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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 23, 1907.

**THE OFFER TO ARBITRATE.**

All Salt Lake has been earnestly hoping for days that the Utah Light & Street Railway company and its employees would find a way to adjudicate their differences without the latter resorting to the strike method. It now seems as if such a way had been found, through the peaceful channels of arbitration. In his letter to the company, Mr. Pratt, spokesman for the men, asked for a conference with Mr. Bancroft and such representatives of the company as he might select, to meet with himself and a committee of the company, with a view to obtaining a better understanding of the relationship that should exist between them, and to secure a readjustment of the wage scale.

General Manager Wells, already having orally indicated to a committee of the men the company's willingness to arbitrate, the outward signs pointed to an amicable adjustment of the entire dispute. The letter from President Bancroft published in today's "News," in which he proposes to submit the question of wages to three arbitrators, one representative of the company, one from among the street car employees, and these two to select a third, greatly emphasizes that willingness, and is of the highest importance at this time. It will strike the public as an eminently fair proposition, and one that may avert the threatened trouble, which, should it come, can only be baneful and injurious at best. By all means, let the question be submitted to arbitration, the modern and more civilized method of disposing of problems like the one to be solved. The answer of the company will be awaited with marked interest and concern.

**REFUND THE MONEY.**

The loss by the Alcatraz Paving company, of its suit against the city, is a reminder to a considerable number of property owners that they are entitled to substantial refunds for taxes paid long ago. Behind the reminder is a little interesting history, which is worth recounting at this time.

In 1902, it will be remembered, the board of public works awarded a contract for street paving to the Alcatraz company, the work to be done on Second and Third South streets, west. The company agreed to do the work in 140 days but took 380. Attached to the contract was a fifty dollars a day penalty for non-completion within the specified time. After a complete investigation in which there were charges and counter charges of political and other influence, the board, of which the Hon. Spencer Clawson was chairman, imposed a penalty for 157 days delinquency, or \$7,850. Efforts were made repeatedly to compromise with the city. But in each case there was signal failure, for the good and sufficient reason that the company did not have the semblance of a legal claim. The verdict in Judge Marshall's court proves this conclusively.

Now, like unto this case is another of the City Street Improvement Company of San Francisco, which for ninety days' delinquency on South Temple street work was fined, under the terms of its contract, fifty dollars a day, or \$4,500 which amount was retained from the settlement totals. The city has had that money for more than four years since the allowance of the final estimate. The two amounts aggregate \$12,350, without interest, which will run it up considerably beyond that point. It should be returned to the abutting property owners on the three streets named, without further delay. They have waited a long time, and are entitled to a speedy refund in each case. Will the council please take note and govern itself accordingly.

**THE FUTURE OF AFRICA.**

Readers of the Desert News are being furnished with a series of African letters from the facile pen of Frank G. Carpenter, the noted newspaper correspondent, that have ever come out of the Dark Continent. They are accompanied by photographic specially taken for this paper, which illustrate all the principal subjects and objects written about, and are altogether the best we have ever seen from that far away and not very well known land. Preliminary it may be stated that Africa is destined to play a tremendous part in the future history of the world. Its own future promises to unfold a scroll of marvelous commercial, industrial and trade possibilities. Samuel P. Verner in an article in the "World's Work on Africa," "Fifty Years Hence," sets forth that the most important factor for development, in the latent riches of the continent, which are incalculable. This undeveloped wealth may be thus summarized:

"First, 5,000,000 square miles of wealth-producing land, in excess of what is or may be required for the natives, and exclusive of all desert or otherwise unproductive areas. Second, known gold-bearing reef, vein and placer deposits that will probably produce for scores of years after opening, a total annual value of \$20,000,000. Third, diamonds and precious stones to the value of \$100,000,000 annually. Fourth, coal beds covering 300,000 square miles. Fifth, copper deposits equal to those of North America and Europe combined. Sixth, beds of iron ore aggregating a probable quantity five times in excess of those known in North America. Seventh, a visible supply of hardwood and other lumber

000,000,000 cubic feet, solid dimensions. Eighth, water powers, totaling a horsepower equal to ninety times that of Niagara falls, neglecting all power less than 10,000 horsepower. Ninth, an available labor force, not yet in use, of 15,000,000 able-bodied men. Tenth, forty thousand miles of river and lake navigation. Eleventh, climate, topographic and meteorological conditions so varied as to present an environment, somewhere within the bounds of the continent, suitable to every race."

