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THE CRIME OF THE COMMISSION.

THE Boston Traveller, commenting on the refusal of the Utah Commission to adopt the form of oath desired by the Leaguers, says:

"There is undoubtedly good grounds for Mormon confidence and for the Mormon boast that the Commission is not unfriendly to them."

For "Mormon confidence" there are no doubt "good grounds," because it is based on the justice of their cause and justice is bound to prevail for those who wait and work. The "Mormons" can and will do both. Their experience attests the fact that their violent enemies are sure, in due time, to go to the wall or down in the dust. But who has seen or heard any "Mormon" boast that the Commission is not unfriendly to them? We know of none. We do not think the Traveller can put its finger on the place of any such boast.

Let us see how very friendly the Commission has been to the "Mormons." They form about five-sixths of the population of this Territory, the "Gentiles," so called, of all persuasions making the other sixth. In selecting registration officers the Commission has invariably picked out persons opposed to the "Mormons," wherever they could be obtained. Not only have these officers been taken from the small minority, but, in most instances, from that class of that minority which is the most antagonistic and objectionable to the majority. This is a potent and irrefutable fact. Exceedingly friendly, is it not?

The law in regard to the appointment of judges of election requires that one at least shall be of the party that was in the minority at the preceding election. This is a provision made by the majority of the people of Utah—the "Mormons"—in favor of the minority—the "Gentiles." The Utah Commission, wherever it could find two of the minority, has appointed them to one of the majority, and this one from the majority, if possible, has been picked with a view to select a man not very distasteful to the minority. The wishes of the "Mormons," that which would be simple justice and fairness to the majority of the citizens, that which would have been in harmony with the spirit and intent of the law under which the Commission is required to act, have been carefully ignored. This is very friendly to the "Mormons," is it not?

We are not finding fault here. We are not assailing the Commission. We are not kicking, in any sense. But we are simply answering the terrible charge that the Commission has not been "unfriendly to the 'Mormons.'" But, in the name of justice and common sense, why should it be considered a crime on the part of the Utah Commission, if it is true that they are not unfriendly to the large majority of the citizens whose political interests they have been appointed to regulate in some important respects? The statute that created their office requires them to do certain things under the law of Congress and of the Territory, and it does not require of them antagonism to the people affected by their appointment. The nature of their duties does not necessitate this. The situation does not demand it. The Government does not request it.

If the country is sincere in its supposed desire for a peaceful solution of the "Mormon" question, "unfriendliness" to the voting majority of the citizens of Utah—the monogamous "Mormons"—will certainly not bring it about. The Commission has never showed any particular friendliness to the "Mormon" people, polygamists or monogamous, but that unfriendliness to them should be counted a virtue on the part of officers appointed to carry out a political measure, involving nothing judicial or executive, but simply administrative duties in reference to voting, is something that cannot be explained on any known rules of fairness, propriety or morality.

Editors seem ready to condemn anything that appears to give the "Mormon" people more than the right to exist, that they betray a spirit of vindictiveness which, viewed in the light of reason and fairness, is really shocking and indefensible. The Boston Traveller has made a mistake both as to fact and principle and should be more careful in joining the multitude, who are generally wrong when prejudice leads the way.

WORK vs. WIND.

"O. J. H." is greatly exercised over the material progress of this city, and is writing about it. In a letter which

appears in the chief anti-"Mormon" organ this morning, he speaks of improvements that ought to be made, that the metropolis of Utah may be built up in a manner commensurate with its natural advantages.

He exclaims, with animation almost reaching the point where it merges into wrath—"But what has man done for her? What is he doing?"

Further on he indulges in a fresh outburst and shouts, through the medium of his quill—"She cannot enter upon a new era of growth until her citizens wake up and adopt new methods."

Indulgence in this species of derogatory declamation inspires him with unmildigated disgust, and he scorchers those human pests and absurdities whose whole work in material matters consists of "Sound and fury, signifying nothing." Referring to the futility of their puny efforts to propel the car of material progress, he thus unloads—"Talking and writing will never do them."

We like to commend a good thing, without regard to the source of it. We endorse the theory that blowing of trumpets is a mere manufacture of sound, and the most enormous conceivable quantity of it would not contribute even to the construction of a mouse-trap, to say nothing of a great city. What lends special perspicuity and force to Colonel Hollister's strictures is that he is a "horrible example" of the truth of his own proposition. In this respect he is a step in advance of the temperance lecturer who illustrated his enunciations on his subject by having upon the platform with him a man in a state of hopeless intoxication. The Colonel goes one better and supplies the illustration in his own proper person. If he has done anything as an individual toward building up this city beyond "writing and speaking," the knowledge of the fact has not cropped out.

