

The Salt Lake Tribune

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R. C. Beckwith, Special Agent, Eastern Advertising Agent, Eastern Office, Tribune Building, New York; Western Office, Tribune Building, Chicago.

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Tuesday, February 25, 1913.

Maybe that groundhog knew his business after all.

The Legislature isn't quite on its last lap, but its last lap is in sight.

Four and a half inches of rainfall in eighteen hours in Los Angeles! It's a wonder the town isn't washed away.

President Wilson announces that he will call the extra session of Congress for Tuesday, April 1st. Hope it won't be a joke appropriate to the day.

The short ballot sentiment seems to be growing in favor throughout the country, but the long ballot practice heads that sentiment off at the polls.

Discussion as to the most important cabinet office is futile if Bryan is to be a member of President Wilson's official council; for wherever Bryan is will be the head.

The proposed filibuster in the U. S. Senate against the "pork barrel" House bill can win if persisted in, for time will be an unconquerable ally to the filibusters.

Police Commissioner Waldo has been disowned by Tammany. This is the best piece of luck that has come to him since he was appointed head of the New York police force.

There is no abatement of the smoke nuisance. What is to be done about that inquiry into it, and why won't the Commercial Club make a move about it, so that the Legislature can enact the necessary measure of inquiry?

The concentration of troops at Galveston is evidently a precaution, a preparedness for any emergency, and so is commendable; but it is fervently to be hoped that President Taft's policy of nonintervention may continue to be the policy of the American Government.

What are British officials waiting for before putting down the lawless and criminal acts of the suffragettes? Murder is about all that is left of the crimes of violence that they have not committed, and it looks as though that may not be excepted much longer. A new Botany Bay is in order.

Louis D. Brandeis is slated, so report goes, for Secretary of Commerce and Labor. If he gets the place, it is to be hoped that he himself will inaugurate and induce also the other members of the Cabinet to join with him in the vast economies which he has been fond of saying could and should be put in practice by the Government.

England is not responding to Captain Scott's appeal for care for the families of the heroes who lost their lives in the antarctic struggle; contributions lag, in spite of fervid appeals by noted men. And now the suggestion is made that Americans take up this duty and subscribe to the Scott fund. Perhaps this is what the Englishmen have been waiting for.

The Utah Senate is cutting down the appropriation list with vigor; but it may fairly be questioned whether, in striking out items necessary for the support and maintenance of our educational and other public institutions it is pursuing a policy that will result in advantage to the State. On the contrary, that sort of trimming may be harmful to the public interests, and damaging to the proper management and growth of those institutions.

Reno will not be deprived of its divorce "industry" until next year. After January 1st next, an applicant for a divorce in a Nevada court must show that he (or she) has been a genuine resident of the State for a year. But in the meantime, six hundred applicants for divorce are now in Reno's "divorce colony," and of course as to applications now on file or that may be filed this year, the old rule of six months' more or less actual residence prevails.

The idea that a machine gun could be stolen from the camp of regular soldiers seems preposterous; yet this seeming impossibility is reported as a fact; the Thirteenth U. S. Cavalry is the loser. If farmers stole the gun, it would be bad enough; but if Mexicans, either Federal or insurgent, have the gun, it would be even worse, and the charge of collusion would naturally be made. It is clearly

necessary for the Thirteenth Cavalry to get back that gun.

IT IS PARTISAN POLITICS.

The bill changing the commission form of government for this city and for Ogden, which was agreed upon by the legislative delegations from Salt Lake and Weber counties, is no improvement over the present form. In no way does it improve the law imposing that form. It is simply a political dodge to get rid of the present method of governing cities of the first and second classes in Utah, so that the Republican bosses may have another chance at grafting and robbery. It is simply the expiring move of the old political machine in Utah for a possible extension of its power, to provide a chance for another grab. That old machine did its best in 1911 to capture the city government of Salt Lake, and wants another chance. It failed then, and has been disgruntled ever since, and determined to use the agency of the Legislature, if it were possible to use that agency, so as to give it another chance to capture this municipal government.

