

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, OCT. 18, 1900.

THE CITY'S FINANCES.

The taxpayers of Salt Lake City are very much exercised over the financial condition of the municipality.

The subject has been discussed in the morning papers, and political bias with partisan disputes has obscured it so much that the people are somewhat bewildered.

The Deseret News has been at considerable pains to obtain correct information as to this important matter, and the result of investigation appears in another part of this evening's issue.

From the compilation made, with the assistance of the auditor who has been courteous enough to afford ample facilities for the work, and from explanations made by the city treasurer, it appears that the financial status of the city is not entirely satisfactory from a safe business standpoint.

There is no occasion for the great alarm which some people appear to feel, but at the same time there is need of serious reflection and some prompt measures to meet the conditions that will confront the city on the opening of the year 1901.

From the figures now furnished, it is evident that there will be a serious deficiency in the city funds, and the probability is that this will occasion much inconvenience, even though the receipts from taxes should be fully up to the amounts usually received during the closing months of the year.

In considering this part of the question, it must not be forgotten that there is always at the end of each year, in addition to a large sum that is uncollected but which may come in later. The entire amount of the assessment is never fully available at the year's termination.

There is another thing to be considered: Under the law, money received for special purposes and improvements cannot be diverted to any other object. At first sight, it might appear that all the funds received or on hand could be used, as occasion might require for any liabilities that the city had incurred. But here is a provision which seems to stand squarely in the way of such disbursements:

"All moneys on any special assessment shall be held by the treasurer as a special fund, to be applied to the payment of the improvement for which the assessment was made, and said moneys shall be used for no other purpose whatever"—Revised Statutes of Utah, Sec. 238.

In view of that provision the treasurer is under obligations that may conflict with pressing emergencies. But there ought to be complete harmony between all the departments of the city service, and mutual accommodation within the lines of the law. In the light of the figures furnished by the treasurer it appears that instead of \$42,806.54 in hand as unexpended funds at the close of 1900, there will be a deficiency in the fund for general expenditures, after all the year's income has gone, of \$35,000.00 which is the difference between the auditor's balance, and the treasurer's summary of special moneys which must be reserved under the law.

This is not a partisan question. It is a matter of business. It should be viewed in that light. If the city's expenditures are beyond its income present and prospective for the year, there must be a halt or some measure to meet the inevitable deficiency.

To live within one's income is a principle of domestic economy, as necessary to a corporation, public or private, as to an individual. If any business firm in the city were to find that its expenses were greater than its receipts, there would be either immediate retrenchment in expenditures or some means devised to increase its revenue. This is what stands now in the face of the municipality. The city is not bankrupt, but it appears to be in a financial strait. That may be only temporary. But either by the sale of city property or some other means of income, or by cutting off expenses, which does not at present appear feasible to any large extent, the difficulty must be met and overcome.

We direct attention to the figures we publish in another column, and ask our readers to read them carefully and make their own conclusions. It is not right to exaggerate, to cast blame where it does not belong, nor to bewail where it does not belong. But to be well informed and to make a correct judgment as to the financial condition of the city is a duty.

For there is no discount on the city's paper, and we hope and believe that it will continue and remain at par, and always as good as is shown in the premium paid for the water bonds just issued. Take hold of the question gentlemen, and show yourselves equal to the occasion, and to the successful management of the finances of this growing and progressive city.

END OF THE STRIKE.

The news wired from Philadelphia that there are fair prospects of the strike in the coal region coming to an end shortly, by the operators yielding to the demands of the employees, should be welcome throughout the country. A peaceful settlement of the trouble would remove all fears of further riots with the move all attending a war of one class upon another. Two of the largest coal companies are said to have met the demands of the Scranton convention of miners, and the others are supposed to be willing to follow suit. By this step the miners obtain a ten per cent increase in their wages; the sliding scale is to be abolished, and further grievances will be considered in conferences with the employees. The victory of the miners is almost complete.

