices of newspapers and studied in the classes. Four times a year large school newspapers are published, containing specimens of the pupils' work. Some of their productions, especially articles giving fresh versions of historical occurrences like the assassination of Julius Caesar, are said to be striking.

RUSSIA'S DEMONSTRATION.

The Russian squadron has now arrived in Turkish waters, and the question naturally arises as to the further intention of the Russian government. That the sole object of the naval demonstration is to give emphasis to the Russian demands for satisfaction, on account of the murder by Turks of Russian consuls, is hardly probable, as there are no reasonable demands the Sultan would not concede to, without such a demonstration, for the simple but sufficient reason that he cannot afford to strike an attitude of defiance. But as to what the real intention is, only the future can reveal.

A Russian official recently, in a talk with the representative of a Chicago paper, assured him that Russia was strong enough, notwithstanding her agrarian troubles, and the Asiatic situation, to take part in any happenings on the Balkan, and that she would have her full share in whatever developed. He added, that Russia had no intention of making war on Turkey, or sanctioning war by any other power. But the approach of the Black Sea fleet, he said, to Turkish coasts was to show to all concerned, and particularly to the Sultan, that the Czar's attempt to guide the Balkan disorders to a just and peaceful termination must be regarded seriously. That is the Russian explanation, at present.

The trouble, however, is that by no demonstration, and by no representation, can take reform efforts seriously. The only "reform" that government is capable of, is the extermination of the dissatisfied element. If this mode of "reform" practiced in Armenia and elsewhere, is to be prevented, more than a naval demonstration must be resorted to. It may be doubted that Russia at present is strong enough to make war for the Macedonians. Many regard the internal condition of the empire so menacing as to render the result of any great strain upon the nation highly uncertain. And that may be a guarantee of the continuance of such peace as is common to the Balkans.

The America's cup is still there.

And a new poll tax shall vex them.

Surveying the political field is essentially civil engineering.

Yesterday's yacht race was neither to the swift nor the strong.

To get an interview with the President is up (Sagamore) Hill work.

"Wait," says Sir Thomas. Can't do it. The Reliance is pursuing no Fabian policy.

In other days Aurora Hodge would have made a splendid handmaiden for Lucretia Borgia.

The situation in the far east grows more acute. Growing routes seems to be the main industry in Manchuria.

Had it not been for the Ellen M. Stone incident Americans would have more sympathy for the Macedonians.

Mrs. Nation has discovered that her name is "Curry" and not "Carrie." After all, what's in a name?

Alderman Honoré Palmer has just been married. The value of the presents would indicate that it was his golden wedding.

Railway Magnate James J. Hill is in favor of a large army. Very naturally, since a big army means big army contracts.

The trouble with an asset currency is that in times of panic the assets cannot be realized on. Then it becomes fiat or credit currency.

"Mr. J. P. Morgan was in Boston for a few hours yesterday," says a New York dispatch. No doubt he got them as he usually gets what he goes after.

Tolstol calls Dr. Harper a barbarian. He had better look out or his books will be excluded from the library of the University of Chicago as "improper."

The veterans of the G. A. R. are passing away, and at each succeeding encampment there are fewer and fewer, but the pension list grows and abides forever.

The Sultan of Deseen has offered apologies to Major Bullard for the insult he offered the American flag. He is a wise man, and in his case fear of Uncle Sam is the beginning of wisdom.

If William Bate's story about the Miners' union of Idaho Springs having appointed a committee of three to blow up the Sun and Moon mine is true, it shows that organization to be upon the same level as the Mafia. So many outrages have been committed by the union strikers that the public will be much inclined to give the story credence. The union owes it to itself to disprove it.

MACEDONIAN CRV.

