DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature to amend in some important particulars the present law on the fire and police departments in cities. Under this law the departments are non-partisan, and in this regard there has been little to complain of in the administration of the statute. The boards of commissioners have conducted affairs in such manner as to prove beyond doubt the superiority of the main feature of the law. In some respects the statute is deficient, and has caused some ridiculous transactions and miscarriages of justice. Notably is this the case in the discretion it allows the heads of departments, who have been unnecessarily hampered. These defects are of an important character, and the new bill is intended to remedy them.

It is a matter of congratulation to the people of the State that Governor Wells recognized the marked improvement to be secured in certain directions by these non-partisan, or at least bi-partisan, commissions; and his recommendation that they be extended to other divisions of administrative government that are always impaired by partisan control should receive the support of the legislators regardless of party. The Governor's view should obtain emphatic endorsement by maintaining non-partisanship in its best form in police and fire departments.

As to the special features of the bill not introduced, there is no occasion for discussing them now, since their main idea is all right and the form of their presentation may undergo revision in committee, where the bill has been referred. If any essential point should escape the attention of the committee it will be time to notice it when the bill is reported; and public interest requires a favorable report at an early day.

We are aware that there is to be an attempt to get the present non-partisan fire and police law repealed, and substitute therefor a partisan board, made up of mayor and city council, or in some other way. We are also fully aware of the motive for such attempt, that—it is adverse to the best interests of the public. It is a plot against the welfare of the respectable and law abiding element of the community, and should receive the treatment all such schemes deserve. Its success would mean the placing in power in some of the larger cities of Utah a gang whose administration would bring lasting disgrace on the State. As much as believe it will meet the opposition of a great majority of the legislators; and those who support a measure so evil in its purpose, if there be any, should be held in constant remembrance by the voters in case occasion should arise in the future to pass upon them.

At its inception the NEWS was outspoken in favor of the non-partisan law for fire and police divisions. In some respects we have not been pleased with the effect given the law, but in the main it has been demonstrated to be a wise and beneficent provision which should be kept in force, and as such we advocate it. We may add that we also approve the suggestion that further steps in non-partisanship be taken, as to boards of equalization, etc. But whether or not this is done by the present Legislature, the State cannot afford to take the retrograde step of repealing the non-partisan fire and police commission law. For the sake of the efficient service which should be given the citizens in the important matters of fire and police protection, there should be no retreat from the advanced position assumed on this matter by the last Legislature.

BROWNING'S TRIUMPH.

The NEWS has made several references to the achievements of Mr. John M. Browning, of Ogden, holding that he is away ahead of any other inventor now prominently before the public in the matter of producing effective firearms. The highest confirmation of the claim comes now in the government award in behalf of Mr. Browning's "Peacemaker," which is without doubt the most effective death-dealing weapon of its class in existence. The gun fires a 38-caliber steel-case ball at the rate of 600 shots a minute, its range being from two and a half to three miles, and is easily operated by one man. Mr. Browning's competition was with the most noted gunmakers of the day, Maxim, Hotchkiss and the others, and the selection of his weapon for the United States navy is a great victory. With it Uncle Sam's marines will have an advantage possessed by no other navy. It is a further matter of congratulation that immediately upon Utah's admission into the Union a Utah man provides the United States navy with the finest small weapon yet produced.

GOOD ADVICE ON GIVING.

The current issue of the Ladies' Home Journal has an article on "Right Habits of Giving," by Dr. C. H. Parkhurst, which contains some thoughtful suggestions to parents and others on the testimonial of charity through donations or the giving of contributions to aid of various organizations. Dr. Parkhurst starts out with the proposition that a man cannot be trusted to do right in any particular till he can do right easily, that is to say until it has become his habit to do right; that giving cannot be left to impulse any more than spelling can be left to impulse. Impulsive spellers, says he, make just the same wretched work with orthography that impulse-giving makes with charity. Nor is the purpose subserved by putting into the child's hands as a gratuity the money that he is expected to bestow as a beneficence. Merely letting money go through his hands will not make him charitable any more than letting water slip through a lead pipe will make the lead fertile. The art that is going to strengthen the little hop-giver or the little girl-giver in the direction of a matured generous disposition must be an art in which the actor feels that he is parting with something that is his own, not something which he is merely handling in the capacity of agent. It is a very common thing, if there is a beggar at the door to whom a pittance is to be given, or a gathering in the church or the Sunday school where contributions are to be asked, for the child to obtain from his father or mother the requisite penny, and then for the child and parent both to imagine that the child was somehow involved in and disciplined by the penny's contribution. The child in the Sunday school does not learn to give in that way any more than the child in the spelling class learns to spell by the rare memory of the letters that the teacher herself puts into the child's mouth. For the express purpose of teaching them to be generous, parents should place their children in a way to acquire a small fund which they may regard as their own, and which they value through having earned it by little acts one way and another; and from this fund they should be taught to give that which they are to receive credit for in the way of being charitable. Thus they acquire generosity by feeling the need for and value of the contributions they make.

