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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 11, 1903.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

A morning contemporary is sorry that the Deseret News is opposed to the new water commission bill. Very likely, that paper takes the other side. So it did very strenuously in favor of the bill as it was first introduced, but which had to be dropped for the very reasons set forth by the Deseret News. Some of them apply with the same potency to the substitute measure now before the Legislature.

It is asserted that the City Council is utterly incompetent to handle the water question; that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been wasted by the Council in futile measures to deal with the question; and that it is hopeless to look for relief in that quarter. Is that so? Let us see.

In the first place the water affairs of the city have been "handled" by the City Council from the beginning of the municipality. The present members are not responsible for anything but their own acts. A new Council can be elected if the existing body is "incompetent." The power is in the people to choose competent men for the purpose. That is the design of the law and of the State Constitution.

In the next place, this cry about "wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars" is deceptive, and is raised to deceive legislators from the county, as well as ordinary citizens who do not investigate. It should be observed that no specifications as to this waste are given. It is not shown by any particulars or figures that water money has been improperly spent by the City Council. If the sum of \$250,000 raised by bonds is referred to, it can be shown that what has been expended of that amount, has been appropriated according to the terms and for the purposes understood and voted upon by the tax-paying citizens. For every dollar that has been spent some improvement can be shown in our means of water supply and its distribution.

As for supposed "futile efforts," do the promoters of this revamped scheme expect that the City Council could accomplish with \$250,000 that which the accusers propose to effect with a million or million and a half dollars, to be obtained by bonding the city? The people have it in their power to elect a City Council fully competent to handle the whole water question, and it will be safer in their hands than in a special commission, appointed by the Governor or any other State functionary.

Now as to the question of constitutionality. Our contemporary sagely remarks that, this "would be easily disposed of by the courts." Just so. But why pass a measure that is manifestly in conflict with the Constitution, to promote litigation and incur the costs of such a contest? Why not sit down now on a proposition that is clearly in violation of the State Constitution? The conflict between them has been pointed out several times in these columns.

Finally, our opponent takes up the wealth argument. Let it be distinctly understood that this is its own plea, not ours as it endeavors to insinuate. It had been urged in favor of the bill that a large proportion of the wealth of the city wants the commission. To this we replied without disputing the statement as we might, that all the water-users were interested in the matter, and the poor man's vote counted as much as the rich man's ballot. If this bill was left to be decided by the water-users and taxpayers, it would be swept out of sight by the volume of the votes against it.

To read the watery pleas of the advocates of the newly patched up scheme for a commission, one who did not take pains to examine the rash assertions made, would think that it assured a full supply of pure water to this city for generations to come. The whole claim is speculative and without substantial basis. It sweeps away the power of the body constitutionally designated as the proper custodian and controller of the municipal water rights, and vests it in a commission appointed by one official. That is all. There is not a guaranty of any kind that a full supply of water will be the result.

The scheme when tested by the organic law of the State will not hold water. Its fundamental defect is the same as was manifest in the first scheme for which it is a substitute. It adds another flaw, in putting Salt Lake City under direct and special State control. If the Governor appoints six commissioners they become State officers in effect. The body would be a State board within a municipality for municipal purposes. This city can regulate its own municipal affairs. They belong to the Mayor and the City Council, and the proposition on this point is radically wrong and out of harmony with our system of local government. We are sorry that our contemporaries have gone so far astray on a matter of such great importance.

TAXATION SCHEMES.

We endorse the protest of some of our local contemporaries against the attempt to increase the burden of taxation for school purposes, embodied in the bill which has passed the House for that purpose. It is a little singular, to say the least, that a measure should be supported, which simply combines two propositions each of which had been voted down in severality. If they were unwise or inexpedient viewed apart, how can they be any better when joined as one, seeing that no change has been made in their characteristics? The Senate will have an opportunity to block the way, or otherwise dispose of this unpopular and unnecessary measure, and should not aid in piling upon the people of this city an added weight of taxation, the need of which has not been demonstrated, notwithstanding all the manipulation of figures made to do duty in this effort to oppress the poor property-holder.

The idea, that so much money MUST be appropriated for this, that and the other purpose, whether our public funds will warrant the expenditure or not, is miserable financial economy. Why not act with public funds and public business as with private funds and private business? Lay out your plans according to present and prospective means.

