

TRUTH

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We hardly see the necessity for the Deseret News retracting a statement of fact made regarding Senator Kearns in the local columns of the paper. The retraction, too, laid undeserved strictures on the reporter who wrote the article. If there was anything wrong in the statement the copy reader or the local editor should not have passed it.

The revolution in Russia which Truth foretold more than six months ago now appears to have been fairly and vigorously begun. We hope it will be entirely successful. The present Russian government is the worst on the face of the earth. Any change must be for the better. And Poland and Finland, may they regain their freedom and escape from the clutches of the merciless bear.

How was it that the Tribune ceased its unjust attack on Director General Whitaker of the Utah World's Fair commission so suddenly? The Tribune knew at the beginning that Mr. Whitaker was not to blame for the irregularities in the financial affairs of the commission, but it sought to cast the odium on him until something happened which made the Tribune very desirous of covering up the crookedness.

Truth is of the opinion that as little legislation as possible should be enacted by the present legislature. The laws of the state are in good shape, and, with a few amendments meet all requirements. The appropriations should be kept down. In some of the state institutions they have all the buildings necessary, in fact some of them have more than they need, and this continual lobbying for appropriations for unnecessary buildings in order to have so much money spent in their respective localities should stop. Let the state have a rest for a few years. A large amount of

money has been appropriated during the past twelve or fifteen years for buildings for state institutions particularly educational ones and it is time to go a little slow and give the taxpayers some relief. There should be some labor legislation, and legislation enlarging the powers of cities in the matter of sewers, sidewalks and the opening and paving of streets. But generally speaking it will be better all around to do as little legislating as possible and to keep appropriations down.

There are a number of bills pending in the legislature which if passed will have the effect of retarding the state's industrial development. The lawmakers should use caution in pressing measures of this character. Any law which discourages capital from coming into a western state is a direct blow to progress. Above all things else Utah needs more opportunities for development and growth. Few of those who have spent all their lives here realize the vastness of Utah's resources. We have enough of native latent wealth in our mineral zones, in our rich soil, in our manufacturing facilities to make prosperous a population five times as great as it is today. An effort to strike at the whole state because of some grievance against one company or corporation cannot but prove injurious.

The idea of the North Sea court arbitration sitting at Paris, allowing Russian officers to testify on their honor without being sworn is very funny. A Russian officer is taught to lie and deceive. It is part of his training. Whether sworn or not he will lie just the same. Perhaps that's why the court didn't take the trouble to swear them. That phantom torpedo boat they tell about is probably still cruising in the North Sea, but how it did scare them!

The bill before the legislature providing that a portion of the western part of the Uintah reservation be acquired by the state and kept as a state park should, we think, receive favorable consideration. The site for the proposed park is about 20 miles long by 15 miles wide and is by nature a beautiful spot, well wooded and with an abundance of fine springs. It is an ideal place for a public playground, the value of which would be appreciated by future generations.

A man who will steal from Simon Bamberger is a pretty mean fellow. According to the Herald of Thursday one of his clerks is a defaulter to the amount of \$1,500 and Mr. Bamberger not only will not prosecute, but says if the misguided clerk had confided in him he would have made the shortage good out of his private purse, and we believe he would. It would not have been Mr. Bamberger's first generous act of a similar kind, either.

SALT LAKE CITY NOT A WICKED PLACE.

Is Salt Lake City a bad town? Is it a place where law is not respected, where the social and moral virtues

are held lightly, where the better class of citizens are in the minority or are indifferent to their duties?

To read some of the statements that have been made recently in the daily papers, the views of persons who, while well meaning, are not well informed, one might be led to the conclusion that this city is a hotbed of vice and corruption, a location not a good home for the most desirable class of citizens.

Such a conclusion would not only be false, but absurdly unjust and totally without support of facts. Salt Lake City today is better and cleaner, both morally and socially than most other places of its size in the United States, either east or west. Investigation of existing conditions show that to be the fact. No one acquainted with the world as it is, will for a moment expect that in a city of nearly 80,000 population there will be no gamblers, no criminals, no dissolute persons, no degraded wrecks of humanity who live only by preying upon the credulous, innocent and weak. Representatives of all the undesirable classes drift into or develop with every town of any importance. They are part of the necessary evils of highly strung civilization. So long as humanity remains what it is, these we must have with us. The problem is, how best to regulate, control and minimize the evils.

Now let us look directly into local conditions with regard to some of the charges that have been made against the city and compare existing conditions with those of two years ago, when a strenuous attempt was made to run the town along "reform" lines.

First, as to gambling. Two years ago, in a spasm of civic morality, the former mayor and chief of police started out to close all the gambling houses. As a result the games were carried on secretly behind locked doors, with an elaborate system of peep holes, inner and outer guards and other precautions that made it practically impossible for an officer of the law to find out anything which would be sufficient to convict the parties conducting the places where the gambling was done. This developed "brace" games, where the player who believed he was taking a chance was really robbed of his money. It also resulted in scores of men being given "knockout drops" and stripped of all their valuables before they regained consciousness. In either case it was virtually impossible for the officers to secure any evidence that would lead to conviction of the offenders or assist the victim in recovering his money and property. Under the present administration there are a few places where gambling is carried on openly. They are situated in a section of the city that is not often resorted to by citizens who have no desire to indulge their sporting propensities. Every man who goes into one of these houses to play the various games of chance knows exactly what risk he is taking, merely the per cent that is against him. There has never been any intimation of hold-up or crooked work. Police-

men come and go at all hours, and no keeper of a gambling house dare refuse admission to any officer. This is by no means an ideal state of affairs, but it is far better, far safer, than driving the sporting men to cover. You cannot drive them out of the city entirely, every municipality that has endeavored to do so has failed. To see that every game is on the square, that no minors are allowed to play, that no drunken disturbances occur is all that can be done so long as a large per cent of the citizens thirst to gain money without effort. The gambling spirit enters into every phase of life, not even the churches are exempt from it, for selling chances on articles of value for which lots are drawn is part of the program of many church fairs.

Considering next the social evil, the betterment of conditions has been equally marked. When women of the town were scattered throughout the hotels and rooming houses in every portion of the city it was out of the question for the officers to prevent robbery of drunken men and annoyance and insult of good citizens who were often tenants of the same buildings. The present administration has done more to check the evil and keep those without virtue confined to one section of the city, where they are kept under close supervision than has any other administration of recent years at least. Robbery by one of these women is now infrequent and when it does occur, the police department has nearly always succeeded in recovering the money.

Much has also been said by the daily papers of young girls wandering about the streets after night, subject to insult from apologies for men. Cases of this kind that have been brought to the attention of the authorities have been promptly and stringently dealt with, but instances of young women receiving insults unless they invite them are rare.

As a general rule the streets of Salt Lake are less disorderly after night than are the streets of towns of one half this city's size. The town is not bad, the citizens generally are law abiding, the small criminal element is held well in check and no one except a born knocker has any reason to pronounce Salt Lake an undesirable place for a home.

PRESS ASSOCIATION WILL GO.

National Editorial Association Will Visit Lewis and Clark Fair.

A reunion of all the state press associations on the Pacific coast is planned to be held at Portland during the Lewis and Clark Centennial in connection with the excursion of the National Editorial association, which will visit Portland after concluding its sessions at Guthrie, O. T.

The original plan of the National association was to meet at Guthrie on May 20, and proceed from there to Portland, but as this would bring the editors to the fair city about the opening date, June 1, it is likely that the convention will be postponed, and the National association visit the fair