AN IRRIGATION PROPOSITION.

The recent action of a California canal company ought to serve as a means of impressing upon the present Legislature the necessity for wise provision respecting the rights of irrigators. On Monday last the Sweetwater system of canals, which irrigates the largest portion of San Diego county's lemon orchards and supplies the town of National City, was without a drop of water. The San Diego Land and Town company had shut off the supply, leaving National City, Chula Vista, Sweetwater Valley, Nestor, Otoonta, Utah, Mission, Paradise Valley and other communities with only what their wells contained. This action was taken by the receiver for the company when the water consumers refused to pay $7 an acre per year water rental, instead of the $3.50 per year they had been paying. To prevent the consumers bringing suit in the State courts to have the water turned on, the company filed a complaint in the United States circuit court praying for a decree that the company has the power to fix rates, that the $7 rate is reasonable, and enjoining the consumers from interfering.

The manifest disadvantage at which the irrigators are placed and the injustice done them through insufficient legal provision at the outset, are evidenced by the relating the circumstances of the affair. When the company started operations it sold "water rights" to irrigators, and in addition charged $3.50 per year rental for operating expenses on the canal system. The company now alleges that this rental is insufficient to enable it to pay off its bonds and earn six per cent profit, hence the increase. The consumers claim that, having paid for the water right, they satisfied the portion of the bonded indebtedness due on their behalf, and acquired a practical deed to the use of the water upon meeting current operating expenses. To make them pay off the bonds now, they assert, is charging a second time for the water right. The company collected for the original cost at the first purchase.

Here is where wise State legislation would prevent such trouble, which is sure to come if there are no laws to avert it. Under the Utah method the individual using the water acquires the right to such use. There is no means of preventing here, any more than in California, the acquiring of water rights by associations or companies, to attempt to prevent them would be wrong. But the distributors of such water should be under State control or regulation, so that individuals taking water from corporations which have built canals, reservoirs, etc., could acquire full title to the use of that amount of water with the land it irrigates, if they so desire; and having purchased such title cannot be made to do so a second time or to pay excessive fees for operating the canal systems. At the same time the legitimate charges for operation should be made a lien on the property of the consumer so that they can be readily collectible, and not be avoided to endanger the canal system. Both the right of the irrigator to the use of water and the integrity of the system for bringing the water to the soil should be preserved intact.

This is but one of many reasons for State control, but it is an important one. It will not do to make an absolute rule, one of any other consideration, that the use of water on certain land conveys inviolable title therein. Under the necessities which exist here there is demand for great outlay in creating a system of canals to bring the water to the land; and if the line of connection be broken injury results. Nor will it do to say that others must make up what some refuse to do in order to prevent that injury. There should be definite, concise laws for acquiring title to the use of water either direct or through canal companies, if the individual wishes to do so, and there should be associated with it such control as will maintain that title in perfect condition by keeping in operation the canal system which added in giving it existence. Then the rights of both parties would be protected, and no trouble like that in San Diego county could come either through canal company or water consumer.

CONFIRMATION IN THE CHURCH.

A few weeks ago the NEWS had an article on the ordinance of confirmation, in which was set forth the general rule that should be followed by those who lay on hands for conferring the Holy Ghost. We there pointed out specially that "this ordinance of laying on of hands is the means of confirming a member in the Church." The article was in response to a letter of inquiry from Pocatello, Idaho, to which several forms of language in the ordinance were submitted, suggesting different views on the subject.

