

TRUTH

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Let Us Have A Grand Jury

The consensus of opinion of such of the people as take an interest in public affairs is that a grand jury should be called for the purpose of investigating the condition and conduct of municipal affairs generally and that of the police department in particular.

Everybody is convinced except those who don't want to be convinced and who wouldn't be convinced though one rose from the dead, that great abuses have existed not only in the police department but in almost every branch of the municipal government. In regard to the police there is no doubt that they are and have been in league with thugs, thieves and vagabonds, who plunder anybody they can, more especially strangers in the city. The police afford these criminals protection, shield them from prosecution and get a share of the plunder. The standard openly established by the police and the press organs of them and the other thugs is that strangers are legitimate prey. They prefer strangers and only attack residents when the tourist business is light. "Success from Scotland" or anywhere else the police and their confederates are on the look out for. Another disgraceful phase of the conditions which obtain in the police department is the number of disreputable petty fogging lawyers which are not only allowed to rob prisoners but are encouraged by the police to do so. These lawyers have the "run" of the city jail. When anyone who happens to have any money is arrested, these scrubs "get to him" and soon get his money under one pretext or another, and of course they "divvy" with the police. It's a great game and those engaged in it have become so bold that it is played almost openly, and no attempt is made to check it. The street department needs the attention of a grand jury, so does the treasurer's office and so does the city council itself. One man who is pretty well posted remarked the other day and rightly so that investigation by a grand jury would result in the indictment of at least three fourths of the city officials.

The prosecution in the cases against the chief of police and others is a failure, either from intent or imbecility. From whatever cause there is no doubt that it is a failure. A grand jury should be summoned. Those engaged in the prosecution of those cases should be dismissed. Capable lawyers should be engaged and a judge to hear the cases should be brought from some outside district, who would be entirely free from the influence of the abnormal conditions which exist here. This should be done and done at once. What matters the few dollars it would cost. The existing condition is costing the people a great deal more than it would cost to put an end to the abuses and punish the guilty ones.

Delay of course is what the guilty ones are playing for above all else. If the trials can be staved off for a few months the witnesses will be scattered. It will be impossible to assemble them and effectively marshal the evidence. The evidence is here now, overwhelmingly strong. It has been laid at the feet of the prosecuting officers and they either haven't the ability or the desire to use it.

It's a scandalous state of affairs.

Let us have a grand jury, a new set of prosecuting officers and a new judge without delay. The atmosphere needs clearing up. A liberal application of disinfecting fluid or chloride of lime would do a world of good.

The prosecution in the Sheets case seems determined to avoid coming to the point in the case. It shoots all around the bull's eye but never hits anything. The sensible and reasonable thing for the prosecution to do would have been to have filed in formation charging the defendant with a felony in plain language. In this case it would be just as easy to prove a felony as a misdemeanor. To prove the charge of conspiracy (the misdemeanor) it will be necessary in this case to prove the robbery (felony) and that Sheets was a party to it. Why not make a plain direct charge and avoid surplusage, garbage and

other extraneous matter if the intention is to ever get the case into court?

An accountant said the other day that he would gladly pay Salt Lake City \$500 in cash for the privilege of auditing the books and records of the Salt Lake City police department for one month on the condition that he would receive as his remuneration such amounts of money as he should discover to have been stolen from the city by the police and their accomplices. There is one very fruitful source of graft in the matter of fines that a grand jury should inquire into. Offenders are sometimes, many times in fact, sentenced to a term in jail, say 30 days, 60 days or 90 days, with the option of paying a fine at the rate of \$1 per day instead of going to jail. Many a fine has been paid which didn't reach the city treasury, while the fellow who paid it was by some kind of fiction supposed to be serving his time on the rock pile. Why not have a grand jury? It's certainly badly needed.

There is talk of increasing the salaries of Salt Lake policemen. The stated salary of most of the men on the force is only a small part of their "earnings." The graft is so good that a policeman inclined to graft could well afford to take the job for no salary at all. The salaries paid, however, are very good, better than in most cities. In the District of Columbia there are 650 policemen besides officers. The oldest men on the force are paid \$1200 a year, others not so old in the service, \$1080 a year, and the new men \$900 a year. The department is one of the best in the country. It is under the control of a commission.

Slates are already being fixed up for the state election in 1908. One of the early ones reads about as follows: W. S. McCornick for senator, C. S. Tingey for governor, James Christiansen for auditor, John A. Edwards for secretary of state and Judge W. M. McCarty to succeed himself on the supreme bench. The trouble with these early booms is that they ripen too soon and by the time the conventions come around they are spoilt. Mr. McCornick's name is probably being used without authority. Slates very often need financial backing and Mr. McCornick is quite able to take care of that end

of it, if he would. It is hardly thought however that he will allow himself to be drawn into a game of that kind just now, not because he wouldn't make a desirable senator, but it would be a new departure to have two Gentile senators from Utah. If Senator Smoot doesn't succeed himself the place would probably go to some other Mormon and Mr. McCornick we don't think would abjure his faith and join the Mormon church even for a senatorship. Our guess is that Reed Smoot will be re-elected and we don't see why he shouldn't.

The members of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks who for years have used Elks' teeth as one of the outward symbols of their order have very generally discontinued the practice for the reason that the demand for the teeth was so great that all those noble animals in the country would soon have been slain just for their teeth and the species become extinct. It is a nice thing for the members of the order to act in the matter as they are doing. Salt Lake lodge No. 85 was the first lodge in the country, in this part of the country anyway, to pass a resolution discountenancing the use of the teeth for charms. Other lodges have followed suit, but Salt Lake lodge led the way. There will be a depreciation in the price of Elks' teeth which hitherto have sold at high figures in some cases running up to hundreds of dollars for good specimens.

The Abraham Irrigation Company of Millard County, Utah, is offering some wonderfully good terms to settlers and others who want to own farms. The company has thousands of acres of the finest and most fertile lands in the world, and its system of irrigation is as near perfect as anything projected by man can be. The lands with the water rights are selling at \$80 an acre, 25 per cent payable in cash and the balance on easy terms. The company will clear the land, fence it, seed it with grain, orchard, hay and so forth, sink a well and in two years turn over to the purchaser a producing farm. It's a rare opportunity. Abraham is on the San Pedro railroad, has as fine a climate as any in the world and rich and fertile soil. The Anderson-Cummings company, 322 South Main St., are the sole agents. It's worth looking into.