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An \$8,000 Steal Discovered

The bounty frauds the exposure of which caused considerable of a sensation a month or so ago are not the only frauds which have been perpetrated on the state in the not very distant past. Ten days or two weeks ago a steal amounting to about \$8000 was discovered in connection with the Utah World's fair commission. The reporters of the daily papers dug up the crookedness and the details thereof but the kind of dailies we are afflicted with in this state being run for the purpose of hoodwinking and helping to fleece the public instead of protecting it, would not publish the facts, but on the contrary joined in the scheme to hush the matter up.

The legislature of 1893 made a liberal appropriation in order that the state should be properly represented at the big exposition at St. Louis. The management of the Utah exhibit and the disbursement of the fund created by the legislature was placed in the hands of a commission. When the fair closed and the accounts were made up it was found there was a deficit of about \$10,000 and the present legislature was asked to make an appropriation to cover the deficit and pay the outstanding bills. The committee of the legislature to which the bill was referred made a pretty searching investigation with a view of discovering how the original appropriation had been spent and how there came to be so large a deficit. The result so far of the inquiry has been to establish the fact that the name of Ex-Gov. H. M. Wells, chairman of the World's fair commission, had been forged to warrants amounting to something like \$8000, which money had been drawn from the fund and not used for any purposes connected with the exhibit, in fact that the cash had gone into the pocket of some individual, presumably the person who committed the forgery. The forged warrants were dug up and when shown to Gov. Wells he without hesitation pronounced them forgeries in so far as his name was concerned. The forgeries it is said are quite evident. An effort was made to have Gov. Wells keep quiet and not say that his name had been forged. Of course the

effort was not in the least degree successful. State Senator Willis Johnson has in his possession one of the forged warrants for \$2100 and although great efforts are being made to hush the matter up it is expected there will be something doing pretty soon. It is not possible that the legislature will make an appropriation to cover a deficit created by forgery and theft. Those who are most deeply interested in the affair being kept from the public and that the guilty party or parties be not prosecuted have influential friends who it is believed will make good the money stolen. Threats have already been made to place the whole affair in the hands of the county attorney, but so far it has not officially been brought to the notice of that officer. This plan of covering up fraud and compounding felonies has gone too far in this state already. This thing should be exposed and the guilty parties prosecuted. The members of the commission should see to that. It is their duty to the state and to the people, besides they owe it to themselves as to a certain extent they are all under a cloud until the guilt is fastened on the guilty one. If it is not brought to the county attorney we believe that official ought to take it up of his own volition. The public is entitled to be informed of everything connected with this affair. Glossing over and covering up has a bad effect in every way. Turn on the light and let the people know what their servants are doing.

More charges have been filed against Jones, Davies and others who are accused of defrauding the public in the matter of bounty on the skins of wild animals. Conspiracy to defraud is the first accusation they will have to face. It is very probable that the state will refuse to pay the fraudulent warrants issued although they be in the hands of innocent holders. The theory is that the state is neither legally nor morally bound to pay those warrants, but that the holders of them may recover from the county clerks or their bondsmen. Even if the county clerk himself was innocent of anything worse than carelessness he, it is claimed, is responsible for the official acts of his deputies.

LEGISLATIVE GOSSIP.

A measure that is destined to encounter some of the most strenuous and determined opposition is House Bill 84 by Hone, which seeks to make eight hours a day's work in all of the factories of the state. The sugar and canning factory people will fight its passage to the last ditch and their lobby is a strong one.

It is pointed out by the opponents of the eight-hour measure that the nature of the employment in canning and sugar factories is vitally different from that in the mines and smelters where the law now provides for an eight-hour day. The factories have only a short run of from 75 to 120 days. Not much of this factory work can be classed as skilled and a large proportion of it does not require great exertion. In the factories of the Utah Sugar Company, the hands employed at unskilled work receive from \$2.25 to \$2.50 per day. The canning factories pay on a "piece work" basis largely.

Representative Austin, who is the field superintendent of the Utah Sugar company says that 95 per cent of the men who work in the sugar factories are farmers, who are accustomed to twelve or more hours work per day in their own business, and who do not desire any change from the present 12 hour rule. Mr. Austin is emphatic in his statement that it would be absolutely out of the question for the company to increase the pay so that the present wage would be given for an eight-hour day.

There is a bill pending introduced by Representative Panter of Salt Lake which is intended to prevent the employment of alien labor in the state. Such a measure does not seem to be suited to Utah's needs, according to the opinions of the leaders both in the Senate and House. The native population is not great enough to afford means of developing the state's resources. Few indeed are the able-bodied men who are idle in the west unless they want to be idle, and for much of the rough and hard labor it is almost impossible to find others than aliens.

Growing out of the Carbon county strikes troubles of last year is House Bill No. 10, by Austin, which makes

it a misdemeanor by threats of force or violence to seek to prevent any one from entering into the employ of any company or corporation. The general sentiment is that this measure will pass.

Five citizens of Spanish Fork presented a memorial to the legislature in which they undertook to tell the lawmakers just how almost every branch of the state government should be conducted. As one of their strongest pleas was for economy, supplemented with the statement that some state officers' salaries were too high, the house economized by declining to print the memorial in the journal.

If every objection made by Representative Joseph were made a part of the record only a competent stenographer could keep the score.

Representative Simons of Utah county did a foolish thing in seeking to air a personal grievance against a defeated candidate while speaking to a question of personal privilege. The house has enough to do without listening to speeches that have no bearing upon proposed legislation.

George Hanson, who is one of Weber county's most influential lobbyists, has spent considerable time with the members of both houses this week.

Roberts of Cache is working hard on a bill which he says will make good roads in Utah. Mr. Roberts does not claim to be working in the interests of auto owners. He believes that the former will be the chief gainer by improved highways.

Sentiment is very much divided on Joseph's bill which provides for the uniting of Salt Lake City and county under one government. But some of the strongest men in the house are firmly convinced of the merits of this plan and the measure will be pushed with both earnestness and ability.

Austin of Utah county is not feeling well over the statements of the Wasatch Wave regarding his bill which provides for the setting aside of Strawberry valley as a state park. The Wave declared that the valley possesses none of the natural advantages for a park. Mr. Austin affirms that the Strawberry valley is