Now comes a letter from another resident of Pocatello. It is addressed to one of the general Church authorities, with a request that the answer be given in the columns of a widely circulated magazine of high standing, which is named. This letter takes issue with the statement of doctrine made in the NEWS, and says of it that "proof should be given from the proper authority." It also quotes the first and second forms given in the NEWS formerly, insisting that the second is substantially correct, whereas the NEWS said the first held that position; to the second, however, this later correspondent adds words which were not in that submitted to us, but are in the one we pronounced correct. Of the second form he preserves the words "seal upon you the Holy Ghost," and quotes Acts, eighth chapter, especially noting the fifteenth verse; upon this he urges that the second form of language is proper.

In our former article upon this subject we said, "the Holy Ghost is itself a sealing minister, and the use of the word 'seal' in conferring the Spirit is inappropriate." We will take the language which our friend relies on, Acts viii 15, which says that Peter and John "prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost." There is in that no basis for substituting the word "seal" in place of "receive." Then the words of Jesus, recorded by John, chapter xxii, verse 20, are: "Receive ye the Holy Ghost;" and the Presidency of the Church in this day has directed the use of the words "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Thus there is upon this point the record of the Apostles anciently, the direction of the living oracles today, and the recorded words of the Lord, with nothing at either for the other claim. We referred to these in our former article, and still think they are "proper authority" for the proof demanded.

The correspondent further asserts that when the Apostles, as recorded in Acts, prayed that the Holy Ghost might be received by them, it was "not to be confirmed members." That statement is directly opposed to the plain record. It is related in Acts, sixteenth chapter, that "Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them;" and that Paul "went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches." This confirmation of those who had received the word as members in the Church at various places, was by the laying on of hands for conferring the Holy Ghost.

Reference is also made by the correspondent to the history of the Prophet Joseph, wherein it is stated that on April 6, 1830, certain persons had hands laid on them that they might receive the Holy Ghost and be confirmed members of the Church; and the fourth Article of Faith is quoted with the inquiry why it did not read "laying on of hands for confirming a member of the Church, and say unto you, Receive the Holy Ghost." The answer is very simple: Because the ordinance of laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, or the ordinance of confirmation, is the means of confirming a member of the Church through the baptism of the Spirit, just as it was performed on April 6, 1830, confirmation does not come before or after, but at the time of laying on of hands for giving the Holy Ghost.

The correspondent commits the serious doctrinal error of trying to make two ordinances out of confirmation and conferring the Holy Ghost, whereas there is but one. He might as well insist that the "baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" and "baptism by immersion for the remission of sins" are separate ordinances, when there is but one. A careful study of one reference he makes, Doctrine and Covenants xx: 41, should set him right if he will take the whole sentence and not omit the first part, as does in quoting it. That rule says the Elders are to confirm in the Church those who are baptized, by laying hands upon them for conferring the Holy Ghost. It reads "confirm those who are baptized into the Church, by the laying on of hands for the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost;" and verse 43 says "confirm in the Church by the laying on of the hands, and the giving of the Holy Ghost."

As was stated in our former article, baptism by water alone does not constitute a person a member of the Church; there must be the baptism of the Spirit. By the ordinances of laying on hands those who have been baptized by water are confirmed into the Church; by those ordinances the Holy Ghost is conferred upon them. It is one act. The rule of the Church, by authority of the Scriptures, of the living oracles, and the revelations of the Lord, is as we formerly stated: "There is no set form of words, but the elements to be included in the ordinances are clearly set out. If the officiating Elder were, after assuming his authority, or the One for whom he acts, to say, 'I confirm you a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and say unto you, Receive ye the Holy Ghost,' the ordinance would be complete." If there were to be any question as to the order of words in the sentence used, it is effectually disposed of in the Doctrine and Covenants, xxiii, that the Elders are "to confirm in the Church by the laying on of the hands, and the giving of the Holy Ghost."

We trust that our Pocatello brother can see this matter aright, as have tried to make our explanation pointed with that hope in view. Holding the opinion he did, it was proper for him to have the matter solved to his understanding. There is no discredit in earnestly seeking to ascertain the truth; on the contrary, such efforts are commendable. But it would not be proper to contend for the making of a point, regardless of its correctness; the better way is to seek to receive the light, and with a prayerful heart invoke the inspiration of the Lord to give a thorough understanding. In closing, it may not be amiss to add that this response to our brother's queries are made by direction of the proper authority.

AN INJURIOUS PRACTICE.

