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SALT LAKE CITY, - OCT. 9, 1907

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The more the financial status of the City is looked into, the more hopeless it appears.

The overdraft in the contingent fund alone at the end of last month, was \$216,230.36. The Tribune compares this to an overdraft against the same fund two years ago, which it gives as \$98,000.23. Then, after some more or less unintelligible juggling with figures, it says: "But this difference of \$118,000 surely is not serious when we consider the tremendous difference in public work done."

There is a double attempt at deception in this. It is suggested that an overdraft of \$216,000 this year is no more serious than an overdraft of \$98,000, two years ago, and the statement is made, indirectly, that the difference is due to the difference in public improvements. Both propositions are utterly false.

In the first place, the overdraft two years ago did not exceed the income. At the close of that year the deficit was wiped out and there was a balance left of \$300.49. That was the situation then. The situation now is this: There is an overdraft of \$216,230.36, while all the taxes for this fund amount to only about \$187,000. That is to say, the City has already spent all the taxes that can be collected for this fund this year, and then \$29,230.36 more, for which there is not a cent in view. And there are three months more of the year. What will the overdraft amount to at the end of the year, at the present rate of expenditure? That is the question.

In the second place, the Tribune says an overdraft is not serious when we consider the public work done. But the fact is that not a dollar of the \$216,000 has been spent on public works. That deficit is in the contingent fund alone; and the money in that fund cannot be spent for public improvements, legally. The various funds set apart for public improvements have their own tragic story to tell, no doubt, but only ignorance, or a wilful attempt at deceiving the taxpayers, can account for the insinuation that the deficiency in the contingent fund is due to public improvements. Only incompetency, or worse, can account for that deficiency. Which is it?

We believe the taxpayers should now take the necessary steps to prevent further mismanagement of the affairs of the City. The Constitution of the State says expressly that: "No debt in excess of the taxes for the current year shall be created by any city, town, or village, or any subdivision thereof in this State; unless the proposition to create such debt, shall have been submitted to a vote of such qualified electors as shall have paid property tax therein, in the year preceding such election;" but here we have a set of men involving the City in debt at the rate of thousands of dollars a month in excess of the taxes, and without the vote of the people, in clear violation of the fundamental law of the State. And they call themselves "Americans!" And they talk about law-breaking!

How long are the tax-payers going to stand that extreme kind of law-breaking? Some time the weight will fall heavily upon the home-owners of small means, who always are expected to bear more than their share of the burdens of taxation. What are they going to do about it now?

It should be remembered in this connection that the City pays six per cent interest on the money it borrows, with which to defray the contingent expenses, while somebody pockets every cent of interest on the money the City deposits in the institution with which it is now doing business, by the advice, undoubtedly, of some great patriot whose righteous soul is shivering at the very thought of hierarchical domination. How long would stockholders in a corporation tolerate such management? Would they not call the directors to account, particularly if bankruptcy stared them in the face?

ROGUE'S REFORMS.

There was a time, a contemporary remarks, when the campaign speaker invariably relied upon the effects of the phrase "dear people." But the "dear people" gradually discovered that that was only the sugar on the fly paper.

Then the tactics were changed to the hurling of thunderbolts at the soulless corporations. But, somehow, the corporations went on undisturbed, and the public commenced to doubt the sincerity of the attacks upon those alleged enemies of the people.

At present the office-hunters are crying "reform!" Every crook, every ambitious aspirant to public favor, poses as a reformer. If it is not "church influence in politics" the "reformers" are struggling against, it is some thing else. But that gamblers and grafters and various other doubtful characters should succeed in pushing themselves to the front, under the pretense that they are concerned in "reform," is very peculiar. If the citizens of this City two years ago had been suspicious of the superabundance of goodness and purity that was held out to them from the very confines of the Iberian district, they would not now have an enormous deficit in the City treasury to hold out to new settlers as an inducement to make their homes here.