Of course, the great bar to African development, and one that will remain up for ages, perhaps, is the unhealthfulness of the country, and the inaccessibility of its interior. However, the advent of the railroads that are sure to be built, will do much toward the dissipation of these untoward conditions. It is confidently predicted that within fifty years Africa will see the completion of two great transcontinental north-and-south trunk lines, and five east-and-west trunk lines. There will also be a number of subsidiary roads feeding these great trunk systems. The terminal of these will be the great African ports. Cape town, it is estimated, will then have a million white population and half as many blacks. Kimberley will be as large as Birmingham. Johannesburg as big as Sheffield, and Bulawayo as populous as Leeds. At Victoria Falls another Buffalo is expected to arise, and says Mr. Verner, near the southern end of the Tanganyika will be a city as large as Detroit. Stanleyville, the present metropolis of the center of the Congo, will be a black St. Louis. On the shores of Lake Albert there will be an African Cleveland. Khartoum will rival Memphis, and Cairo and Alexandria together will have the present population of New York. Somewhere in the highlands of Abyssinia, on the blue Nile, there will have arisen the African Pittsburgh; a black New Orleans, in the neighborhood of the lower Niger, will be shipping palm oil to its prototype across the Atlantic.

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**KEEP THE WATER RUNNING.**

From the earliest days of Salt Lake City's existence it has had one distinguishing feature, just as have most of the cities and towns of Utah. It is found in the running streams that parallel the sidewalks, and which sparkle in the summer sunshine like so many threads of silver. Strangers view them with wonder. In the cities from which they come there are no such attractions; no such means for lowering the temperature and cleaning the gutters; no such engineering and irrigation possibilities as they present. They are real luxuries. Once we enjoyed them all the time. Then, when water became scarce, only occasionally. Now we are informed that the water problem has been solved for many years to come; that there will be plenty and to spare. We hope this is true. We believe it is. The mountains are filled with snow, the rivers, lakes and canals are higher than for many seasons past, and the ground thoroughly saturated with moisture. So keep the ditches and the gutters clear. There should be water in them—not once a week, not every few days—but all the time. It will be an advertisement of untold value to the city. It will be a real enjoyment to our own people. It will be a benefit all around.

**THE SABBATH IN CANADA.**

In view of the recent discussion which prevailed so widely in Salt Lake over the effort to have the Legislature pass an ordinance that would prohibit Sunday theatricals and other forms of amusements, it will be interesting to know that such a law has just been put into force throughout the Dominion of Canada, with the exception of the province of Quebec. Just why that was omitted we are not at present advised. It seems that the new statute is a stringent one and that salutary effects are being observed from its enforcement. Among the prohibitions are all forms of entertainments given for money, baseball, football, gambling, racing, hunting, fishing, the sale of intoxicating liquors and cigars and the bringing into the country and selling of any foreign newspaper. The law is being vigorously enforced and those who once rebelled are beginning to bow in submission and without murmur. The elimination of the lurid Sunday newspaper with its comic abominations supplement was at first regarded as being a little too severe, but the wholesomeness of the embargo upon it is now quite generally conceded.

**FLAG SENTIMENT.**

The national amity between the United States and Great Britain continues to increase, and corroborative of the expanding sentiment is an incident which will shortly be observed in a pretty interchange between the "First Lady in the Land," now living in the White House, and the Queen of England. Emulating Betsy Ross, of Revolutionary memory, who made the first flag of the United States of America, Mrs. Roosevelt, wife of the President, complying with a request made by Edward W. Matthews, formerly a chaplain in the British Navy, has promised to present to the Naval Academy by direction of King Edward. On the other hand, Queen Alexandra will make with her own hands a British flag to be used upon the same occasion and in connection with the American flag.

