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A CHICAGO PAPER ON THE CAMPAIGN.

A STRONG writer in the Chicago *Herald*, goes after the conspirators who are seeking to wrest, by trickery and deception, the government of this city out of the hands of the majority. He wields a vigorous pen, as will be seen by this extract in reference to boomers, and inflationists:

"During the last few months the army of real estate boomers who all but succeeded in wrecking the prosperity of Wichita, Leadville and other western cities in which they started silly and ruinous booms, have invaded Salt Lake. The result is an unwarranted and preposterous advance in the prices of real estate. Without the aid of fictitious influences Salt Lake has been enjoying a wonderful degree of prosperity, and those of its citizens who have the future welfare of the city at heart strongly object to having Zion's integrity undermined by a lot of rascally sharpers. But since the boomers struck the town, property that a year ago was sold for what was considered very fair prices, has doubled and trebled in value, while farming and pasture lands lying to the south and west have been staked off into town lots and put upon the market at prices that make the sanity of the boomers questionable. Many of the real estate sharks have but little ready cash to invest, but what they lack in capital they make up in monumental western gall. Most of the property they have obtained control of was secured by what is known as the option plan, by which the boomer selects a tract of land for his subdivision and at once opens up negotiations with the men who for nearly half a century have raised crops upon it. Fairy tales of great prospective wealth, accompanied by a small cash deposit, turns the farmers' heads and they sign a contract with the boomer, agreeing to sell their acres for a specified price within a specified time.

After describing the Munchausen tactics of the land gamblers, and the character of this country when first settled by the "Mormon" people in 1847, he turns his attention to a late phase of the political conspiracy, involving the exclusion of members of the Church from naturalization. His statements in this line are so pointed that we introduce them here:

"The wily boomer, who is a good deal of a genius in his way, has de-

veloped a scheme for disposing of his options at enormous profits, and if this scheme can be successfully worked he expects to revel in riches. Although the wily boomer is mentioned in the singular person it must be understood that there are hundreds of him here and that all these hundreds are banded together for the purpose of attaining a single object—fleecing victims. He has already attempted to market his town lots in the eastern cities, but meeting with an unexpected setback he is now trying other tactics. The real estate sharks found that, as in the case of Wichita and Leadville, there was no difficulty in hoodwinking eastern people with money to invest, but they also found that prejudices against the Mormons were so deeply rooted that so long as the Mormons held control of the Salt Lake government their subdivisions were not likely to find purchasers. In this connection it is singular how much credence has been given in the East to the silly sensations that have been recently sprung by these same boomers in regard to the Mormons. The lurid, blood curdling tales that were related in Judge Anderson's court juring the recent naturalization contests were evidently accepted by the outside world as actual facts. Salt Lake people knew that much of the testimony was false. Knowing the irresponsible character of many of the witnesses they simply laughed at the absurd stories of cruelty, treason and murder, and the silly alleged disclosures of the secrets of the Endowment House. These witnesses, or at least the more sensational of them, are positively believed to have accepted bribes from the boomers or carpet-bag element, the object being to still further slander the Mormon church and furnish the courts with a pretext for refusing naturalization papers to many who were honestly entitled to become citizens of the United States. It was but another way of persecuting the Mormons. Eminent constitutional lawyers who have since gone over all of the evidence and read the rulings and opinion of the court, say most emphatically that in deciding that an alien cannot become a citizen simply because he is a member of the Mormon church Judge Anderson committed a grave error, and one that the constitution and laws of the United States will not justify. The steps taken to prevent the naturalization of Mormon aliens were the beginning of the political conspiracy that is now being so carefully worked out. This conspiracy has for its object the crushing out of Mormon power in the city government, and the placing of the offices and the funds of the city in the control of the boomers.

In treating upon the political situation in this city this pungent writer exposes the unfairness of the "Liberal" anti-"Mormon" tactics, and places this exact estimate upon those who formulate and operate them:

"Their campaign is being managed by men who are as shrewd and tricky as they are unscrupulous, and who will not hesitate at any sort of political rascality when necessity requires."

The selection in every instance of anti-"Mormon" or "Liberal" registration officers by the Utah Commission is denounced as without an element of justice, showing the warped and prejudiced condition of

the Utah Commission, whose duty is to administer the law with fairness and equity. Two of those officers are specially named as having expressed publicly and otherwise their antipathy to the majority of the people here, thus exhibiting the fact that any attempt on their part to administer the election laws according to the spirit of justice would involve a struggle in their own breasts.

The *Herald* writer draws this vivid picture of facts:

"With but two exceptions the registrars were well chosen for the work in hand, and more outrageous misconduct in office has never been perpetrated. In accordance with the instructions from the Commission the registrars, beginning Nov. 4, were required to visit each dwelling house and place of abode in the city and ascertain the names of every voter whose name is not already on the registration list, and also erase from the list the names of those who are deceased and those who have moved away from the precinct in which they are registered. In performing this work the registrars intentionally avoided visiting the house of many Mormon voters, and they have since placed every possible obstruction in the way of Mormons seeking registration.

The rank injustice of the registration frauds caused the Mormons to appeal to the Commission for relief, but after hearing the evidence the Commission simply declined to act, saying, in a lengthy decision, that the registrars must obey the law, and if they wrongfully deprived a qualified voter from the privilege of voting by refusing to register him, they did so at their peril. The proceedings from beginning to end were farcical, for the Commission well understood that no matter how many persons are wronged by having their names erased from the registration list, they cannot recover damages. December 23, when the registration office opened, the obstruction policy already begun toward Mormon voters was made more prominent than ever, for the place of registration was an old disused foundry, and no one but the registrars was permitted inside. Persons seeking registration were forced to stand in line and make application and answer interrogatories through a small window. Each day during registration week the rain fell in drizzling mists, and the mud in front of the place of registration was several inches deep. The misery of the voters was heaped upon them by the tantalizing conduct of the registrars, who asked each applicant so many unnecessary and nonsensical questions that many were kept a full half-hour at the window. This was for the purpose of delaying the work and, by retarding the progress, either tire out the waiting multitude or prevent all from being registered within the allotted time. That the Mormons were the only ones who really had any occasion for going to the place of registration was apparent at the very outset, for all of the Gentiles or carpet-baggers had previously been registered without being put to the inconvenience of standing out in the wet and cold.

A conspicuous "Liberal" trick is thus spoken off:

"Mormons of high standing, officials of the city, have received notices that