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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 9, 1906.

THE MUNICIPAL CHANGES.

The appointments made by the Mayor and City Council on Monday evening are in line with that which was foreshadowed in this paper. There was no factional opposition to the slate prepared by the majority, and it is to be hoped that the absence of wrangling and personalities in the proceedings of the council, will be a characteristic of the new administration throughout its term of office. There will be differences of opinion, of course, and there should be the utmost freedom in their expression. But we hope the courtesy and regard for each other's views that ought to be exhibited by gentlemen will be exhibited in the course of the new council.

The peremptory removal of William J. Lynch as Chief of Police, although expected, calls for some remarks concerning his official career. "Removal for the good of the service" was the reason alleged for the change, because that is the legal phrase as cause for such action. The proposition was carried in, while some members of the council did not endorse the idea thus expressed. The truth is, Chief Lynch has made a clean, competent and conservative public officer, and there has been more harmony and less obstruction and discontent among the members of the police force during his incumbency, than for many years previously.

There may have been some cause for complaints about the prevalence of gambling and kindred evils during the last few weeks of his control of the police department, but investigation will show that he was carrying out an understood policy of the city administration, that was not new by any means and for which he was not personally responsible. Nor do we attempt to offer any apology for it, or have anything further to say concerning it, except that the outcry raised was simply partisan and intended, not for the public good so much as to pave the way for the Chief's removal. He goes out of office with the respect of the Salt Lake public of differing parties and classes.

Of the new appointees we have only to say that we hope they will be as faithful to their trust as their predecessors have been; that the affairs of the city will be conducted honestly, diligently and successfully under their supervision; and that they will bring about all the reforms which were predicted before the election as the certain consequences of the contemplated change.

There should be new vigor imparted to the service by which the vicious and criminal elements may be kept under control, and as far as possible suppressed or eliminated, considering the experience and capabilities of the new Chief. And in all the other departments of the civic administration there ought to be fresh life and animation, consequent upon the "new brooms" that will be set in motion.

The Deseret News wishes them all well, and hopes to have little cause for adverse criticism of the course pursued by any of the new officials. They have opportunity by reason of the majority held by the victorious party, to give to the municipality a strong, just, progressive and praiseworthy administration, and all citizens who value the public welfare above partisan considerations will give to the present incumbents that hearty support, in all wise measures, that will secure the benefits of good and wholesome government.

OUR CANDID OPINION.

It is not surprising that objection should be raised by some of the Senators who are members of the committee on privileges and elections, at the disclosure which is disclosed by the publication of matters connected with the case of Senator Reed Smoot, and which are supposed to be private and not for communication to the general public. It is clear that some person or persons on that committee are responsible for the alleged leakages, also for jumping at the conclusion that certain members are for, and others against the gentleman whose rights have been under investigation, while the case is still open and no official or formal conclusion has been reached and no report agreed to.

The impropriety of which those Senators have just reason to complain is bad enough, but it does not equal the turpitude of the course pursued by one active member of that committee, who has not only exhibited strong animus against the defendant throughout the examination, but has publicly and repeatedly rendered his decision against the Senator, through the public press and on the political stump. Senator Fred T. Dubois, who has aided the cause of the protestors from the very beginning, and that without any disguise, went on the platform and gave articles to the press over his own signature, before the committee adjourned.

at its last sitting, and pronounced judgment adverse to Senator Smoot and thus made it very clear that he was unfit from this cause to sit as one of the judges in the cause.

It is true that great latitude is given to a committee of the Senate in making inquiries into any subject referred to such a body, but common decency, to say nothing of judicial procedure, would suggest to most minds the impropriety of pronouncing judgment before a case has been concluded. In the investigation referred to, the committee sat in a quasi-judicial capacity, listening to evidence pro and con, from which they are to make up a decision to be submitted to the Senate of the United States for ratification or rejection. To pronounce a verdict or ruling while the case was pending, appears to us to have been a breach of Senatorial regulations and of ordinary honor.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

On the 17th of this month will occur the 260th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. It is a day that should be remembered throughout the country, for he was the father of American diplomacy that has been so triumphant at the government centers of the world. He was one of the authors and signers of the Declaration of Independence, and secured the sympathy and good will of France, which materially aided the country in its struggle for liberty. He was a teacher of economy, a pioneer in the field of electric discoveries, the founder of the first public library and the organizer of the first fire insurance company.

Few Americans furnish a better theme for the instruction of the gifted and ambitious pupils of our schools. His is the story of the marvelous rise of a poor boy to the highest places of honor and responsibility in the state, and that without any of the dishonorable means and methods by which so many at the present time have reached wealth, and positions in public view, without corresponding qualifications. No man was more diligent than he, and none represented this country with more honor and dignity. Franklin, as all good men, had his enemies, but they are almost forgotten while he lives in history and will stand out brighter and brighter, as the light falls upon his character and life work.

THE LYNCHING RECORD.

It is a noticeable fact that the past year has the lowest lynching record in twenty years. The number of murders by mobs fell to 86. And this is rendered still more remarkable by the fact that the number of murders and homicides rose to 2,212. Sixty-five of the victims of mob fury were negroes.

