

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1900, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

NUMBER 137

FIFTIETH YEAR... THE BETTER OF IT... SEVEN GUNS AND 1,000 MEN IN THEIR RAID SOUTH... WITHDREW UNHURT... TAKING AN ARMY OUT OF ROBERTS' BIG TRAP... COMPLAIN AT DELAY

at hard labor for guiding the British to Bloemfontein... The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post telegraphing Thursday says: "Most satisfactory progress has been made in the accumulation of the stores during the present week. Supply park now presents a respectable appearance. The prospects a general advance are more favorable."

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SALT LAKE'S PROFESSIONAL TAX DODGERS

Assessor Quinn Tells How They Make a Business of Escaping the Burdens of Government—\$30,000,000 of Rich Men's Money that Cannot be Found—"The Poor Man Pays the Tax."

"The poor man pays the tax" is a saying that has become an aphorism in the political world. Campaign orators have heralded it from the stump until it has ceased to mean what it once meant; and yet how deep its significance! How true its utterance! How unjust the system that permits its existence!

But what can be done about it? It is a problem that the ablest lawmakers, the most vigilant assessors and the wisest courts have been powerless to solve. Very few Salt Laker, in the comparative sense, realize the unequal distribution of the burden of government in their own city, county and State. The facts are appalling and a fame well nigh immortal awaits the assessor who can overcome them and compel the tax dodgers to carry their share of the public burden.

"Why, do you realize," said County Assessor Quinn to the "News" yesterday afternoon, "that nearly, if not quite half of the property of Salt Lake county is not taxed at all."

QUINN WARMS UP... "I'll tell you why," said Assessor Quinn as he warmed up to a discussion of the subject and mopped off the beads of perspiration that arose on his expansive brow. "It is because we can't find it. It is beyond our reach; it is beyond the reach of the best man who ever filled the office of assessor in this county; and it always will be, at least until our present system is changed and that seems to be saddled upon us for all time to come."

MONEY IS MONARCH... "What class of property is it that thus escapes the eyes of yourself and deputies?" Mr. Quinn was asked. "Money."

"How much money do you estimate there is hedged about by existing conditions in Salt Lake as to escape taxation?" "Thirty millions."

"That is an immense sum."

"But it will reach that, and more...

too. It is monarch of all its owners survey and as elusive as an old man's dream of youth."

"Do you ever think of a scheme where by it can be made accessible to the officers of the law?" "This question was too much for Mr. Quinn, and for a moment he busied himself looking out of the window in a manner that almost indicated perplexity. Finally he came back to the question and answered it frankly."

SCHEME IS TOO UTOPIAN... "No," said he with emphasis. "I don't think of such a scheme—I have tried to, but I can't. It's too Utopian. It won't work. It may do so in the future, but not now. When that time comes the millionaire will not be far off."

HOW BANKS ARE ASSESSED... "But how about the banks themselves?" "We simply assess their capital stock. Their realty and improvements are included in this assessment."

THE MORTGAGE TAX... "How about the mortgage tax?" "It is a curse and a plague to the State and breeds more liars and perjurers than any law that we ever had on our statute books. It is remarkable how many people who are honest in their dealings with their fellowmen will lie and bear false witness when it comes to paying this mortgage tax."

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The mortgage is made in the name of either a non-resident or some really fictitious person and all the detectives of the latter regions can't get at the facts in the case. The truth is there are very few people who feel that they have not a perfect right to deceive the assessor.

EASY TO FIND THE POOR MAN... "And the deception is constantly growing. There is one man, however, that never deceives us. He can't. He has no money in the bank; no stocks or bonds; no mortgages except the mortgage on his farm and he has to pay the tax on that; no glittering diamonds or other jewelry. He is the poor man; the man who pays the tax. He has his house with its scanty furniture; his wagon and horse, cow, pigs and chickens. He has nothing to hide. We see all he has and tax it. And thus it goes on from year to year and thus it will continue to go on until—well, until there is a change. Till that time comes the tax dodgers of Salt Lake, more cunning than Dickens' artful dodger, will continue to wax and grow fat as the poor man continues to grow poorer."

