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THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 11, 1899.

STATE SALARIES.

The salaries paid to our State officers are, in the opinion of the "Deseret News" altogether too low for the labors required. The Governor calls attention to this in his message to the Legislature. We believe that reasonable people everywhere who are acquainted with the amounts paid and the services rendered, will admit that our State officers are manifestly underpaid.

There is a mistaken idea in some people's minds concerning the power of the Legislature to rectify this wrong. They imagine that as the State Constitution fixed the salaries of the first State officers, they cannot be increased or diminished. But the Constitution provides:

"The compensation of the officers provided for by this article, until otherwise provided by law, is fixed as follows:

"Governor, two thousand dollars per annum.

"Secretary of State two thousand dollars per annum.

"State Auditor fifteen hundred dollars per annum.

"State Treasurer one thousand dollars per annum.

"Attorney General fifteen hundred dollars per annum.

"Superintendent of Public Instruction fifteen hundred dollars per annum."

These sums are fixed by the Constitution, only until otherwise provided by the Legislature.

No fees are allowed to any of these officers for any official services, but all fees fixed by law for such performances must be deposited with the State Treasurer. The Legislature may provide for the actual and necessary expenses of State officers while traveling on the state on official duty, but the salaries named above comprise their sole compensation.

The Judges of the Supreme Court are among the officers insufficiently paid by the State. Three thousand dollars per annum and mileage is an insufficient sum for the labors and talents of men learned in the law, who have to devote their whole judicial time to their onerous duties. In private practice they would earn at least double and perhaps treble the amount.

There are other officials, perhaps, who are inadequately paid for their services, but we have mentioned some signal cases which require correction.

It is an honor to serve the State in any public capacity, and patriotic men will accept small pecuniary remuneration in view of the status their places give to them. But at the same time they ought to be properly paid, and the difference to the taxpayers by fairly increasing the amounts would be so small as to be almost imperceptible.

The Legislature should give close attention to this matter, for the State should command the best talent within its borders, and that will be found to be true economy.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The message of Governor Heber M. Wells to the State Legislature is, or has already been sent to these columns, a clear presentation of our public affairs. It contains many suggestions that should be weighed carefully by our legislators. Among them is the statement that the State is entitled to a proportion of the money derived from the licensing of the sale of intoxicants. We doubt the soundness of the Governor's conclusion. It appears to us that the cities and counties where the traffic is licensed have to bear the brunt of the burden that follows. The municipality pays the police expenses that are thus increased, the counties pay the costs of prosecution, and forbidden paupers are also proper subjects for local care. The records and reports of the State Board of Health do not show that any great proportion of the afflicted insanity was victims of the alcoholic habit. There may be some basis for the Governor's reasoning, but we do not think it is sufficient to warrant his conclusion.

It cannot be reasonably disputed, however, that much of the revenue collected by our State, could fairly enough be comprised in the revenue from licensing drinks, for that is a great percentage of insanity and pauperism is traceable to the same source. The liquor traffic must therefore be regarded as causing some of the heaviest financial burdens upon the people, and it is but just that the money made on that business be equitably divided with the public, and part of it applied to meeting the cost of the war against the evil which they are in consequence.

In some European countries where the liquor monopoly has been legalized by direct franchise from every grade of society, the gain has been adopted to great purpose because to private persons, but only to corporations operating under strict regulations. Such corporations, it is earnestly understood, shall make no money for themselves beyond a very small interest on the capital invested. Any surplus above that is to be turned over to the community to be expended for the public. The principle on which this plan is founded is that the traffic should be conducted so that the source of such evil must not be made the means of enriching private individuals, thereby placing them in a position to increase the evil, to the injury of the community, but that the community itself must regulate the evil as long as it cannot be entirely suppressed, and also see to it that it does not become a public danger beyond control.

Of course, the plan is not perfect. It has its difficulties and objectionable features. But on the whole it has given more satisfaction than other plans of those interested. In closer inspection would do well to study it in all its phases.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The City Council acts wisely in watching the expenditure of money and requiring it when not really necessary for the public welfare. Economy in the public service will be expected by citizens of all kinds and persuasions. Adequate water supply is absolutely essential to the city. Everything that can be done economically and legally to increase the present volume ought to be accomplished. But there is a time for all things, and this strange season does not appear to be the best that could be selected for surveys and the work already and soon done. The end of the rainy season is not considerable for a season of the installation and expenditures in question.

The engineer at work for the present, in regard to a reduced size, and meanwhile the waterworks committee should fully investigate what has been done and what needs to be done, and advise in coping ideas—which is a laudable endeavor when put forth directly—but to secure a full water supply in the most expeditious and economical manner possible under all the circumstances.

PETTY PRACTICES.

