

other hand, if its administration is in complete touch with the reform policy, even though it be unable to extricate the city from its financial embarrassment, its members will secure the undying gratitude of the people.

Every taxpayer has a right to inquire into the situation until it is thoroughly understood by him, and may freely discuss it and give expression to his opinions. In so doing he does not infringe upon any official prerogative, for officers are but representatives of the people, to do the will of the latter in legal form and order. It is proper, therefore, in a time like the present, that suggestions upon an absorbing topic should be offered and considered without prejudice, oversensitiveness or ill-will. No particular individual in the community possesses all the good ideas or human wisdom that may be brought to bear upon the subject, but by careful procedure the best may be gathered, and harmonious action result.

With the extended borrowing capacity of the city, bonds could be issued to more than \$860,000 above those out at present, but to do so would be extreme folly, and in a short time would leave the municipality in a perfectly helpless condition. The only proper course is to reduce the issue to a minimum consistent with the city's needs. What these are can be easily determined, and it is doubtful whether there is necessity of borrowing, at present at any rate, more than to one-third of the full limit, or about \$300,000 at the outside.

It may be suggested that an official estimate for the year has been made already, and that it indicates a necessity for going nearly to the full extent of the law. There can be, and is, a great difference of opinion from that view without questioning or assailing the integrity of the official estimate in slightest degree. For instance, the income from license is there estimated at \$115,000—an amount larger than any previous year. But after proceeding two months farther into 1894 and getting a closer view of the business outlook, what clear-headed business man, whose vision has not been obscured by "boom" ideas, will venture to place the figure at present prospects above \$75,000 to \$85,000? The lapse of one-sixth of the year easily puts a new phase on affairs.

Then it is stated also that \$223,000 is needed for the gravity sewer—\$20,000 of this for land for the outlet. The \$20,000 for that purpose may have been all right some time back, but to propose such a sum today for the required acreage would be immediately suggestive of a "job;" to pay half that amount would be regarded as recklessness. Going a step farther into the gravity sewer item, what is the necessity for completing it this year? In other places an undertaking of that nature frequently extends over a period of several years, and it wouldn't hurt Salt Lake to take their experience into consideration with a view to profiting thereby. Besides, what is the use of rushing the matter now, and tending to produce another collapse in the demand for labor at the close of the present season, thereby injuring the home workingmen? Why not proceed at a uniform rate with this and other public

improvements, so that home workingmen can be given employment as steadily and for as long a time as possible, and no special inducement be offered for the unemployed of other sections to rush in here and reap the benefits of a crowded program? The Mayor did a proper thing in pointing out the items named in his report, and in presenting in the most striking manner the questions that must be solved by the new administration. But it is the Council that must determine the methods of procedure and the measure of caution and celerity with which the solution shall be worked out.

There has been a good deal of discussion the last two months of economic measures, and new light has been thereby thrown on the subjects. The legislative proceedings have contributed largely toward producing a better understanding of local financial needs, and people generally are in a better position to judge of these matters than they were ten, eight or even six weeks ago. The lesson of this increasing knowledge is to every faithful conservator of the people's interests an inspiration to conservative action in matters of finance. It is better to take two steps by using the rock in the middle of the stream than to fall in by a jump that won't reach the other side.

THE ENGLISH IN AFRICA.

Further details of the disastrous encounter between a detachment of British soldiers and natives on the west coast of Africa are contained in a dispatch from Baturst. It seems that the company, 220 strong, had already destroyed two villages and was returning to the coast when, suddenly attacked from all sides, it barely escaped a general massacre by breaking through the ranks of the enemy and seeking safety in flight; and so precipitate was the retreat that the bodies of some of the fallen comrades were left behind. A second force landed from the ships was also beaten back, and reinforcements were sent for. When these arrive, the operations are to commence again, and it is evident that more lives are to be sacrificed in the effort to push European civilization into the African continent.

The ostensible purpose of this expedition is to check the slave trade, but it will undoubtedly end, as so many similar exploits, in the acquisition of more territory. The European countries are supposed to be greatly over-populated and the stronger powers have found it necessary to look about for more room. Africa, with its vast resources and tropical climate, and with a population unable to defend its native soil, offers the opportunity desired. The continent is being slowly but systematically sliced up between the aggressive civilizers, who push forward with the Bible in one hand and the sword in the other. For as all roads somehow lead to Rome, so all measures for the benefit of the dusky sons of Ham, culminate in their subjection. Missionaries convert a few natives. Mission stations are established and must be protected. Soldiers are needed for

the protection, and the missionary enterprise is soon followed by a permanent protectorate. Precisely the same result follows the establishment of industrial or mercantile institutions. The protecting armed forces get into a scrape with the natives. Blood is shed. More soldiers are sent to revenge their comrades and to keep the savages in awe, which always means the desolation of the country and its subjection to the conquerors. This has been the policy followed so successfully in Asia and is now repeated in Africa.

Moralists may feel the disgrace of this mode of proceeding ever so keenly, and they may even thunder against it with all the force that the late Metropolitan Tabernacle orator, Mr. Spurgeon, used to bring to bear against it, but it is going on all the same. It seems to be inevitable. The struggle for room on our little planet always results in the destruction of the weaker races by the stronger. Just at present Europe finds it more convenient to annihilate the savages of Africa than to plunge their own continent in a war that would exterminate a million or so of their citizens. But can it then be, that the existence of the human race is only made possible by the constant and wholesale shedding of blood? Is that supposition consistent with the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind?

THE MISSOURI EXPULSION.

On Sunday, the 18th inst., the *St. Louis Republic* contained a very erroneous and misleading article concerning the Mormon expulsion from Missouri and Illinois. The *St. Joseph Daily News* reproduced the article, but omitted by mistake the name of the writer and the paper from which the clipping was taken. In the next issue of the *News* appeared a sharp letter from a correspondent signing himself "Observer," criticizing the first article and pointing out many of its inaccuracies and inconsistencies. The writer of this letter reveals himself to the editor of the *DESERET NEWS* as Mr. E. T. Dobson, who is quite well known in this locality from a former residence in Ogden. He says: "The article I reply to proves to have been written by Col. William F. Switzer, of Columbia, Mo., one of the oldest editors in the state. I of course answer from the standpoint of the Reorganization, which, however, in this case would, I presume, be common ground. I have many friends and relatives among the Utah people who may be interested in my communication. If you can use it do so."

We are sure the letter will be read with interest, and we use it with pleasure. Here it is:

To the *Daily News*: In the issue of your paper for yesterday appears an article under the heading the "Mormon Hosts," which is a burlesque on the true facts of history as they appear as matters of record concerning the people known as Latter-day Saints, many of whom in this city are readers of your valuable paper, and some of whom are children or near relatives of some of the unfortunate victims of that bitterly cruel and relentless persecution.

The writer is acquainted with quite a number of reputable people who were eye witnesses of and subjected to those outrageous and terrible deeds of an irre-