Of course there is nothing extraordinary in this act between the two leading women of the new and the old worlds, but at the same time, there is a decidedly friendly and altogether assuring intent accompanying it, and one that will have its effect for good among the people of the greatest countries on the globe. There is urgent necessity for the observance of every possible official and individual courtesy between them, and not a single sound argument against it.

**SIZE OF OUR ANCESTORS.**

While it is doubtless true that there were giants in the olden days, men of extraordinary stature and strength, just as there are today, it does not follow as a matter of fact that the average was larger than that which exists in our day. Recent researches in that direction would even seem to indicate to the contrary, and to hold out the belief that man is gradually becoming

physically larger than in ancient times. For instance it is now found, that the armor of the knights of the Middle Ages is too small for their modern descendants. Hamilton Smith records that two Englishmen of average dimensions found no suit large enough to fit either of them in the great collection of Sir Samuel Morley. The head of the Oriental sabre will not admit the English hand, nor the bracelet of the Kaffir warrior the English arm. The swords found in Roman tombs have handles inconveniently small; and the great medieval two-handed sword is now supposed to have been used only for one or two blows at the onset, and then exchanged for smaller ones. The statements made by Homer, Aristotle and Vitruvius, represent six feet as a high standard for full-grown men; and the irreducible evidence of the ancient doorways, bedsteads and tombs, proves the average size of the race, certainly not to have diminished in modern days.

The name of Mrs. Eddy's "next friend" is getting to be legion.

The Jamestown exposition is a regular exposition. It will be opened before it is ready.

Debs' "hot stuff" about Mr. Roosevelt doesn't make Debs a warm friend of labor by any means.

General Gomez says that Cuba needs no protector. Possibly not, but she needs a monitor and has one.

Between Bryan and Roosevelt, John Temple Graves could be happy with either were to their dear charmer away.

All those fellows in New York who have been rounded up for carrying concealed weapons look daggers at the police.

The Japanese have adopted new artillery. The guns can shoot a very, very long way, but they cannot shoot across the Pacific ocean.

Debs' attack on the President was a terrible attack of Debsomania. What a terrific dose of cucumbers Eugene must have had!

The Toronto carriage drivers have gone on strike for an increase of pay and a closed shop. They should be content with an increase of pay and a closed carriage.

Wisconsin now has a law requiring sheets on hotel beds to be nine feet long. A kindred law should define the length of winding sheets.

Another outbreak of hostilities is threatened in Central America. If it comes, the thing to do is to send Taft down there with a lid and let him sit on it awhile.

The Goldfield miners have agreed not to strike except on a two-thirds vote in favor of such action. The two-thirds rule now holds good in Goldfield as well as in Democratic conventions.

Twenty million people in Russia are said to be at death's door. It must be an immense door where so many can congregate, but through that door all mankind must sooner or later pass.

"Extravagance today is poverty tomorrow," says the Baltimore American. Wrong. Lots of people are extravagant every day in the year and all their lives never know poverty. Still extravagance is not to be commended.

At Lodz, Russia, the Nationalists are administering lynch law to the Socialists. The latter should not object to taking their own medicine. How noxious it is they have never realized until it was forced down their throats.

The street railway officials and the street railway employees are reasonable men, and there is no more reason why they should not reach an amicable settlement of their differences as well as the conductors and trainmen and officials of the western railroads did. These latter were in conference many days, but the final result was agreement and the avoidance of a strike, which is usually disastrous to all parties to it.

