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SALT LAKE CITY, AUG. 30, 1905.

It has taken a hand in international affairs, and always for the furtherance of peace and good will, and this, undoubtedly, is the grand mission of the United States.

OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS.

Salt Lake City has, it seems, some "patriotic" citizens who are endeavoring by all means their inventive genius can suggest, to delay, if not to prevent entirely, the material advancement of the city and especially to render every bona fide effort at increasing the water supply ineffective. The latest in this direction has taken the form of an appeal to the court for an order restraining the city from acquiring certain water rights in exchange for a reasonable extension of some franchises already owned by the Utah Light and Power company, as granted by the city council a short time ago. The purpose of these tactics is quite apparent. But we do not believe the citizens generally will deem it wise to clothe obstructionists with power and authority to expend a million of dollars for them. It takes something more than ability to delay and to invent objections to everything, to insure that confidence which candidates for public office should be able to command.

The point made here is that the vote of the councilmen who happen to be members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was illegal, because the Church is said to be interested in the company, and that, consequently, the councilman passed on the franchise question in their own personal interests, as members of the Church. But if that is so, why not the same rule apply to all members of the Church? If it is a member of any religious denomination, or any benevolent society, can ever serve as a member of a city council, or any legislature. For, as soon as he votes on any measure that may, directly or indirectly, benefit his church, or his society, his vote is illegal, it being cast in his own personal interests, as a member of such church, or society. The statutes, for instance, that exempt property used for religious or philanthropic purposes from taxation, would be void, since, undoubtedly, they were passed by the aid of voters, who, one way or another, were interested in religious or philanthropic work. If the principle on which the lawsuit is entered against the city is admitted to be correct, any assembly might be proved fraudulent. But we do not believe the obstructionists really expect to win the case. Their purpose is to delay progress, nothing else.

The fact is that none of the councilmen in question were personally interested in the power company. The proposed trade was not in their interest, but entirely for the benefit of the city. If the Church, as alleged, has any financial interest in the matter, the benefits thereof do not go to the councilmen, or to any other member of the Church. Individually, there is, then, as far as we can see, not a particle of ground for the complaint made. How the interests of the city can be served by opposition to every measure that is undertaken for its benefit, is impossible to see. It is high time for the citizens generally to wake up to the menace of the tactics of contemptible obstructionists who hope to promote their own selfish interests by stirring up strife among their fellow-citizens.

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