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GOVERNOR SPRY AND THE PEOPLE'S MONEY.

THE campaign in the state of Utah has been waged thus far by the Democrats and the Progressives upon one issue, almost to the exclusion of all others. It is the question of Governor Spry and the handling of the state funds. And it will soon be up to the people to decide whether the state administration has given proper stewardship.

Of course, Governor Spry has nothing to do with the handling of state moneys, but as governor he has had the interest of the state at heart and his interest in state affairs has led him into every department of the administration where he has satisfied himself that the people's business was being conducted properly and in a most efficient manner. The high standard of excellence that he has set in the governor's office has been followed all down the line.

During the present administration, a little more than two millions of dollars has accumulated. The legislatures of 1909 and 1911 provided that this money be spent for good roads, for the new state capitol and for additional university buildings. The state was properly bonded to cover the amount of money that was raised. Governor Spry and the attorney general raised nearly one-half of the total amount through their own efforts when they brought into operation the inheritance tax law that had not been very productive for the state up to the last few years. More than three-quarters of a million was paid the state by the Harriman estate because of the holdings of the late magnate in Utah corporation stock.

All of the money that was raised during the last three years has been placed in the hands of the state treasurer, who is directly responsible for it. Some of it has been spent for the construction of roads and for the university building, as provided by the legislature, but there still remains to the

credit of the state a large sum of money upon which the state is drawing no interest.

This seems to be the basis of attack—that the state is deriving no benefit from the money. It is charged that the banks which hold this money loan it out at interest, while the state gets none.

It is manifestly unfair for the critics of the state administration to make the broad assertion that the state derives no benefit whatever from this money. It is likely, however, that certain Democratic and alleged Progressive orators see the vote-getting element in this accusation, for they are using it pretty generally over the state without even so much as qualifying their statements sufficiently to show a disposition to be fair.

In the first place, the state treasurer must give a bond to the state and in order to procure the bond required by law the state would have to pay an annual premium to a bonding company that would be all out of proportion to the benefit derived by the state. In order to save the state this expense, the state treasurer has deposited his money in certain banks, which in turn have gone on his bond, thus paying interest on the deposit without actually turning over money to the state.

Again, the state treasurer, with the Governor and other state officials, floated the bond issues locally at such an attractive figure that none of the outside bonding firms could interest the state. A low rate of interest was arranged for, whereas if the bonds were given to banks that derived no benefit from the state the rate of interest would have been high.

There is no necessity to figure what the state would have received from the banks had they paid a certain rate of interest on state deposits, but it can be safely stated that if the amount saved the state by the present system were compared with what the state might have received in interest, there would be slight, if any, difference.

An additional reason why the state officials are handling state money in the present manner is that the state provides no other means. The last state legislature made provision for a different arrangement, one that must be made under a constitutional amendment which will be voted upon at the coming election. All of the state officers were heartily in accord with the proposed amendment.

When the record of the Spry administration shall have been summed up, it will be found that the state affairs have been administered honestly and efficiently.

It is impossible to see righteousness and sincerity in the pious campaign being waged by a railroad lobbyist.

THE INTERURBAN RACE.

WHO is to build the first interurban line from Salt Lake City into Utah county?

Back of that question there is as pretty a race for prestige as you would want to see. Two forces are at work to complete the first road and from all surface indications both are well financed, all of which speaks well for the interurban situation. So long as this rivalry, can be kept up it means much for the advancement and development of the state.

The Salt Lake and Provo road, handled by what is known as the Evans-Chipman crowd, finds a perfectly healthy rival in the Utah Electric and Interurban company, which will soon file articles of incorporation. The former concern has made a survey and has procured some rights of way, while the financial end of the proposition is said to be well taken care of.

None the less progressive is the Utah Electric, which has franchises from Salt Lake to Provo, but not in Provo city. This organization has made a careful survey that carries the proposed line through a populous, fertile section of the country on an even grade. It is said that later this line will be extended into the coal fields, but the men back of the movement are chiefly concerned at present in establishing priority by getting the initial line through from Salt Lake to Provo.

The Utah Electric has good backers. Mr. MacGinnis and Thaddeus Lane of Butte are associated with Will C. Alexander and E. W. Hamer of Salt Lake in the promotion of the enterprise, and this personnel in itself bespeaks flattering achievements.

The general public will watch the progress of the interurban race with a great deal of interest, hoping that the best line wins, or, better, that both are completed in record time.

PREXY WILSON'S FOLLY.

WHEN Governor Wilson's campaign managers asked J. W. Park of Los Angeles, a graduate of Princeton, to contribute to the Democratic campaign fund, Park demurred. He didn't exactly refuse without giving a reason. He said he couldn't support Wilson for the Presidency because of certain views expressed to him by the candidate. Those views expressed to Park by Wilson are:

I do not believe in Democracy—the rule of the many. I believe in aristocracy—the rule of the few; but I wish an aristocracy of brains, not of wealth.

I disapprove of the Chautauqua idea, the attempt to give a smattering of culture to everybody, which results in securing conceit without knowledge.

I am opposed to the higher educa-

tion for the common people; somebody must do the dirty work of the world; why shouldn't the children of the working classes be brought up to do the work their parents are now doing?

Governor Wilson has developed mightily as the years have rolled on and his views have changed on many matters. A great many people have been reluctant to believe that he actually said what Park attributed to him, this reluctance being strengthened by a flat denial by Wilson himself. The Democratic candidate went further in his denial by saying of Park:

I did not at first recollect Park at all, but I have looked him up in the records of the university and recall him now very clearly. I remember having been obliged to reject a certain work which he submitted for a degree because of the utter confusion of thought.

It showed that he could neither think nor comprehend. His mind was one of the sort that gets nothing correctly.

I should not like to believe the man deliberately false. It is only, I dare say, another instance of his entire inability either to understand or interpret anything.

All of which seemed to knock into a cocked hat the Park charges until the following letter was unearthed:

Princeton, New Jersey, May 18, 1897.
President Thomas E. Will,

Kansas State Agricultural College.

My Dear Sir: I understand that Mr. Joseph W. Park is a candidate for a position in your faculty and I take pleasure in testifying to his ability and promise as a scholar. He won distinction here as a student, and has held our fellowship in social science during the present year. I think him a man of unusual gifts and cordially commend him to your favorable notice.

Very sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON.

That ought to be enough to convince anyone of the sincerity of the Democratic candidate for President. Expediency seems to be his long suit.

THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

THE people of Salt Lake may have been too busy with the world's series or with the campaign or with something else quite as interesting and engrossing to pay much attention the crystallization of sentiment against the telephone service, or lack of it, that is being furnished by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph company, which gobbled up the Independent plant a year ago. At any rate, the storm broke in the Commercial club and it is still hovering over the plant of the telephone company.

There has not been a time in the last seven years when the telephone service was as poor as it is today. Busy men have long since emerged from the habit of making their own telephone calls and have delegated that work to menials who are paid