The strike, as far as can be judged from a distance and by the published reports, was justifiable. From the outset the laborers had public sympathy. By investigation it was proved that the average miner's gross earnings would be about \$25 a month. Out of this he would pay the company from \$4 to \$8 for a shanty to live in, and out of the remaining \$19 he had to provide for his family, while he was almost compelled to trade in the company store and pay from 15 to 20 per cent more for the goods than they could be bought for in other places of business. When in addition he often was robbed by an arbitrary system of weighing and "docking," the treatment was beyond human endurance.

The strike leaders are to be congratulated upon the result obtained as well as upon the orderly manner in which the contest has been conducted. When the mine was closed the miners' demands, and their great numbers are considered, the peaceful character of the strike is remarkable. Thousands were involved in it. Many are foreigners, who some journals always characterize as "ignorant" and "vicious." When, therefore, considering these facts, the entire contest was fought practically without serious disturbances, it must be admitted that labor disputes do not always arise from a brutal desire of the laborers to lord it over their employers. Strikes sometimes are resorted to as the last remedy, by which a class that is not often given a respectful public hearing, is endeavoring to emerge from an intolerable condition.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger gives some facts about the anthracite coal region of interest at this time. In the entire region, comprising less than 400 square miles, there are 325 mines with an annual production of 54,000,000 long tons. The first mine of importance was opened by the Lehigh company, at the close of the first quarter of this century. A great impetus was given to the industry by the completion of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad in 1842.

Since 1840 there have been six big strikes, but in every one of them the companies seem to have carried the day. The present strike is the only one in which the laborers have secured substantial victory. In 1849 they struck for an increase of wages. In 1868 for the enforcement of the eight-hour law of the State; in 1870-71 the Lehigh and Schuylkill miners struck against a reduction of wages; in 1875 the miners of these two districts again were idle, and there was much rioting and bloodshed, it being the period of the "Molly Maguires." In 1887-88 a strike was inaugurated against the Lehigh and later the Reading company, and in 1897, the last strike before the present took place, directed against the Lehigh company only.

The losses of the companies during such enforced cessations of work are generally estimated at many millions, but the Wheeling Register thinks the companies make money instead. That paper says the coal companies always accumulate a surplus while wages are low. When the men can endure the pressure no longer and cease work, the surplus is worked off at advanced figures, and when there is no longer any surplus, the strike is usually settled in some way. The coal companies generally manage to take care of themselves.

A CORRUPT CITY.

New York city seems to be on the eve of another strong outburst of a reformatory movement, similar to that once led with little success by Dr. Paikhurst. This time Bishop Potter has taken the matter in hand. It appears that an Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Paddock, found that the neighborhood of his church on the Eastside was thronged with women who even approached the police officers and was almost insulted for doing so. Then Bishop Potter took the matter up, and the battle against the many-headed hydra bids fair to become as fierce as was that of Hercules against the mythological monster of the sea.

New York, according to all accounts, needs a thorough purification. On the authority of a correspondent of the Boston Transcript it can be stated that "there is no city in the civilized world so depraved as New York." This may be an exaggeration. The correspondent may not have seen such places as Port Said and other stations on the great commercial routes of the world, where the sum of the earth seems to congregate. But New York is certainly in a bad way. It sells the privilege of prostitution. It is claimed that there are women and men pay the police a license for maintaining brothels and for soliciting in the streets; that they buy of the authorities the right to lure young girls from the country in order to secure fresh inmates for the Eastside dens. Other persons are said to be licensed to entrap immigrants as they leave the bare offices of the custom house. For many a girl who comes from southeastern Europe to seek a home in the free Republic, the first doors which swing open in New York city are the doors of a brothel. The police, it is charged, sell licenses to drinking dens of all kinds, licenses which are grants of illegal privileges, the privilege to be a haunt of vice, to be a resort and exchange for thieves, to be a safe port for murder and a refuge for murderers.

In the language of the correspondent of the Transcript:

"The woman who buys the right to

haunt her vice in the very face of the church, snare her fingers in the face of the priest who attempts to rid himself of her defiling presence. The police captain stands by her and calls the priest a 'liar.' The thief who buys the privilege of stealing will not be arrested. If the victim discovers him he may possibly be permitted to buy back the article which has been stolen from him. Our minister looks out from his study window into a pool room, where the law is openly defied. The police laugh at him when he complains. The criminals have stifled the law because those who are charged with the administration and execution of the law are their accomplices."

