DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 28, 1899.

CORRECT THE MISTAKE.

The police and fire bill, about which there has been some public comment, passed the House of Representatives on Monday afternoon. But it seems that by some means a change was made in the bill which is a large talent, defeats the object of its preparation and received sanction by the Mayor and city council. As originally prepared, the bill provided that:

Sec. 10. The city council of said city of 12,000 or more inhabitants shall within fifteen (15) days after the approval of this act, by an ordinance create a police department and a fire department to comply with the provisions of section 1 and section 3 of this act.

Sec. 11. The mayor of such city of 12,000 or more inhabitants shall within ten days after the ordinance referred to in section 8 of this act shall have gone into effect, appoint and submit to the city council for its approval the names of the heads of said police and fire departments, and the heads of said departments shall within ten days after having been appointed and qualified as such, submit to the mayor and city council the names of subordinates selected by him.

Sec. 12. The mayor of such city of 12,000 or more inhabitants shall forthwith after the ordinance referred to in section 8 of this act shall have gone into effect, appoint and submit to the city council for its confirmation the names of the subordinates selected by him.

Sec. 13. The terms of all officers, policemen, employes and agents, including the chiefs of the present police and fire departments in said cities of 12,000 or more inhabitants now in office, shall expire at 12 o'clock meridian on the first Monday of January, A. D. 1900, and all property whatever, now belonging to said departments shall be turned over by the respective chiefs of each of said departments to the mayor of said cities.

Sec. 14. This act shall take effect at 12 o'clock meridian on the first Monday of January, A. D. 1899.

The great difference between the provisions as at first formulated, and those that have passed, is this: The measure as it came from the Mayor and City Council provided that the bill should go into effect immediately after its approval, and that the terms of present incumbents should expire thirty days after that. The object of this is to save expense from present and future litigation.

The bill as it passed the House provides that it shall go into effect in January, 1900, and the terms of the present officers shall not expire until then. Then the City council shall have fifteen days in which to pass an ordinance to create fire and police departments. The Mayor is then to appoint the heads of departments, and after they are confirmed by the council, they are to appoint their subordinates within ten days. This would cause a hiatus that would practically leave the city without such officers for some time, and open the way to further litigation.

It is stated that an attorney who asked for the new law claiming compensation for the time during which they were vacated by the city was chiefly instrumental in making the change in the bill, and that it passed the House without that careful scrutiny that should be given to measures of importance.

Legislation will not necessarily be repealed, but it should be looked back thoroughly into the measure, and that if they see the need of changing it so as to conform to that recommended by the city authorities, the House will not readily find a mistake was made, and will be ready to make the change so as to give city that which is absolutely necessary for efficiency in both the police and fire departments.

VERACITY OR LAW?

Under the heading of "A question of veracity," the Lamoni, Iowa, Herald discusses a matter in dispute with the Deseret News. The Herald, which is the organ of the so-called "Strangite" church, published this statement concerning Utah:

"The Legislature of which Utah has purposely enacted no law by which its officers may be compelled to live in accord with the provision in the act under which Utah became a state, 'polygamy is forever prohibited' or to suffer punishment if they fail to do it."

The Deseret News copied this, and proceeded to prove from the State Constitution that not only had the requirements of the Enabling Act of Congress been fully complied with, but that an additional provision had been placed in the State Constitution, by which the penalties against polygamy imposed by the act of Feb. 4, 1887, were made part of the supreme law of the State. We quoted article xxiv, sec. 2, and also the text of the law thus continued in force.

In an attempted reply to this, the Lamoni Herald takes up a labored argument to prove that polygamy means the having or living with a plurality of wives, and after spending much time and space over it states:

"This is the sort of polygamy that the Herald referred to and must what it stated that the Legislature of Utah had purposely enacted no law to prevent or punish polygamy."

First, let us make clear the meaning of the terms employed in this question of "veracity," as it is put by the Herald, but which started as a question of law. What is plain by the language of the state Constitution, and what is required by the Enabling Act? The term polygamy in the law was not defined by the people of Utah, but by act of Congress, the author of which was Senator George F. Edmunds, whom the Herald cites as an authority. The Edmunds act of March 22, 1882, fixed its legal definition in the United States. It was made to be the act of marrying a wife or husband by a person having a living and undivorced wife or husband. This was made punishable by a maximum fine of five hundred dollars and imprisonment not more than five years. The offense of living with a plurality of wives was called unlawful cohabitation, made a misdemeanor, and punished by six months imprisonment and a fine of three hundred dollars as maximum penalties.

