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THE DESERET NEWS,
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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 15, 1907.

GOVERNOR GOODING IS RIGHT.

Governor Gooding's position on the last oath bill now before the Idaho legislature, is indisputably correct. In his communication to the House on the subject he maintains that no legislation should be enacted aimed at any special class of citizens, but laws should include all classes alike. Class legislation would destroy the equality before the law which is recognized as one of the corner stones of American government.

Anti-"Mormons" in Idaho demand an amendment to the Elector's oath, including a belief in "celestial and patriarchal" marriage among the causes of disqualification of voters. The oath as now administered covers the ground completely, and there is no need of an amendment. But if any addition is to be made, it should, as Governor Gooding points out, be made general in its character, and all classes of crimes against the home should be included. An adultery and fornication clause should be added as well, and anyone who refuses to subscribe to the oath so amended, should be barred from voting. That is the Governor's suggestion, and we hope the Idaho legislators will sustain him in this. It is a poor law that has only a one-sided application.

The anti-"Mormon" agitators, whose real aim is to disfranchise all the members of the Church in Idaho, pretend to be inspired only by laudable zeal for the purity of the American home. Let them prove this by enacting a law that bars all violators of the demands of chastity from voting. But if they dare not be consistent; if they refuse to carry their own doctrines out to their logical conclusion, they cannot escape being branded, by public opinion, as insincere hypocrites.

AN IRREFUTABLE ARGUMENT.

The argument of Senator Knox on the right of Senator Reed Smoot to retain his seat in the United States Senate, is exceedingly strong and convincing. He contends, as did Senator Hopkins, that the Constitution does not undertake to prescribe any moral or mental qualifications without which a Senator is disqualified, but that it makes the Senate the judge of such qualifications as it deems proper. These qualifications refer to age, citizenship, and residence. As to matters of moral or mental fitness, the states are the judges. The Senate, however, has the right to reverse their judgment by a two-thirds vote, provided an offense or offense status extends into the period of senatorial service. This position, we think, is sustained by the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and by all the precedents established.

The Senator, further, stated that the essence of the charges against Senator Smoot is that he is a "Mormon," and an official of the Church. "There is," the Senator said, "no other charge brought against him." This is the plain truth. We have repeatedly pointed out that the crusade is anti-"Mormon," though the leaders of it have tried to conceal the wolf-claws under a sheepskin.

It is doubtful whether American history has on record a more flagrant case of hypocrisy in public life than this assault upon the senior Senator from Utah. His inveterate enemy, himself defeated in his political ambitions, swore to cause the exclusion of Senator Smoot from the Senate, if money could do it. The record was searched to find a cause against him. But there was none. Then his religion was thought of. "Mormonism" is unpopular in the world, and it was supposed that this unpopularity might do service. Mr. Smoot is a "Mormon." So "Mormonism" was assailed, and it was hoped that the Senate would be influenced by popular clamor. And this campaign of personal spite and revenge by persons who do not even enjoy the confidence of the community, has been carried on under the pretext of solicitude for the purity of the American home! Daniel, at the court of the Persian king, was the object of the hatred of jealous courtiers, who decided on his removal. But they found nothing for which they could accuse him, except his religion. But the king was tolerant. So they caused a decree to be made, the violation of which could be construed as disobedience to the king. On that decree the Hebrew was condemned, but the plot was finally discovered and the plotters fell into their own trap. Something similar may yet happen. Does not history repeat itself?

We have always maintained that the agitation against Senator Smoot was an assault upon the Constitution of the country. We find this view sustained in the following notable word of warning by Senator Knox:

"I know no tenet in the new propaganda of constitutional construction that begins to contain the danger to our country involved in the contention that a senator of the United States may be deprived of his seat whenever the majority of the Senate concludes that there are doctrines taught, or have been taught in the past, by some church organization to which he belongs, which that majority believes to be, or have been, dangerous. It is an easy step after the first one is taken, because of a man's religion, to take the next and logical one of exclusion because of a man's politics, and then because of his notions upon economics and then because of his attitude toward certain legislation."

This is a forcible presentation of the danger of anti-"Mormonism." It is

anti-Americanism, no less dangerous than the class of anarchism that aims at the abolition of all forms of government. For, if the constitutional rights of a citizen can be brushed aside by official action at the behest of clamoring crowds inspired by agitators who have no other than selfish ends in view, the government itself is only an empty form.

MAY HIS REWARD BE SURE!