It is only to be hoped that the insurrection against the tyranny of vice may be successful. But it will not, unless aimed against the very root of the evil. And this must be sought deep down in the social conditions that permit the standard bearers of corruption to triumph at the polls over the champions of morality. Those to whose interest it is that vice shall flourish without molestation are usually banded together and are strong in their united efforts, while the moral element is scattered and acting without unity of plan. Could this be changed; could the forces of good citizens be as numerous as mustered and well marshaled as their opponents, there could be no doubt as to the outcome. But as long as this is not accomplished, sporadic outbursts of virtuous indignation will not result in radical reforms.

In view of the facts that are known about the moral status of New York, and which prevail more or less in all the larger cities of the country, the indifference of the clergymen, speaking generally, is perfectly astonishing. There is a field before them which is broad enough for the united efforts of the entire fraternity. But if they themselves are too apathetic for that vast labor, they should at least not put obstacles in the way of those who have gone forth to battle against sin and vice in all its forms, as so many of them are doing, when the humble "Mormon" Elders lift their voice of warning in this age and generation. They are very much like the inhabitants of the cities of the plain, who not only refused to listen to the angels but also conceived of the vicious plan of forcing these down to the depths of degradation in which they, themselves, had incurred the wrath of heaven.

THE LIFE-SAVING CONTEST.

As will be remembered prizes amounting to \$30,000 were offered shortly after the Bourgoin disaster, for the best life-saving device to be used at sea.

As a result about 600 different appliances are now on exhibition in the palace of navigators at the Paris exposition. Among these are floating-boats and unsinkable vessels, rafts, mattresses, cylinders, buoys, etc.

One of the most practical of all these suggestions is the so-called Salvo belt, which consists of four rubber pouches and can without inconvenience be carried under the clothes while the passenger crosses the water. A tube is attached to it and by this means the wearer can quickly inflate the pouches which then are capable of supporting two persons. Should one of the pouches happen to burst the others remain inflated just the same. This is a simple and yet practical device.

An unsinkable ship, however, would be the great life-saver on the ocean. Could such a vessel be constructed, all the problems of this class would be solved at once. Here is a field for inventors, at least until air navigation shall have taken the place of ocean travel.

RELIGIOUS PREAKS.

Dowie, the alleged healer of Chicago fame, seems to have commenced his campaign in England in earnest. But he starts out with entirely uncalculated abuse of this country in which his peculiarities have been patiently tolerated for so many years.

In an address in Hoborn one Sunday afternoon, Dowie is reported to have given utterance to this harangue, which is distinctly Dowian in its scurrility:

"I have been accused of being an 'American freak' and I want to say that I am not an American at all. I am a Scotchman. I am a subject of the British crown and am proud of it. I object to the United States Constitution because God is not in it. I prefer the British constitution because it recognizes God. If the United States should declare war against Great Britain I would go over into Canada and pray for the United States to get licked."

Mr. Dowie did not denounce American gold which somehow flowed in his direction as long as he, in Chicago, conducted himself with due regard for common decency. He may have some objection to our Constitution, but it is safe to say that in Great Britain he will not be permitted to carry on as he has done here, for any considerable length of time. There is already some talk of calling the attention of parliament to his case. He had better reserve his devotion and pray for himself, if he intends slinging epithets at the Prince of Wales, the prelates of the church, and the members of parliament.

There are a good many pretenders to miraculous powers and divine commission abroad in the world at the present time, and sometimes the honest seeker after truth may feel confused in the conflicting claims set up. But pretenders always reveal their true character by the spirit they manifest. Even if at times they pose in the garb of humility and long-suffering, their true colors will appear sooner or later. It is strange, though, that such pretenders can command a hearing and a following in our age of light and alleged freedom from superstition. There is only one true explanation of this. When the truth is deliberately rejected the mind is in a condition to receive and to believe almost any error. Were this not so, there would be no room for the Dowies and the Schweinfurts, and sundry others which should be counted among the religious freaks of the day.