San Francisco Call.
American sympathy with the Macedonian people would be prompt were it not for the revelations made concerning the methods of the so-called Macedonian committee. That band of agitators has been engaged for years in an effort to bring about an insurrection among a people who in the main appear to have no sympathy with the conspirators. In the course of their agitation the leaders of the committee have stopped at the commission of no kind of crime. Only recently a dis-

patch from Salonica said: "Many of the alarming outrages which are alleged to have occurred recently, such as the blowing up of a bank at Adrianople and a massacre at Kilditch, about twenty-five miles south of Salonica, turn out to have been merely parts of the insurgent program, the carrying out of which was fixed for the 2nd. Their execution was prematurely announced. Similarly the dynamite affairs at Eklishe, near Monastir, and Bonitza were of quite minor importance. The bridge at Eklishe was only an 11-foot culvert and was immediately repaired, while the damage to the railway storehouse at Bonitza was confined to the watchman's hut and a number of telegraph poles."

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE.

The insurrection of the Macedonian Bulgarians is, therefore, defeating its own purpose. It is not exciting the sympathies of Christian countries in their favor. It is, in fact, preparing the way for their intervention in favor of the Turk and the suppression of Balkan disorder which is regarded by them as the most serious menace at present to European peace. Even the sympathies of the United States, which usually trend toward the oppressed, are notably lacking in the case of Macedonia. The insurgent leaders are foolishly attributing the American attitude to American hostility. In so doing they are blinded by their own fanaticism. The United States is consistently keeping its hands clear of interference in European affairs, and the public judgment of the country favors giving Turkey an opportunity to carry out the reforms which it has promised to make but which the armed opposition of the Macedonians is making impossible.

THE DEADLY TOY PISTOL.

Worcester Gazette.
St. Paul has perfected an ordinance which, about next Fourth of July, it will apply generally to the sale and use in that city of the toy pistol and cheap pistols generally—the kind that are the harbinger of lockjaw, the goal of the ambitious tenniser's aim. St. Louis has also passed the ordinance, the result being that the town has about concluded that there is already enough infant mortality in the summer time without having recourse to the glorious Fourth to boost up the vital statistics. Reforms come high as a rule; it takes more than one swallow to make a summer, likewise more than one boy, youth or child to make people take notice to the fact that parents are sometimes criminally negligent, as well as are common carriers. Even further. Some parents, even some young people themselves, are so indulgent when indulgence concerns themselves as the recipients that they simply can't keep away from danger. In just such instances, specifically, and for the public welfare generally, the city's authority should step in and put an end to the undertaker's auxiliary, the toy pistol.

HAVERHILL GAZETTE.

The Boston Advertiser calls it "St. Paul's way" referring to an ordinance passed in the Minnesota city prohibiting the use of toy pistols and like methods of noise-making as a sure preventive of the annual epidemic of tinnitis about the time of the Fourth of July. We protest. The honor really belongs to Lawrence, where the first ordinance against the use of the blank cartridge pistol was passed as a result of shooting affrays during their anniversary celebration, when slugs and blanks were mixed too promiscuously.

PARLIAMENT PROROGUED.

New York Evening Post.

By a curious and incalculable misfortune, the parliament which is prorogued today at Westminster is likely to get rather little credit for its imposing roster of new laws. Mr. Chamberlain's protectionist campaign has so much overshadowed other interests that the London Education bill, the Irish Land bill, and the ratification of the Sugar convention are already almost forgotten. Of the sugar and education laws it can only be said that Mr. Balfour pushed them through by a strict party discipline, and against the convictions of many of his supporters. In deed, until Mr. Chamberlain made his witty defense of the Sugar convention, the other day, the advocacy of all government bills had been of a most languid sort. It is doubtful if laws so important have ever been passed under like conditions of public and parliamentary indifference.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Quarterly Bulletin of the Latter-day Saints' University, containing courses of study and other information, has just appeared. All who are interested in the educational work of that popular institution should procure a copy of the bulletin.

Bulletin of the University of Utah for July is at hand. It is a newly illustrated pamphlet with brief descriptions of the illustrations. It gives a good idea of this excellent institute of learning.

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No. 8 6:30 p.m.	No. 7 7:45 p.m.
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As long as they last Saturday night, one piece

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Saturday, 7 to 9 o'clock, we will sell Infants' Summer Caps, choice of

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Twenty-six dozen, worth regularly up to 75c each, on sale at—

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69 cts.

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