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Charles W. Penrose Editor.

Horace G. Whitney Business Manager.

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SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 11, 1906

NO GROUND FOR OBJECTION.

The Boston Herald has another temperate and logical editorial on "The Smoot Case." After commenting on the "peculiar" action taken by the Committee of Investigation on that case, and the apparent inconsistency of the several votes taken when compared with each other, the Herald remarks:

"The charge that Smoot is a polygamist was not established. The opinion that he is not entitled to his seat must be based, therefore, on the fact, admitted by the senator, that he is a member of the hierarchy of the Mormon Church. But this reason, if reason it be, is political and not moral."

But if Senator Smoot is to be excluded on this ground, what becomes of all the high moral sentiment that has been the motive and main-spring of the movement to exclude his votes?

"It is not regarded as certain that the Senate will exclude Senator Smoot, which it can do by a majority vote. Such action is regarded by many conservative lawyers as unconstitutional and as establishing a dangerous precedent, and coming very near to proscribing a man on account of his religion. If he were a polygamist he would be a law-breaker, and subject to rejection. But solely as an official of the Mormon Church, his exclusion would have a different aspect."

The Boston Herald is a little mistaken in its statement that Senator Smoot had admitted "that he is a member of the hierarchy of the Mormon Church." The Senator admitted, of course, that he was one of the general authorities of the Church, but not that he was one of an imaginary "hierarchy." There is no such distinctive body, endowed with the sovereignty implied in the term that is used, within the pale of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The priesthood of that Church is extended so as to include a large majority of the male members of the organization. Sacred authority is vested in those individuals, and their ministrations are directed by local presidencies, who are associated with the general presiding quorums, the whole body having power by a majority of votes to decide upon questions relating to church policy, and forming a really democratic ecclesiastical institution.

Read Smoot is one of a council or quorum of Twelve Apostles, who are presided over by the First Presidency, composed of three, but these and all other presiding authorities are voted upon twice every year by the body of the Church in conference assembled. Thus there is no semblance of a "hierarchy" in the Church, one of the fundamental of which is "all things in this Church shall be done by common consent."

That, however, is only a side issue. In the case before the Senate, there are several "ifs" in the remarks of our Boston contemporary and they are well placed. The "Mormon" Church has demonstrated on numerous occasions that it is not "hostile" to the government of the United States, but its members are supporters of the government and the institutions of this republic; regarding the Constitution as an inspired instrument for the protection of all citizens in their civil and religious liberties. It does not exact from its members or any of its communicants or authorities "an allegiance superior to that which they give to the United States." It recognizes a clear distinction between the rights of the Church and the rights of the State, and does not unite, confuse or confound them, but holds that the civil power must not be dominated by any ecclesiastical influence, and that the State must not intrude upon matters that are purely religious.

All the talk about oaths, covenants, obligations or ceremonies binding devotees to a rule or authority identical to the United States or any other government on earth, is the invention of its enemies or the extravagant imaginations of vengeful secessionists. These are echoed from pulpit to pulpit and from paper to paper, until the country rings with the discordant sound and popular opinion is swayed thereby to groundless indignation.

Even giving credence to the silly stories that are accepted as Gospel truth about the "Mormon" Church, as the Herald justly reasons, no real ground is formed thereby on which to base a resolution to exclude or expel the Senator from Utah, or deprive him of any of his legal or Constitutional rights. Were it not for the clamor that has been raised and the pressure brought to bear upon members of the Senate by the religious element of the country, it is not at all probable that any serious support would be had in that body, to a proposition to interfere with the right of a sovereign State to send to the seat of government a representative of their political views and principles.

HENPECKED LEGISLATION.

The time spent by the Committee on Privileges and Elections in considering the so-called case against Senator Smoot has not been entirely in vain.

The real issue, and the un-American spirit of the crusade are now better understood by the American public than when the war of revenge first was declared by disappointed aspirants to

political honors and power. This is very clearly reflected in the comments on the "case" by many influential journals of the land. We have reproduced a number of editorials, showing the views of those best qualified to speak upon public questions. Here is another from the New York Times of June 5:

"It is not creditable to the Democratic Party, we think, that all the dissentients from the prevailing opinion of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections should have been Republicans. Here is a curious reversal of the ancient dogmas of the two parties, according to which the Federalists aimed to diminish, and the Democrats' to magnify, the rights of the States.

