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"MORMON" POLITICS IN IDAHO.

SENATOR W. J. McCONNELL of Idaho has been visiting Spokane in the State of Washington. He served the short term in the United States Senate to which he was elected as a political honor and as a recognition of his services to the Republican party in Idaho. To a representative of the Spokane *Review* he talked very freely on the "Mormon" question in its relations to Idaho. After giving a history of the movement for the suppression of polygamy, the enactment of the test oath law, and the course taken by the Church in Utah in reference to the matter, he said:

"The publication of the manifesto of President Woodruff of the Mormon Church, together with the court report of his testimony before the Master in Chancery, in the Church property cases in Salt Lake City, are now before the country, and would seem to be evidence that the Mormon leaders have abandoned that part of their creed which encourages polygamy.

"It is evident, however, that the People's party, as the Mormon party in Utah is called, has been disbanded, and the Mormons are affiliating with the different political parties on national party lines. It is more than probable that they will attempt to do so in our State and endeavor to participate in the next general election. The natural proclivities of these people will lead them to affiliate with the Democratic party, for a time at least, and until the soreness caused by the opposition of the Republican party, led by Senator Dubois, has worn away."

On the last mentioned point we think the ex-Senator is a little off. The sentiments of our people in Southern Idaho have undergone a great change in consequence of the treachery and lack of common courage on the part of many Democrats, and it will take some time and much better treatment from that party than has been exhibited of late years to gain their support again. Mr. McConnell said further:

"The Mormon people as a rule are sober and industrious, and while those who are recent importations from foreign countries are generally uneducated, yet the rising generation in the Mormon settlements are very bright and intelligent, having received in most cases the advantages of quite a liberal education. They are the material of which good citizens may be made, and to say that they will continue to live under the servitude of disfranchisement is to admit that we forget the liberality of the American people.

"As evidenced by the history of our country at the close of the late rebellion, the Southern States harbored and encouraged an institution even more degrading, if possible, than polygamy, and to maintain it resorted to battle, causing a sacrifice of nearly 1,000,000 of human lives and untold millions of treasure, yet the smoke of conflict had scarcely disappeared from the horizon, when those who were so recently of contending armies united in scattering flowers upon the graves of those whom they had slain. Little more than a quarter of a century has passed since these conflicting interests met in the clash of battle, yet today upon a hundred hillsides may be seen the glistening marble shafts, which is evidence of the vindictiveness of man when his passions are aroused. However, the gentle influence of reason and of peace has brought with them forgetfulness of the past, and today in the halls of Congress are to be found those same men who tried by the sword to dismember this Union as ardently engaged in the enactment of laws for its preservation and the maintenance of its honor. "Such I predict will be the result of the Mormon question. In the near future intelligence will prevail, and, in the Republican party, the party whose ideas of government protect the interests of our State, nearer than that of any other party, Mormons, forgetting the bitterness of the past, will be found voting with that party."

The result will be no doubt mainly as the gentleman predicts. With the removal of the vexed question from which the troubles referred to have sprung, the better class of the American people will cast aside their prejudices and bitterness and the "Mormons" will obtain those political rights and liberties to which they are entitled. But the old unity in favor of one party will be gone, and while some will retain their regard and adherence to the Democratic party, others will affiliate with the Republicans, having lost their respect for and faith in the party in Idaho that they consider betrayed them in their hour of need.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AMONG ANIMALS.

A BILL was introduced in the Legislature on Thursday, by Representative Aquila Nebeker of Rich County, to suppress the dissemination of contagious and infectious diseases among domestic animals. It provides for a Territorial Veterinarian, to be appointed by the Governor and Legislative Council, whose duty it shall be to investigate all cases of such diseases that may be brought to his notice, whether existing in any given locality or brought to any railroad station in the Territory, and to quarantine the diseased animals. Also, with the advice and assistance of two other competent veterinary physicians, or in their absence two experienced stock men, to order the slaughter of such animals when necessary, under his personal supervision.

The bill makes it unlawful for any

person to sell or give away an animal or a part of it which is diseased, or to permit the animal to remain associated with healthy animals.

Indemnity is provided for, in the case of animals ordered to be slain by the veterinarian, and a fund to furnish means for this is to be formed, by the annual assessment of one mill on the dollar as a special tax on the assessed value of all cattle, sheep, horses and mules in the Territory.

There are other provisions on minor points connected with the general subject, and it is evident that the measure has been prepared with care by one familiar with the matter. We understand that it was drawn by A. C. Young of this city, who was formerly Government Inspector of contagious diseases in Pennsylvania, is a practical veterinary surgeon and a graduate of the American Veterinary College in New York City. We think the bill is a good one, and that there is need of some provisions to protect both the owners of stock from the ravages of cattle diseases, and the public against meat unfit for human food.

DON'T DO IT.

We understand that the Choral Society of this city is somewhat exercised over the prospect of the Tabernacle not being used for future musical entertainments. Any intention of ceasing to allow the building to be utilized for this purpose is based on the possibility of its being liable in consequence to proceedings for seizure, under the Edmunds law. It is, probable, that a strict construction of that act would be that if the structure is used for entertainments to which an admission fee is charged, action might be taken to confiscate it.

This situation, it seems, is causing some anxiety to the Choral Society, and it is stated that that organization may soon appoint a committee to memorialize Congress and ask it for the privilege of holding May or June festivals in the Tabernacle.

If there be any such intention we hope the society will abandon the idea, and save itself from being placed in an unenviable light before the public. Besides the general absurdity of petitioning Congress for the privilege of holding a concert anywhere, that body has nothing whatever to do with the subject in question. It is a matter of existing law, and is in the hands of the judicial department of the Government, upon which devolves the duty of administering the law. Any such action as that suggested in a morning paper would only make the Choral Society ridiculous.