In all the controversies before the courts on this matter these terms have been employed. The offenses are different and distinct. It does not matter what Webster, or Worcester, or any other lexicographer may have to say, when a legal definition is wanted we go to the law for it if it is a legal question.

But this controversy goes a little further than that. In order that there might be no mistake as to what Congress required of Utah as a condition precedent to her admission into the Union, the term polygamy was not used at all. The language of the Enabling Act is:

"Provided that polygamous or plural marriages are forever prohibited."

Dissertations over the philological signification of the term "polygamy" are wasted, then. Utah inserted this provision in her State Constitution as required, using the same language. The Lamoni Herald's surmises about the "shrewd cunning of 'Mormon' schemers" and "pretty piece of political trickery," and the rest of it, are thrown away, so are its essays on the alleged "obstruction" in the Enabling Act that in the State Constitution "polygamy forever prohibited, polygamy as defined by Webster * * was the thing intended to be prohibited."

The Enabling Act did not provide any such thing, nor intend any such definition, but performed that "piece of political trickery"—if there was any such thing—which the Lamoni Herald attributes to the "shrewd cunning" of the "Mormons."

And now, to close up the argument, if the Herald pleads with them to adopt for 24 of the Utah penal code in Revised Statutes of 1898 they will find all the punishments and penalties that they want and that they still declare the Utah Legislature purposely omitted to law about. After they have read all the provisions against polygamy and unlawful cohabitation contained therein, perhaps they will acknowledge they were wrong in their first assertion and also in their fact. As to their schemes, or pleas about the dictionary, it cuts no figure in the question of what is or is not in the law, and what is the legal signification of the terms which the law employs. If this is a question of "veracity" the Herald is equally at fault. However, we shall be surprised if it makes that "open confession" which is said to be "good for the soul."

WAR FIRST, THEN PEACE.

The opponents of the policy of the administration in regard to the Philippines never tire of triumphantly pointing to the disturbance at Manila as a verification of their most fears and predictions. They never seem that the government has a war on hand more expensive to life and money than that waged with Spain.

Nothing has occurred so far to justify such a view of the situation. Treacherous blows have been made upon the American lines, and property has been destroyed in Manila. But all accounts agree that the insurgents were repelled with no little loss to our forces, and that they were "beaten back" into the crater.

On the other hand, many of the natives have offered their services against the misguided followers of Aguinaldo, and, everything considered, the situation is not so very discouraging, as far as can be judged from the reports, hopeful and bright. Everybody expected that difficulties would be encountered in the attempt, but it does not need prophets to extrapolate from at the very outset. At the most the war in the Philippines can be of no greater consequence than some of the Indian wars in this country.

But even supposing the rebellion in the Philippines to be interminable as some represent it, what is there to do but go to work and put an end to it? Who can reflect upon the murderous of the war with Spain and can fail to see the hand of Providence both in the events that compelled the nation to tackle on the armor, and in the success which crowned military & naval on the cause of history?

Is it possible now to turn back the current of events? Can a few words from the benevolent or half-witted enemies over the onward progress of civilization represented by the standard-bearers of American liberty? If such obstacles are to be considered, it would be tomfoolishness to stop at the retreating of the antichristians to Manila, or the abandonment to Aguinaldo. It would be necessary to carry out that policy still further and return once after once of the domain of this magnificent republic to its first owners.

The fact should not be lost sight of that the very opposition of Aguinaldo's band will hasten the development of desirable conditions in the Philippines. Let the reckless incendiary gather, if he can, all of the refractory elements around him. It is in the usual class of the population, anyhow. Let him, if he chooses, and if reason cannot prevail, lead them on towards their fate. After that the country will be rid of these disturbers of the peace, and be ready for some form of government constructed on American principles.

This now seems inevitable, no matter who plays himself in opposition either at home or abroad. The 20-cornered difficulty of the so-called anti-imperialists, and of the troubles in the Philippines, is one of the most surprising features of the present situation, and it suggests that the unity of Aguinaldo is not subdued to the whole now in open war against the government.

DEWEY'S BASKETS.

