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THE SUITS TO ESCHEAT.

As previously announced in the DESERET NEWS, suit has been formally commenced in the Third District Court to escheat to the Government of the United States the properties known as the Tithing Office and grounds, the Gardo House and grounds, and the Historian's Office and grounds. The last two pieces of property are sued for as one, being the greater part of lot 6 in block 75. The information, or complaint, copies of which with a summons have been served upon Bishops Preston, Burton and Winder, will be found in full in another part of this paper. The complaint in reference to the Gardo House and Historian's Office are similar, the only difference being in the description of the property.

It will be observed that the west half of the Temple Block is recognized as exempt from the provisions of the Act of 1887, which excludes from escheat buildings used exclusively for the worship of God and grounds appurtenant thereto. The east half is not mentioned, except as being of a greater value than \$50,000. It should be understood that under the decision of the courts the whole of the Temple Block has been virtually exempted from escheat.

This suit is in one sense a new step in the proceedings against the Church property. In another sense it is a continuation of the original attack. We explained, when the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States upon the constitutionality of the law relating to this matter reached us, that separate suits for the confiscation of each piece of property would have to be entered and that these would be legally contested to the utmost.

Our readers, then, need be under no apprehension about this. These proceedings are in the regular course of law to escheat the property alleged to be forfeited, and the regular methods will be employed, no doubt, to legally resist it, carrying

every vital point in each case up to the court of last resort. This is the right of the parties defendant, which every sane person recognizes, except the violent persons who concede no right to the "Mormons" but to pay taxes and die.

We suppose the attorneys for the defense will in due time file their answers to these complaints, and we forbear offering any argument on the questions involved, as we have no desire to anticipate their legal reasoning.

ARE THEY "BOODLERS?"

THE "Liberal" Council of Ogden City were startled by a veritable bombshell in their camp at the last session. It was in the shape of a communication from Major Silva, on behalf of the Ogden City Electric Light Company. From this it appears that the Ogden City Council have adopted a report of a committee, granting to an association called the Citizens Electric Light Company the contract for lighting the streets of the city, without giving other companies or persons the opportunity to compete, and without complying with the law which requires such contracts to be let to the lowest and best bidder.

But this is not the worst feature of the alleged wrong. Major Silva shows that various members of the City Council are stockholders in the company to which they have given this contract, and that they have really let it to themselves. This is unlawful and contrary to the public interest. More than that, he shows that the Mayor of Ogden is the virtual company to which this contract had been awarded, holding 600 shares out of a total of 688, the odd 88 being divided among city officers and the Mayor's clerks. Also that in signing the contract, the Mayor would have to append his name as Mayor on the one hand and as President of the company on the other.

The facts set forth appear to be very damaging. The matter was postponed by the Council for one week. The citizens will look with some curiosity for the reply. Meanwhile the *Tribune* of this city should inform the public how many "bad men" there are in the Ogden City Council, and how many of them are "boodlers." That sheet, a little time ago, gave us the number of "bad men" and "boodlers" in the Salt Lake City Council, namely, four. The number of Ogden city officers engaged in this little scheme

upon which Major Silva has turned the electric light of the company he represents is six. Will our laughably inconsistent and shockingly abusive morning contemporary say nothing more about it than what is contained in its mild and non-committal paragraph of today?

"Liberal" City Councils seem to be illustrating the old adage, that streams do not rise higher than their fountain, and that the kind of men elected will show the sort of voters that elected them. They certainly cost pretty high and smell considerably higher.

THE "MORMONS" IN IDAHO.

THE Idaho "Mormons" seem still to be an element of agitation in the minds and plans of Idaho politicians, although those defrauded citizens attempted to take no part in the State election and are cutting no figure in the politics of the present. The fear that they will make some new effort to obtain and exercise the rights of which they have been robbed, disturbs the equanimity of the schemers who know that "Mormon" voters would not act in their interest.

The worst demagogues of the new State are not content with what has been done in the way of disfranchisement for Church membership, but desire that some further un-republican measures shall be devised. The shaky candidate for the United States Senatorship proposes new legislation to fit the new situation created by the recent action of the "Mormon" Church in relation to polygamy. He wants the State Legislature to invent some fresh provisions to prolong the disfranchisement of the "Mormons." His views and desires, however, are not shared by all the active politicians of Idaho, and the indications are that his influence is on the wane.

A very comprehensive letter on Idaho affairs from Boise City, appeared in the *Chicago Times* of the 31st ult. It discusses the question of irrigation in an able manner and touches on the subject of the senatorship. The following paragraphs in it relate to the "Mormon" question:

"The next subject of importance to engage the attention of the legislature will be as to how the Mormons can be kept away from the polls. This element prevails largely in the four eastern counties—Bingham, Bear Lake, Cassia, and Oneida. During the month of February, 1885 a law was passed providing that a test oath be administered to the voters of the Territory by the terms of which the elec-