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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 8, 1907.

## QUESTION OF REIMBURSEMENT.

We reproduce in another part of this imprint of the "News," from the Congressional Record, a debate which will interest our readers. It was caused by a motion to reimburse Senator Reed Smoot to some extent for the heavy and unnecessary expenses forced upon him by the brutal assaults upon his character and constitutional rights. That proposition was agreed to, as was perfectly just and proper. Senator Smoot did not bear the burden of that conflict for the gratification of personal ambition, but because he perceived the vital importance of the principle of the principles assailed, of history and hatred. He was the right man to lead the victorious side of that conflict, but he should certainly not be expected to bear the entire financial burden. The action of the Senate in the case was but a tribute to justice.

During the consideration of the proposition Senator McLaurin offered an amendment providing for the appropriation of an equal amount to defray the expenses of the protestants. This was lost. Another amendment appropriating \$7,500 for the benefit of the protestants, was also, very properly lost. As Senator Warren pointed out, to pay the protestants in this case any sum whatever, would be to invite any person hereafter, "whether it is any of their business or not," to attack any senator and then ask for pay for making the attack. Clearly, that would have been a dangerous precedent.

During the debate on these amendments some interesting information was brought out. Senator Dubois said the ministerial association and the women organizations of the country paid the attorneys \$7,500, and that money was collected from "their people." If it is true that the attorneys got, all in all, only \$7,500, where is the rest of the shekels that were contributed from pious individuals and congregations all over the country? For it is almost morally certain that much more than the sum stated by Dubois was drummed up. Where is the rest of it? Who has got it? If the women organizations would start another investigation to find out the whereabouts of their contributions, they might learn something to their advantage. We are told that a million American women were engaged in this "holy war." If each of them had contributed only a poor little nickel, the ministerial association would have had \$50,000 to spend. Where is the rest of it. The government? What of the witnesses. Can it be that a much smaller number of women were interested in this agitation than the leaders boasted of?

Senator Dubois also offered the information that if the government reimbursed the women organizations, the money would be used for "good work, missionary work." It did not occur to him, perhaps, that the government of this country has no power to appropriate public funds for "missionary work." He saw, perhaps, a possible chance of getting that money himself, by and by, for anti-Mormon lectures. But if so, he was soon undeceived. The proposition was indignantly laid on the table. They will have to pass the hat again.

## NEW POLICY OF PUBLICITY.

Two or three eastern railroads have set a wholesome and commendable example to other roads throughout the country with reference to giving out the facts in the case of accident. Utah is no exception to the rule that when casualties occur it is well impossible to secure definite information from those that in the very nature of things, know most about them. Sometimes the most serious happenings are minimized in the very face of indisputable facts. Every newspaperman of experience knows how true this is. Now and then he has made misstatements in his account of what has happened, for the reason that he has been wrongly informed, or purposely misled.

Realizing the truth of this claim as a widespread evil, the heads of the Pennsylvania, a few days ago, took the public freely and fully into its confidence regarding the cause of the Mineral Point wreck, with the result that the latter's antagonism was not nearly so great as it otherwise would have been. Another incident of the same kind was witnessed when President Newman of the New York Central appeared before the coroner's jury while that body was investigating the Harlem disaster, and confessed his road was wholly responsible for its occurrence. Commenting upon these manifestations of a change of policy the Cleveland Plain Dealer remarks:

"This is the new and welcome step in the right direction and one full of promise for the future. Such an example on the part of two of the country's very foremost systems was not given under compulsion, and loses none of its force by reason of any suspicion of an ulterior motive. It should be taken as its full face value as indicating a purpose to accept full responsibility for all shortcomings in the matter of railway operation and to cooperate with the public in securing a remedy. This remedy cannot well be found and applied in the present state of public ignorance of the exact causes of railway accidents. An ignorance due mainly to the long prevailing policy of suppression and evasion on the part of the railroads."

