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Charles W. Penrose, Editor Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 10, 1900.

THE COUNTY SCHOOL ELECTION.

The election of B. W. Ashton, the Republican candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Schools, by a pronounced majority over the Democratic nominee, is naturally looked upon as a victory for the party that selected Mr. Ashton for the post he is to occupy. In one sense of the term that is true. The Democratic candidate is defeated, and, of course, that is a triumph for his opponent.

But there are some features of this contention that ought to be looked at in connection with the result. First, an offer was made to the Democracy in this county to make this election non-partisan, but this was declined. There is a suspicion among many persons attached to that party, that their opponents are afraid of defeat whenever they offer to fuse on any public matter, and therefore non-partisan movements are distasteful to them. In this case, however, we think the suspicion was not well-founded. As a matter of principle, school officers should be selected on higher grounds than their devotion to the political party to which they belong. School affairs ought to be conducted apart from partisan ends and designs.

We have good reason to believe that many Democrats voted for the Republican candidate, because of personal friendship and regard for his qualifications, and also their conviction that school elections should be non-partisan in character. The Republican voters did not divide, because they had made unpartisan overtures which were rejected, and because they had but one choice. Ashton was their man and had been on a former occasion. Therefore they went into the field unitedly, and won with the aid of some of their party opponents.

On the other hand there was a division among the Democrats. The party candidate was nominated with but one vote over the votes cast for the present incumbent. The latter has made a very efficient officer. He might possibly have been renominated in a non-partisan convention. The chief objection to him was that he had occupied the place for a long time, and the feeling was that some one else should "have a chance." This caused the close vote in the convention. And while it is conceded that the Democratic nominee is an able and capable educator, well qualified for the office, many of the friends of the present superintendent felt that he ought to have been continued, and so a number of them did not go to the polls.

The victory, then, can scarcely be proclaimed as a party triumph in the full sense of the phrase. That is to say, it is not a fair indication of the strength of the respective political organizations in the county. It does show, however, the effective organization, skillful manner, and united action with which this contest was successfully handled, and the willingness of managers and leading spirits among the Republicans to work without pay and with a determination to do their utmost to carry the day.

We believe that the gentleman who has been elected by a good majority, will prove eminently satisfactory to the people of Salt Lake county. His political proclivities should not enter into the discharge of his duties, nor should the partisan views of those who voted against him be turned in the least to his disadvantage. He should have the full support of all citizens, irrespective of their opinions on matters of general policy. The outgoing superintendent has made an excellent school officer, the incoming superintendent, we have no doubt, will show that he is not lacking in any of the qualifications for the place, to which he has been fairly chosen by the citizens of Salt Lake county.

DON'T "MIX THOSE BABIES UP."

While the Deseret News has kept in view the one question to be decided at the polls in this city next Monday, so that the voters may have their minds confused by other considerations, we have not been blind to the importance of having the funds to be obtained by bonding properly expended. That ought to receive due consideration. But it ought not to be mixed up with the simple matter of choice between bonds and a heavy, additional, special tax. Let us decide one thing at a time.

The question of expenditure will enter into the disposition of funds, whether they are raised by bonding or by taxation. It is one that concerns the public. It should be inquired into and watched very closely. We have no doubt that this will be done. There is an active minority as well as a working majority in the City Council, and both, no doubt, will be heard from when money is to be spent. We do not wish to stop investigation or to hinder inquiry. But we do wish to keep from complication with other affairs, the one, particular matter to be decided by the taxpayers next Monday. That is, shall

we authorize the bonds, or pay an extra special tax.

As to the uses to which the money may be put, the question, as we have shown, would be equally applicable, if the funds were raised by taxation as if they were obtained by issuing bonds. So it ought not to interfere with the decision in the minds of the voters as to how that money shall be raised. The funds are to be had, anyhow; the spending is another thing entirely. But it may as well be mentioned that it can only be used for water purposes, either to obtain a greater supply, or to improve its distribution, or both.

A definite statement has already been made on this point. The city authorities will, no doubt, make further explanations. That is due to the public. More water is a necessity. A better method of distributing it is no less essential. Both will be beneficial to the people of this city. The money is to be raised for both purposes, and cannot be legally diverted into other channels. There is no real danger that such a misuse will be attempted. The insinuation that it will be, or may be tried, is only suspicion and does not touch the one crucial question to be settled next Monday. That is, which is the least out of two burdens: to issue bonds for water purposes or raise the money by present heavy extra taxes? We have no doubt about it; we certainly prefer the bonds. But, don't mix things up in confusion!

