

## STRAIGHT TALK

This phony race horse business where the "poor innocent victim" is taken for anything from a thousand to fifty thousand "grand," to borrow the language of the trimmers ("grand" meaning a thousand dollars), is becoming more laughable every day. For the past six months the "poor deluded farmers" who are trying to get something for nothing, have been systematically fleeced here, and that those who took them for their money have not been apprehended is the fault directly of the police department, for those in the business have been well known to certain branches of the service and not only that but the writer personally has seen plain clothes men consorting in the friendliest manner with those who make a business of tripping the unwary.

They have known the "tailors" and had full knowledge of where they kept their "stores" and have done absolutely nothing in the matter but assume a pseudo zeal in searching the city for those who have separated the farmers from their coin, when it would have been an easy matter to arrest half a dozen of them in a walk from South Temple to Fourth South. And in this connection we are free to state that we have little sympathy for the victims, for there hasn't been a big race-horse game pulled off in which the men who bet the money did not do so under the impression they were skinning somebody else.

Not two per cent of the victims of the grifters bet their money except in the knowledge that they were going to make a killing because somebody else was being fleeced, and for that reason their dishonesty is pretty nearly on a par with that of those who interested them in the proposition. We are not for one minute defending the grifters who have gotten so fat during the season of heavy travel, but it is difficult to distinguish between them and the men who put up their money on a certainty that some other unfortunate is to lose his.

It is all very bad business, but the squeal of the sucker in such instances makes little appeal to the honest men who hear it, though the fact remains that certain members of the police department are willfully lax in doing anything to rid the city of such people.

The performance at the Farmers & Stockgrowers bank was enough in itself to prove that between the crooks and certain members of the police department, the victim hasn't got a Chinaman's chance.

The arrest at the Hotel Utah on Tuesday of C. C. Broadwater, one of the most prominent mill men in the country who built the flotation mill at Park City, together with C. W. Merrill and M. Kurylas, California capitalists, is just one example of the incompetency that distinguishes the plain clothes force. On an identification by James Tiedehope who seemingly was willing to identify almost anyone as one of the parties who swindled him, Bert Seager and Harlow D. Lyon arrested the above gentlemen, guests at the Utah, in a way that should mean immediate dismissal if we had anything like a police department here. The gentlemen arrested asked to speak to Mr. Relf, which should have been enough for any intelligent officer. Another asked that he be allowed to get his overcoat and was told that it would be warm enough for him where he was going. As soon as the three men arrived at the station and established their identity, they were immediately released.

It was one of the biggest bonehead plays of the many of which the department has been guilty since B. F. Grant was made chief of police and the absurdity as well as the seriousness of it is all the more apparent when one realizes how the con men known to the police have flourished for the past six months, though the majority of them have

seen fit to leave town since Mont Ferry was elected.

The department as a whole and individually, with a very few exceptions, is a disgrace to the city and in view of what is constantly transpiring, we think it is up to the present administration to redeem itself in a measure for (to put it mildly), the mistakes it has made, by beginning the house-cleaning without waiting for the installation of the new officers who will take office the first of the year.

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City Attorney Dinny, Chief of Police Grant and others have been very busy explaining how the municipal authorities are hampered by the state law in their efforts to prosecute speed maniacs who drive automobiles and motorcycles. A careful perusal of the laws of Utah of 1915, Chapter 80, relating to motor vehicles and chauffeurs, proves that Mr. Dinny's statements vary somewhat from the truth and that Mr. Grant is derelict in his duties. The law in this particular was patterned after the laws in force in a large number of states, and its speed and penalty provisions bore the written O. K. of the city attorney, the state engineer, the assistant secretary of state and Mr. Browning of Carbon county, who introduced the bill before it was presented for final passage.

Section 8 of the chapter reads: "No person shall operate a motor vehicle or motorcycle upon any public street or highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and safe, having due regard for the width, grade, character, traffic, and common use of such street or highway; or so as to endanger life, limb or property in any respect whatever."

In the statements quoting the state law, the latter part of this section has been omitted, the part which puts the entire burden on the driver and nobody else. In regard to the penalty imposed, section 19 reads: "Any person violating

any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten days nor more than three months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

"If any such person be convicted the second time for violation of any of the provisions of this act, the secretary of state shall revoke the license of such person."

That is the key to the enforcement of the act, and the truth of the matter is that had the police made it their business to enforce this act, and convicted one or more speed maniacs the second time, thereby causing them to forfeit their license, the law would then automatically enforce itself.

There has never been better regulation of traffic in the city of Ogden than since the law went into effect and the same is true in the cities of such states as have a similar law, where there are efficient police departments.

There is nothing that prevents the city authorities from prosecuting such careless drivers as have been responsible for the lamentable accidents which have recently occurred, and on the contrary, the law provides every means for curing the evil. The city would be much better off if its authorities would spend more time enforcing the laws and not so much in a futile effort to perennially explain why they aren't on the job.

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If the American producer and the foreign producer should both be assured that free trade would be the permanent policy of the United States, one of two things would happen—either the American workman would come very close to the foreign standard of wages and living, or he would cease to produce articles which can be produced by foreigners. Fortunately, both Americans and foreigners know that free trade is only

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