Admiral Dewey first succeeded in guelling the Spaniards, and then the military and civil authorities of the world generally, by his admirable tact and skill in the Philippines. Now he has the Washington administration in a corner. His request for the Oregon was refused on the ground that he wanted to impress the Filipinos with the overwhelming power of the American navy. But today he has planted the administration by a requisition of 5,000 steel coaling baskets. What this means the Washington officials do not know, whether it is for a ruse to deceive coaling bags would suffice for coaling purposes. It is even suggested that he may want to use them as cages for Filipinos. If we take a ship to carry that number of baskets, it they can be obtained, for the navy department never heard of steel coaling baskets before. But Dewey asks for them, and the government will furnish them at any cost of incentive genius and money that may be necessary, so great is the confidence in the admiral's knowledge of just what he wants and ought to have. After all it may prove that he desires them for a simple purpose that will prove effective in diminishing the enemy's forces.

THE RISE IN COPPER.

A Chicago exchange calls attention to the fact that the phenomenal advance in the copper market during the last few months, is attended with circumstances similar to those under which wheat rose so rapidly a year ago. The same class of speculators, it is said, are manipulating the market and the inference is, that the operations cannot go on indefinitely, but must come to an abrupt termination.

The unusual demand for copper, it is pointed out, first arose as a result of the expansion of the electrical industries. Then combinations were formed with a view of commanding the market. Values advanced, but the importance of the movement was exaggerated and a general rush for copper securities of any description ensued. Old mines were re-opened, new properties exploited, development companies formed and all means resorted to for the purpose of producing paper for the speculating public.

It is now estimated that the market quotations of copper securities traded in, represent an advance of at least 75 per cent upon the highest possible figure which could be reached for the real properties of this class in actual commercial operations. That a reaction must come would appear unavoidable from this estimate.

PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN.

According to mediæval legends the city of Hamelin, in the Lower, long ago, was so infested by rats that life became unbearable. Then a piper in multi-colored garment undertook to cleanse the place. He played so enchantingly on his pipe that the rodents came out of their holes, and led them down to the river, where they were all drowned.

"Into them skrill notes the pipe addressed
You heard as if an army muttered;
And the muttering grew to a grumbling;
And the grumbling grew to a mighty rumbling,
And out the houses the rats came tumbling."

Then, having a grudge against the city the piper played his flute, and all the children came running away from their parents and were led to a hill, that opened its side and swallowed them up.

"Into it he went, collecting, as he footed, some great truth. We are reminded of it by the efforts of the anti-"Mormon" paper to gather up "young Utah." There must be something the matter with the instrument, forsooth. When the great prototype played,

"There was a rushing that seemed like a battling
Of merry crowds jostling at pitching
Small feet were pattering, wooden shoes clattering,
Little hands clapping and little tongues chattering,
And, like fowls in a farmyard when scared are flittering,
Down the hill they pour, accompanying the piper."

Out came all the children running.
All the merry voices singing.
With rosy cheeks and warm eyes,
And sparkling eyes and teeth like pearls;
Young and skipping, ran merrily after
The wonderful music with shouting and laughter."

The effort of this imitator's squeaking is entirely different. Whatever the result may be so far as concerns the rats, young Utah has turned its back upon the pied piper of anti-"Mormonism."

Germany had better keep its finger out of that Philippine pie.

The Salt Lake public building bill has passed the House, which, as it is a measure bill, virtually sees the struggle. This means good news for Salt Lake.

The new circuit court now in process of organization promises to polish the whole country when it gets to work—at least to allow no polishing but what it controls.

With a Carlist conspiracy in Spain, an Orleanist conspiracy in France, a Nihilist conspiracy in Russia, political troubles in Austria, and labor disorder in Italy and Germany, to wonder the European lovers that he are money.

The more about France, Germany and Russia going to seize the Philippines seems to increase. Such a movement would be in the then newer nature like sowing quiet powder in a hot stove, to say nothing of the politeness that would be given by America and England.

The "worst blizzard in years" struck Wyoming last night, according to a Cheyenne dispatch. That message, coming so soon after the recent severe weather, is a story of a certain storm that cannot fail to work serious hardships.

The delay of Spain in ratifying the peace treaty indicates a hope that the United States will have to abandon the Philippines, and in the grab that follows the Spaniards can secure Mindanao and perhaps a few other islands. Vain hope.

The sending back of 20 Spanish, who originally who had been induced to work for a Spanish mine owner of Boise City, Idaho, is a reminder that those Sons Sun not yet got out of his hole, contrived at marriage and Idaho, of shipping Spaniards to Spain.

