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Saturday, . . . October 26, 1889.

"CALIFORNIA'S BURSTED BOOM."

UNDER this heading the Peoria *Journal* begins an editorial article with these sentences:

"One of the most forlorn sections of the universe at this blessed time is perhaps Southern California. To say that it is almost a worthless section of country at best would be putting it very mildly. That portion of the State which lies south of Los Angeles and west of the San Bernardino range is about as dead as any section of country could be. The collapse has been perfect in every particular, and will serve as a warning to all who desire to invest money in a 'boom' locality."

In support of this portrayal of the present condition of Southern California, the *Journal* quotes from a well-written Sacramento letter containing statistics which show how terribly ruinous to investors has been the collapse of the "boom" that induced them to place their money on land speculations. In the "town" of Oak Knoll, for example, lots which two years ago sold for \$1500 will now bring \$100. In speaking of proceedings which took place before the board of equalization of taxes, while land owners were endeavoring to have their taxes reduced, the Sacramento writer says:

"One of the most curious things that came out was offered by Mr. Davis, of Los Angeles. It was a document giving the history and present condition of sixty paper towns projected in all portions of the country, two of which were actually on the desert. None of the local sharps, however, bit at these two. Lots were unloaded upon the unsuspecting eastern public. The sixty town sites, Mr. Davis said, comprised 79,350 town lots now listed by the assessors, and at present the whole sixty had but 2,351 inhabitants. Among the towns were Borden City, having 1,920 lots platted, and not a single inhabitant; Chicago Park, 2,286 lots, and one inhabitant, the watchman who takes charge of the leading hotel; Carlton, 4,060 lots, and no inhabitants; Manchester, 2,304 lots, with not a soul in it; West Glendale, 8,128 lots, and no inhabitants; Sunset, 2,032 lots, and

one inhabitant, he being, as in the other case, watchman of an expensive hotel.

"It must be remembered that these town sites are not merely tracts of land with a stubble of surveyor's stakes. The mass of them are laid out in streets, some with sewers leading to nowhere, cement sidewalks, on which jack rabbits scamper up and down, and an occasional electric light standard from which now and then a lonely wandering owl hoots at the skeleton of a half-finished house. Such places dot the prairie, and here and there are the beginnings of paper railroads, talked of, but never completed. The real estate dealer in southern California is not a happy man today. He had his term a year ago, and now the deluded lot buyers are making him pay taxes at city rates on acre property by holding on to worthless town lots, which compels the assessment of adjoining property at equal rates. Hence the howl from property owners and their cry will probably be heeded. For the present taxes based on boom prices are working hardship among the poorer classes."

Hon. John C. New, ex-register of the United States Treasury, called at this office something over two years ago, on his return from a trip to those sections of California where the "boom" had been the greatest, and in a conversation upon the subject he gave it as his opinion that investors had taken leave of their senses, and that it was a sort of insanity which led them to pay for land in Southern California the prices then prevailing. He predicted a speedy and disastrous collapse. His ability as a financier, which had given him a national reputation, enabled him to read in advance those laws, the operations of which have produced the result he foretold.

Utah may learn a lesson from the foregoing. Town lots are valuable in proportion to the population, but the latter will be attracted only to such places as afford employment for labor and investment for capital. In other words, industries must be established and natural resources utilized and developed, or high real estate values cannot be maintained.

ASSOCIATED PRESS DECEPTION.

WE SEE by our exchanges that the deceptive dispatches sent from this city in regard to the teachings at the recent Conference, have accomplished their intended object. Comments are being made on the alleged exhortations of the Elders to the Saints "to obey all the laws of God, polygamy included." And a

great many strong remarks are made about the way in which the "Mormons" "place the Church above the State." It is also stated, on the authority of the dispatch fiend in this city, that "President Woodruff, the octogenarian leader of the Church, took particular pains to urge that polygamy was a divine revelation and a saving ordinance."

We will state here for the benefit of the press of this country, that the subject of polygamy was not touched upon in any way at the recent Conference, either by President Woodruff or any other speaker. The dispatches conveying the intimations on which a number of editors have based their comments, are false in spirit and in letter, and were intended to deceive when they were concocted and sent over the wires.

This dirty work is part of the programme of so called "Liberals," who are working to obtain political control in this city and Territory. Falsehood, misrepresentation and deceit are their chief weapons and their sole stock in trade. There is nothing too low and mean in this direction for them to stoop to, and it is a shame and a disgrace to the Associated Press that its managers continue to receive and transmit dispatches, from a source which has been demonstrated to them repeatedly to be utterly false and unscrupulous.

We repeat, there was nothing said during the whole proceedings of the General Conference which justified the statement in the dispatches concerning polygamy, nor the comments which have been made upon them by many reputable public journals. They, perhaps, are not to blame for this. But how many of them will have the fairness to contradict what has been falsely given to the public, when they are made acquainted with their error?

SPLIT OVER THE SPOILS.

OUR readers are more or less familiar with the crusade that has been conducted against the Saints in Great Britain by the unsavory and conscienceless Jarman, well known here as a mixture of madman, crank and scoundrel. There is now a powerful want of harmony in the Jarman camp, two of his right-hand men, Bolitho and Barnfield, having quarreled with him over the spoils of the anti-Mormon campaign.

These two worthies are haunting Jarman like a couple of performing