AS TO MICROBES.

There is so much talk about microbes, bacteria and bacilli, in these latter days, that people are becoming scared about eating and drinking, and are almost afraid to breathe. The germ theory now advocated so strongly, is no doubt supported by a host of facts and some sound reasoning. But there

are at least two sides to every unsettled question, and as folks have lived and moved and had their being, during thousands of years preceding the discoveries of modern science and the guesses of nineteenth century philosophy, it appears possible to push along in comparative safety, without much over-anxiety as to microbes in our daily diet. On this subject we find the following, credited to Professor Norton, in Popular Science News:

"There is great danger of the bacteriological craze landing its devotees in a quagmire, from which extrication will be difficult if not impossible without loss of prestige. The earnest investigators, are prone, in their enthusiasm, to take too much for granted (the wish being father to the thought), and it will not be at all surprising that many statements will have to be retraced; many ingenious and promising theories abandoned. It should be borne in mind that microscopic life is in the main, beneficent to humanity; that the varieties associated with disease are comparatively few, by comparison with the others, and that in the case of the bacteria that have been definitely identified with specific diseases, it has never been satisfactorily demonstrated that they are the cause, and not the product, in such cases. Although some facts are positively known in bacteriology, yet the conclusions drawn from them are mainly conjectural, and in this, as in other fields, it is not at all unlikely that the next generation will see the present teachings thrown out and a general recasting of theories."

Night schools are to be instituted in Manila for the instruction of the Filipinos. Night schools would seem to be the proper thing for people whose ways are dark.

The late Caleb T. Sumner of Lancaster, Mass., has left \$5,000 for the education of "Mormon" children. It was very thoughtful of him, but his bequest would scarcely defray the expenses of one "Mormon" child through Harvard University.

The resignation of Prince Hohenlohe is not without its significance in the China situation. It would indicate that Emperor William is only entering upon his Chinese policy and that he intends to make China pay for the music at this European concert.

The Illinois Suffrage association wants government recognition of domestic science and desires that it be erected into a department and its head be made a member of the cabinet. It would be eminently proper to give the Secretary of the Department of Domestic Science a place in a kitchen cabinet.

The suggestion of Premier Laurier, of Canada, that there should be free trade between Great Britain and her colonies, is attracting much attention in England. It is a most reasonable and timely suggestion and while it may not be acted on at present, it will be ultimately, in all probability. It is the natural relationship, the relationship of parents to children. The existence of free trade and untrammelled intercourse between the States and Territories of our own Union is a chief cause of their wonderful and unparalleled development and progress.

The Isthmian Canal commission will soon make a preliminary report on its investigation. An important feature will be the reference to the Panama canal and the work there accomplished. An objection against that route would seem to be the fact that the channel cut and to be cut is smaller than the needs of modern navigation demand, its depth being but thirty feet. Any canal cut across Panama or through Nicaragua should be of such dimensions as will permit the passage through of the largest ship afloat or that may be built. Its capacity should at least be equal to the largest and best harbors.

When Paul Kruger lands at Marseilles and makes his progress through France, he is to be accorded the reception given the heads of states; at least so the dispatches report. The purpose of this is to encourage the Boers to keep up a defense of their country and to tie the hands of England that her rivals in the Far East may have free play. That France hates England is a fact of common notoriety, but that M. Loubet should encourage this hatred by an effusive and offensive reception of Mr. Kruger seems almost inexplicable. It may flatter him, but it can scarcely cause the astute old diplomat to believe that his cause is not a lost cause. But we shall see.

It appears that the great increase in Germany's navy is to find its reflex action in the development of our own. The naval board is preparing a program for Secretary Long which he is expected to submit to Congress in his forthcoming report. In brief, this program is to make the United States the third naval power in the world, England and France being the first and second respectively. It is the policy of England to maintain a navy that shall be equal to the combined navies of any two powers. That is her traditional naval policy, and she has lived nearly up to the tradition. Our own naval policy should be based upon our needs and not upon what other nations may be doing, except in so far as their action may affect ours. One of the great curses of the world at the present time is the rivalry among the powers in maintaining vast armies and in building great navies. May this country be spared this curse in the future as it has been in the past!