But, if the City has been banded under the promise of reform, this is

only what could be expected. The originators of the party in power had no scruples in right, no principles to succinate. Hunger and thirst for office, and honor and emoluments were the instincts that united them in concerted action first, and then separated them in the division of the "spoils." Hungry wolves, it is said, will howl in concert as long as they pursue their prey, and then growl at each other when the prey is being devoured. That seems to have been to some extent, the case with these great "reformers." They had no legitimate excuse for their warfare upon the truly American parties and citizens of this City, and so they had to build a platform of falsehood and hypocrisy, pretenses and frauds. But such work cannot be successful. It must fail, sooner or later. Only truth and justice are lasting. It is honesty that is the best policy, and the exponents of dishonesty must necessarily find themselves and their works unmasked some time.

If there were nothing else at present than the status of the finances of the City to attract public attention, that alone would be sufficient testimony to the true character of the "reformers."

ADD THE JUVENILE COURT.

The general disregard of the curfew ordinance has led Judge Gowans of the Juvenile Court to ask the assistance of the various religious and philanthropic societies in this city to render assistance in its proper enforcement.

The Judge proposes that a number of volunteer probation officers be appointed who will serve under the direction of the chief probation officer of Salt Lake county. He thinks such officers should be careful and discreet, and have the welfare of our boys and girls at heart, and should be willing without compensation to devote a short time every evening, say from 8.30 to 10 p. m., to patrolling a number of blocks so as to prevent this ordinance from being violated.

The probation officers should also take home such boys and girls as seem indifferent to the law and remind the parents in a tactful way that their children are delinquent. In a firm but friendly manner they should seek to co-operate with the parents. Parents who refuse to aid the probation officers in the proper enforcement of the law should be informed that they may be prosecuted for contributing to the delinquency of the children.

We believe that a general effort in the lines here indicated would accomplish the desired end; and that a number of sensible and moderate people may be enlisted in the good work of preventing young people from forming bad habits.

NO CHURCH CANDIDATES.

"Several years ago Mr. Bowen favored the election of a Gentile member of the public school board from his ward, as against the man whom the Mormon Church had placed in nomination."

This is a small link of a long chain of falsehoods from the local anti-"Mormon" force. The author of it is talking about the alleged persecution of the gentleman named, because of his opposition to a candidate of the public school board, "whom the Mormon Church had placed in nomination."

The answer to that is that the Mormon Church did not, at the time referred to, place any candidate in nomination; nor has the Church, to our knowledge, at any time placed any candidate for the public school board, or for any other political office. In nomination, and certainly not at any time in recent years, since the division of party lines, for instance.

If this denial is not in accordance with facts, it should be easy to prove what the facts are. At what conference of the Church, or at what other ecclesiastical meeting, did the Church place a political candidate in nomination, for Mr. Bowen, or anybody else, to oppose? Give the date, or cease the malicious and misleading talk about Church candidates that have no existence.

Individual members and officers of the church may, as American citizens, have their preferences for candidates, but that does not make them church candidates. The law of the Church is that "all things shall be done by common consent." But the Church has never yet intruded upon the field of politics. Even in the days of the People's party, the "Mormons" and their friends called as citizens; and not as Church members. Their political gatherings were political as the gatherings of any other party, and not ecclesiastical.

We have recently had a great general conference of the Church, with enthusiastic attendants and magnificent addresses upon many topics. Was there, during the various sessions of the Conference, any undue allusion to politics? Was any political candidate endorsed or rejected? An important city election will soon be held. Did the Church nominate a candidate? Or endorse anyone? The fact is that politics forms no part of the deliberations of the Church. Mormon Church meetings are much more free from politics than the meetings of the local ministerial association. "Church candidate" is a term invented by unscrupulous anti-"Mormons." They rely on it to catch votes.

LUTHER AND MARRIAGE.