It was startling and sad news that came to Salt Lake from Chicago this week, when the death of Register Frank D. Hobbs was announced. Frank Hobbs was a good citizen, a competent official and an upright man. He had served his adopted state well, as he had other states before, and as he had his country in the hour of its darkest peril.

He was scarcely more than a boy when he entered the Union army and went forth to battle. His valor soon led him into dangerous places and with others of his comrades he was captured and taken to Libby prison, one of the most sober memories of the great war. The tongue has never spoken nor has the pen been forged that can thoroughly describe the horrors he saw and felt. But the crutch and cane that were ever after his, bore mute testimony of his part in the most direful drama of modern history. His appointment by three presidents of the United States, to be register of the Federal Land office in Utah, was an earnest of the esteem in which he was held in high places. In all of his official career in this state he was courteous and conscientious, and never was there a whisper of inefficiency or shortcoming. His office was a model, and he knew its ramified details from first to last, while his rulings were almost invariably ratified and enforced by the department at Washington. His friends were legion and his foes few. And yet he was a strong man, but gentle as a woman, thoroughly devoted to his family, and interested in everything that made for a better citizenship. His illness was a matter of surprise, and the news of his death a positive shock.

Sad, indeed, is the homecoming of wife and daughter, with the remains of the one whom they so loved and trusted. Together they had gone to one of the large cities where with the courage characteristic of his life he willingly submitted to the surgeon's knife in the vain hope that he might receive permanent relief from an ailment that was growing more serious with his advancing years. There was, what was considered, a good chance for him. He took it, as many another has done, and with the result that it gave him an early and un hoped for passage across the dark river. The people of Utah, whose friend and servant he was, will hope that the journey will lead to a brighter and better land, where he will make ready for the coming, in course of time, of those he left behind. Meanwhile, may his rest be sweet and his reward sure.

THE BUTTE STRIKE.

Unless wisdom shall prevail, a loss approaching disaster will occur in Butte, where, the dispatches say, the greatest concerted strike in the history of the city has been inaugurated.

Already all of the newspapers of the busy copper town have suspended, and the prospects of their resumption in the near future is far from bright. The linemen of the telegraph and telephone companies have gone out and the operators of the latter have quit work with talk of further sympathetic action. Even the government mail carriers have resigned. Various industries are involved and the usual disinclination that so often accompanies the early stages of labor controversies, is in evidence. It would be well to sweep this aside at once and get together in a reasonable way and adjust such differences as may be substantial, if any such there be. For years, Butte has been known everywhere as a high price town. Usually there is employment for all, and the wage scale is always at the top. So now, when the newspapers get together and agree that they will not, that they cannot, accede to the demands of the pressmen for an additional dollar each day for their work, and an increase of fifty cents a day for job men, the strike is precipitated. The scale is already the highest in the United States with the exception of that in two Nevada mining towns. Until now the unions have been pretty well able to dictate terms. But it appears that the limit has been reached and that a terrific struggle is imminent. The plant of every newspaper has been closed, and will remain closed until a new understanding is arrived at.

Last night the Butte Publishers' association issued a statement directed to the typographical and stereotypers' unions, which shows that instead of the newspapers yielding to demands for an increase, they propose to reduce wages, and that when the strikers return they must do so at fifty cents a day less than the scale that now prevails. It is further declared that until the strikers capitulate there will be no newspapers published in either Butte or Anaconda.

"THIRD TERM LEAGUE."

The Roosevelt "Third Term National League" has issued the first number of its magazine, entitled the Line Light. The object of this publication, as stated in its initial issue, is not to urge upon the people of this country the re-election of President Roosevelt, but to be a medium through which the will of the people as to that may find an expression. The platform of the League, which we copy for the information of our readers without any comment whatever, is as follows:

"We, the members of the Roosevelt Third Term National League, having at heart the great social and political problems now confronting the people, and in order that the rights of the masses be protected and that national harmony be preserved, deem it imperative that Theodore Roosevelt be re-elected to the presidency in 1908."

"We have come upon days in our social and political life, fermenting with distrust and requiring firm control."

"We view with alarm the evils already grown from the abuse of corporate power and see in these evils a fertile field for the demagogue, from which might readily spring a political and social revolution, and believe that noth-

ing short of temperate and prayerful solicitude, on the part of the people, will hold our political and social structure intact."

"To the people irrespective of party lines is due the credit that their President, today, is Theodore Roosevelt. A man of freedom and vitality in our institutions of government and politics was demanded, and they wisely saw in him a means to attain it."

