

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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HEAR THE OTHER SIDE.

Some surprise is exhibited in the comments of certain newspapers that the testimony offered by the defense in the case of Senator Smoot, so far, has been in regard to the political situation in Idaho, and there seems to be a query as to what that has to do with the main question.

Those papers should remember that the Idaho matter was introduced by the "prosecution" and made a big feature of the inquiry, and that Senator Dubois, who is one of the committee of investigation, stumped the State of Idaho and furnished articles for public journals and had witnesses ordered to Washington, on this special matter. It became necessary to meet the errors, false accusations and illogical deductions thus presented, and so the witnesses from Idaho have occupied the attention of the committee for a day or two, in rebuttal of the statements towards the close of the investigation, on the side of the prosecutors, and which were made much of in the reports furnished to the press of the country, providing many one-sided and unfair editorials.

The question, what have Idaho affairs to do with the right of Reed Smoot to Utah to his seat in the United States, might have been very pertinent when they were dragged into so prominent a place by the "prosecution," but is not logical nor quite relevant, when it is now presented in reply on the part of the defense.

It is to be hoped and fully expected that the general press reports on the side of the case now before the committee will be as full and fair as those which caused so much interest in reference to the first part of the inquiry. And if extraneous matter is now introduced, so long as it relates to the testimony given on the other side, let the fault, if any, rest with those who turned the investigation from the election and qualifications of Reed Smoot as a United States Senator, to an inquiry on the private lives of men over whom he had no control, and hostile stories about the Church of which he is a member. Let our contemporaries have patience and a degree of fairness in waiting to hear what is to be said by the defense.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

Jane Addams, in an address at the University of Chicago on Immigration, discusses intelligently and forcibly the effects of the influx of foreign citizens, upon American national life. The address is copied in The Community for January, a monthly publication devoted to current events and important questions of the day.

The lecturer tells the story of how a great number of emigrants are secured. We have often pointed out that any restrictive laws that fall to reach the activity of the agents and sub-agents of the transportation companies, must remain of little value to this country. For, through their selfish work the undesirable class of immigrants are, mostly secured. The lecturer, in her graphic story shows how it is done. From the time, she says, the immigrants make their first acquaintance with the steamship agent they are subjected to various processes of exploitation. Brokers in bogus passports send their clients, by easy stages, to a suitable port of embarkation. Their eyes are treated that they may pass the physical test; they are taught to read enough to pass the literacy test; they are lent money to escape the pauper clause, and when they reach America, they are almost homelily in debt. The exploitation continues under the employment agency, the politician, the naturalization benchman, by liquor dealers, and lodging-house keepers. "The sinister aspect of this exploitation," Miss Addams observes, "lies in the fact that it is carried on by agents whose stock in trade are the counters and terms of citizenship. It is said that at the present moment there are more of these agents in Palermo than perhaps in any other European port, and that those politicians who have found it impossible to stay even in that corrupt city are engaged in the brokerage of naturalization papers in the United States; also that one effect of the stringent contract-law has been to make the padrones more powerful because 'smuggled alien labor' has

become more valuable to American corporations, and also to make simpler the delivery of commercial interests."

How emigration agents adapt their activity to the changing conditions in their fields of operation is illustrated by the methods by which Russian Jews are "shipped" for the traffic. If one of these should leave the country ordinarily, the family would be obliged to pay three hundred rubles to the government, but if he first joins the army his family is free from this obligation, for he has passed into the keeping of his sergeant. Out of 494 Russian Jews who three months ago were drafted into the army at a given recruiting station, only ten reported, the rest having escaped through immigration. Of course the undertaking is much more hazardous because the man is a deserter from the army; but the brokers merely put up the price of their services and continue their undertakings. "Do we," the lecturer asks, "ignore the one million false naturalization papers in the United States issued and concealed by commercialized politics, in the interests of our uneasy knowledge that commercial and governmental powers are curiously allied, although we profess that the latter has no connection with the former and no control over it?"

The emigration traffic, as conducted in the Old Countries is one of the great evils against which this country has to contend. The country is large enough to accommodate the entire Europe, should a general heira ever set in. Its undeveloped resources would enrich everyone capable of performing the necessary labor of development. Prof. Nathaniel S. Shaler estimates that within the limits of the United States the fields improvable by drainage in the manner already applied in Holland, would add to the tillable ground of the country an area somewhat exceeding one hundred thousand square miles in extent, with a food-giving value about four times that of the state of Illinois, wherein the soil would be far more enduring than that of any upland district. Irrigation promises to afford yet larger gains, including the area of the south and the middle west, where the system would greatly increase the food-giving value of the soil. Competition of honest labor is therefore not to fear as much as the corruption that the immigrant is taught from the outset. That is a poison which he brings with him and pours into the public life of the country. Restrictive laws should strike at the root of the evil. We believe it would be possible for our consuls abroad to exercise a beneficent supervision of emigration. They could require that every emigrant give satisfactory evidence of his physical and mental health and vigor. They could stop all who could not prove their qualifications. We believe this would be a practical solution of many of the difficulties of the immigration question.