It is probable that the sentiment of the South is undergoing a change for the better, and this should be still further encouraged. The credit for this is very largely due to Gov. Montague of Virginia and Gov. Vandaman of Mississippi, who have upheld the supremacy of the law and demonstrated the power of the state to maintain that supremacy.

It is not a very long time since a leading Georgia paper advocated lynch law and defiance of the United States government. That paper said there is no need to try to scare the people of the South with the threat of the Federal court. If the Federal court, that apostle for mob rule added, "invades the state's authority and takes charge of these cases, there yet remains the memory and the renaissance of the Ku-Klux Klan."

An Alabama paper, recently, expressed similar views, in commenting on the fact that there had been no lynching within the state for a year. It said: "When certain crimes are committed there is no good in trying to urge people to be quiet and allow the law to take its course."

As long as such sentiments are preached openly and persistently, we cannot hope for a general return to orderly conditions, but great improvement has taken place and we hope this will continue until the entire country is freed from the shadow cast upon it by that form of crime.

ADDRESS TO THE SPIRITS.

Press reports from Japan describe an interesting ceremony performed some time ago at a cemetery near Tokio. It consisted of the placing of tablets and funeral meals before a shrine. Three imperial princes who had seen service in the war placed sprays of flowers upon the shrine. Among those present were the ministry, the officers of the army and navy in the neighborhood of Tokio, the Marquis Ito, Count Okuma and other of the "elder statesmen," with a large throng of nobles, and 3,000 sailors from the fleet.

The function was held in honor of the officers and sailors who lost their lives in the war with Russia, and Admiral Togo was the orator. He addressed the spirits of the dead, as follows:

"The clouds of war have disappeared from sea and shore, and the whole city, with a peaceful, placid heart, like that of a child, goes out to meet the men who shared life and death with you and who now return triumphant under the imperial standard. We longed to imitate you in paying the debt to sovereign and country.

"Your valiant and vehement fighting, always achieved success. In no combat did you fail to conquer. Throughout ten months the attack on Port Ar-

thur continued and the result was determined.

"In the Sea of Japan a single annihilating effort decided the issue. Thenceforth the enemy's shadow disappeared from the face of the ocean. This success had its origin in the intimate virtues of the Emperor, but it could not have been achieved had not you, for getting yourselves, sacrificed your lives in the war for our country."

"The war is over. We who return in triumph see signs of joy everywhere. But we remember that we cannot share it with you, and mingled feelings of sadness and rejoicing struggle painfully for expression.

"The triumph of today has been purchased by your glorious deaths, and your loyalty and valor will inspire our navy, guarding the imperial land for all time."

"We here perform this rite of worship to your spirits, and speaking something of our sad thoughts, pray you to come, and receive the offerings we make."

This is a notable specimen of simple, and therefore beautiful, eloquence. But the chief interest of the address is the light it throws upon the Oriental views and sentiments regarding those who have passed away. To them the dead are not only living, but they are taking an interest in, and influencing human affairs as much as if they were still on earth, or even more. The Shintoists are said to believe that the visible world is governed from the invisible world; that the dead become gods, and that every act and every impulse of man is the work of a god. They firmly hold that the departed ones share the joys and the sorrows of the living, and that they take pleasure in the offerings made to them. Hence the loving gratitude to the past.

It is interesting to notice the undecurrent of truth upon which these views of the relations between the past and present are floating. They furnish another proof of the fact that truth is as widely diffused as light and not confined to one part of the globe. And that is a lesson the Christian world is slow to learn.

Gone, and almost forgotten—the McCurdy and McCall.

San Domingo is a good peg on which to hang a speech of any kind.

Sir Charles Dilke's appeal to his constituents is a gem, and should be an example.

This time it was the Kentucky and not the Kearsage that butted into the Alabama.

It should be remembered that public office is a public trust and not a private snip.

The Czar is said to be very hopeful. It is the finest quality and best asset he can have.

The word "relate" has been eliminated from the dictionaries of most of the railroads.

If it should happen ten, fifteen or twenty years hence Mr. Schiff is in a position to say, "I told you so."

Mr. Thomas W. Lawson says that if he goes broke he will deserve no sympathy. And he won't get any.

Senator Depew says that he will not resign. That is the only thing he has said for publication for a long, long time.

Of course the Standard Oil company expects to rebut the testimony of Mrs. Butts. Then will naturally follow the rebuttal.

Mr. B. B. Odell must have made a New Year resolution not to divulge any more party secrets. If he did, he seems to be keeping it.

If he cannot have government supervision of life insurance the President proposes to have at least presidential control of work on the Panama canal.

Midshipman Decatur must wish that he had been acquitted of the charge of murder rather than of hazing, for then he would not have to be put in jeopardy again.

There will be no great public interest in the Standard Oil investigation until the scandal and story of graft are reached. The insurance investigation gave the public a taste for the highly spiced and nothing else.