When it is made possible for the railroads and the public to understand each other by a course of frank candor and non-evasion, it will be de-

cidedly better for all concerned. There can be no possible good come from a suppression of facts. A moment's reflection will make it clear in advance that publicity will surely come. Important details cannot be smothered and should not be. Give the newspapers the full facts in case of disaster or accident of any kind, and not one in a hundred will over-sensationalize. Withhold, evade, and throw obstacles in their way, and not only are they liable to do that very thing, but their ill will is often incurred as an additional misfortune. It is easier to make a clean breast of it at the beginning than to be humiliatedly compelled to admit it after a denial that is often made, more from the course of training an official has had rather than from a desire to misstate or deceive. In the great majority of cases the newspapers can, and should, be trusted.

## PASS THIS BILL.

Among the measures before the lawmakers that should receive their favorable attention before they adjourn is H. B. 54, by Tolton, which is a bill for an act prohibiting theaters and other Sunday amusements on the Sabbath day, and providing penalties for the desertion of that day. But in addition to the provisions it now contains it should be amended so as to place a bar upon some other forms of rampant evils indulged in on the Sabbath. We have particular reference to horse racing, football and baseball. The latter, while probably the cleanest as well as the most popular American game, is nevertheless not conducive to Sunday quiet or spirit. It belongs essentially to the week day class of entertainments, as do all other forms of sport. The Sabbath should not be desecrated by any of these free and easy amusements. It is to the interest of law-abiding citizens generally that H. B. 54 become a law. Read it and see if you do not entertain the same view of the matter. Its full text is as follows:

"Section 1. The performance of any tragedy, comedy, opera, ballet, farce, negro minstrelsy, negro or other dancing, wrestling, boxing with or without gloves, sparring contest, trial of strength, or any part or parts thereof, or any circus, equestrian or dramatic performance or exercise, or any performance or exercise of jugglers, acrobats, or vaudeville entertainment, club performance or rope dancers on the first day of the week commonly known as Sunday, is forbidden, and every person aiding in such exhibition, performance or exercise by advertisement, posting or otherwise, and every owner or lessee of any garden, building or other room, place or structure, who leases or lets the same for the purpose of any such exhibition, performance, or exercise, if it be so used, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

In addition to the punishment therefor provided by statute, every such performance, exhibition, or exercise, if itself, annuls any license which may have previously been obtained by the manager, agent, superintendent, owner or lessee, using or letting such building, garden, room, place, or other structure, or consenting to such exhibition, performance or exercise.

"Section 2. All acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed."

## ANOTHER WHITMER.

A correspondent writing from Richmond, Mo., under date of Feb. 27, advises us that on Washington's birthday this year a great-grandson of David Whitmer was born. The mother of the new citizen is Mrs. Chas. Murry Twelves of Provo. Our correspondent, Mr. Geo. W. Schweich, says the fact that the child was ushered into the world on a day of such historic interest is very significant to him. We trust the little great-grandson of David Whitmer, who has become known all over the world as a witness to the truth of the Book of Mormon, will grow up and become as faithful in everything as was his noble ancestor in his testimony to the truth of the sacred volume. For though the latter parted company with the Prophet of the Lord, he never denied the reality of the visions he had had, although he might, in all probability, have made a fortune by telling a falsehood about his early connection with the Church. The very darkness and spiritual blindness that came over him in the later years of his life make him one of the most important witnesses for the truth. May his little great-grandson in due time see the light which his honored ancestor was called upon to testify to, and may he be ever faithful, ever true!

## SENATOR SPOONER RESIGNS.

The resignation of Senator Spooner of Wisconsin from his position as one of the United States senators from that state, comes as a surprise to his friends, and is very much regretted by his associates. Senator Spooner has held his position for sixteen years. Once before he tendered his resignation but was prevailed upon to reconsider that decision. His mind is fully made up, he says; he cannot afford to remain in the service of the public any longer.

Senator Spooner is one of the truly lucid majority of the Senate who cast his vote in defense of Senator Smoot and the vital principles involved in the famous controversy that raged around the senior Senator of his state. It has been insinuated by the character assassins who led that fight, that the majority of the United States Senate consists of men who for selfish motives betrayed the protestants and their gentle backers. In view of this infamous charge, the universal respect in which Senator Spooner is held and the testimony of those who know him, to his ability and integrity, are of interest at this time.