Not only is the proposed bill no improvement over the present law, it is decidedly reactionary. Its leading provision would be to segregate the city into commissioner wards for the purpose of dismemberment rather than unification. As it is now, the city acts as a whole; as it would be under this proposed bill, there would be five conflicting commissioner wards, each with a local commissioner, and each doing the best possible for his own particular ward, without sufficient regard for the interests of the city outside of his ward. And as a prime requisite for such election, or for such ward divisions, there would necessarily, in order to make fair the basis of representation, according to population, he required a redistricting of the city into wards. As it is now, the First ward of this city has more than double the population of the Fifth ward. It has, in fact, as much population as the Fourth and Fifth ward combined. Manifestly the ward lines would have to be readjusted in order to make any sort of fairness in the representation of the people in the commission body which is proposed. The people of the First ward would not be more than half represented compared with the people of the Fourth and Fifth wards, provided the bill should pass as agreed upon by these partisan legislators. And so a gross local injustice would be inflicted.

The best available talent in the city should go to the making of the municipal government. That talent should be unreservedly devoted to the interests of the city, laying aside all personal business and all business concerns. It requires the devoted ability of all in office to conduct this city government. That is required by the law now, and it ought to be required all the time. But to create constituencies such as are proposed and sectionalize the city is a step backward, not forward.

We had been in hopes to see some real measure of advancement made in municipal government in case any change were to be had. Evidently the ultimate solution of the city government problem has not been reached in the commission form. A number of cities have gone beyond the commission form, and have vested the control of their public affairs in a business manager or mayor, with full executive power to appoint all his administrative assistants and all the employees of the city, he alone being responsible for all, precisely as any great business, like some of our big mining companies, or like the Z. C. M. I. in this city, is managed by one superintendent, who is responsible to all interested for the proper management and control of the business.

If we are to have any change in the commission form of government, let us go forward, and not backward. Let us provide what would be a real remedy, and not get back to ills from which we have already escaped. Let us have a business head for the city, responsible to the taxpayers, for the city's government. Call him mayor, call him financial agent, call him superintendent, manager, or what you like, but let him be the man who does things, who is able to do them in a responsible way and who will be responsible to the taxpayers for what he does. That is evidently the coming form of city government, and if Salt Lake City is going to change at all, let it get in at the head of the procession.

THE PARKING MEASURE.

A bill before the Legislature providing for parks in cities is, we understand, about to come up for consideration. That bill in its general features seems to us meritorious, but it will evidently require some elucidation. Section 1, for instance, provides that cities of the first class shall have authority to lay out and maintain public parks, play grounds, etc., within the corporate limits of the city, and then comes the curious proviso, "providing that the same are within at least ten miles of the corporate limits of such city." Evidently this proviso should be stricken out, for the city has no jurisdiction over parks outside of the city boundaries, and the legal authority outside of the city limits could deprive the city of jurisdiction over those parks at any time.

For the purposes of the act the city commissioners are authorized to lay out parking districts and proceed with the improvement of them, provided written objections to such improvements, signed by the owners of at least a majority of the property owners along the front of the abutting property, do not file protests against it. If a majority of the property owners do not protest, the commissioners assess the lots and lands abutting upon streets and proceed with the collection of the

tax to make the improvements, just as in the enforcement and collection of other special taxes. If the improvements are made, the city is authorized to levy and collect an annual maintenance tax sufficient in amount to keep them up.

Section 9 authorizes the board of commissioners to condemn and purchase real estate for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a system of connecting boulevards, pleasure grounds, play grounds, or parkways within the corporate limits, "and shall have the right to determine the nature of all improvements to be made in any parking district, including the removal of trees and the fixing and establishing of varieties and standards of trees to be planted and maintained."

Section 10 repeals Chapter 147 Laws of Utah, 1911. The general purpose of the bill seems to us commendable. It is likely that some amendments will have to be made, but in a general way we should be glad to see the Legislature take favorable action upon this measure, after perfecting its form.

HAS AN UGLY LOOK.

It is possible, to be sure, that the account given by Provisional President Huerta, that the killing of former President Madero and of Vice President Suarez, in the City of Mexico, was altogether veracious. These two officials were being transferred from their first place of detention to the penitentiary. It is within the limits of possibility that some of their friends learned of this expected transfer and undertook their rescue, as claimed, and that in the fight which ensued with the guards, both Madero and Suarez were killed. And yet it will remain a puzzle, even taking the most charitable view of it, why nobody else was hurt in the melee except these two.