THIS YEAR'S VALUATION... Speaking of the probable valuation of Salt Lake county for this year Mr. Quinn said: "I think, he has about \$2,000,000 in excess of last year's figures which, in the city and county, aggregated \$36,398,755. The county's portion of that was \$6,298,551. So you see we may look for a valuation of between \$28,000,000 and \$30,000,000 this year. This is, of course, only approximate. Our work must be finished by May 1 when the rolls will be turned over to the treasurer's office. Notices will then be sent out after which the board of county commissioners will fix the rate. The State board of equalization pass upon the rolls, the second notices be mailed and collections commence and continue until November 15 when taxes become delinquent."

NO SINECURE... "The office of assessor, does not appear to be a snap, Mr. Quinn, portrayed in the light you have painted?" "The man who thinks it is labor under a delusion. My office is the only one in the building where the boys don't smile. They don't have time to. More than that, they work till they are too tired to humiliate their features with such a thing as a grin. There are 28,000 taxpayers in Salt Lake city and county, nine-tenths of them are astride of our necks while the other tenth is scrambling to get on to the same part of our anatomy."

DEMANDS MADE ON CHINA... Minister Conger insists on Protection of American Citizens.

Naval Force at Taku—Rear Admiral Kempff to Proceed There With His Flagship.

Going to the Philippines... San Francisco, April 28.—Orders have been issued from military headquarters assigning thirty-three hospital corps men to the transport Warren, which will sail about May 1. A detachment to consist of 25 assigned recruits, ten casuals and thirty-six enlisted men who arrive as guards to general prisoners from Manila and are now at the Presidio, will sail for the Philippines on the Warren. The following officers are designated for service with the detachment: First Lieutenant Charles P. Brumbie, Second Lieut. Abraham U. Loeb, C. J. Nelson, C. K. La Motte, R. G. Rutherford and J. Dee Hall. The transport Wyefield, which has arrived from Manila, has been rechartered by the government as a freight carrier.

Chicago's First Child Dead... Santa Ana, Cal., April 28.—Mrs. Susan Winans, the first white child born at Fort Dearborn, the site of the city of Chicago, is dead in her 80th year. Her father, Corporal John Simmons, was a victim of the Indian massacre at the fort in 1812 when Mrs. Winans was but a baby. She was the last survivor of that bloody event.

To Review the Freight Schedule... San Francisco, April 28.—Owing to the arrival here from the Orient of representatives of a number of the steamship companies interested in traffic between Pacific coast ports and China, Japan and Siberia, the proposed conference over Oriental business is to begin next Monday instead of later in May.

Margaret Townsend Married... New York, April 28.—At the bedside of her mother, who is recovering from a serious illness, Miss Margaret Townsend, the youngest daughter of the late John D. Townsend, formerly a well known lawyer of this city, was quietly married yesterday at her home in this city to Signor Giovanni Tagliapietra, for many years one of the most celebrated bartenders in operatic circles.

WROUGHT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

Fierce Storms Cause Heavy Loss of Life and Property.

RAIN, HAIL AND WIND... Two Cloudbursts in Texas Sweep Away Houses, Bridges and People.

HAILSTORM IN NEBRASKA... Young Stock Killed and Crops Ruined—Enormous Damage by Storm Being Increased Daily.

THE CHARGES MADE... New York, April 27.—The Times tomorrow will publish the following developments of the affairs of the American Steel and Wire company, likely to cause a sensation, were made known yesterday (Friday). Summons are now in the hands of the law firm of Lamb & Voss for Chairman John W. Gates of the company board of directors, and John Lambert, the president, both of whom left this city for Chicago last Wednesday, and it is the intention of the attorneys to bring legal proceedings, which will include efforts to get extrajudicial papers if Messrs. Gates and Lambert show no intention of coming back to this city.

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