President Roosevelt is quoted as follows:

"I cannot sufficiently express my regret at Senator Spooner's resignation. We lose one of the ablest, most efficient, most fearless and most upright public servants that the nation has. Four years ago I knew the extreme reluctance with which Senator Spooner finally consented to serve in the Senate, and year by year since I have feared that he would resign, as he finally has resigned. For I have known that every year of his stay in public life has been to him a direct financial loss which he could ill afford."

Secretary Taft said:

"He is decidedly the greatest parliamentary debater of his day and really deserves the title so much misapplied, of a great constitutional lawyer. Every great act of congressional legislation in

the sixteen years of his service has been made better, more lucid and more clearly within the constitutional limits of congressional authority by amendments and suggestions of his, which did not bear his name, but which were prompted by his sense of responsibility for the body of which he was a distinguished member."

The Springfield Republican has this to say:

"As a lawyer he can easily earn a very large income, but during his senatorial career he has shown a noble conscience, refrained from professional work. Mr. Spooner's reason must be accepted, however much one may be tempted to inquire how far the aggressive political rivalry of the much more radical Senator La Follette has influenced his decision. The qualities of public life undoubtedly were very distasteful to him, and the future, perhaps, was not promising in Wisconsin politics."

La Follette, by the way, voted on the opposite side of the controversy, as might have been expected. The Chicago Record-Herald pays this tribute to Senator Spooner:

"There has not been a trace of either bigotry or treachery in his attitude, qualities only too common in the Senate, and he has time and again shown that when the popular voice was plainly spoken he set his demands above his own private views. That Senator Spooner has refused to accept profitable retainers where he thought his influence as a senator might be reckoned as part of his private income, is a credit to him and it is not to his discredit now that he resigns to apply his powers and reputation for his own welfare as a practicing lawyer."

The New York World has this to say:

"There has probably been no period in the history of the United States Senate when John C. Spooner would not have been recognized as one of the ablest members of that body. After sixteen years of service the Senator from Wisconsin has resigned, at the age of sixty-four, to resume the practice of law. So far as the mere matter of brains was concerned, he possessed any importance whatsoever in the conduct of government. Senator Spooner's resignation is distinctly a public loss, whatever gain it may be to the La Follette machine."

If testimony has any weight, honesty and ability must be credited to the side that stood by Senator Smoot in the long fight he so successfully fought for religious liberty and the Constitution of his country.

The advantage of poverty lies in the philosophic frame of mind that it induces.

If Fred T. Dubois is the "noblest Roman of them all" what must the rest be!

The defense in the Thaw case has rested. For the public it is a well earned rest.

Who will lay him down and see for the bonnie Annie Laurie mining company? The sale will show.

That young lady who captured two crooks should be on the police force, but not in the "plain clothes" section.

Mr. Harriman has resolved to talk no more for publication. He sets an example worthy of emulation by all.

The "American" party "grand rally" last night was much more than a "brain storm." It was a regular mental twister.

Prosecutor Jerome wanted to know of Dr. Wagner if arguing in a circle tended to produce circular insanity. The tendency undoubtedly would be to produce "wheels."

Colleges of courtship advocated by Professor C. B. Henderson of the University of Chicago, probably would develop into schools of scandal.

Japanese railway laborers are leaving the Hill lines, going south to California where they can command higher wages. And this is their reply to California's demand for their exclusion.

It can do no harm to postpone action on the Senate bill, popularly re-named by the meeting held in the Commercial club the other evening. It may be necessary to consider it carefully in all its bearings, in order that the vote may be cast intelligently and with a full understanding of the consequences.

In Virginia the "unwritten law" triumphs. Judge Harrison who presided at the trial of the Strother brothers for the killing of Bywaters, their brother-in-law, thanked the jury for their verdict of acquittal. The unwritten law is very apt to prevail in most of the states but we believe this is the first case in which a judge on the bench has commended it.