The following from a well known city merchant came to the NEWS today:

To the Editor:

Is it not against the interests of the city for the newspapers to publish the offers and bids of the Mining exchange? An irresponsible person can bid half the actual value of a commercial or mining stock, which, by being advertised in all the papers, would probably cause the creditors of those institutions to make inquiries, even if it did not injure their credit. I think that quotations of prices of actual sales only should be published.

JOHN C. CUTLER.

The credit of a commercial institution can be injured very easily in the way Mr. Cutler suggests, especially in financial times like these; the effect might not be so severe on mining properties, although these could be influenced also. Hence such publication might be adverse to the city's interest generally. There should be something done to prevent the injury named. The Mining exchange should take the initiative, since it is the source of complaint; newspaper suppression of the facts is not sufficient. If the exchange fails, then other means should be taken.

THE SATISFACTORY employment of kerosene as a local application to wounds and ulcers is reported by the New York Medical Journal. "Ulcers, especially indolent and atonic ulcers, were smeared with commercial kerosene, either pure or diluted (from 25 to 50 per cent) with alcohol, by means of a small camel's hair brush or with a piece of gauze soaked in the solution. The appearance and characters of the ulcers soon changed for the better, the discharge gradually diminished, and in from two to four weeks the rapidly granulating surface formed a scar without any contraction in the surrounding parts." The advantages claimed for kerosene are rapidity of action, economy and freedom from poisonous effects.

SO THE German emperor was buried in effigy in England, notwithstanding the official denial of the fact. No one who knows the English penchant for burning in effigy doubted the occurrence for a moment, even when the foreign office said the event had not taken place. As it is, the incident will not make William III feel any better toward Britain, since he is extremely touchy on anything that affects the royal personality.

TODAY, JANUARY 11, is the sixty-eighth anniversary of the birth of President George Q. Cannon. The occasion was appropriately celebrated by a family assemblage, where the honored guest was the recipient of heartiest good wishes for continued life and prosperity. In these wishes the inhabitants of cities, towns and villages throughout this intermountain region, are joining the great esteemed one of President Cannon's life's labors, most sincerely join.

THE GREAT activity in Rubies was circles now, when even the English public sees no occasion for it, may after all be a scheme under cover, by which it is proposed to make further seizure of the disputed territory on the Venezuela boundary, before the United States commission of inquiry can get to work. Such a procedure would not be foreign to British policy in the past, if followed in this case it will be decidedly pertinent to ask what the United States would do in such an event.

THE OLDEST married couple in the United States is said to be Louis Darwin and his wife, who live near St. Paul, Minn. They were born in Montreal, Canada, and are French. Mr. Darwin was born on September 24, 1793, and is therefore over 102 years old. His wife was born on March 17, 1794, and was hit on her last birthday. This aged couple were married in 1815, and have passed their eighteenth anniversary.

SOME OF those preachers who have vigorously assailed the stage because of immorality among those connected therewith should now attack the pulpit for the same reason, judging by the number of ministers who have "fallen from grace" in the past year or two.

EVANGELISTS WHO are seeking to convert the heathen should go to Ishasing, Michigan. Out of the 700 inhabitants there are only fifteen male church members of all denominations.

THE LOS ANGELES Express says: "George Q. Cannon was Delegate in Congress until his son succeeded him." Ex-Delegates John T. Caine and Joseph L. Rawlins could give the Express some needed lessons in history.

WESTERN JOURNALS are extending advice in abundant quantities to the Utah Legislature upon the senatorial election. A saving feature is that the legislature cannot take it all.

IT IS the Spanish government intends to relieve General Campos from command in Cuba it ought to hurry up, or the Cubans will deprive Spain of the opportunity.

PRESS COMMENTS.

San Francisco Chronicle: A new star has been added to the flag of the Union. That which we have known for so many years as Utah Territory is now the State of Utah, endowed with all the attributes of State sovereignty possessed by her older sisters and entitled, to govern herself in all respects, provided the Constitution of the United States and the acts of Congress be deemed the supreme law of the land.

Some fear has been expressed that the old issues of polygamy and the domination of the Mormon Church may still be a source of danger to republican institutions, but we prefer to believe that the people of Utah have framed their Constitution and accepted their Statehood in good faith, and that the reasonable and thoughtful people among the Mormons themselves, have seen and will see that polygamy and ecclesiastical rule are subversive of republican institutions and were never, when in vogue, in Utah, but were sent to accomplish a purpose. The people of Utah know the situation and the sentiment of the general South, and there never is danger of their attempting to overturn an order of things to which they have voluntarily consented.

