

THE LOGAN REPUBLICAN

Published By The
LOGAN NEWSPAPER COMPANY, LOGAN, UTAH

Official Republican Organ of Cache County, Utah
Entered at the Postoffice every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at Logan, Utah, as Second Class Matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Mail	
One Year	\$3.00
Six Months	1.75
Three Months	90c
By Carrier	
One Year	\$3.50
Six Months	1.50
Three Months	75c
If Not Paid in Advance, Add 50 Cents Per Year	

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COMMISSIONER NELSON'S REPLY

Hon Peter C. Nelson is the short term commissioner for Logan City, in case any of our readers should have forgotten that fact. He was elected on the Democratic ticket under a promise that he would be "non-partisan" in actions, at least in some of his actions. Immediately after his election he said among many other things "I will conduct the city's business with the same care and attention as if it were my own." Commissioner Nelson is the great "I Am" in the street department in the city government. About ten days ago private citizens learned that the street department of Logan City was in open violation of the city ordinances in that giant powder was being stored within the city limits. With the assistance of the Mayor these citizens succeeded in having this explosive removed. This and the incidents that are connected with it made certain members of the street department somewhat peevish and they began talking in several languages as to what they were going to do to this fellow, that fellow and the other fellow, meaning the citizens who complained against their open violation of law. The matter of hauling gravel on an alleged private road came into the controversy, a matter that had been discussed for weeks here and there. The status of the road was finally settled, and in order that the matter might be made clear to all parties concerned this paper directed a number of questions to the Hon. Commissioner asking that he kindly answer them. The questions were printed in good faith as it was information that we were after. For some time the commissioner ignored the questions but finally decided to answer them, his reply appearing in a recent issue of The Journal. We do not know why he did not reply through this paper thus giving the citizens who subscribe for this paper a chance to read his reply. His reply in full is as follows:

In a recent issue of the Republican there were printed a number of questions relative to the repairing of a certain road in the city, which that paper at one time declared to be a private right of way and then retracted the statement in the next issue. These questions were directed at me, but I paid no attention to them until it became apparent to me and my friends that the Republican was party to a plot to deliberately misrepresent me in the matter and create an impression that I had been using funds of the city for unwarranted purposes. At first it made the charge that I had ordered a private road repaired with city funds and failing in the proof of that statement, it then printed the questions referred to with no other apparent purpose than to place me in a false light before the people of the city. In justice to myself I decided to make plain all the details of the transaction by answering the questions that never would have been asked had the slightest investigation been made, or had there been a desire to deal fairly with me. But to the questions, they ask:

"Where is this road located?"
It is the eastern extension of East Second North street and is the principal road through the newly created Eighth ward, the ward meeting house being located at the eastern end of the highway.
"How far is it from the Road Supervisor's home?"
The road supervisor's home is located on the street as are the homes of a score of other people.
"Is it a direct route from the street supervisor's home to the center of the city?"
It is and also the most direct route for the majority of the residents of the Eighth ward.
"How much gravel was put on this road?"
Approximately 1000 loads.
"How much did Logan City pay for it?"
About \$150.
"Has as much gravel been put on any other street in the city? On any two streets. On any three streets?"
There are a score of streets in Logan where more than that amount has been expended in recent years. Within the last year and a half there has been expended on First East street, four times that amount. On two blocks of First East street there was expended this spring nearly twice that amount and yet the Eighth ward street is more than three blocks long. On Sixth East there was expended recently a great deal more than the amount expended in the Eighth ward, and the same is true of East Third South street, yet there was never a word said about those expenditures. There are a great many other streets in the city that might be named. If need be, where two, three and four times the amount spent on the Eighth ward road has been spent.
"Was there any gravel put on the sidewalk?"
There was not. There is no sidewalk in the street until it reaches the property of Mr. John Johnson, and not a pound of gravel as far as I know has been placed on the walks. People there are now hauling the gravel on the walks themselves.
"Was the gravel put on there, a crying nec-

essity as compared with other streets?"
It certainly was. My attention was called to the fact last summer that as soon as irrigation was commenced in that ward water stood above the road to a depth of four inches in at least three places, for days at a time, making foot passage impossible.

"What did the street supervisor give as a reason for doing so much work on this street?"
He gave no reason. He was not required to give a reason for doing work that I directed him to do. I gave the order to do that work because I thought it was needed, and because I am of the opinion that some of the outlying districts of the city should have some attention as well as the central part of town. The people affected live in a new ward and are trying to build it up and beautify it, and when appealed to by them to render some encouragement by making it possible for them to travel the principal street of the ward, I gladly did so and ordered expended the small amount of \$150. Then every knocker in the city got out his hammer and went to work. Four thousand loads of gravel on First East was nothing, but one thousand loads on Second North to help a new and struggling community—that is a crime according to the Republican and some of the gentlemen who have been so industrious, conversationally, over this matter that they could not stay within the limits of the truth at all.