The news from Jamaica is that the local authorities are much disturbed over their financial failure. The mother country will be asked to assume some the imperial government contents its disbursement, and as the Jamaicans will not consent to this, a policy of retrenchment is adopted, such as it will take military power to enforce, is anticipated. It will be a heavy tax on the people, and then it not likely to stop effect extravagance.

An Alliance raise war has broken out already, the dispatches announcing a riot in passenger tariffs of 20 to 25 per cent by the American and White Star lines, with a probability that others will join the contest soon. There is time to fix up the dispute before May, which is the period of the heaviest spring ocean travel. If the rate war should continue till then, which is hardly probable, there will be good opportunity for trips to and from the old world.

There is just one sentiment in the Hongkong Filipino account of the recent fire in Manila that sounds probable. It is that when foreign consuls were preparing to land marines from their warships, Admiral Dewey stopped them, saying he would destroy the ships if they tried the game. That would be just like the admiral, but the stranger probably is that the foreign ambassadors know just what the Americans were doing and made no interference whatever.

A statement is going the rounds of the press that Don Isaiaza is communistic society, a portion of which occupied Nauvoo, Illinois, some years after the Latter-day Saints were driven out. "Bought the Mormon holdings in Nauvoo." The fact is that the whole some of the property of Mormons was sold at a sacrifice during the expulsion period of 1845-6, much of it was never and by the "Mormon" owners, who were compelled to leave it. This was the case in Nauvoo and in the surrounding country, as well as in previous troubles in Missouri.

The spirit which possesses American troops in the Philippines is well illustrated in the letter of a Utah boy, William Hyde, in the Fourteenth infantry, to his family here. He wrote just previous to the recent Filipino attack on Manila: "Tonight is the night that we anticipate the Indian insurgents are going to take Manila—but they'll never see it in a thousand years. If you could see us throw out a battle line in ten minutes it would make your eyes stand out with astonishment." And that was when the boys had been kept working in the trenches all day till they were so tired that letter writing was a laborious task.

THE PHILIPPINE PROBLEM.

Chicago Record.

If the soldiers and savage enemy which the Filipinos are exhibiting in their latest performances are as all-sufficient, the war may be in progress a more likely to end in extermination than in pacification. Aguinaldo's military policy is certainly the policy of war to the knife and knife to the hilt.

Detroit Free Press.

People may not have looked upon the matter in this light, yet the war against the Filipinos will prove in the end a very expensive affair for the Americans. Aside from the fact that war of conquest has never been sanctioned by any act of Congress, that the war is carried on in direct violation of the Constitution and the police proclamation issued last August, that the Filipinos are not "rebels" as the war office would have it, and that they have not been found guilty of any offense against the laws of the government, although in instruction to the commission, they are declared to be "subjects" of the government, in fact of the promise for self-government the American colonists, to them, the war of conquest has proved unfortunate.

Springfield Republican.

The child soldiers who go to work and the parent who tries to save his from all risk and hurts is a hard fact. To be plain, it costs money. It costs money to enlist in contest the Filipinos as a self-governing people we should not have had to do so if we had kept our hands off. It costs money to enlist men who at first take to shoot, but it has the capacity and disposition to learn. The Filipinos had, of course, to enlist to rule themselves according to the highest American standards, but, even Prof. Worcester says that they have the capacity to rule, and that they have the disposition and the capacity will be developed.

Chicago Times-Herald.

It is evident that General Otis has had too small an army for his needs, and it is evident that the transport Sherman has arrived at Manila with the Twenty-first infantry, will be received with joy by the Filipino insurgents, it appears, are ahead of schedule time, and it is thought the reinforcements by the rest of the week will amount to 5,000 men. The rest will come in much better shape and will enable the American general to hold and some of the shifting text-shifting.

San Francisco Chronicle.

How can this savage and deserted islander be brought to reason? How can he be made to see that he and his race are unfitted for an independence of one for that it is some rule American citizenship and civilization, security, property and rights that are offered him, and that it is no part of the American idea that he has days has arms to enter, and how any form of government? There are questions greater than any others. That now presses immediately on the Philippines. They are the subject of negotiation and of their early settlement. The very best statesmanship of the country ought to be concerned, and, if it is not, the blunders of the past will be repeated, where the chance existed a policy which the Providence never dictated or contemplated has been all the mischief.

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Emanuel Petersen.
R. J. Meyer.
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