In one respect Utah is an enormously valuable accession to the family of states. She is dowed as a dollar in the financial question. The citizens of Utah, no matter what his political affiliations may be, is not to be confounded with one who is not a true, genuine, historical and necessary money metal, or that the prosperity of the American people is not to be promoted by a return to free coinage. The advocates of bimetallism will welcome to their ranks two Senators and a Representative from Utah, by whatever political name they may be known, for if there be any question on which Utah is a unit, it is the coinage of silver, which is only an equivalent expression for bimetallism.

San Francisco Call: Now that Utah has become a State and today will enter upon the peaceful pursuit of controlling its own affairs, it assumes an importance which is as much the product of its history as is suggested by its future. When the pioneers, the Mormons, fled to it for refuge and planted their colony on the smiling plain of the Great Salt Lake they never dreamed of the vast stores of mineral wealth which its formidable mountains held, and failed to foresee the westward surging of the civilization which they had fled. They established a patriarchal government of their own which was unknown to American soil, and being frugal and industrious they prospered amazingly.

The inner struggles which followed the efforts of those not in sympathy with their religious institutions need not be recounted here. Gradually they yielded to the outside pressure, were brought under Federal discipline and the operation of laws compelling them to conform to the general usages of the country. Thereafterward they were no longer aliens, but were a part of the great people from whom they had withdrawn themselves. From that to complete affiliation in the relation of Statehood was a natural and inevitable step, and today there is no barrier between any of the people of Utah and those who compose the nation.

The future will be marked by further development of this spirit. The admission of Utah as a State would have been impossible had not the people been a generally of the future. In the actual work of preparing for Statehood were seen the strongest evidence of unity of purpose, high intelligence, true patriotism, and a desire for a bright and harmonious future. This splendid empire will no longer be compelled meekly to exist in the sufferance of Federal authority. It is now united with all the powers of a State, which means above all things that that is can employ the energies of its people in the development of the splendid native resources which await their connected touch. The new State is born a giant.

Ammonia, Montana, Standard: Governor Wells, who was inducted into office yesterday, congratulated the Utah people that all the religious dissensions in Utah are over. While this is not a time for kicking up a religious in Utah's happy family, we still fear there will be an occasional cover allusion in the Gentile press to the Mormon Church.

Red Lodge, Montana, Picket: On this day Utah, congratulated the full fellowship of the sisterhood of states. She is the forty-fifth star that comprises the glorious firmament of the United States, and it is with pride that we welcome her into the fold.

Seattle, Wash., Post-Intelligencer: The Territory has complied with all the requirements imposed by Congress as conditions of her entrance into the Union as an independent commonwealth, and the people therein have long since expressed their preference to govern themselves, and assist as best they may in governing the country. Utah is about as well equipped to play the role of a full-fledged State as any other territory that has been admitted within recent years. Utah can be welcomed in as a commonwealth which will make a very creditable member of the Union.

Fremont County, Idaho, News: Hail! Utah. Idaho sends her congratulations. May you be a faithful, loving and courageous sister.

Boston Herald: It will be interesting to watch the institution of polygamy now that Utah has been admitted into the Union with the condition that plural marriages shall be perpetually prohibited of there. The prohibition is contained in the Constitution adopted by the State, but it remains to be seen how rigidly the prohibition will be enforced. The Mormon Church is still in the ascendant in Utah, and, while Mormonism and polygamy are not exactly synonymous terms, they are mutually sympathetic. The question as to whether polygamy is forever wiped out in this country, in fact, as well as by law, is somewhat, but is largely dependent on the good faith of those who administer the laws in the forty-fifth state.

Los Angeles Express: Utah enters the Union with very bright prospects. Her population is larger than that of any of the states admitted since Colorado, at the time of their admission. Her resources are numerous and have only begun to be developed, and with an honest, well administered government there should be a very great increase in population and products the next few years.

Providence (R. I.) Journal: We shall all of us regard Utah as a ward of the nation for some years to come, a younger member of the family of states which deserves our oversight and protection on account of the peculiar conditions under which it has developed. And while Congress has made the Mormons comparatively independent by its enabling act, it is pretty certain that intelligent citizens of their policy in the future will have no influence upon them, even if it comes from the far distant Atlantic slope.

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