I have absolutely no apology to make to any one for my action in this matter. The road was in a very bad state. I ordered it repaired and did what I considered a fairly good job before leaving the street. I used the best judgment that I possessed, and therefore have no excuses to make. PETER C. NELSON.

In the first place we desire to congratulate the Commissioner for replying, still at the same time we think he would have measured up more nearly to the stature of a commissioner had he tendered his reply where the questions were asked.

In the second place in the matter of the alleged private road where he says this paper "at one time declared it to be a private right-of-way" and then retracted the statement in the next issue" we most respectfully demur. We never said it was a private right-of-way, and if Mr. Nelson will read our article he will find it says in plain English "an alleged private road." It will not take us long to produce the evidence that there were many allegations of this character, some of them being made in public places. As soon as we found the allegations were not warranted we withdrew them, as we had no desire to do injustice even in the matter of allegations made by those who were in a position to know.

In the third place the commissioner says: "At first it made the charge that I had ordered a private road repaired with city funds, etc." Now Mr. Nelson, you have taken high grounds in your article. You speak of being put in a "false light" and of not being "fairly dealt with, etc." Will you now kindly come forward and say wherein we ever made any charges against you? We published the statement that this road in question was alleged to be a private road, and you knew that some of the best citizens in this city were of the opinion that it was a private road, and even you did not know that it was a public road when you ordered the gravel hauled there, did you? We did not charge that it was so, and we made no charges whatsoever against you. Now you know what it is to bear false witness, and as a leading light in the community will you please correct yourself, or be kind enough to give us chapter and verse?

In the fourth place the charge that this paper was in a plot to misrepresent Mr. Nelson is as void of foundation as his wild, false, and apparently malicious statements above mentioned. The idea of a newspaper entering into a plot to misrepresent Commissioner Nelson. That is entirely unnecessary as conditions represented by facts are sufficient to cause tax payers to sit up and take notice. But now to his answers to the questions:

Number one. We are glad to know the location of the much talked of road.
Number two. Citizens in general will note that the Commissioner says that the street supervisor's home is located on this street.
Number three. Citizens will also note that the said road is in a direct route from the street supervisor's home to the center of the city.
Number four. Citizens will no doubt be glad to congratulate the residents of this section on their good fortune in getting 1000 loads of gravel hauled on this road.
Number five. \$150 is not a high price to pay for your own gravel.
Number six. Note this foxy, evasive answer. See how nicely the commissioner confuses the amount of gravel put on this road in question, with funds expended in other localities. However, the answer gives some good information. He might have meant Main street too.
Number seven. Note that he says in effect—no gravel was put on the sidewalk because there is no sidewalk. Clever isn't it?
Number eight. We think with the commissioner that under such conditions the gravel was a "crying necessity."
Number nine. Oh that personal pronoun "I." "The king can do no wrong." "He gave no reason. He was not required to give a reason for doing work that I directed him to do." Great, isn't it. The statement that has been going the rounds for weeks to the effect that when asked why he was diverting all the gravel in this locality the road supervisor replied: "this is the only opportunity I have had and will perhaps never get another," falls weak and lifeless beside that monstrous personal pronoun I, and we are all humbled and subdued. Of course we are all glad to have the commissioner throw a few bouquets at the people of the Eighth ward. This may help him in the next election, therefore we have no objection to his playing to the galleries in this matter. Further, no citizen of Logan will begrudge the good people of this ward in getting their just dues.
The commissioner's statement that "to help a new and struggling community is a crime according to the republican," is as false as some of his other statements, but if he has to resort to the falsehood route to bolster up his own record we

suppose he will have to go to the end of the rope at least.

Mr. Nelson assumes that every citizen who dared raise his voice in opposition to his official acts is a "knocker." He says "every knocker in the city got out his hammer and went to work." Personally we have known Mr. Nelson a long time, and have always held him in high esteem, but we want to say right here that some of his official acts have met with our displeasure and in voicing that we suppose we must be characterized a "knocker." We have heard men in public places take exceptions to some of his acts, and according to his edict we suppose they are "knockers." We have heard some of the best citizens in the community take exceptions to some of his official acts, and presume they must be characterized as "knockers." Again, "the king can do no wrong," and if you do not want to be called a "knocker" do not disagree with the king.

Mr. Nelson is a very fine gentleman, but he must learn to grant others the privilege of thinking for themselves, and the right to express their thoughts. Because he is in public life he ought not to feel that he has a mortgage on the thoughts and opinions of the people. In fact as a servant of the people he should take their criticism kindly and if the criticism is good use it to the advantage of the people, and if not good discard it. Because a citizen sees fit to disagree with His Honor, said citizen ought not to be characterized a "knocker" as Mr. Nelson apparently believes. And because a newspaper sees fit to take up these matters of public interest Mr. Nelson ought not to step into the role of the fabricator, the falsifier, in other words he ought not to stretch the truth. Having sought the office he should take the criticism along with the commendation and use them all to the best interests of the city. Above all Mr. Nelson should become converted to the fact that even he can make mistakes.