The British Medical Journal advises English convalescents not to read Mark Twain's books because the laughter they induce might be harmful. Evidently the Journal is of opinion that the time of convalescence is not a time for laughter.

Speaking of a certain distinguished U. S. Senator, the Oregonian says: "He is probably better in some respects, for it may be supposed that he has tasted the bitter fruits of repentance and profited by his virtue as a spiritual tonic. Of his misdeeds something new has been revealed during the insurance investigation, but nothing half as bad as was known of him before the investigation began." The error here is in mistaking chagrin for repentance.

Sir Edwin Cornwall, chairman of the London County council, is said to have proposed a world congress of great cities, to meet at regular intervals. This is a thought in full harmony with the ideas of the age. A congress of cities may be a good preliminary to a world parliament of nations. When representatives from London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, New York, San Francisco, etc., come together and compare notes, good results must follow.

That it is dangerous to use for food undrawn poultry, fish and game that has been kept in that condition for some time, even in cold storage, is generally conceded. The Maryland Medical Journal recently published a contribution from Dr. John H. Hemmeyer, an eminent chemist, in which he declared that poultry, game and fish, even though left on ice, undergo putrefactive changes unless

the entrails and other internal organs be removed before refrigeration begins.

THE IDAHO CRIME.

Baker City Herald.

It is hardly possible that an organization consisting for the greater part of Americans could or would sanction such a crime. We are not a people imbued with a desire for revenge or murder such as characterizes the Russians or the Mafia. If, on the other hand, the facts should be as intimated, then that organization can no longer claim any consideration of our people, and respectable men will not belong to it.

Lewiston Tribune.

The state has lost its best citizen, and many men have lost their best friend, some of whom do not yet realize it. Governor Steunenberg has left his impression on the state in works that will never be forgotten, and when the eternal roll of honor is written his name will be placed high among those who loved their fellow-man and who did the things given him to do with cheerfulness, confidence and constancy. May his sleep be, like his life, sweet and serene.

Corvallis Times.

If there is no hell there ought to be. Only in an eternity of burning is there retribution for the cowardly assassins of ex-Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. The man's sin was that several years ago as governor, he enforced the law and preserved order in Idaho, striking miners to the contrary notwithstanding. For that, human rattlesnakes, after years of waiting, snaked him to death with an explosive as he passed, unaware, through the gate to his residence. The atrocity, visited upon the victim as he was leaving the busy world of business for the shelter and comfort of his home, is all the testimony that is needed to prove that there ought to be somewhere, a very accessible and a very hot hell.

Bellingham Herald.

The Idaho crime was more than murder. It was anarchy. It had nothing of the daring of the old western days. It was simply the sordid act of low-browed villains who are willing to accept such a horrible commission from a little fraternity of their kind. They are not even border ruffians, but the degenerate representatives of European civilization. Their crimes was not of their own choosing but the work of their "organization." It was aimed not at Steunenberg, the man, but at the ex-Governor of Idaho, who had done his duty as he saw it, and had enforced the laws as he thought they ought to be enforced. The struggle against the State of Idaho has been cherished for six years, and the result is murder.

Boise Statesman.

There is no language by which the assassination of Governor Steunenberg can be adequately designated. It is impossible to conceive of a human being so depraved as to plan or execute such a crime. The human understanding simply stands powerless to grasp the spirit that prompted the deed or the character of the man by whom it was committed. It is impossible to believe there is a lost soul that could lay such a plot or turn its hand toward its execution. All the cunning and all the savagery ever developed in the human race must have been combined in the commission of this frightful murder, and as one reflects upon it he simply stands appalled at the depths of bloodthirsty depravity exhibited in the tragedy.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The January number of the Improvement Era opens with a paper on "The Atonement" by Elder Clark Gray. A Poem, "The Quarrel," by J. L. Townsend, follows. Other articles deal with interesting topics of great variety. "Life of St. Paul for the Young" is told by George Ludington Weid; Dr. James N. Allen writes about "The Door of Forgiveness," "Man's Free Agency" is discussed by Francis M. Shafer; Charles Herman contributes, "Coyotes—A Tale of the Hills"; Susan Young Gates has a story, entitled, "A New Year's Shrine"; Dr. J. M. Tanner discusses "Topics of Moment," and on "The Editor's Table" found "Greetings from the First Presidency," as published in the Christmas "News," and many other good things, including an article on "Behavior—A Subject for the New Year," by President Joseph F. Smith. There are several good poems, including one, entitled, "Not Understood," by an unknown author, sent to the Era by Mr. John P. Meakin. The "Era" commences the new year with an excellent number—214-215 Templeton Bldg., Salt Lake City.

The January number of The Black Cat has six short stories, of which two are prize stories. They are: "At the Third Hour," by Crete Warren; "The Man Who Drank a Railroad Report," by P. F. Tomblin; "The Long White Trail," by W. L. Lockwood; "Stumpy Wick and the Maverick," by Alice McGowan; "With Flossy's Assistance," by Penton Grafton; and "The Secret Stair," by John Trask. They are all very readable stories that hold the interest from the beginning to the end.—144 High St., Boston.

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