ONE SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

One of the most important pieces of work now in progress connected with the water problem that confronts this city, is the lowering of the channel to draw water from Utah lake and into the Jordan and Salt Lake Canal. If the plans projected prove successful, (and they have been approved by Engineer Kelsey and Councilor Gemmel, and endorsed and pronounced practical by A. F. Doremus, whose opinion is considered first class in all such matters) the water supply for this city will be wonderfully increased.

We understand that a portion of the funds to be raised, either by bonds or by special taxes, will be used on that important work. The flow that will be thus secured will be of much greater volume than is generally understood. It will give the city something tangible to offer in exchange for Big Cottonwood water, when the time comes to deal with that question. It will simplify that contemplated trade materially. There is another point to be looked at in this connection. There are several canal companies which could be greatly benefited by this dredging and straightening enterprise, and we are of the opinion that they should put forward propositions to share in the work and secure their share of the water. We feel confident that this union of effort could be assured, and the practical results to all parties would be much greater than at present appears. The city authorities have no desire to shut out the county people in this enterprise.

Of one thing the taxpayers of this city may be confident: Part of the money to be raised, by bonds or by taxes, will be expended on this laudable endeavor to increase our water supply, and that may perhaps answer in some degree the query, as to how any more water can be obtained, if the people do vote in favor of the bonds, next Monday.

THE COUNTRY'S FINANCES.

The financial status of the country appears, from the published figures, in a very satisfactory condition. The available cash balance in the treasury at the close of the fiscal year, was \$445,428,693, and the excess of receipts over expenditures for the year amounted to \$80,600,000.

The total receipts of the government for the year, exclusive of the postal revenues, are given as \$966,417,347.48. Of this sum, \$233,491,138.54 was derived from customs duties, \$294,212,638.20 from internal taxes and \$438,713,570.74 from miscellaneous sources. This was a total increase of \$52,300,458.97 over the receipts of last year. The customs receipts increased by the sum of \$27,572,427 over those of the previous year, and the receipts from international taxation by the sum of \$22,428,769. The total expenditures for the year amounted to \$485,802,498, which was \$116,841,474 less than the total for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899.

Of the expenses, the largest sum, \$18,873,529, goes to pensions, and the smallest, \$10,156,218, to the Indians. One hundred and forty million dollars to pay for war waged in the past, and only ten million dollars for the land that once belonged to the aborigines! The other items of expense are as follows: Civil and miscellaneous...\$105,546,000.30 War... 134,553,130.75 Navy... 56,089,149.59 Interest... 40,173,109.60

The total amount of gold in the treasury—coin and bullion, including the reserve of \$156,000,000—somehow exceeds \$420,000,000, and this is said to constitute a larger holding of the precious metal than is gathered under any other single control in the world. It should be added that the last fiscal year shows the largest surplus since 1890, and is the only year since 1893, to show any surplus of revenue at all.

The result of these favorable figures can hardly fail to be a popular demand for a reduction of the war taxes made necessary by the Spanish war. The people may be willing to make extra efforts for the defense of the country's honor, but not to add to a surplus in the treasury for which the country has no immediate practical use.

ANOTHER AIRSHIP.

The subject of navigation in the air is again receiving some attention, by the accounts of an alleged successful solution of the problem by Count von Zeppelin, after two years of experiments. The count, in his airship goes back to the principle of buoyancy, which some inventors lately have been disposed to discard. The craft is about 400 feet in length, by 75 in diameter, and yet with these giant proportions it only weighs three tons and a half. It is claimed for it that the trial trip took place in a small gale, and that it traveled at the

rate of about eighteen miles an hour for five miles, with the wind blowing seventeen miles an hour; also that the dirigibility was satisfactorily demonstrated.