Now for a new one. Citizens are alive to the fact that the present street supervisor is paid the sum of \$1200 per annum, this being \$300 per annum more than any other street supervisor has ever been paid, the previous salary being \$900. In the city of Provo the street supervisor is paid the sum of \$840 per annum, \$360 per year less than in our city, which would make a saving of \$720 to the city for the term of Mr. Nelson's office in case the same rate prevailed in Logan. It appears to have been the custom heretofore for the street supervisor to have a team on the city pay roll, and it has been

stated, and in public places too, that when the present salary was fixed and the present street supervisor employed it was the understanding that he should not have his team on the streets, but that this privilege should be given to some citizen. It has been further stated, and in public places too, that this has not been the case, that the street supervisor's team has been almost constantly in use, and that when there is but one team in use it is almost invariably the street supervisor's.

Again, this office was called a few days ago and received the report that the street supervisor's team was in use hauling debris and rubbish from private property, apparently at the expense of the city. It was not easy for us to investigate the matter as both the street supervisor and commissioner appeared to be in a high state of excitement, and as we do not happen to stand in with them we could not hope for satisfaction even in their normal temperature. We do not know as to actual conditions in this matter, but the source of the information was thoroughly reliable, the gentleman was not a "knocker," but on the other hand was a good citizen, and one who has spent a great deal of money in this community.

Finally in these matters Mr. Nelson may be acting just as a large number of citizens want him to act. They may want the street supervisor to be favored. They may approve of all that has been done, in which case Commissioner Nelson is vindicated, and as he says "has no apology to make." On the other hand there are those who think otherwise. Those who think prosperity should be passed around" and if the street supervisor is given \$300 per year to keep his team off the street it should be done, and the work given to some other citizen. There are hundreds who have expressions of dissatisfaction at the official acts of these gentlemen and they feel like expressing them, notwithstanding the fact that it ruffles the feelings of Mr. Nelson and Mr. Johnson.

The questions and the answers are now before the people, where they belong, and the people will be their own judges in the matter. And if we have done nothing more we have got the matter where all can read and know the facts in the case. We have also got this private road matter settled, a matter that even Commissioner Nelson would not investigate until he was forced to.

By the way, we note some activity in the matter of leveling and filling up the rocks on the streets. Congratulations boys; but don't forget to remove the rocks.

WILSON WILL NOT INTERFERE

In Pending California Legislation to Prevent Aliens Holding Land

Washington, April 9.—President Wilson let it be known today that the federal government would not interfere with pending legislation in California by which aliens who have not declared their intention of becoming naturalized as American citizens are prohibited from owning land or property. He communicated this decision formally to Representative Raker.

Though the measure is aimed primarily at the Japanese, the fact that it makes no discrimination of race in its contents, as well as the desire to the president not to interfere with the sovereignty of the state, has precluded any action by the federal government at this time.

The president was told by Mr. Baker that the people of California would enact the law through the initiative and referendum if the legislature refused. He declared the sentiment was five to one in favor of the law.

The president's position had been merely that of an inquirer for information, following protests by the Japanese government.

Representative Raker had shown the president a telegram from J. B. Sanford, a leader in the senate of California, requesting that the fed-

eral government should not interfere with local affairs. The president's decision today, Mr. Raker said, would find approval in California.

President Wilson told Mr. Raker the whole question touched the sovereignty of the state and that he left it to California to make such laws as it deemed advisable for itself with the hope, however, that no law would be passed which was in conflict with any treaty obligation of the federal government. It is believed that the protest of the Japanese government will be held in the state department until the legislation is actually passed.

Don't let the baby suffer from eczema, sores or any itching of the skin. Doan's Ointment gives instant relief, cures quickly. Perfectly safe for children. All druggists sell it—Advertisement.

Scientific Fact Established. A number of rabbits upon whom coffee was tried to determine the effect of the caffeine it contained died, proving beyond a doubt that coffee never was intended as food for rabbits.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Who is She? We are willing to admit that chrysanthemums were never more beautiful than now. Even a head of cabbage would be beautiful if a pretty girl wore it for a bouquet.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The services for the third Sunday after Easter will be morning prayer and sermon at 11 o'clock and evening prayer and sermon at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

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5 NICELY FURNISHED ROOMS for light housekeeping; also good clean beds, 35c, 50c and 75c, at Logan Hotel, 56 East Center. tf

STEWART ADDITION TO RIVER HEIGHTS. Some times in April beautiful building lots will be offered for sale at from \$150.00 to \$250.00 each on River Heights Boulevard. The location is ideal and those buying lots should see these before purchasing elsewhere. tf



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