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Vote For The Capital

THE people of Utah are called upon to go to the polls next Tuesday and vote yes or no on the proposition to amend the constitution so that by a petty increase in taxation the beginning of the building of a state capitol can be made, and as rapidly as possible, completed.

There is no doubt about the need of the capitol. There is no debate on that question. Next the cost provided in the way designated, would not work a hardship on any property owner in the state. The practical benefit that would result is not questioned.

The only objection that has so far been urged, is that it is to be located at Salt Lake, and that objection merely gives voice to the feeling which some people in this state entertain toward this city. And they cannot give a reasonable reason for their spite to save their lives.

The one urged is that Salt Lake is always asking something from the state. That has no foundation in fact, for measured by the taxes paid, the state outside of this city has been debtor to this city for years. And if the capitol is voted for, Salt Lake will bear much more than half the cost, and when completed the structure will not belong to this city, but to this state. Every county sends its representatives here, and when they come they will have their places in that same structure of right for it will be state's property.

The above is the practical side of the question. There is another side to it. When built it will occupy one of the most commanding sites in Utah. No other state in the Union will have anything to compare with it.

If built on enlightened lines, it will be one of the most striking structures in all this world, and will be such an advertisement for Utah as no other state can boast. But there is yet another side to the question.

The young men of this state need just such an object lesson, and those from the country need it more than those in this city.

When one of them aspires to become a member of the legislature or governor, one of his first thoughts will be that if successful he will have an official home in that structure, and that will spur him to greater endeavor to be worthy of the place.

And when built the capitol must fill the ideas of those whose homes are in Utah. It must be worthy the state and the age.

And when any candid man looks upon the matter from all points of view, it seems to us that the vote for it must be practically unanimous.

Those Prudes for Party Purposes

THE furious onslaught on the red light district, in some cases is to make one laugh.

The anathemas of the Smoot organ show that, with the experience of last year, remembering how its spell of prohibition rables was cured, Belle London is not very shrewd after all, else she would long ago have sent a season ticket with all the privileges included to the editor of that sheet.

The case of the News is quiet as sinister considering that it for more than fifty years saw another red-light district grow up here, in the heart of the city, when the church of which it is

supposed to be the organ, was in full control, and never thought the business needed so much as one protest from its versatile pen. It went still further. When some of the holy elders hired houses in the residence district and fully equipped them, the News, at least by its silence, approved of the startling innovation. It was doubtless one of these occasions when the News decided that the emergency made it necessary for the church to interfere in the government of the state.

But there is a question which neither of the above salient journals have ventured an opinion on.

If they are able to succeed in their crusade, then it will be discovered that the evil has not been stamped out, but it will be scattered all over the city. The effort was made long ago when the city was but a village to do what the News and the Smoot organ are just now so furious to have done. It was made by a sincere Mormon friend. He called in a bunch of policemen and asked them if the evil had not been killed and they assured him it had been scattered from Fort Douglas to the Jordan. There are some things which a city ordinance cannot kill.

Strong Drink and the Anglo-Saxon

SOMETIME in the fourth century B. C., Pythias went up from Massilia (now Marseilles), to the north of France, crossed over and explored a part of what is now England. He described it as in great part woods and swamps, but with open spaces where sheep and cattle were kept and where he also saw wheat growing. He remarked, incidentally, that "the natives made intoxicating drinks out of corn and honey."

That was three hundred years before Caesar invaded the country. More than twenty-two hundred years ago, but "the rude forefathers" had learned the art of making out of wheat and honey something that would set them on fire. It was doubtless a tougher compound than the moonshiners manufacture now in eastern Kentucky, but it was the best they had. And it is curious to note that during all the ebb and flow of the centuries, the men of England have never given up that beverage. They have improved upon it, but have never abandoned it. During a great portion of that time they have been at war, either among themselves or with outside enemies; they have advanced until the sun never sets upon their flag, but everywhere on sea and on land they have clung to that beverage which both cheers and intoxicates. And they are not light drinkers. In that damp climate, they neutralize the moisture on the outside with what they take within, and they used it steadily while they emerged from semi-barbarism, up through the force which enabled them to subdue themselves while they were subduing the world, until they were the foremost of the world's powers. And their constitutions were never weakened by it. Everywhere on every field they have borne themselves with the old-time British valor.

We mention this to remind advocates of strict prohibition, how fixed is the habit of taking something for the stomach's sake, upon the Anglo-Saxon. The Saxons brought over their beer which the Britons took to kindly, but at the same time

the Saxons took to the stronger beverage, until now both the beer and the whiskey are favorites, and many a one will explain after six or seven whiskeys there is nothing that will neutralize its effects like a chaser of beer. In all these years we suspect the English people have spent vastly more for whiskey and beer than upon both their army and navy, and could they give up their drink habit tomorrow, their savings from this source alone would, in twenty years, buy everyone of them a farm in Africa, Canada or Australia and fit it for a comfortable home. Well, it only shows that the problem of how to wean such a people away from a habit that has been bred into them through more than sixty generations of ancestors is no easy one. And Americans have inherited that habit. We do not believe they can be cured by statutes. It will have to come by organizing societies and appealing to men's better natures. France and Germany have reduced the consumption of strong liquors by substituting wine and beer and that seems as a palliative, but not a cure. Who shall name the process through which it can be reached?

It Is Still Perfect

PEARSON'S MONTHLY tells that it was an old custom to always put a coin under the mast of a ship, it ought to be gold or if that could not be had silver would do, and then relates how in Liverpool some years back a derelict Yankee schooner, bought for a song, yielded a 1894 dollar, the rarest and most eagerly sought after of American coins. It was sold readily for \$6,000 and would be worth today at least double that sum, because it says, "It was in perfect preservation."

That is a characteristic of silver coins. When Abraham wanted a burial place for his wife he bought a tract of land and paid for it in a certain number of pieces of silver. That was before the days of coinage and it was the custom to have silver of a certain width and thickness, but cut different lengths, and those pieces represented so much property.

Now if one of those pieces could be recovered it would be like that coin found under the mast of the schooner—in perfect condition, because away back in the time before history began to make its records, men found out certain facts about gold and silver. One was that they were indestructible; another was that they were malleable; another was that they had lustre which neither the fire nor the damp could dim. The only difference between the two, except in color, is gold has more density than silver.

And those old chaps also discovered that when the furniture in their caves burned up, the silver and the gold were neither of them consumed. They noticed another thing, that they were both hard to get, and still a farther fact, that while their wild grain and their animal food were all consumed in the year in which they were produced, these two metals remained intact, and they found that men after a little were willing to work for them or to take either of them in payment, and so, insensibly, they became measures of value—so much silver or so much gold could buy a sheep or an ox or anything else that men had for sale.