A correspondent of the New York Evening Mail, who seems to be familiar with the history of the Reformation, in the issue of Oct. 4, discusses Martin Luther's views on marriage. It is generally known that the great German reformer, in his marriage union with a nun, openly defied the public sentiment of his age, but the matter touched upon by the contributor to the Mail, is not so generally known. The writer says:

"To the Editor of the Evening Mail:—Sir—Of late the attempt has been made to smother the fair name of Martin Luther. Two charges have been brought against him—first, that he practiced polygamy; second, that he taught polygamy. The first of these accusations is utterly false. To practice polygamy is to have more than one wife at the same time. Now it is true that Luther had one wife. In this he copied after St. Peter, rather than the popes. But he never had but one wife. His definition of marriage is the inseparable union between one male and one female person; and this definition he faithfully illustrated in his life. The second charge has some truth

in it; namely, that he taught polygamy. He made the remark once that it is not forbidden that a man should have more than one wife. I could not forget it today, but I would not advise it." He also gave his permission for Philip, the landgrave of Hesse, to marry a second wife while the first wife was living, providing that it be done in secret.

"Both of these were grave errors and sharply he is criticized for it. He was especially censured by Sir William Hamilton. But while Hamilton does not excuse Luther's fault (nor should any one excuse it), he does take pains to say that Luther was disinclined to the practical application of the theory of polygamy. Indeed, he was disgusted by some in his day, and his mind revolted against the polygamous excesses of certain religious bodies of that time."

"Hamilton says also that Luther was averse to the landgrave's second marriage. And as to the stipulation of secrecy, of which so much capital has been made by his enemies, it is to be observed that it was enjoined because, as Luther explains elsewhere, the case was not to be made a precedent. And moreover, an open marriage would imply a dispensation from the law of the land, which he had no power to give. He was acting simply as the spiritual adviser to the landgrave, and, as such, allowed that it might be safer for his soul and less objectionable in the sight of God for him to take an additional wife than to continue in adulterous license."

"Besides, Luther had high Roman Catholic authority for his act, in that twelve years before this Cardinal Wolsey had proposed that Henry VIII. should have two wives at the same time."

"Hamilton expresses his admiration for Luther, declares that he never pelted with the truth and was not only one of the ablest, but also one of the best of men."

"G. E. STROBOSCH, 'New York, Sept. 30, 1907.'"

The President is only making a bear living now.

There is still plenty of room at the top and the north pole.

In getting coal a long wait and a short weight go together.

As yet the President has not seen a bear. That is probably because they say him first.

It is said that the President's message to Congress this year will be longer than usual.

"I live on dreams," shuns an Alabama poet. "I live on beans," chirps a Boston singer.

"Secretary Taft has dispelled the war cloud," says an eastern exchange. Was there really one?

The State Fair netted twenty-five thousand dollars. Everything that came into its net this year was cash.

Give them a chance, and the Pelicans would overrun the President's camp while he is in Louisiana.

Senator Tillman roasts the railroads; others wreck them. The roaster is to be preferred to the wrecker every time.

There is an intolerable situation on the Gulf coast. Due, no doubt, to the presence there of the riffraff of Mexico.

When the air brake won't work federal control over railroads wouldn't be any more effective than private control.

"Honey-cust!" is the only word that Schmitt, Ruff et al can find to express their feelings over their prosecution and conviction.

Cesar had his Brutus; Charles the First, his Cromwell; and Charles Warren his cocktail. If this be treason, make the most of it.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has been summoned to serve on a grand jury. It is a grand thing for a young man just beginning his career.

Sancho Panza would have made a much better governor of Casa Blanca than the Spanish commander in control there at the present time.

Dr. Wiley of the department of agriculture has given up his poison squad and is now experimenting on a soda water and soft drinks squad. A soft drink turneth away wrath.

Swathmore would do well to remember that opportunity does not knock over about once even at the door in a college's life. A million dollars is better than a football victory.

