

THE HERALD.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SATURDAY, December 6, 1890

THE DAILY HERALD is published every morning, Mondays excepted, at THE HERALD Block, corner West Temple and First South streets, Salt Lake City, by THE HERALD COMPANY.

Subscription price, in advance, \$10.00 per annum, post paid.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY HERALD is published every Wednesday and Saturday morning. Price, in advance, \$6.00 per year; six months, \$3.75, post paid.

THE SUNDAY HERALD is published every Sunday morning. Price, in advance, \$5.00 per annum, post paid.

Subscribers will confer a favor by forwarding information to this office when their papers are not promptly received. This will aid us to determine where the fault lies.

All communications should be addressed to THE HERALD, Salt Lake City, Utah.

CITY DELIVERY: By the year (Invariably in advance) \$10.00; By the month, \$1.00; By the week, \$0.35.

J. T. DENBAR & CO., Circulators.

Articles removed from one place to another, and leaving papers changed, should always give former address.

Entered at the Postoffice at Salt Lake City, Utah, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

CENSORSHIP UNNECESSARY.

The peculiar action on the part of Judge ZANE yesterday, when he called the newspaper reporters before him, and dictated just what they should or should not publish, was both a surprise and a pain to us.

He did presume however, to dictate the policy of the Salt Lake newspapers; to say what they should publish, how and when it should be given to the world.

His honor asserted that the newspaper reports "seemed to be an attempt to influence the persons who might be called as jurors," and intimated that "some courts might handle a reporter very severely for attempting to interfere with the administration of justice."

Whether the reporters deserved life imprisonment or only six months, for the heinous crime of informing the public of the bare facts in the case—that Miss OLSON shot Mr. HALL and the reason she gave for doing so—his honor did not state.

We merely ask the public to read the statement of facts in yesterday's HERALD and then to read the words addressed by his honor to Mr. IVINS, THE HERALD reporter, in order that the public generally may decide whether it was this paper or the judge himself that was outside of the path of duty in this matter.

"While a case is on trial," says his honor, "the facts of the case are not to be stated."

What is to be stated, then? Shall the reporters state their conjectures; or the surmises of others; or matters of evidence? If not the facts, then what shall they publish? If we understand his honor aright, the papers yesterday morning should have said only, "The People vs. Amanda Olson," and not a word in addition to that.

That such a restriction of the press would be both foolish and unusual, is a well-known fact; and we trust that conscientious and unsuspecting reporters will not in the future be suddenly dragged before his honor and threatened with punishment for doing what is done without fear or restraint in every other part of this country; that is, publishing the facts in a case on trial in which there is great public interest.

We agree with his honor that nothing which shall influence the jury should be published; but if a bare and brief statement of the facts does influence the public mind, we contend that in such a case there is no help for it. The reporters are not responsible for the facts; they must state them with exactness, no matter if the facts are or seem to be prejudicial to the interests of any one; for in this case it is the fact that is prejudicial and not the mere publication of it.

"There is a shortage in the city recorder's office."

"Have the investigations made public, gentlemen."

A HINT from the bench to newspaper reporters would be all that is necessary; threats of punishment for an indefinable "offense" are in bad taste.

HE APPLAUDS.

Of course the sick Liberal candidate, whose party repudiated him, applauds ANDERSON'S infamous decision that Mormons cannot become citizens because some of their friends once practiced polygamy and were punished for doing so.

He calls the Mormons base-born creatures, secure in his knowledge that the Mormons will let him alone, and then talks of the danger he has been in among the Mormons.

He says the Mormons are "bound to obey" whatever their "priests" tell them to do, especially in the matter of voting; and a short time since he boasted of the numbers of Mormons that he said had voted the Liberal ticket.

But we should think he would hesitate to talk about "sworn allegiance," in view of the fact that so many of his own party are "oath-bound" members of secret societies, the oaths of some of them said to be frightful in the extreme.

We shall say something of ANDERSON'S latest decision to-morrow.

A SHORTAGE.

As so "there is a shortage in the city recorder's office," is there? And the Tribune understands "that investigations are being had to unearth the cause of trouble."

Moreover, it gives this bit of advice to the city council: "Have the investigations public, gentlemen." This little editorial of a dozen lines, which contains several distinct indictments of its party closes with the following grotesque protestation: "The straight business is what the Liberal party wants."

Tell it softly, neighbor; you must have known the facts for weeks, why did you suppress them?

But the public will want to know what the members of the city council are doing. For weeks the facts about this "shortage" have been staring them in the face. No body has been indicted for stealing the city's funds. Was the council willing to pass this criminal default in silence, if the newspapers had not found it out?

What are HALL and IVINS doing in the council? Why is PAYSON silent? Their friends expect them to hold "that council of ours" level. Are they afraid to do so? They have the reputation of being honest and fearless men; what has come over them? They should withstand the schemes for the wasteful expenditure of the city's funds; they should guard the interests of the people and bring to justice the plunderers of the city treasury.

Public measures are rushed through without the semblance of debate, and those who should be able to investigate and condemn them are apparently afraid or unwilling to do so. We say that not only in the present case but in general, people are beginning to wonder what they elected some of our councilors for.

WHO WILL RULE?

When in 1888 the Republican party obtained a bare majority of 325 in the House, which consisted of 325 members, this majority was treated by the party in power as an absolute guarantee for the nation that the Republicans were the people.

Then began proceedings, the like of which were never known before. Democrat after Democrat was unseated in favor of a Republican contestant. No precedents were adhered to; no rights of the minority were not even considered.

Finding it difficult to proceed rapidly with the partisan measures under consideration, new rules were adopted in defiance of the spirit of a republican government, and at utter variance with the genius of American ideas.

The right of free speech was denied in the House of Representatives, and the presiding officer boasted that the House was no longer a deliberative body. Debate on the McKINLEY bill as it finally came from the Senate was limited to two hours, a time during which it is barely possible to read the text of the measure.

The majority knew no limit or moderation, and decided that a majority of those voting could decide a measure, provided that a quorum was present at the time the vote was taken.

Thus, if two members voted for and one against a measure, the others not voting, the bill would pass. The majority did not need its own majority present to pass a measure; if there were only one more Republican present than the number of Democrats present, out of a total of 163, then the 82 Republicans present could pass the bill.

Therefore a bill would become law by the affirmative vote of one member more than one-fourth of the total membership in the House, even if all present took part in the proceedings.

Then was brought up a bill intended to perpetuate the rule of the party in power, and Democrats were insidiously informed that the vote of the people that had given the Republicans a beggarly majority of three, was a demonstration that the people had forever decided in favor of Republican rule.

The bill was rushed through the House and is now pending in the Senate. It is little wonder, then, that the sovereign people repudiated by their vote the party in power, and elected a Democratic majority of nearly one hundred and sixty—a majority unprecedented in our history—as an emphatic rebuke of the revolutionary methods of the Republican party.

And there is good reason to believe that the Republican defeat was not given for the purpose of reforming but of destroying the party. The party, its methods and false economic theories, are now discredited by the large majority of the electors of this nation, whose will is supposed to be law.

The party cannot be trusted to deal with the tariff, with reciprocity, with elections, with the revenues. It has failed in its treatment of every present national issue.

But the party leaders have learned nothing from their defeat, not even that self-evident fact that the people are their masters, and returning to the legislative body in which the people no longer want them, they now attempt to reverse the will of the sovereign people by pushing to a speedy accomplishment the bill to disfranchise Democratic voters.

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