Details are as yet meager, as to the achievement of the new craft, but if it has done nothing more than awaken new interest in the matter, it is not in vain. Some day the correct principle will be found upon which the obstacles of air navigation can be overcome, and then a suitable craft will be constructed. This will, no doubt, be crude and primitive at first, as was, perhaps, the simple canoe in which the first sailor crossed the stream, compared to the monster ships that are now carrying on the ocean passenger traffic. But it will soon be developed, with regard to utility, safety, and convenience. There seems to be no limit to human ingenuity, and the wonder is really that air navigation has not become better understood than it is, after so many years of study and experimentation.

CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

For a better understanding of the question of the final destiny of the late Spanish provinces, an article in the Atlantic Monthly, by J. D. Whelpley, on Cuban conditions, can be read with profit. As he sees the situation, very little progress has been made in that island for the establishment of independent self-government, and the prospects for the immediate future are not promising, owing to the utter incapacity of the people to govern themselves.

In the article referred to it is pointed out, that the military government has been a great success. It has insured comfort, safety and good order, in notable contrast to the conditions prevailing under Spanish rule. But the Cubans themselves, it is alleged, have not been able to offer any co-operation in the work. They are said to be opposed to the American government, but without the necessary qualifications for governing without outside aid. They are jealous and desirous of being left alone, although incapable of carrying the burden of independence.

In proof of this, it is stated that capitalists refuse absolutely to invest in Cuba. The writer says: "No new capital has been invested in Cuba under American rule for two reasons, one being that the United States government has not dared to intrust to its own officials the right to grant concessions, the other reason is that capital of all nationalities is now afraid that the United States is going to hold to the popular conception of the pledge given by Congress, to the effect that Cuba shall be given into the hands of an independent Cuban government."

Nor is this all. It is further claimed that since the American intervention, \$100,000,000 Spanish capital has been withdrawn from the island, on account of lack of confidence in the Cubans as their own governors.

Mr. Whelpley suggests that there is but little hope for Cuba, until a new generation shall have sprung up, which better understands American sentiments and institutions than the present. As it is today, it is believed that if the American intervention ceased, Cuba would, within an incredibly short time, become a raging furnace of civil uproar, caused by domestic war over the spoils. With such a possibility in view, the military rule can, of course, not be entirely abandoned. This country has assumed, by the Paris treaty, certain relations for which it is responsible to the world, and these obligations must be fulfilled no less than the duties we owe to the Cubans.

In the meantime the work of education must continue. There are now, according to the statistics published, 3,679 schools in Cuba, with about 140,000 children enrolled; over half a million dollars' worth of modern school furniture has been bought and distributed among the schools. The pupils receive books and school supplies free of charge. Night schools for adults are about to be established, and a plan has been formulated for a teachers' normal school to be held during the summer months. And, finally, a teachers' excursion to the United States has been undertaken, in which the excursionists will be given the benefit of a summer course at Harvard, with special reference to the needs of the Cuban instructors.

Such educational work, combined with the efforts of the military and civil officers, will bear fruit in due time. The conditions existing in any country are not from yesterday and cannot be changed tomorrow, at the bidding of anybody. They are the result of a long growth, and must be slowly adjusted to new conditions. A nation, like a tree, is a living organism and may be trained, if carefully and skillfully handled, to grow in the desired direction. It will yield to the patient labor of the gardener, as long as not required to go in radical opposition to its own nature.

Cuba, under American auspices, is over such a success. And so are the other late Spanish colonies. The United States has not quite as much experience in the establishment of governments away from home, as have some European powers; but we are apt scholars, and possess correct fundamental principles. The work in hand is therefore sure of final and glorious success.

ILLITERACY AND THE GOSPEL.

Russia is said to have the distinction of being the most illiterate country in the great family of civilized nations. It is stated that in 10,000 villages of that empire there is not a school, and it is estimated that not 20 per cent of the population of the country has acquired even the rudiments of a common school education. It has been figured out that if the czar would disband 100,000 men of the vast army he would thereby save money enough to provide a school for each of these villages.

Russia, on this showing, would hardly seem to be the power to take the lead in the mission of civilizing the vast multitudes of Asia. She has a work to do at home, which would seem to far exceed the powers of the government, even supposing the existence of a disposition to let the light of knowledge illuminate the homes of the people.