"So valiantly and nobly has this man reflected the wishes of the people, that his personality has entered into and become a part of every department of our national life. He has won the confidence of the people; and this fact alone makes him the most potent factor in the solution of the present disturbing conditions. To eliminate this personality—which is to eliminate that confidence—at a time when the people, as a whole, are restive and trembling with apprehension, is to invite national disorder."

"So closely woven is this bond between the President and the people, that he has become to them a public necessity, an essential part of things in the social and political fabric. Therefore, President Roosevelt is not only the one logical candidate for nomination, but manifestly is the only logical President for the people."

"Already has it been demonstrated that the frightened and venal wealth controlling forces of the country will resort to any means to defeat his nomination for a Third Term. We, therefore, must be on the alert and quick to action if we would save that which has already been accomplished by our illustrious President."

"We are not unmindful of the fact that Theodore Roosevelt himself declared in 1904, that 'under no circumstances would he be a candidate for, or, would he accept another nomination.'"

"We challenge, however, his right to refuse to accept the Presidency of the United States for a Third Term, in the face of the people's demand, especially at a time when so many undertakings of the highest importance have been brought about and set in motion by him, and a subject them to the danger of an untimely and improper successor to whom public confidence would be reluctantly extended, if at all."

"Manifestly the selection of his President rests with the people. The public alone is judge. No man may say he will not accept. It is not the province of Theodore Roosevelt to say he will or will not be the President. He, who acts as President, acts solely as a servant of the people, and when called by them, must come."

"We further hold, that in point of fact his re-election in 1908 would constitute a Third Term. He has been elected to the presidency but once. Inasmuch, however, as the issue has been so generally spoken of as a Third Term, the League has adopted the title."

"We, therefore, in the interest of public welfare, demand that Theodore Roosevelt be nominated for the Presidency again by the people in 1908, and to that end hereby pledge our support."

This certainly is an important movement. It is unique in the history of the country, and the development of it will be followed with intense interest.

How goodly is a respite from the Thaw case!

The rioting London suffragists have reached the goal if not the goal of their ambition.

Senator Knox's speech on the Smoot case knocks Senator Berry's speech on the same subject "silly."

It is fortunate for Butte papers that the pressmen's strike came just as there was a lull in the Thaw trial.

Will the San Franciscans when Mayor Schmitz returns and says, "I bring you peace, and peace with honor," believe him?

Honduras and Nicaragua have decided to call the fight off. Probably some disagreement over division of the gate receipts.

It looks very much as though the Japanese had won "a famous victory" on the school question. Those Japs are as sly as Joey Bagstock.

Thus far all that has been established by the Brownsville investigation is that the bullets came from rifles, the whereabouts of the rifles being unknown.

"Salome" will probably be presented in Boston, the people there having a great desire to see Strauss' famous opera. This desire is not morbid curiosity but the spirit of culture.

Representative Wharton's resolution to exclude from the mails publications "containing the revolting details" of the Thaw case, is simply a resolution to lock the stable after the horse is gone.

A bill of a very drastic nature has been introduced in the Washington legislature to curtail the liberty of the press. Such bills belong to the age of the inquisition and not to modern times.

Italy's population is decreasing through emigration, and now it is proposed to restrict it. The restriction probably will apply to desirable immigrants and not to the brigand and anarchist class.

The Puljanas have been into mischief again. They have raided several towns and killed a number of the constabulary in Occidental Negroes. Repeatedly they have been "pacified" and yet they seem to be as perverse as ever.

Nearly 12,000,000 pieces of mail failed of delivery and went to the dead letter office in 1906. More than 50,000 letters were deposited for mailing without any address upon the envelope. This should be charged to the postmaster in this city, he being responsible for everybody's mistakes.

Eighteen thousand million dollars is a pretty good sum to pay for coal for the navy, yet Admiral Robley D. Evans advocates the expenditure of that amount for the purchase of the country's anthracite coal fields for the exclusive use of the navy. Brickbats and her magical mind could not furnish money enough to meet the growing demands of some naval men. Why not buy up all the iron mines for the building of battleships and all the chemicals for manufacture into explosives for the use of the navy? It is the logical conclusion of the Evans argument.

Washington Herald.