One of the common practices of an anti-Mormon morning contemporary is to manufacture sentences, attribute them to some individual or paper which it desires to oppose, and then proceed to comment upon its own production, repeating the process until everybody who discerns its purpose is thoroughly disgusted.

When its ingenuity in this line of work becomes exhausted, it will copy similar stuff from others and add its own distortions and opinions.

This morning that paper editorially commented on some alleged expressions of two gentlemen in this city, culled from a purported interview with them. In the first place the language so credited was not used by those gentlemen, or either of them, in the pretended interview, and in the second place the comments that are based upon it are irrelevant to the subject treated upon.

We do not suppose that our erratic contemporary will discontinue its idiotic discharges of senile venom, or the repetition of quotations from remarks that were never made, but we state most emphatically that the supposed interviews which that paper has published and reasoned from, are given in the language and convey many of the notions of the writer of the "interviews" instead of the views and expressions of the persons interviewed.

The personalities which the editor of that paper chooses to indulge in the "Deseret News" does not wish to notice. That sort of journalism may please some small or degraded minds but they are too mean and malicious for the serious attention of others.

ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF AN AZTEC TEMPLE.

A telegram from El Paso, Texas, today (Jan. 10) announces the discovery in that city of an Aztec temple, long buried beneath the surface of the earth. The building was uncovered by Dr. Leon Bowen, a graduate of Oxford University, and an archaeologist of note, who is connected with the Pasquina University at the City of Mexico. At his own instigation, he was sent by the Mexican government to search for the remains of an Aztec temple and village which he learned, from ancient records in the archives of Mexico, was situated somewhere near El Paso, on the left bank of the Rio Grande. Just what these ancient records may contain that is of present public less not been made public, but if they give the information claimed it is likely there is much more that would be decidedly interesting and important.

According to the dispatch referred to, Dr. Bowen first unearthed several stones carved with hieroglyphics, and at a depth of ten feet a wall of solid masonry was disclosed. He is confident that he has found the Aztec temple, and expects to unearth many relics of much worth. Dr. Bowen is credited with having theorized many valuable relics in Mexico, among them the famous Cal. Pedal, now in the City of Mexico, and a number of relics of some carved with hieroglyphics which, when interpreted, proved to be of great historic interest.

If the information concerning Dr. Bowen's latest find is accurate, the discovery will add a valuable chapter to the accessible volume of information regarding ancient American civilization.

There may be some question as to the El Paso building being of the Aztec period, while the great depth to which it appears to have been buried would seem to preclude the idea generally claimed by Aztec authorities to Mexico. But the value of any very ancient relics, accompanied with evidence that may reveal something of the history of their time, can scarcely be overestimated.

FILIPINOS NOT SAVAGES.

A few days ago a band of boys from the Philippine Islands arrived in San Francisco on their way to south Kensington. In an interview with a representative of the Chronicle they gave some interesting information regarding the Filipinos, which may be of general interest. According to their version the insurrection was the work chiefly of Chinese half-breeds who form the bulk of the population of the island in the vicinity of Manila. The rising dated that the natives are a savage race and asserted that they can fairly claim to be counted among the civilized peoples of the earth. Every parish, they said, has a school for boys and another for girls, and the proportion of illiteracy is smaller than in Spain and in some other European countries.

According to the same testimony the natives are good-natured, gentle and little disposed to quarrel. Crimes among them are rare. In Paisy, with a population of 5,000 souls, there was scarcely a murder in a year. There was no police force, yet highway robbery and deeds of violence were almost unknown. The moral character of the city population was no lower than that of the average European city. The surrogate committed, one of the friars, Father Alvarez, said, more the work of intimate released by the insurgents, but they were not appreciated by the natives generally. On the contrary, in many cases the villagers rescued the fathers when captured or helped them to escape, and nearly every village harbored the fathers who were abused or molested. The majority was dominated by one or two leaders and a few followers in each village who ruled by terror and threats.

It was further stated by the friars that a large majority of the Visaya and Tagal populations were like their ancestors, and that native tribes are to be found, Barney here never visited by the civilized.

Dr. Bowen said that he was confident that the insurrection could be quelled by the Filipinos only by the method that the Spaniards employed, we would deliver into the Filipino hands to the Spaniards. If our country is going to give the Filipinos rights which will leave them no excuse for fighting us, let us offer them the rights before we begin to fight them.

Philadelphia Ledger.

While we cannot recognize the legal status of the Aguinaldo government, we cannot shut our eyes to the grim fact that an insurrection exists in Luzon, and that we are at war with the insurgents. If the insurrection continues after the ratification of the Paris treaty, they become insurrections against the United States, which must be put down, if it requires the whole military and naval resources of the United States to accomplish it.