It is not to be wondered at that the representatives of foreign governments in the City of Mexico distrust the official account as given, and it is not to be wondered at that President Huerta admits that the honor of his government is at stake and that it is necessary to vindicate that honor by an investigation which will fix the culpability where it belongs, and exculpate every official in his administration from blame for this assassination. Civilized countries do not either assassinate or connive at the assassination of helpless prisoners, and President Huerta is quite within bounds in saying that the honor of his government is at stake. The possibility of the vindication of that honor may be questioned, but that such vindication is possible every one will have to admit. Still, it is something that must be affirmatively proved, for a mere conclusion of negation, that is, a failure to prove that the government is responsible, will not serve the purpose of vindication.

The remorseance made by the United States, which it is understood was joined in by other foreign representatives, against the killing of Madero, gives the case an international importance. And yet, President Taft is quite correct in stating that these murders even if they were deliberate official assassinations, do not afford a justification, much less do they actively call, for intervention. The suggestion of a London newspaper that it is obligatory upon the United States to intervene can hardly be accepted in official quarters. President Taft is a great lawyer, as well as a well-balanced man of uncommonly sound judgment. The country is safe in trusting to his decision in this matter, and when he says that there is not sufficient ground for intervention we can all rely upon that as a right conclusion. It is true that we actively remonstrated against the killing of Madero, and yet that killing occurred. But Mexican officialdom denies all responsibility for that killing, and so Mexican officialdom can hardly be held internationally responsible for it under the explanations and disclaimers made.

There is no question but that the profound sensation caused by the killing of Madero and Suarez will add to the uneasy feeling throughout Mexico; but it is likely, on the other hand, that the terror inspired by that killing, assuming that the authorities will wink at it and will do nothing to punish the perpetrators, will have a terrorizing effect upon others who might think of revolting against the Huerta regime. This is the first touch of the old style of procedure in Mexico since the Diaz rule of old, and whether Huerta is responsible for it or not, he is likely to get the benefit of it in its phase as a terror to those who might be inclined to raise the standard of revolt.

The Madero family is suffering distressfully in this upturn of Mexican rule. But the severity displayed will have its effect even upon them, and we expect to see all of the Madero family that can possibly get away from Mexico, leave that country which must at present be a menace to them. We believe, further, that the idea which must be the prominent one in the minds of Mexicans, that a reign of terror has set in, of cruelty and of blood, against all who oppose the new government, will have a powerful effect in restraining opposition to that government, and in heading off projects for revolt. For it will evidently be safer for men to make terms with the new government than to oppose it; and this feeling will work powerfully for the maintenance of the present rule.

The fly in the ointment of the proposed National Republican convention to rectify the basis of convention representation so as to minimize the Southern States' representation is that the Southern States would have their same old representation in the convention called to cut their delegations short. But, on the other hand, there would be no nominations to make, no candidates soliciting the votes of the Southern delegates, and the rest of the delegates by solidly voting together, could rectify

the basis of representation, putting it squarely on the vote cast for the latest Republican candidate for President. And on that basis, the basis of representation is smaller than since 1868.

A \$150,000,000 FARMER.

Vincent Astor, the young man of \$150,000,000 inherited wealth, appears to be a great admirer of Governor Sulzer of New York; so much so that he applied to Governor Sulzer for advice as to what he should do and make his life work. The Governor responded by recommending to him the fostering of agriculture, and doing what he could to increase crop yields and develop the scientific phases of farming.

The report is that Mr. Astor has taken this advice, and that he will establish on his farm at Rhinecliff, New York, an experiment farm "for the benefit of every farmer in the country." Mr. Astor intends, it is reported, to make this experiment farm a great center of scientific activity for farming operations. There will be everything connected with advanced methods of farming, and the idea is to make it practically a university for farmers. Experiments will be made of every kind, and the benefits of soil analysis, of fertilization, and of the adaptation of seeds and plants to climatic conditions and variety of soils will be studied and the results made known.

It is fortunate that Mr. Astor has sufficient money to back whatever he may undertake in this direction, so that the most practical and beneficial results may be expected. As a starter, Mr. Astor will go by appointment of Governor Sulzer as a delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome, Italy, next May, and on returning home will give personal attention and direction to the farming experiments at his farm of 6000 acres at Rhinecliff. It will be seen that all the elements necessary for the purpose of making a vast agricultural experiment farm are present. There is the enthusiasm of a young man to give it impetus, there is plenty of land for all experimental purposes, and there is abundant wealth to back the enterprise.