NEW YORK'S HALL OF FAME.

Worcester Spy.

Emerson leads in the vote for the Hall of Fame, conducted by the Senate of the University of New York. The leading names were Emerson, Fulton, Longfellow, Irving, Morse, Cooper, Hawthorne, Peabody, Whitney and Howe.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Names that many would like to see enrolled are missing. Those of Poe, Holmes, Lowell, Whitman, Cooper and Bryant come at once to mind. One name, none too familiar to the general public, seems to have received slight recognition from the gentlemen entrusted with the selection—that of Francis Parkman, whom many competent judges, John Fiske among them, have ranked not only the greatest of American historians, but one of the great historians of all time. Prescott and Motley, too, failed to find favor in the eyes of the jury. Few will dispute the claims of Morse, Fulton, Elias Howe and Eli Whitney to the pre-eminence as inventors which the jury accords

them. Peter Cooper and George Peabody are designated as the leading philanthropists, a choice that will meet with general approval.

Boston Herald.

It is noted that, although women are eligible to New York's hall of fame, none has been selected up to date. However, there is yet time for the judges to show an appreciation of the fact that fame is no respecter of sex. Nearly all of the college presidents among the hall of fame judges voted for the four successful authors. President Hadley of Yale, however, was one of four who did not vote for Hawthorne. President Day of Syracuse University did not vote for Emerson. President Tucker of Dartmouth did not vote for Irving and President Crawford of Allegheny College did not vote for Henry Thoreau. They all ought to have known better.

Boston Transcript.

These selections will doubtless cause considerable comment, but they ought to be fairly satisfactory as far as they go. Probably not a few will wonder why certain names were not even mentioned, especially some that belonged in Massachusetts, with that galaxy which has been honored; but it must be remembered that one of the conditions of choice is that only those who have been dead over ten years can be considered, thus obtaining what is supposed to be the proper perspective.

New York Evening Post.

Those persons who have no expectation of ever being voted into the New York Hall of Fame may comfort themselves with the fact that both Benjamin Thompson and Joseph Henry have failed in the competition thus far. Yet these two men share with Benjamin Franklin the honor of standing among the founders of modern science. The former, under the title of Count Rumford, shares with Sir Humphrey Davy the honor of discovering that heat is a mode of motion, a principle which the science of physics rests upon. Thompson preceded Davy by a few years. His discovery was made at Munich, Bavaria, while manufacturing cannon for the government, and his name is inscribed in the great hall of fame at that place. Both Thompson and Davy stumbled in their logic while refuting the antecedent doctrine that heat was itself a substance (to which the name of caloric was given), but they proved that that old doctrine did not correspond with facts. They turned the world around and faced it the right way.

San Francisco Call.

The average American will note with surprise that Andrew Jackson, whose name has been one to conjure with in politics for more than fifty years, whose victory at New Orleans is annually celebrated by a considerable number of persons, and whose example is cited today in all parts of the Union, is not included in the list of thirty-one foremost Americans. With an equal surprise the average man will note the absence of Monroe's name, and that of John C. Calhoun. Men differ concerning the policies for which these three men stand, and there may be doubts concerning their intellectual or moral greatness, but no one can deny that they are more famous than a good many on the selected list.

San Francisco Chronicle.

When the establishment of a hall of fame was first broached there was a tendency to ridicule the proposition. The selection made augurs well, however, that it will not develop into a foolish folly. In its inception it is liable to criticism, still the nation, as a whole, is sure to agree that there is not any one in the list selected by the judges and approved by the Senate of New York University who is not worthy of a place among American immortals.

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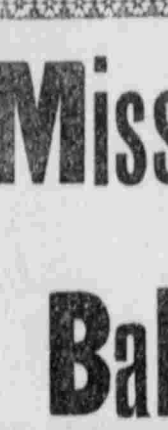
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