He reminds one of the remark made by a persecuted boarder to a talkative landlady: "Madame—a little less talk and a little stronger coffee, please." Col.—a little less wind and a little more work, please.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

THE French are a peculiar people, so much so that they are a distinct type as relates to habits, customs, language, and to some extent personal appearance. It is as a patriotic, self-sustaining people that they are pre-eminent; this makes them soldiers par excellence. They are not as a rule ambitious, because the masses are the peasantry, but little educated and contented with the severely frugal lives they lead. In higher stations, they are fond of display, are generally accomplished, polite, and decidedly mercurial. This last-named phase of character is illustrated every now and then in their political procedure; a dispute upon some point arises between the ministry and the Assembly in which the President may or may not be involved; the solution arrived at may not be satisfactory, and when that is the case, as one man they send in their resignations to the President, who accepts them and calls upon some prominent republican leader to construct a cabinet out of new material—and this is dignified by the ominous title of "crisis." These crises occur so frequently that on-lookers from a distance are not disturbed any more than they are when we have a cabinet change in the United States, not so much so in fact, because the latter occurrence is so much the more infrequent.

The latest indulgence of the kind referred to in the French Republic occurred on Monday last, when the ministers requested permission to abdicate. The request was granted on Tuesday, and yesterday President Grevy called on De Freycinet to proceed at once with the task of bringing together a new staff of advisers for the executive. It is a tolerably responsible and at times arduous task, for France as a republic is not so easily managed as might be supposed. She is either engaged in a war or preparing for one continually, and this fact alone is a heavy draft upon the treasury, and so that department requires a statesman whose financial ability is of the most astute, profound and penetrating character; he is the right arm of the minister of war, who is the important personage of the nation, and the two together are perhaps more potent and influential than the President and the rest of his cabinet combined. The subject at this time is made the more complex and difficult of settlement from the fact that General Boulanger, whom all nations recognize as one of the military geniuses of the age and whom all classes in France look upon as the masculine Nemesis under whose leadership the tricolor will again float over the western if not the eastern bank of the Rhine—is a member of the retired cabinet and held the war portfolio; it was through his magnificent faculty of organization that the French army has been so reconstructed and systematized that the mobilization of 800,000 men can be accomplished in a few hours, and the whole frontier is so elaborately arranged that it simply bristles with chevaux de frise, earth-

works and other preparations for defense. To leave him out of the cabinet would be, in their estimation, equivalent to a recapture of Strasburg; so it is probable he will be requested to return and remain until he is required to take the field and meet the hardy Deutscher face to face. If he accepts, the crisis will hardly have accomplished so much as a ripple upon the surface of European politics, for it will be then assured that what was will continue to be, and what is to come will neither be pushed nor delayed; if not, the little stir occasioned thereby will not, in all probability, last long, as Boulanger is so much a Frenchman that he is equally a menace in or out of the cabinet.

EXCEEDINGLY TRANSPARENT.

THE plan of redistricting the Territory which has been formulated into an order by the Utah Commission, who with the Governor and Secretary associated, were constituted a Board for the purpose, by the Edmunds-Tucker law, is a method as transparent as its execution is discreditable to the Board. It was to be expected that, so far as would be possible without an inconsistency that would be too gross, and a purpose not too glaringly partisan, the Board would so arrange the legislative districts as to secure, if possible, the election of a few "Liberals."

But that the board should have lent itself to another scheme, having for its object not only the election of a political minority representatives, but the dismemberment of the majority, was a little too much to expect, even from the past record of its personnel. It is one of the most apparent designs to which men in power, even in Utah, could lend the weight of their authority. A careful examination of the redistricting order will show that the grouping together of strong "Liberal" precincts has been only one of two objects that have been aimed at. The other has evidently been to make it as difficult as possible for the People's Party to unite upon a choice of men. To this end partisan manipulation has been displayed in a grouping of precincts into districts that at first, and until the ulterior motive is discerned, is simply ridiculous. In constructing representative district No. 8, out of all of Tooele County, Tintic precinct, Juab County, and Bingham precinct, Salt Lake County, the object is plain; it is to create a Liberal district, even at the expense of geographical consistency and other considerations that should govern in such matters. But what defense can be made of constructing representative district No. 6 of Morgan County, Davis County and Pleasant Green, Hunter and North Point precincts in Salt Lake County, and Henneville precinct, Summit County?