That Senator Tillman is an able man and in many respects a remarkable one, no one will deny, but to introduce him to an audience as one of the greatest statesmen of the country is either foolishness or fulsome.

RESULTS AT THE HAGUE.

New York Sun.
Several delegates to The Hague conference are it. Some of them have had to refuse further invitations to dinner. It is dyspepsia to be the chief result of this peace conference?

THEY'RE DOING IT.

Portland Press.
Secretary Wilson having announced that he is going to start a national milk investigation, it will be in order for the dealers to get together and give the price another twist upward.

OUR SECRETARY OF PEACE.

Baltimore Sun.
But Mr. Taft has done the Japanese no service if he has left them under the impression that the only agents in the United States which object to unrestricted Asiatic immigration are a few "yellow newspapers" and a few demagogic politicians. He should have played the part of a candid friend, our secretary of war must know that the majority of the American people are in favor of limiting Asiatic immigration, and possibly, most of them would prohibit such immigration altogether.

The secretary ought to know also, that Americans are not disposed to approve of treaties which give to foreign powers the right to regulate public schools in this country through the government at Washington. Why didn't he speak out frankly on these subjects at the Tokyo banquet? It would have been no greater violation of the canons of good taste and of diplomatic reserve than his discussion of the possibilities of war between the United States and Japan.

New York Tribune.
Upon the subject of the Philippines Mr. Taft spoke with exceptional authority. His remainder of the impos-

bility of America's disposing of those islands to any other power without the grossest breach of faith was absolutely convincing. It really seems incomprehensible that rational men could with one breath have disputed the right of the United States to own and govern those islands, and with the next, have urged the right and the propriety of our selling them and their inhabitants, like a farm and its livestock.

JUST FOR FUN.

A Common Misconception.

Maude (aged 5 years)—Mother, when I grow up I guess I will be a school teacher. Do you think I can?
Mother—I don't believe you can, Maude, because you are now only in the second grade.

Maude—Then I guess I will have to be a mother. You don't have to take any lessons in that, do you?—Judge.

The Seen Absence.

The professor of English in one of our western colleges was noted for being very absent minded. It was his custom to call the roll each morning before the lecture. One morning, after calling a name to which there was no response, he looked up and, peering over his spectacles, asked sharply:

"Who is the absent boy in the vacant chair I see before me?"—Lippincott's Magazine.

She Did.

"Madam, do you keep hens?" asked the lady with the gold-rimmed eyeglasses at the door of the farmhouse. "Sure!" replied the woman in the door, wiping her chin with her apron: "are you lookin' for board, ma'am?"—Yonkers Statesman.

A Turn Out.

The late Gov. Parsons of Alabama was one of those few southerners who espoused the Union cause during the Civil war. After the establishment of peace he was rewarded for his fidelity by being made provisional governor of his State.

At the time of secession, however, he was a member of the Alabama Legislature, and, to the indignation of his southern friends who had elected him to office, he voted against secession. Soon afterward he wrote his wife that, as his supply of shirts was exhausted, he desired her to send him more as soon as possible. Mrs. Parsons, a zealous southerner, answered a note remarkably for its brevity and point. Without prelude or formality she wrote:

"You have turned your coat, you may turn your shirt."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Art.

"But," we say to the impressionist, "you call this a study of a cow, and yet surely to cow over looked like the one you have painted."

"True enough," he says, "but your lack of vision! But don't you wish cows did look like that?"—Syracuse Post-Standard.

No Counting in Church.

In Cornish chapel the invariable rule is for the men to sit on one side of the building and the women on the other. A visitor and his fiancée, who were staying in the district, went to the chapel, and just before the service began the young man was greatly astonished when the chapel steward, observing that the couple were seated in the same pew, came over to him and, in an audible voice, said: "Come on out of that, my son. We don't have no sweetheartin' 'ere."—Home Chat.

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