Farming is certainly having an uplift in the United States at the present time. Farm products never brought such prices. We have a large number of agricultural colleges in the various States, and the practical instruction and experiments conducted at these agricultural colleges are of the highest benefit to the farming communities of the whole country. There is, besides, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which has devoted great practical attention to instruction in farming and in the betterment of the various crops, both as to quality of product and increase of yield.

And now here is this vast private project of Mr. Astor's, which will utilize the best results of farming experiments in all the agricultural colleges and the best expert knowledge in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and will supplement these with scientific experiments that will carry the tests and investigations to the utmost possible limit. Evidently the day of the farmer has dawned in the United States.

FAST TALKERS IN THE HOUSE.

There is some discussion in Washington on the rapidity with which some of the Representatives in Congress deliver their speeches. It is stated that the average speed of the speakers in the House has increased 25 per cent as compared with the speaking of Representatives of a former generation. Samuel H. Gray, one of the House stenographers, is quoted as authority for this, but he says he does not mean to say that the maximum speed limit has been increased, but fully fifty men in the House now talk at a high rate of speed where one man reached the maximum years ago. He states that when he went on the floor as a reporter there were only two or three members who talked so rapidly that the stenographers had to do their best to keep up with them.

He states further, in an interview in the Washington Post, that former Representative Charles Littlefield of Maine was the fastest talker in the House when he went to work there. Littlefield's average for four hours on one occasion was 196 words per minute. Prior to Littlefield the record for fast talking was held by Henry U. Johnson of Indiana. He talked so fast, and was the only man who did so, as Mr. Gray is told by his associates, that a double check was necessary; that is, two stenographers took him at the same time and had to compare their notes in order to get his speech in full. In the present House there are several men who talk almost as rapidly as Mr. Johnson talked, notably Mr. Martin of South Dakota and Mr. Murray of Massachusetts, and he says that others also exceed Mr. Littlefield. But the average speed, while much greater than it used to be, is not more, Mr. Gray estimates, than 150 words a minute, and some members talk as slowly as only 80 words a minute.

Mr. Gray pays a great tribute to a former stenographer, the late Andrew Devine, brother of James Devine of Salt Lake City. Mr. Gray says Mr. Devine "was the best stenographer the House ever knew," and he continues: "Nobody ever knew how fast Devine could write shorthand. That he could reach a speed of 300 words a minute is beyond question. He is the only man I ever heard of who could get far behind a speaker and catch up without the least difficulty. He was known to follow a man 150 to 200 words behind and catch up with him. But Devine was a marvel." Which is a great tribute to Mr. Devine. But it does not appear that the substance of the talking in the House has gained in importance or ability in corresponding degree with its rapidity. On the contrary, a great deal of nonsense is talked in the House now, perhaps more than ever before.

Keith-O'Brien Spring Gently Touches Our Art Department. Visiting it this week, you'll catch a glimpse of beautiful new things to freshen up the house for spring. When you see these pretty, artistic designs you'll no doubt want a number of them to brighten up the home after the spring renovation, so you should begin work on them now. Pillow Tops---New Designs. We are showing a line of children's dresses, all made ready to work; 65c, 75c, 95c up to \$2.00. Have you seen the new coin purses, the kind you can crochet, so you can have one to match each summer frock? The very latest novelty. This corset cover comes now all made up, even the buttons and buttonholes; all you have to do is embroider them. These are selling at 50c. Have you seen the new adjustable frame for embroidering? You can make it any size you wish; very good for large pieces; price, 75c. A special line of perfumes. Regular 50c and 75c an ounce odors; special 35c per ounce. Every Man's Shirt Sale. Hundreds of customers bought shirts here Monday; we expect more today, because those who bought can't help telling their friends about it. CORNER OF STATE and BROADWAY.

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Dining Table in Golden Oak. Solid oak top 42 inches in diameter. Six-foot extension, leaves and claw foot pedestal. Just like cut--- \$13.00. DINWOODEY'S. NOTE---Through a typographical error in a previous advertisement this price was made to read \$2.00 instead of \$13.00. The advertisement as above, is correct, the price being \$13.00.

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