"At the same time, no Federalist, Whig, or Republican has ever gone so far as to deny that a State had the right to be represented in the Federal councils by its own chosen representatives, if these were not themselves traitors, and it is not charged by anybody that Smoot is himself a traitor. But three Republicans and five Democrats on the committee have in fact gone to this length in the case of Senator Smoot, and they do so because he is not entitled to a seat as a Senator of the United States precisely for the reason that he does represent the State which sent him there to represent."

"This is, in truth, the issue. It is an issue on which it is difficult to see how any man trained in the American principles of civil liberty could take the side that a State is not entitled to choose its own representatives. The argument which will commend itself to those who consider what queer things Congress is capable of doing when sentimental considerations are allowed to outweigh legal and rational considerations is that the legislation recommended by the two Republicans and five Democrats who compose the majority of the committee is an example of what has been called 'henpecked legislation.'

"There is no doubt, we think, that the recommendation of the majority of the committee is tantamount to a recommendation that the majority of the people of Utah should not be allowed to choose their own representatives in the Congress of the United States. We must in propriety await the report of the majority before making that conclusion final. But pretty clearly, on the question involved, the minority of the committee outweighs the outnumbering majority, and the opinions of Senators Foraker and Knox deserve more influence than those of the majority.

"The debate in the Senate itself should be of high interest and illumination. It is, of course, constitutionally true that the Senate is final and only judge of the election, qualification, and returns of its own members, and that it can either expel Smoot or exclude him without being legally questioned. But it looks pretty clear that if it excludes or expels him, it will do so upon the ground that a Mormon State has a claim to representation by a Mormon. That proposition is not likely to be accepted by the full Senate without severe scrutiny. The Senate knew, when it admitted Utah, that Utah was liable to show a Mormon majority and return a Mormon Senator. That probability, or possibility, deprecated and minimized as it was by the very Gentiles who are now advocating the exclusion or expulsion of Smoot, may well have constituted a reason for opposing the admission of Utah to Statehood. But it seems to be no reason at all why Utah, being a State, should be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate without its consent! This consent has not been had, and is not likely to be had. The only decent way in which Reed Smoot or any other Mormon Senator has been duly elected to the Senate from Utah would be put out of the Senate would be such a growth of anti-Mormon sentiment and such an increase of anti-Mormon voters. Utah itself as would return a Gentle in his place. The very fact that the decision of the Senate in this matter cannot be questioned should make the Senate all the more unwillingly opposed to announcing a decision which impartial Americans would have to say was unjust."

The Times correctly states that the issue is whether a state is entitled to choose its own representatives. That is, in fact, the only question involved, no matter how deep it may be buried under assertions on matters immaterial to the main point, and "petitions." The investigation has brought out the all-important fact that no case has been found against Senator Smoot.

This is also admitted by some of the most rabid anti-Mormon crusaders, and they frantically clamor for the exclusion of the senior Senator from Utah on the ground that this will be a blow to the "Mormon" Church. They ask the Senate for government aid in their warfare upon a church. Of course, some deny that they have any designs upon the Church, but of what use are the denials, when the petitioners themselves declare in explanation of their petition: "We are for the cleansing of our land from the curse of blight of Mormonism?"

The Troy Press of June 4 also sees in the virulent attack upon Senator Smoot a blow directed against the "Mormon" Church. They ask the Senate for government aid in their warfare upon a church. That mouthpiece of mediæval intolerance says:

"The just indignation against Mormonism and adherents of secret doctrines which involves the debauchery of both sexes are finding vent in a crusade against Smoot—who seems to be better than his party, to use a current political phrase. Whether Smoot shall be driven out of the Senate or not, it seems to us that Mormonism could be attacked more effectively in more vulnerable quarters. However, this is a matter of opinion."