In conversation with a respected member of a school board, quite recently, the question of spending \$125,000 or thereabout for the erection of a school building, the cost of the three fine structures for the L. D. S. University was cited as being less than \$100,000. "Ah!" was the reply, "but those three buildings have but so many hundred thousand bricks in them, and we propose to put so many hundred thousand more in our new school!"

There is the matter in simple brick measure. Why rush into debt to that extent. Why build one district school-house cost \$10,000 more than the three buildings pointed out? Cut your garment according to your cloth. It is a good adage for public officers as well as individual citizens. There should be retrenchment rather than extravagance and plans should be laid to reduce rather than increase taxation.

In this connection the income tax proposition may be viewed in a similar light. It is unjust, unequal and an unnecessary departure from our present State financial system. Abolish all property taxes, and an income tax equal in rate upon all would be, perhaps, commendable. But under the provisions of the scheme now introduced, it would be so inequitable and offensive in the disclosure of private and business transactions, as to become obnoxious and detestable. It would exclude and drive away capital. It would also provoke perjury and lead to lying. Originally a war measure, it is not adapted to times of peace, and is certainly not wanted at present in the State of Utah.

THE BLIND SEE.

If report is true, an apparatus has now been invented by means of which the blind can be made to see. The inventor is said to be one Professor Steins, and his achievement is described by Dr. Caze in the Revue des Revues.

The doctor describes how the professor tested his invention on him, by taking him into a dark room with bandaged eyes. He could see nothing, but he heard the professor walking backward and forward, striking matches and lighting a lamp. Then he felt him fix an apparatus round his temples, and instantly he saw dim light by which he could distinguish surrounding objects. By and by the light became stronger, and Dr. Caze could count the fingers of his hand held up before him and tell the number of chairs in the room. Just as he was feeling that if the experiment was continued he would recover normal clearness of vision, the professor suddenly removed the apparatus, and Dr. Caze was plunged into total darkness. What was done in his case can be done, it is said, in the case of those who have lost their sight, and even of those who have been blind from birth.

The explanation of this is, that the eye is merely the organ through which images are transmitted to the brain. The "seeing" takes place in the brain and not in the eye. Certain animals have no eyes, but they perceive through the entire body. If, therefore, an image can be transmitted to the brain without the aid of the eye, there can be sight, notwithstanding the eye is dark. That is what it is claimed Prof. Steins has succeeded in doing. Through his apparatus the brain receives impressions of form and color, as through the natural, normal eye. Hence he has made the blind to see.

The story, we presume, needs corroboration. Yet in this age of wonders it would be folly to deny a new wonder. It will be clear that if the blind can be made to see by this means, visual perceptions can in the same way be conveyed to a distance, by means of electricity, and then we will in a short time have telephones that convey not only the voice of the speaker but also the picture. That will be another application of the marvelous apparatus.

EMERSON MEMORIAL.

Announcement is made that the religious association of which Emerson was one of the founders, will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, by devoting the principal session of its convention in May to the subject of Emerson's religious influence. It is also arranging an "Emerson Memorial School," for three weeks in July, beginning Monday, July 13. The morning sessions of the school will be held in Concord and the evening sessions in Boston. There will be lectures, special Sunday services, sermons, and addresses by eminent lovers of Emerson. On the birthday itself, May 25, there is to be a celebration at Concord, with addresses by Senator Hoar, Colonel Higginson, Charles Eliot Norton and others; and on the preceding evening, Sunday, there will be a memorial observance in Symphony Hall, Boston, under the auspices of a large citizens' committee, with an address by President Eliot, a poem by George E. Woodberry, and choral music.

Silence is golden because talk is so cheap. The rise in copper and lead will give Utah a lift. The March lion is growing somewhat less fierce. The Father of Waters is just spreading himself these days. Most talk is gas, and while talk is cheap, gas isn't. Boys who do not live in glass houses should not throw stones at windows. It wouldn't aid in solving the race problem for negroes to get white with rage. Ithaca, after having "planted" so many Cornell students, is to have a water plan. The extra session of the Senate proves that it is above all things a deliberative body. That things go by contraries is proven by the fact that when the rain falls the rivers rise. And now the militant militiaman sings: Ye Krags and Jorgensens, I'm with you once again. Now is the seed time with Congressmen. They are sending packages of them to their constituents. Dussing in the German army is very reprehensible, but scarcely more so than burning people at the stake. The politicians are beginning to look around for a running mate for Mr. Roosevelt in 1904. How would some old war horse do? The merit system is to be introduced at the Reform school. It was their many demerits that sent its inmates there. Choking a woman, even when an inmate of a reformatory institution, is, as the legislative committee says "unwise and unmanly" no matter what the provocation. Judge Thayer of the United States court of appeals has decided that pedestrians have some rights that street rail-ways are bound to respect. Knowledge of this fact is consoling.