**DEWEY'S FLAGSHIP.**

Harper's Weekly. The Olympia, the flagship of Admiral Dewey during the memorable battle of Manila bay, on the morning of May 1, 1898, is now at the Norfolk navy yard being fitted out for use as a training ship for midshipmen at the naval academy. In naval vernacular, the Olympia is termed an "odd fish" in the navy and it has been deemed advisable to convert her into a training ship, and she will be turned over to the naval academy in time for this summer's annual cruise. The ship is being fitted with quarters for 250 midshipmen, at a total cost to the government of \$60,000. One of the small boats formerly carried by the Cristobal Colon has been brought to this country and will be permanently placed on the Olympia as a constant reminder to the midshipmen of the gallant fight of the American navy in the historical action off Santiago.

**WAR ON SLANG.**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It is very gratifying to know that war is being made in high quarters upon some of our meaningless slang. President Eliot, of Harvard, attacks the slang use of "here," which he regards as an inapplicable designation, without wit or reason. So it is, and the good work goes right on. The United States Department of Agriculture, following the example of the illustrious educator, will expose the inanity of the slang expression about knowing beans. "Beans," it is a misnomer. To hear it used, one would suppose a person not knowing beans to be the very dolt. Upon the contrary, very few persons know the well-known, know beans. The subject is deep, and Bulletin No. 289, soon to be issued, will prove it. As a hint of what is coming, the department makes casual mention in its advance copy of broad beans, Dolichos beans, soja beans, scarlet runners, and vetches. Keep the ball rolling. Who will show up the expression, "Buster than a cranberry merchant?"

**NEGLECT OF GRAMMAR.**

Portland Oregonian. English grammar is a subject which teachers in common schools have always found difficult, and for that reason it is neglected in the majority of the schools. The public school pupils of one generation are the teachers of the next, and because their own education in grammar has been neglected, they can not teach the subject properly if they would. Poor instruction in grammar in common schools is followed by a scant attention to the subject in high schools. The result is that the average student is unable to write a sentence without making a grammatical error.

a poor start in common schools, students dislike the subject and avoid it if possible, with the acquiescence, too often, of college professors. What is the result? A revival of interest in the teaching of English grammar and composition from the common school up through the high school and college. Not only is a knowledge of rules essential, but there is need of that frequent practice in writing through which alone can be acquired the power to write clearly and correctly.

**JUST FOR FUN.**

Shrewd Fellow.  
"You don't mean to say," remarked Ascum, "that you always have your own way?"  
"Certainly," replied Henpeck. "I'm clever enough for that."  
"You are," said Ascum.  
"Of course, I always find out first what Maria's way is and I make it my way,"—Exchange.

Reading the Paper.  
"Suits to protect cattle," she read aloud; "now, isn't that nice of the government? I suppose they will furnish each of the poor, dear cows a blanket."  
Satisfied with this glimpse at the news of the great world, she turned to the realities of the fashion column.  
—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Real Trouble.  
"That was a queer statement you made a minute ago. You said you never had any trouble keeping your wife fashionably dressed."  
"Well, that's the truth. My trouble comes when I don't keep her dressed that way,"—Philadelphia Press.

Not For Him.  
"Dumley wants a comedy part," said the first member of the amateur theatre club; "he thinks he'd be a success as a comedian."  
"Nonsense," exclaimed the other, "why, everybody would laugh at him,"—Exchange.

A Disappointment.  
Mr. Henpeck—I always thought that Wickers was one of those men who are born to command.  
Mrs. Henpeck—Well.  
Mr. Henpeck—Oh nothing much; only he got married the other day.  
—Exchange.

So Unreasonable.  
"My wife," said Marryat, "never likes me to refer to her age."  
"My wife's funny that way too," said Benedict, "she doesn't want me to remember her age and yet she gets mad if I forget her birthday,"—Philadelphia Press.

Easy to Ascertain.  
Mrs. De Wealth (examining a picture)—I don't know just what fault there is to find with it, but—  
Mr. De Wealth—Well, buy it, and some of your friends will be sure to tell you.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Dubious.  
"Don't trouble to see me to the door, Smith."  
"No trouble; quite a pleasure, I assure you,"—Illustrated Bits.

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