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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 22, 1907.

## LIGHT OF PUBLICITY.

The Bureau of Municipal Research is a New York institution that should be of great value to the citizens in that vast city. Similar organizations could be established in other communities, to great advantage.

The mission of the Bureau is to make the taxpayers conversant with the facts regarding the administration of the various departments of the city government in such a manner that a man of ordinary intelligence may understand precisely what the government in its different branches is doing, at what cost, and with what results.

New York needs such an institution. It has one of the most expensive city governments of the world. Its annual budget is larger than that of some kingdoms. That corruption and graft have been practised at times is beyond dispute. Frequently the citizens have tried to eliminate the bad features of the administration of their affairs, but the results have generally been disappointing, partial in effect and temporary in duration. Then a group of social workers decided to tackle the problem in another manner.

Recognizing that the failure of reform movements lay largely in the fact that specific details of incompetency and maladministration are often hidden, while there may exist a general consciousness that things are going wrong, plans were laid to provide the public from time to time with definite information of how their elected and appointed officials were discharging the duties devolving upon them.

But, no sooner had this plan been decided on than it was found that reliable information could not be secured without considerable difficulty. Owing to peculiar methods of keeping books and records, the trail of the dishonest official was easily covered, and the vindication of the faithful public servant rendered almost impossible. The Bureau of Municipal Research has therefore set itself the task of securing such methods of auditing and accounting as would at any time make clear to the authorities and the people just how the public money is being expended, what methods are being used, what results achieved and where oversight or neglect have failed to accomplish the desired ends. We believe that publicity and facility for obtaining correct information are what is mostly needed in every one of the larger cities of the country. Graffers and thieves rely on complicated records that only experts can puzzle out, and dishonest newspaper juggling with figures for immunity from their dishonest practices, and they generally succeed. Many citizens are too busy to bother with public affairs, and others submit to what they consider inevitable. They have come to regard grafters in office as a "necessary evil." Other cities have them; they say; it is the same everywhere; with greater facilities for obtaining correct information, the citizens would be aroused from their indifference, in spite of the subsidized press.

## ON ADVERTISING.

The November number of Agricultural Advertisers has an article on newspaper advertising, in which the writer makes the point that the daily paper, except in a special class of households, is a better advertising medium than the magazine.

The reader of a daily can be reached thirty times a month if necessary, whereas the magazine reaches him only once. This message oft repeated makes an impression on his mind, which he is not allowed to forget. But as each paper has its own "sphere of influence," to use a modern phrase, it is necessary to select the paper that reaches the clientele to which the advertiser appeals. In point of fact, we are told, "this is the rock on which many an advertising campaign, otherwise highly planned, amounts to pieces. To know the exact clientele of the papers in all the cities of the country requires study and experience."

The writer tells of some wonderful results of newspaper advertising. He mentions the case of an advertising scheme announced in all the leading Sunday papers of the country—about 100—in giving a package of his goods free to all who wrote him. On Monday morning there were over 3000 requests, and on Tuesday he had to send an express wagon to get the letters.

An illustration of the value of large advertisements the writer mentions the case of a Wisconsin manufacturer who had been using three-inch single column copy three times a week in the Milwaukee paper, and getting no sales. On consultation with his agent it was decided to run three-inch three columns once a week in each paper. The sales started at once, and in four months they had to stop the advertising for they could not make the goods fast enough to supply the demand. "The point is, copy should be large enough so that it cannot be buried and so that it will catch the eye."

Experienced business men know that newspaper advertising pays. Not only does it direct the public where to go to satisfy a demand already existing, but it creates a demand and produces sales. He knows that, for that reason, it is as important to advertise

when times are dull as when they are lively. The right kind of an ad in the right medium creates a business force that is irresistible.

## HIGH AND LOW PRICES.

Prosperity consists neither in high nor in low prices, but in plenty.

A country that is producing, like ours, an abundance of the necessities of life should be prosperous. Conditions that may prevent the enjoyment of prosperity, when prosperity is actually here, are lack of confidence, a sudden curtailment of credit, instant demands for ready money on collections, a general failure of the function of money, the medium of exchange, to do its regular part of the work, and combinations in restraint of trade.

When we read of an association in Denver that has been organized to maintain prices, and that under the stress of prosecution has decided to reduce prices, we perceive that local market prices may be due, in a large measure, to just such manipulation.

If all prices went up or went down uniformly, no one would either lose or gain. All intelligent dealers know this, even while claiming that high prices of certain commodities bring prosperity to them. They know perfectly well that if the rise or fall of all prices should happen to be equal, no one would be any better off. It is because the price of certain commodities is advanced, while the cost of most other things is not, or is less so, that high prices are an advantage.

Those whose services are not better paid, or whose productions have not appreciated in market value, are those who lose by reason of such fluctuations.

It matters little whether prices taken as a whole are high or low, but it matters much if some prices rise, and certain classes of wages rise, while others do not.

When all prices are high, it means that money is relatively abundant when all prices are low, that money is relatively scarce, and perfect prosperity is compatible with either of these conditions. But as to combinations that advance the prices of given articles, while they may mean prosperity to certain lines of commerce and industry, while they may cause those lines to thrive, it is at the expense of all others.

Such combinations should be prevented as far as possible.

## PREVARICATORS ABROAD.

We are in receipt of newspaper clipping sent from a friend in Washington, D. C., which contains a partial report of proceedings before a Methodist conference at Pittsburg, held some time ago. Among the speakers was one Rev. Frye, who thought it necessary to devote some time to "Mormonism." The Rev. gentleman is reported to have declared that Senator Knox was responsible for the failure to unseat Senator Snoot, "the Mormon," and that he has letters from Senator Knox which practically acknowledge that the latter is for "Mormonism." He charged that "Mormon" literature is being sent through the mails under franking privileges; "while when you or I" he said, "wish to send letters in interest of our church and the religion of Jesus Christ, we must pay regular postal charges."

"Montana," he continued, "was the first State to endorse Senator Knox as a candidate to succeed President Roosevelt." There are more "Mormons" in Montana than there are Methodists, Episcopalian, Baptists, and Presbyterians combined. Senator Knox was almost wholly responsible for the seating of Rev. Snoot, the "Mormon" in the United States Senate.

The speech is said to have created great excitement among the preachers and women present.

We quote this to give our readers an idea of the absurdities that are still prevalent around the country under the pretense of truth.

In Pittsburg Senator Snoot was charged with "Mormon" tendencies because he would not violate his oath as a Senator and vote for the expulsion of Senator Snoot. In Illinois Senator Hopkins made the object of the attacks of these preachers, on the same ground. These gentlemen do not consider that the charges brought against Senator Snoot and the Church were all proved to be untrue, and that there was absolutely no ground for action against him, but Rev. Frye gives his sentiments very well by complaining of the failure of the Senate to expel a "Mormon." To be a "Mormon" is, in his opinion, TIE offence. The Rev. Mr. Gilks ought to have condemned a member as that charge. And that is just the view of so many negroes, who do not least act that a man in this country has just as much right to be a "Mormon" as his opposite he has to be right or false, if that is true fact.

Henry Van Dyke's poem asks, "Who Will Walk With Me a Mile?" "Who will walk with me twelve hundred miles?" asks Weston.

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