To relieve the Board of the charge of incompetency we are compelled to accept the theory that it has used its powers in furtherance of a scheme to, so far as possible, split into fragments a political party, of whose preponderance, or even existence, it, as a ministerial body charged with the performance of a duty under the law, had no right to take any cognizance whatever.

The leaders and voters of the People's Party will not fail to take due note of the design that has been crystallized into an executive order to breed disunion among them; and in the coming canvass "principles, not men," should be more emphatically than ever, their motto. In the nature of things difficulty will be experienced in selecting candidates who can be said to be properly representative of districts composed of parts so widely separated geographically, as is the case in some of the districts as constructed by the board. But if prejudice and ambition are buried, and a sincere desire to be united on any suitable candidate is made general, splits will be avoided.

BEGINNING TO BE APPRECIATED.

THE action of the Utah Commissioners in governing their course in registration matters by the strict provisions of the law, is variously commented on by different public journals. But wherever the facts are properly understood—a very difficult thing to arrive at apparently in regard to Utah affairs—the Commission is applauded for its fidelity to statutory requirements. It is only where the situation is misapprehended, or where rabid anti-"Mormon" venom prevails, that the League conspiracy to obstruct registration receives any countenance.

The Springfield Republican of May 10th, applauded the removal of recalcitrant registrars by the Commission, and laughed at the Tribune threats and its absurd attacks upon that body. The Republican added:

"It is about time for those non-Mormons who want to see the Church extinguished by fire and sword to possess their souls in peace and let the law pursue its course."

This is very good advice. But those anti-"Mormons" who cannot think of

the Church without foaming at the mouth—persons for instance of the Hollister habit—are beyond reason and oblivious to advice. They want the law executed when it suits them, and clamor for it till they are hoarse if it appears to bear heavily upon the "Mormons." But when it does not dovetail into their designs they despise the law and denounce all who adhere to its provisions, and declaim against its restrictions until their necks swell high unto bursting. These irrational beings are getting to be appreciated. At home they are known for fanatics or traders on fanaticism. They are either cranky on this question or they profit by the crankiness of others. Abroad they are beginning to be understood and they are making their own exposition. That is all right. The more they foam the quicker their folly and ferocity will disgust sensible lookers on.

The country is satisfied to let the law take its course, as indicated by the Republican. The great public is not so anxious that a few adventurers shall gain control of the Territory of Utah as that the laws of Congress shall prevail within its borders. And when it appears that those laws are taking effect and that a large number of the people are agreeing to live within the provisions thereof, the personal ends of the scoundrels who have made the noise and pressure which have culminated in stringent legislation, will excite disgust and detestation the more they proclaim their dissatisfaction at the result. Time and patience work wonders, and they will prove the vindicators of the people of Utah while the villany of those who want to "extinguish the Church by fire and the sword" for pillage and plunder, will be seen and known of all men.

THE ALIEN LAND LAW.

THE Alien Land Law is viewed generally throughout the interior west as one of the most insane pieces of Legislation ever perpetrated by the Congress of the United States. Although it strikes in a different direction to that taken by the anti-"Mormon" laws, in its genius for mischief it is entitled to a place in the same category. It is a decidedly anti-development measure, and aims a blow at the progress of this great inter-mountain region.

The intention of the act may have been good but the inability of the legislature to grasp its full effect and frame it so as to attain a desirable end in one direction without doing incalculable detriment in another, is apparent throughout. In order to redeem it from the charge of total depravity it may be assumed that the chief purpose of the law was to prevent foreign syndicates, whose members had no sympathetic interest in the country—and not even a residential qualification—from seizing large tracts of land, improving and then disposing of them at enormous profits.

If such were the intent it has been enormously overlapped. The act, as a whole, is made as much, and even more, a curtailer of the genuine business pursuits of bona fide citizens and of the home interests of those who fully intend attaining that status as soon as the naturalization laws will allow, as it is a preventive of foreign land grabs.

The provision which denies to any corporation 20 per cent. of whose stock is owned by aliens from holding realty, effectively shuts the door to foreign capital in the development of the great mining interests of the West. If the stipulation had been to the effect that the controlling interest in such corporations must be held by citizens of the United States, the objection to the law in that regard would not have been so strong. The twenty per cent. limit, however, is so sweeping as to practically wipe out inducement for foreign investment. Thus a powerful agency in the development of the country is abolished by this mischievous measure.