"There is nothing more curious connected with the funny tribe than to watch the delings of the salmon family in Alaska," said Frank Washburn of that territory. The most singular thing of all is that after the females deposit their spawn their earthly career terminates. They have saved the bottoms of creeks covered with their dead bodies. They give birth to thousands of their kind and immediately

die. The young ones are then taken care of by the male salmon, and it is well known fact that in three years from their birth the offspring reappear on the very ground of their origin. There are four varieties of this superb fish which make their appearance in regular order of succession. In the spring the first to arrive is the magnificent king salmon, which weighs all the way from fifteen to ninety pounds. I have myself caught one weighing fifty-two pounds. About June 1 comes the sockeye or red salmon, which weighs our shores in enormous numbers and which is the common canning variety. A little later appears the log salmon, which only the Indians will eat, and finally, in August and September, the beautiful silver salmon arrives, the prettiest fish in all the world and one of the most palatable."

LADY GHOST AND THE WILL.

London Standard.

Hidden among the beams of the roof of a farmhouse on the Thorne estate, near Peterborough, belonging to the Duke of Bedford, the will has been discovered of a former nursemaid, who died at the place a century ago, leaving property worth £10,000. The house has long been reputed to be haunted by a lady in a red chiton dress, who always beckoned to the ceiling of a certain bedroom.

AMERICAN ARMY BELT.

Arms and the Man.

The technical commission of the Russian general staff has recommended the adoption of an American military web carriage belt and haversack for the Russian army. This equipment, which is put on in one piece, is far lighter than the Russian outfit, each piece of which is donned and doffed separately. The American equipment also costs twenty cents less per man.

JUST FOR FUN.

Maybe They Stand In.

It remains one of the mysteries why bandits should hold up Pullman passengers instead of the porters.—New York Commercial.

"Is life worth living?" It depends upon whether you can afford it.—Life.

"Were the critics kind to Scribner when his last book appeared?" "Excuse me," said the publisher, "he is only ten horsepower, I'm told."—Puck.

"He certainly seems a bit sad—this here Sam Claus sent you. What do you think he wants?" "Do you know, mummy, I find he wants a train to shy at."—Punch.

"You look worried," said one glided youth. "I am," answered the other. "My father has conceived the idea of trying to cut my allowance down low enough to keep people from saying I have more money than brains."—Washington Star.

"And this," said the Tibetan guide, "is one of our praying machines." "How ignorantly heathenish!" exclaimed Mrs. Globe-Trotter. "And do you not do your praying by machine?"

"Indeed, no. We have a preacher to do it for us."—Cleveland Leader.

"Want a job on the mine, eh? Do you know how to use dynamite?" "Yes, sure. I was a practical anarchist for two years, until ze cheap German competition lose me ze job. I have blown up much of ze nobility of Europe."—Sydney Bulletin.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"A Metropolis in Miniature," is the title of a picturesque article by William A. Johnston in the current Harper's Weekly, describing a little-known segment of New York city. It is effectively illustrated by E. V. Raderhery. Herman Spencer contributes a clever and entertaining paper entitled "Mark Twain and the Cat," in which he traces a singularly regularity in the works of the distinguished humorist. An exciting four-part serial begins in this issue of the Weekly—a romance of modern times in Russia by one who knows intimately the tragic conditions that exist today in the land of the Little Father. There are numerous other notable features.—Franklin Square, New York.

Howard Pyle's painting of "Pendennis and the Major in St. James Street," in his series of illustrations of Thackeray's characters, forms the frontispiece in color of the March number of Harper's Magazine. It is followed by Commander Peary's concluding article on his recent trip to the Arctic. His descriptions of their daily adventures in those grim regions of ice and barrenness are vivid. In striking contrast to this experience is the story of a tropical cruise on the Gulf Coast of Florida, by A. W. Dimock, with photographs. Dr. Woods Hutchinson writes on "Exercise and its Dangers," showing to what extent exercise benefits or injures the health. An article of Oriental charm is contributed by Charles E. Russell, the well-known journalist, traveler and poet, describing the wonderful abandoned eastern city of Fatehgarh Sikri, which was once the rich capital of the potentate Akbar, the Great, and now stands deserted, but still beautiful.

Frederick Trevor Hill writes of the Haymarket riot, in his "Decisive Battles of the Law," and shows by what a strange incident the decision of the electoral commission might have been entirely altered. Maeterlinck writes of the "Intelligence of the Flowers." Gilbert Parker's novel "The Weavers" continues, and there are eight short stories by Grace Ellery Channing, Norma Duncan, Justus Miles Forman, Alice Brown, and others, and many illustrations in tint and black and white.—Franklin Square, New York.

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Rink open 10 to 12 mornings, 2 to 5 afternoons, 7.30 to 10.30 evenings.

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The celebrated "Keyser" Silk Gloves, 12 button length, black and white. Long gloves will be more fashionable than ever this spring. TOMORROW, per pair only. \$2.00

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