Those San Francisco Irishmen are quite sensitive about the stage Irishman. Where is their native humor that they do not realize the ridiculousness of their position in going to a theater and creating a disturbance? The stage Irishman is in the same class as the stage Yankee, the stage John Bull, the stage Hans and the stage Johnny Crepaud. Yet no American, Englishman, German or Frenchman would think of creating a scene at a theater because of such representations. That they are in bad taste, is true. But are they worthy of serious notice?

## GALLERY GODS.

Harry James Smith in the Atlantic. The gallery is placed as compared with the rest of the house. It knows all the tricks of the craft, it does not give itself with quite the same abandon to the emotion, but it knows when a thing is done to its liking, and it expresses opinions with unmistakable directness. It was in the case of the Queen of the White Slave. I remember, that a scene occurred where the villain, in the climax of insolence, struck the unhappy brother of the heroine in the face with his gloves. You could hear the blow to the top seat of the top gallery, and the wicked laugh that accompanied it. The audience recoiled, caught its breath, and above the storm of hisses that ensued you heard a shrill shout from amid the gods. "Hit him back, George!" As George had been previously drugged with opium, by Lionel it was obviously impossible for him to take the hint; but the uproar caused by another headlin laugh, left the stage.

## JUST FOR FUN.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The Germans are gravely arguing the possibility of a war between Japan and the United States. The discussion appears to amuse them, but they are not likely to get any more fun out of it than sensible Americans and Japanese, who are aware of the dense

ignorance of those who figure out that a clash is absolutely inevitable.

## THE ORIGINAL CALENDAR.

London Chronicle.

To the modern world a "calendar" is merely a harmless necessary reminder of weeks and days, to be hung up on New Year's day and consulted in dating letters throughout the year. It has no such mournful sound as "Calendarium" had for the ancient Romans. The original "calendar" of their time was the money lender's account book, so called because interest was due from the debtor on the calendar, or first day of each month. That is why Seneca speaks of "calendar" as a word invented outside the course of nature on account of human greed. It is a word which may help to persuade us that the world has grown kinder.

## JUST FOR FUN.

Evidently Not.

"Oh, it's easy. Easy as taking candy from a baby."

"Easy, eh? Ever try to take candy from a baby?"—Ex.

That's Different.

"Mr. Jinks, you wrote a personal letter today during my time. That's stealing."

"Well, sir, I have worked overtime fully two hundred times per year for the past twenty years."

"Ha! Hum! That's business."—Ex.

In Congress.

And now the new, ambitious chap recedes his turn to literature, and they let him rise and move, mayhap. They let him adjourn.—Ex.

Depends.

"Do you think these elbow sleeves are becoming?"

"Not when a lady has to wear them—garters with her gloves."—Ex.

Few Words.

"State in as few words as possible what you know about the initiative and referendum," said the professor in political economy.

And the pupil for once earned 100 by replying: "Nothing."

Stopped at Fourth Chapter.

Upton Sinclair and a publisher's reader met the other day in New York.

"The talk turned at once to literature, and the reader mentioned proudly that a certain popular novel, after 18 rejections, had been accepted by him, and had gained for his house nearly \$100,000."

"A mighty good book it is, too," said the reader. Have you read it?"

"Yes," said Mr. Sinclair.

"Well, what do you think of it?"

"There is only one thing to be said in its favor," the young novelist answered. "A friend of mine during the Spanish-American war, while in his breast pocket, a ball ricocheted against his ribs, but the book saved him. The ball was unable to get beyond the fourth chapter—Indianapolis Star."

Method in It.

A little girl in Cleveland was playing with her trinkets on the parlor floor while an older sister was drumming with much persistence on the piano.

"Play louder, Florie," spoke the child.

The girl at the keys felt flattered and, with an elated smile, asked: "So you like to hear me play, do you, darling?"

"No, I don't," came the unexpected and emphatic reply. "I wanted you to play louder so papa would tell you to stop."—Everybody's.

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