THE ARBITRATION TREATIES.

It is now stated that the reason why the arbitration treaties are in danger of defeat in the United States Senate is this, that some Senators demand that any proposition to arbitrate a pending question must be submitted to that branch of the national legislature for approval. This would necessitate a two-thirds vote, and render negotiations needlessly difficult. Evidently some of the Senators deem it unsafe to leave the administration in control of the situation.

There is a general demand in this country for the adoption of all practical measures the tendency of which is the promotion of peace and good will among all men. And it is well understood that this country must lead in that direction. Our form of government, our material interests, our traditions, all prompt us to a position of leadership in the greatest of all civilizing movements. For that reason, the Senate cannot consistently change the pending treaties in a manner that would make them meaningless.

Arbitration should be looked upon as the natural and normal way of settling disputes. But for the performance of normal functions at the proper time and place, no ratification is needed. It is war that is the abnormal method. It is well that the various branches of government are united on the necessity of such an important step before it is taken. When the question is of performing a serious operation, consultation and counsel are necessary.

The pending treaties provide for the arbitration of all controversies except those involving the independence, honor or vital interests of the high contracting parties. There are large exceptions. There is no danger that the national honor will be stained by giving the executive full power to pursue a policy of peace. To give to any one man the power to declare war, would be an entirely different question.

A SEA LEVEL CANAL.

The chief Panama canal question now seems to be whether it would not be a wise plan, to make the ditch on a broader scale than originally contemplated, and to abolish the lockage system altogether by making it level with the oceans. There are, according to the testimony of the chief engineer of the Isthmian commission, four different plans, differing only in the proposed elevation of the canal at the summit. One calls for a dam at Bohio and a high-level canal with an elevation of ninety feet above sea level. This would cost \$200,000,000 and take ten years to complete. Another plan calls for a sixty-foot summit level, with a dam sixty feet high at Bohio, or else the construction of a dam of the same height at Gatun, about half way from Bohio to Colon, the Atlantic terminus of the canal. This is estimated to cost \$225,000,000 and take ten years before it could be opened for traffic. The third plan contemplates a thirty-foot summit level, with a single lock at Miraflores, near the Pacific, and a single lock at Bohio. This would cost \$200,000,000 and take twelve years to complete, while the sea level canal would cost \$300,000,000 and require fifteen years for completion. In all prob-

ability the sea level canal will be decided on as the cheaper one. For the loss of time in transit, caused by a number of locks, as well as other important factors, must be considered in such an enterprise. The original plan of Lesseps was to build a sea level canal, and that project has much to recommend it. The delay is a serious objection. But it is better to build the canal right from the start, than to have to rebuild it in a few years.

ONE ARTIST'S MEDAL.

A remarkable story is circulating in the press. It is to the effect that a young Chicago artist was awarded a medal for a picture which he had placed on exhibition at the St. Louis fair. He returned the medal and asserted that his picture was not good enough to merit the distinction bestowed by the judges. Furthermore, nearly every exhibitor, he declared, received a medal like the one given him. For this reason he says that they mean nothing.

The story is good enough to be true. If it is a fact that medals were scattered broadcast, merely to serve as plaques upon wounded feelings, the awards are absolutely worthless. They mean nothing to the exhibitors, and their use can only be to deceive the public. Swindlers are known to have sold bogus university diplomas, but these are no more deceptive than medals placed on goods that do not deserve a prize.

We are not willing to believe that the judges, or the managers, committed the error charged to their account by this young artist. But if they did, it is to be hoped that the error will not be repeated at other exhibitions, for that is to bring the entire business into well deserved disrepute.

The snow was a white blanket bond as well as a waterboard.

On the face of the waters—government control of the railroad rates.

Much easier said than done—putting a stop to the Russo-Japanese war.

Japan may possibly get the big head but it is certain that Russia will not.

It is one thing to arraign the beef trust but quite another to convict it.

It may be that cigarettes make liars of men, but there are other causes also.

Kurapatkin and Oyama are not on such good terms as Stoessel and Nogai.

Japan will press the war. This will be much harder than pressing the button.

The Governor of Missouri's message to the legislature was genuine Folk lore.

The Kaiser's decoration will do much to soften the verdict in the Stoessel court-martial case.

Governor Cutler has appointed Mr. Willard Done his messenger. He couldn't have done better.