That is it. Anything to "attack Mormonism" in the most "vulnerable quarter"! Something is gained by a clear understanding of the motives inspiring the crusaders. When the masks are torn from their faces, the public will be in a position to judge intelligently of their "case."

THE WELLMAN EXPEDITION.

Indianapolis News.

Walter Wellman, who says he is going to the north pole in an airship, is reported to have started for his base on Dene's Island. There is many a man who starts for his base and never reaches first.

Montgomery Advertiser.

The dispatches in referring to the proposed effort of Walter Wellman to reach the north pole say that he "has a chance to succeed." Yes, he would have a chance if he should start on a donkey, but it would be a slim one.

ANARCHIST ACTIVITY.

The violent anarchists seem to be unusually active, just now. The erratic wretch who attempted to take the life of the King of Spain and his English bride, but who only succeeded in murdering some peaceful spectators of the common people, took his own life, when cornered. But although he is out of the way, others seem anxious to follow in his blood-stained footsteps, and rumor has it that a plot has been discovered to assassinate several crowned heads, and the King of Italy among others.

It is difficult to imagine what those

things draw near to Walter Wellman's proposed "dash for the north pole" by means of an airship, the world at large is walking up to the vast daring and importance of the attempt.

The scheme cuts adrift absolutely from all other of the time-honored methods of traveling over the eternal ice of the arctic zone. To the American newspaper man yet may be given the honor of locating the north pole, just as to a British newspaper man was given the glory of cutting Africa in twain.

Montgomery Advertiser.

We have reached the period in the history of the new century when some great discovery should be credited to

that they are not the friends of liberty, but simply the enemies of government, and therefore they have forfeited the sympathy Americans willingly accord political offenders against despotic laws. And they have only themselves to blame for this.

The governments of the world, it seems, will have to come together for self-protection, and whatever measures the European powers, after mature deliberation, agree to, our government will certainly also support.

In Paris, it is claimed, they have just discovered a bomb factory, and another at Lyons. Bombs are found every day, but the news is suppressed except as to the machines that explode and do more or less damage. A peculiar feature of this outbreak is that common laborers are resorting to bomb throwing, which otherwise was supposed to be the work of a certain class of anarchists only. Thus, a railroad bridge was blown up by workmen to prevent trains carrying troops from reaching Paris for labor day, May 1. Bomb throwing in the interest of labor-agitation is looked upon as a very grave characteristic of the present epidemic of violence. The suggestion has been made that an international police force be established, for the purpose of co-operating in the warfare upon murderers. This should be both practical and effective.

"Virginia is the mother of presidents and the Pennsylvania of graft.

Rather odd that boneless beef should be considered as the chief bone of contention.

The department of agriculture report is less labored than that of Neill and Reynolds.

What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and runs up against a trust?

Sweden will have no representative at King Haakon's coronation. Absent, but not forgotten.

The education bill has inaugurated one of the greatest campaigns of education that England ever had.

The Pacific Underwriters are quite belligerent in their attitude towards San Francisco loss adjustments.

To train a child up in the way he should go, see that he gets on the right train on the right road.

In the San Francisco improvised telephone station the girls have to sit on barrels. They are said to make staving good seats.

The Beef trust has something to be thankful for after all. It is that Hughes instead of Neill and Reynolds Cal is not after it.

If the supreme court of the United States can punish lynchers why cannot state courts do the same? Is it because of supineness?

A contemporary says that Mr. H. E. Booth, the newly appointed U. S. attorney, is in deep water. He will be found to be strictly in the swim.

The present Congress, according to the Congressional Record, has done more than any decent way in which Reed Smoot or any other Mormon Senator has been duly elected to the Senate from Utah to be put out of the Senate would be such a growth of anti-Mormon sentiment and such an increase of anti-Mormon voters.

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Portland Observer.

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The New York Times.

Walter Wellman, the Chicago newspaper man, has started for the north pole. Here's hoping he will find it, saw it off close to the earth, pull it up by the roots or do anything else to get it, and bring it home with him. We've got to have that pole before any other country gets it, no matter what it may cost.

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