The day of Days has arrived. Judge William R. Day has been made a Supreme Court Justice, while William T. Day is to have charge of all trust prosecutions under the present administration. "Shamrocks are to be admitted free of duty. Ireland has finally won something," says the Record-Herald. And now Sir Thomas Lipton would be glad to hear that the Shamrock had won something. No people in the country believe more firmly in the constitutional right to keep and bear arms than the good people of some of the Colorado mining towns. They keep the spirit of liberty active by occasionally defying the law and shooting at its officers. Beerbohm Tree says we are all wrong in the selection of hours for theatrical entertainment. He thinks people should go to the theater fresh from a good night's rest, and that 6:30 a. m. would be the best hour of the day. Evidently Mr. Tree holds that all the world's a stage and it is people's first duty to go and see the players.

A school teacher on another page, inveighs strongly against the cigarette habit in boys. That's all right. But he finds fault with the Legislature for not doing something, about the nature of which he says nothing. What does he want? Nobody disputes his denunciation of the evil. But what is the use of that? Point out some practical measure to cure it, or cease finding fault!

AS TO LADROONS. Chicago Record-Herald. The Manila dispatch of February 22 returns to the use of "ladroons." This is the orthodox word common to official reports, but there have been some slips in the news reports recently. There was one engagement with "insurgents" and another with "hostiles" which is reminiscent of our Indian wars. Whatever the queer creatures thus designated really are it is astonishing to learn that they are operating close to the capital. The enemy surrounded the towns of Santa and Taxay, eleven miles east of Manila, on Saturday and captured thirty scouts and ten men of the constabulary, which they disarmed and set free. While it would be silly to discuss the situation in a sensational manner, since there is no evidence that the government is in the slightest danger, it is certainly desirable that the public should follow all this news carefully.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. Governor Tate, frankly admitted, in discussing the ladroon question, that matters would grow worse before they became better. Late dispatches have told that what is practically a state of war on a small scale exists on three sides of Manila and within twenty miles of the city. It is clear that not only is assimilation incomplete, but actual hostilities are in progress in many widely separated localities. When veteran soldiers are armed to the teeth, are deterred from venturing beyond the limits of American garrisons, it can readily be imagined what healthy spots, for American school teachers, for example, many of the native villages must be. Only recently relatives and friends of a young American from this corner of Ohio had to mourn his barbarous murder by natives. The eloquent fact remains that in many parts of Luzon alone it is unsafe for an American to venture on business or pleasure outside the range of his countrymen's rifles.

Washington Post. Why not be frank? Why persist in maintaining that the existing executive travesty of civil government in the Philippines when, as a matter of fact, neither the commissioners themselves nor anyone of their thousands of subordinate and attendants could live five minutes without the protection of the army? When President Grant, in 1877, withdrew his bayonets and cannons, every civilized government in the south collapsed as if by magic. The same thing would happen today in the Philippines were the war department to recall our military forces from the islands. Even as things are, the effort to maintain the force serves only to dilute the one effective agency of civilization we have at our disposal. The army is employed to protect the poor semblance of a civil government, and its greatest usefulness is destroyed by the arrangement which subordinates it to a sham. Why not be frank? Why not put our best foot foremost and cut short a pretense which is both costly and ridiculous?

EXTRA SESSION TALK. Pittsburgh Gazette. The Senate that can do business, but won't do business, must be made do business. Detroit Free Press. Senator Morgan has shown us that talk is not necessarily so cheap as some persons think. Omaha Bee. By the call for an extra session the redoubtable Washington correspondent gets an extension on his assignment. Indianapolis News. President Roosevelt is determined that the senators shall take a look at his treaties, whether they ratify them or not. Boston Globe. President Roosevelt gives convincing evidence that his announced determination to call an extra session was not what the unregenerate would call a bluff. New York News. The President will be fully justified by public sentiment in resolutely holding the Senate to its duty, and if the senators find an extra session inconvenient, they will have only themselves to blame.

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March is here. A breezy fellow blusters a good deal, and tries to make believe he's hot. Might be all right if he didn't bring so much mud with him. Makes it a little hard to deliver "that good coal" with our usual promptness. BAMBERGER, The Man on Meighn St.

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