It has sometimes been claimed that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints obtains a following chiefly

from the ignorant ranks of the nations. But the falsity of this statement is apparent from the fact that "Mormonism" has as yet failed to obtain a general hearing in the countries noted for the illiteracy of the people. The Gospel has been preached and accepted in the countries where education is most general, where the people have had the advantages of instruction in the various branches of sciences. In this country, in Great Britain, in Switzerland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries, "Mormonism" has been accepted by thousands, while it has hardly been accorded a hearing in Spain, Italy, France, Turkey, Russia and Austria. The facts speak for themselves.

The reason is obvious. "Mormonism" appeals to the intelligence, as well as the hearts of people. It is the form of worship for those who are free to act and free to think, and who on the strength of this freedom, choose to follow God's law, in preference to the ordinances of men. Where ignorance is dense, man-worship is likely to prevail, but with knowledge and light comes a more perfect understanding of things divine. Hence the Gospel is accepted by some of the most advanced, while it is rejected by those who on account of dim sight, or blindness, fail to perceive its beauties.

It is not necessary these days to tell people to boil their water. Just now the miners are singing: "Nome, sweet, sweet Nome, there's no place like Nome."

The empress dowager is not dead. It is also evident from the goings-on in China that she sleepeth not.

The Mayor has approved the bicycle ordinance. And the masses of the people will approve his approval.

What with Boxers, a free hand for Japan and a mailed fist for Germany, small wonder it is that everybody is coming to blows in China.

That great Chinese wall, which has been utilized so often to illustrate protection now in time of dire need, affords no protection to foreigners.

Prince Ching is said to be protecting the legations at Peking. This "protection" seems to be, according to report, a clear case of killing with kindness.

Emperor William declares he will make the Chinese bend the knee. He might very properly undertake, at the same time, to make them lift the heart.

New York is to have a new bridge across East river. It will be a mile and three-eighths in length and will cost twelve million dollars. This will be a genuine Bridge of Size.

A contemporary makes much ado about the presence in our city of a princess of India. That's nothing. "The Prince of India" has been in the public library for years, and never a word about it from our contemporary.

When he issues a second edition of his "The Reign of Law," James Lane Allen might add a chapter telling how, when the case of the Commonwealth of Kentucky against the alleged murderers of William Goebel was called, all persons who entered the court room were searched for arms.

Again the Boers are annoyingly active. They have made a wonderful defensive campaign, one such as the world has rarely witnessed. Were it not for the situation in China, which interests all the civilized nations, and the solution of which may very materially affect them all, South Africa and the Boers would still be the cynosure of all eyes. It may be that they will yet become so.

There is still much doubt as to the true situation in China. There seems to be reasonable ground for believing that matters there, so far as the fate of the legations is concerned, are not quite so bad as they have been represented. The Christian world could receive no more glad news than that the ambassadors are safe and the missionaries and their converts have not suffered to the extent heretofore reported. And such news now seems quite possible.

The guesses at the United States census are not so far apart as the difficulties of the subject would warrant one in believing. The English statistician Muihail, says an exchange, makes an estimate of 75,000,000 as the population of the United States this year. The late Gen. Francis A. Walker estimated it at about 75,000,000, and Prof. Pritchett, made an estimate in 1897 that the 1900 figures would be 77,472,000. The actuary of the treasury department expects the total to reach 75,000,000.

The new bicycle ordinance, over which there has been considerable agitation, has received the Mayor's signature and goes into effect two weeks hence. It is by no means a stringent measure, for it allows bicyclists far more sidewalk privileges than are allowed them in any other city of the Union. Having a new ordinance, let it be strictly and impartially enforced. The old one has been practically a dead letter. Let it not be so with the new one. Better no bicycle ordinance than one not enforced, and treated with contempt by those whom it most specially concerns.

The indications at present are that the St. Louis street railway strike will be resumed. It was a long and disastrous struggle between the men and the company, and the whole country rejoiced when it was announced that it had been settled. As there are to all disputes two sides so there are to strikes, but of themselves they are usually highly injurious to both parties; and only too often to the public. Large employers of labor are frequently harsh and unjust in the treatment of their employes, but when the latter go on strike they almost invariably become tyrannical. Every employe has a right to strike, but no employe has a right to prevent another man from taking his place. It is the ignoring of this that causes strikes to degenerate into aggressive lawlessness. The St. Louis strike very soon assumed this phase. If started again it will most likely repeat its former his-

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