Worcester Evening Gazette.

If the Washington correspondent of the Boston Journal has been rightly informed, the idea about having Aguinaldo at $2 a head will no longer have an application. He has discovered to the keeps of the treaty that the payment of $20,000,000 to Spain is not made conditional on the cession of the Philippines to Uncle Sam. By the terms of the document Spain "relinquishes authority in Cuba and Porto Rico. Its Philippine islands, Guam and Porto Rico to the United States. No consideration is stipulated for the cession. The economy may accrue to Spain. Within three months Spain by itself is a separate monarchy, and there is nothing to indicate the purpose for which the money is paid.

New York Times.

The annexation of the Philippines, however, seems to have been the most far-reaching effect upon our commerce. With Cuba is considered the most important of the Western Hemisphere, Asia may be fairly entitled the same place in the Eastern Hemisphere. The consolidation of the group is large, and the Philippines are large enough to be a factor in the world's commerce, if they should be properly developed by lack of enterprise and by bad government. It is believed by many competent judges that when the working forces of the Islands find that they receive the fruits of their labor they will become more industrious and more consumers. As a result of increase the production of the islands will be greatly increased, as a result of the latter, more will be readily purchased, and with increased income and peace will come increased wants, which must make these islands a more important outlet for surplus American manufactures.

but his credit will not rate high in the money market.

Somebody has found out that there are seventy-five million horses in the world and that seventeen million of these noble animals live in North America.

Turkish Bloom are feeling the weight of American rule in a most comfortable way. Taxes for the current year have been cut down more than two and a half million dollars.

The three-cornered senatorial fight in Nevada is getting very interesting to the participants thereof. Newlands and Cleveland, it is no use stop. In most fields, however, the fun is with the spectators.

The trend of the senate's action on the peace treaty may be judged to a considerable extent by the fact that the committee on foreign relations has ordered it reported back to the Senate favorably and without amendments.

Five days overdue is a long time for the fast Atlantic liners in these times of mail-ocean traffic, hence the relief felt at the arrival in the steamship St. Paul, delayed by storms and a disabled cross-pipe.

A little girl in New Albany, Ind., seven years ago sent her photograph to Admiral Dewey and asked him for a souvenir button. The admiral wrote in reply that he has no longer enough buttons left to fasten his coat. His stock of photographs has also been exhausted.

The "Comments on Roberts" published by the "Deseret News" are the views and statements and arguments of the respective papers which are given due credit. They are not endorsed or commented upon by this journal, and if they do not suit the fanatics and rabid editors who are so freely quoting articles on the other side, the "News" has no concern, but simply waits and notice.

Pope Leo does not take an optimistic view of the condition of the world at the close of this century. In his reply to the Christmas greetings of the Roman church he sets forth that he sees the century closing amidst the din of arms, the murmurings of discontented peoples, and the crash of collapsing empires. Above all, he sees the secular state of Italy more aggressive than ever against pontifical Rome, as was evidenced by the recent act of the Italian government, whereby certain Catholic associations throughout Italy were summarily dissolved and some of their moving spirits imprisoned for having conspired against the state.

THE PHILIPPINE TANGLE.

New York Journal.

In view of the condition of unrest and dissatisfaction that prevails in the Philippines just now would it not be an excellent scheme to utilize the sagacity and experience of Admiral Dewey in restore order and contentment? Admiral Dewey won the Philippines for us. He knows the islands, and has on several occasions demonstrated his ability to handle their inhabitants. In addition to all of which he has a splendid fund of common sense and intellectual ballast, and is not addicted to blundering.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

There had been an insurrection in the island of Luzon before we went to war with Spain, and Aguinaldo was one of the leaders. The accepted story is that Spain offered these leaders a considerable sum of money if they would stop the revolt, and that they agreed to accept it; that the money was paid to Aguinaldo, who skipped off to China with the money without declaring any dividend in behalf of the other leaders. The latter, finding that the consideration for peace had failed as to them, resumed the insurrection, being determined not to betray their country except for cash in hand. The point is, that so far from the insurgents having broken peace with Spain in the Philippines, at the outbreak of our war, the principal insurgent leader in Luzon had left the country and apparently abandoned the enterprise. The importance that he has acquired since is almost wholly due to the military and naval victories of the United States. He has no standing in court at all, except as representing the views of a part of the Filipinos—how many it is impossible to say.

Buffalo Express.

Circumstances alter cases, but they do not alter Republican principles. If civilized government can be established in the Philippines only by the method that the Spaniards employed, we would deliver into the Filipino hands to the Spaniards. If our country is going to give the Filipinos rights which will leave them no excuse for fighting us, let us offer them the rights before we begin to fight them.

Philadelphia Ledger.

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