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The Path of Duty

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATURE:

You have the opportunity, if you have the strength, to do Utah much service, and to make great names for yourselves. In his inaugural address, Governor Spry expressed a hope that there would be a drawing together of the people, closer friendships, closer business relations, and the doing away of much bitterness which exists in this State. It is not necessary to dwell upon what has made any trouble here, it is not necessary to more than repeat that if there had not been any disposition to ignore laws which interfered with the practices and pretensions of certain men, there would never have been any trouble here.

Now, you are legislators, under oath to do the best you can for Utah, which includes the enforcement of the laws, which includes the passage of no sinister laws to cripple progress, which includes all the elements which go to make up the well-being of the State. Certain measures are proposed which are sinister in their character, and which are intended not to promote peace and prosperity, but to satisfy partly the spleen and partly the disposition to graft on the part of those pushing those measures. Now, if you have the strength, when any measure comes before you to ask yourselves, is this a measure which an honest business man would indorse? Is it a measure which would be considered except from the source that it comes from? the answer will help you in reaching a conclusion. You will have very many petitions showered upon you asking you to do certain things. Every one of you know how those petitions are obtained, and it is your duty, in our judgment, under your oath, to ask whether if the petition were granted, it would produce anything which a level-headed business man would indorse.

That is, as legislators, we are asking you to be real legislators, to use your own best judgment, and to do what you in your hearts think is right.

If you do that, there will be no menace in what you do to any legitimate interests in this State, there will be no opportunity to say of you that what you did was under compulsion or because of a superstitious fear. That is, we are asking you to be men, indeed, and appreciating the office you hold, to determine to fulfill your duties according to your own best judgment. Is this an unreasonable request? If you do that, then you will be acting out the spirit of the Governor's inaugural, you will be giving confidence to people who are in doubt, you will be giving people a hope that the uncertainties which have vexed people here for years will pass away, and that Utah some time will become in truth, a real American State.

And in the questions that come before you, we venture to suggest that you forget whether this is going to be a special benefit or a special injury to any portion of the State, and to keep in mind that what affects any one place in Utah, affects it all; and anything that breaks down the prosperity of one place, injures all the rest.

The members of the dominant church have declared, by voice and through their press, that the people of Utah are absolutely free, that there is no interference in their politics, that every man has a right to think what he pleases and to vote as he pleases. We suggest that you take this author-

ity as true, and that you act accordingly, so that when you go home in the spring you will carry with you at least the consciousness that if you have made any mistakes, they were honest mistakes; that with all your hearts and souls you tried to serve the State, and to honor, so far as it was in your power, the office to which the people elected you.

Science and Heroic Men

THE GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY gave its annual dinner in Washington last month, which was attended by great men in all walks of life, but the feature of the evening was the American navy, past and present, and in the different speeches signal acts of heroism were recalled and just tributes paid to heroes.

But we can recall nothing in the history of our naval service, or in the service of the merchant marine, that shows more genuine, unselfish and devoted heroism than was the part played by Captain Sealby and the mate Williams of the steamer Republic, last Saturday and Sunday.

They had no hope of saving the ship, at least the captain had not, but they would not desert it. So when the fatally wounded steamer was taken in tow and started slowly, in the hope of reaching some port, this captain and this mate took their places on the bridge, and remained there until it was clear that the ship was going down. Then the captain fired his pistol to notify the steamers that were towing him to cut their cables, which they did, and together those two devoted men went down with the ship. As they came up out of the whirlpool, each caught some floating piece of drift and was eventually picked up.

But we can imagine no more severe test of the invincible courage of two men than was exhibited by those two when they remained on the abandoned ship and stood on the bridge until the ship was engulfed. It is no wonder that the people went wild when they reached New York. And the character of the captain can be understood by the mate's description that when utterly exhausted he was lifted into a boat, he lay sometime to gain a little strength and then throwing his arms around his mate, he said, "You were game to the last." Those are the kind of men that are a glory to a nation.

The rule is that when a captain loses a ship, no matter under what circumstances, he is deprived thereafter of command on the score that he is unlucky, but we think people who go down to the sea in ships would prefer to have a captain like that, to one who had never been tried, and he ought to have command of the best ship that the company owns.

Then the wonderful wireless came in for its part of the glory. Had the accident happened ten years sooner a few might have escaped in the boats, and they might have been simply saved from the sinking ship to be overwhelmed by the storm following. But the wireless made everything clear; nothing was ever recorded more splendid. The fog enveloped the ship when from off that wounded ship the message went out into the air that the ship was in distress, and here, there, everywhere on the face of the deep, the message found places to be delivered and those great steamers, answering back, "We are coming," turned out of their courses to find, if possible, in

the deepening fog, the vessel that was in distress.

It was altogether superb, the ships of half a dozen nations vied with each other to go to the rescue, because to them had come a voice like the voice of fate itself, that a sister ship was in trouble and that hundreds of lives were in danger, and so, without any guide except a guess, they all rushed to the rescue.

It was splendid in the way of science, it was splendid in the way the humanity of men was shown, and yet it was natural. Those men face the storms and the fog; those men that go down to the sea in ships know the peril that surrounds them every moment, and while most of them escape scathless, once in a while one is caught and struck; and this ship that was sunk was on its regular course when another ship thirty miles out of its course stole up in the fog and crushed its beak into the beam of the Republic.

And it was all fate. Had the blow been forty feet further aft, or forty feet further forward, the ship would have made port under her own steam. As it was, it crashed into the apartment where the engines are, in a few minutes the engine room was flooded and the ship lay helpless as a log on the sea.

And still out of it all, because of the wireless, every life was saved and brought to port safely. Nothing so magnificent was ever seen before, in no way has the genius of man ever devised anything so grand. The fog could not stop the messages, the winds and the storms could not stop the messages, old ocean was helpless to interpose and those messages that went out into the viewless air on routes of their own, found an answer which was like the answer to prayer.

There is nothing more splendid on earth than a palatial steamer except when aboard that steamer there is an apparatus that can notify all the surrounding space of its presence, or of its sorrows, and nothing else half so splendid as to find a man in charge of a craft of that kind who holds his life as nothing in the interest of his ship, his passengers and his company.

What It All Means

SOME REFLECTIONS which it might be good for our Legislature to consider are in The Argonaut of San Francisco; that is, if our Legislature was made of free agents, men who are not agents of a higher power, which in the name of the Lord, makes monkeys of them. The Argonaut, after discussing New York horse racing and declaring that the just way is not to destroy an innocent sport because some unscrupulous men have perverted it, but rather to go after the men, says:

"The doctrine of laissez faire is not a popular one just now, when there is a perfect mania for law making and for wrapping the nation in the swaddling clothes of prohibition. But we shall reach that point presently, and then our legislatures will usefully spend their time in repealing instead of enacting, as most European legislatures have been doing so for some time past. Then we shall stand a chance to grow wise by experience and to learn discrimination by practice. Then we shall realize that when we make a new law, we make a new kind of law-breaker, and new temptations to perjury, bribery and general iniquity. The passing of a law should be among the momentous events of a nation's life.