The fact that the ice crop is unusually good and abundant will not make ice any cheaper next summer.

The theory that there should be one policeman to every one thousand inhabitants of a city is simply a fetch.

Ex-Governor Peabody has filed his protest against the seating of Governor Alva Adams. Now he can gnaw his file.

Representative Joseph should remember that even in the matter of making and presenting bills it is the pace that kills.

According to the President, tariff revision is something; enlarging the powers of the Interstate Commerce commission is everything.

Henceforth the Russian provincial and metropolitan papers are to be treated alike by the press law. It is a step towards progress.

The Colorado Senate has begun unseating Democratic members by a party vote. Evidently the Republicans do not intend to let bygones be bygones.

King Edward has issued a proclamation convening parliament February 14. The members would doubtless have preferred another kind of valentine.

Governor Glenn of North Carolina is in favor of negro disfranchisement even at the price of reduced congressional representation. That may be; but what of the negroes? They do not seem to be taken into account, yet they will have to be reckoned with. Reduced white representation is no compensation for no black representation. The whole question is a most difficult one, and there can be no permanent solution of it until it is solved right, which must include a recognition of the negro's rights.

TOURISTS WANTED.

London Engineer. The authorities of the Congo Free State are endeavoring to popularize travel through their territory, and the Congo Railway company have reduced the rate for first class fare to £2 for a journey of 210 miles.

PROPER CENSORSHIP.

Chicago Record-Herald. There is reason to believe that newspapers which resort to "habitual falsehood, defamation and slander" bring upon themselves their own punishment in the long run, whatever appearance of prosperity they may for a time show. They are to be regarded rather as temporary nuisances than as permanent dangers to the state.

A LONG BRIDGE.

Scientific American. There is now under construction across the St. Lawrence at Quebec, a cantilever bridge which, when completed, will contain the longest span of any bridge yet erected, not even excluding the great cantilevers of the Forth bridge in Scotland. The structure is of the cantilever type, and consists of two approach spans of 210 feet each, two shore arms, each 500 feet

in length, and a great central span, 1,500 feet in length. The total length of the bridge is 4,220 feet, and although in extreme dimensions it does not compare with the Forth of Forth bridge, which is about one mile in total length. It has the distinction of having the longest span in the world by ninety feet, the two cantilevers of the Forth bridge being each 1,710 feet in length. The total width of the floor is eighty feet, and provision is made for a double-track railway, two roadways for vehicles, and two sidewalks. In a cantilever of this magnitude the individual members are necessarily of huge proportions, the main posts, for instance, being 335 feet in length, and each weighing 750 tons.

WILD HORSES.

Kansas City Journal. The work of capturing wild horses in the vicinity of Fox Mountain and Madeleine plains has begun and several animals have been taken. The country is practically a wild, unbroken stretch of mountains in Western Nevada and eastern California that is too rough for any purpose except grazing and over which several thousand head of wild horses roam. The captured animals are invariably small, but well proportioned, and prove to be hardy, serviceable and obedient after being broken.

FARMERS AND COTTON.

Macon (Ga.), Telegraph. The farmers, if they undertake to hold the remaining cotton on their hands, must do it upon the tacit understanding all round that they are going to curtail the acreage planted next spring. If they plant for another large crop with a considerable remnant held over to crowd the new crop disaster will follow upon disaster. Instead of 7 cents cotton next fall we will have 5 cent cotton. It will be safe to hold up on the idea that the crop is going to be reduced next year. If the crop is not going to be reduced it will not be safe to hold.

FINAL REPENTANCE.

London News. Speaking of crime, a very interesting story reaches us: one of the innumerable evidences of the intimate connection of most crime with poverty and "not getting a chance." The Rev. A. H. Simpson, vicar of Rogate, near Midhurst, recently received a letter from Australia, asking him to make inquiries in his parish for a man who lost a waistcoat and watch some forty-five years ago. The inquiries resulted in the vicar discovering a man named Ayling, of Durieville, who about the time mentioned left his waistcoat on the side of the road while at work, and found later on that it had been stolen. The name and address of this person were sent to the vicar in Australia. By return mail came a draft for £10 with an explanation. The sender had stolen the waistcoat when passing through the village, and the few shillings found in the pockets together with the proceeds of the sale of the watch, had served to give him a fresh start in life. He is now a wealthy man, and wishes to make some recompense.

ABSOLUTISM DOOMED.

Pueblo Chieftain. Whether Russia makes peace with Japan or continues the war until Japan falls from exhaustion, the conclusion seems unavoidable that the absolutism of the czars is hastening toward its inevitable end, and that whatever resistance may be offered to this course will only serve to increase the violence of the change.

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Hooper, Utah, Dec. 18, 1904.

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Yours truly,

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