The law also deprives the immigrant who comes to this country from abroad from owning his own home for a pretty lengthy series of years after his arrival. No allowance is made for his genuine intention to become a citizen and cast his lot with the commonwealth. This is the antipodes of the genius of this Republic, whose boast has been a standing invitation for the oppressed of all nations to flock to its shores and find a home and freedom. The home part of the programme is made, by this idiotic measure, altogether too remote to be enticing.

At the next session of Congress the West should rise up in its wrath and demand the repeal of the anti-development Alien Land Law, the text of which is herewith presented:

SECTION 1.—That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons not citizens, or for any corporation not created by or under the laws of the United States, or of some State or Territory of the United States, to hereafter acquire, hold or own real estate so hereafter acquired or any interest therein in any of the Territories of the United States or in the District of Columbia, except such as may be acquired by inheritance or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts hereafter created: provided, that the prohibition of this section shall not apply to cases in which the right to

hold or dispose of lands in the United States is secured by existing treaties to the citizens of, or subjects of foreign countries, which rights, so far as they may exist by force of any such treaty, shall continue to exist so long as such treaties are in force and no longer.

SEC. 2.—That no corporation or association, more than 20 per cent. of the stock of which is or may be owned by any person or persons, corporation or corporations, association or associations, not citizens of the United States, shall hereafter acquire or hold or own any real estate hereafter acquired in any of the Territories of the United States or of the District of Columbia.

SEC. 3. That no corporation other than those organized for the construction and operation of railways, canals or turnpikes, shall acquire, hold or own more than 5,000 acres of land in any of the Territories of the United States, and no railroad, canal or turnpike corporation shall hereafter acquire, hold or own lands in any Territory other than as may be necessary for the proper operation of its railroad, canal or turnpike, except such lands as may have been granted to it by act of Congress; but the prohibition of this section shall not affect the title to any lands now lawfully held by such corporation.

SEC. 4. That all property acquired, held or owned in violation of the provisions of this act shall be forfeited to the United States, and it shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to enforce every such forfeiture by bill in equity or other proper process; and in any suit or proceedings that may be commenced to enforce such forfeiture, it shall be the duty of the court to determine the very right of the matter without regard to matters of form, joinder of parties, multifariousness or other matters, not affecting the substantial rights of either the United States or of the parties concerned in, any such proceeding arising out of the matters in this act mentioned.

GOOD LIVE STOCK.

It is gratifying to notice the great interest that is being taken in this Territory, in the breeding of superior live stock. The tendency in this direction is more marked this spring than usual, and large numbers of blooded stock, including cattle, horses and sheep, are now being brought into this section. This is a method of increasing the wealth of individuals which takes nothing from the pockets of the poor, but enriches the whole community. Wealth created in this manner is produced from the elements, and benefits the whole community, while no person is injured or made the poorer by it. The profits of the merchant and trader, however honorably gained, come from the pockets of the people; but not so with the profits of the farmer and stock raiser, especially the latter. He gains his wealth by transforming the elements into marketable property, and the riches which he thus produces are taxed for the benefit of all and the support of good government. Unquestionably the stock-raising industry is one worthy of all encouragement.

THE "BOOM" BUSINESS.

"My friends," said a clergyman in a Dakota town which is enjoying a "boom," as he arose in the pulpit, "we will dispense with the services this morning and give our attention to a work of greater importance. As you are probably all aware, a party of eastern capitalists arrived in the city last night with a view of investing in real estate, and we will now consider ourselves dismissed and go down to the hotel and work them. We want to hustle right along, too, before those revivalists from Plugetown get hold of them and shove off some of their swamp lands onto them."—Dakota Bell.

There is something more than nonsense in the above, and it requires no philosopher to dig it out. Like "Vanity Fair," it appeals to the imagination only as relates to the particular place, circumstances and individuals; give these the names they are generally known by, and what is intended for and accepted as a joke becomes a living fact.

The people of the United States as a class are noted for not doing things by halves, or even in moderation; their prevailing weakness is to strain a favorite topic or pursuit, or privilege, or circumstance, to its utmost tension; thus, when the tide of prosperity sets in anywhere, the solidity of the thing is at once so thoroughly saturated with high-sounding talk and open-lined advertising, that what might have become and remained a reasonably prosperous institution is killed in the house of its friends, like a new-born babe suffocated with too much muffling and covering. The result of such extreme measures is to bring about the other extreme, as a natural consequence. For example, if a mine is worth a thousand dollars a week in output, and is incorporated and capitalized for many times more than its capacity can meet in a hundred years—a by no means infrequent occurrence—the expense of officers, clerks, workmen, machinery, etc., have to be so largely increased that the prof-