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Charles W. Penrose, - - - - Editor
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THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

The withdrawal of the long educational bill which has been before the Legislature, will perhaps settle, for the present, the dispute over the election of school boards and city school superintendents at general elections. But it will not dispose of the question, by any means. While the present disposition is manifest to keep sectarian influences in control of school affairs, and a determination is manifested and expressed to keep one particular class of persons out of participation in school management and teaching, there will be trouble and the only way to settle it will be in the manner proposed to the Legislature.

We repeat, the difficulty complained of did not commence with "Mormon" trustees or "Mormon" teachers. It began with virulent anti-"Mormon" schemers, who plotted in secret but appeared in public, to effect their purposes of exclusion. The means adopted to accomplish this are well known, and it is beyond dispute that they included the aid of school teachers, both by money and votes, and some of the latter illegally, at least in nominating conventions. Thus the introduction of politics and sectarian influence in the schools themselves, originated with those who affect such horror at the very possibility of their prevalence.

The best reply to charges that "Mormon" school boards and superintendents would for any reason discriminate against non-"Mormon" teachers, possessing proper qualifications, is the fact that where such boards and officers are in control, large numbers of non-"Mormons" are employed and that religion is not made a test in any instance.

It is wrong and infamous to attempt to create the impression, abroad or at home, that the "Mormon" people desire to retard the progress of education, or that they are averse to the employment of the very best talent that can be obtained. They have supported non-"Mormons" for members of school boards, for superintendents of schools, for principals in academies and other institutions of learning, and for lectures and preceptors on higher education for many years.

From the very beginning of settlement in these mountains, education has been promoted and fostered, and non-"Mormon" educators of good attainments, when found to be moral and trustworthy, have had employment here. These are facts that cannot be refuted.

Brigham Young, that great pioneer, patriot and friend to progress and learning, was lampooned and maligned for years as a foe to education, by the same reckless and malignant detamer of the "Mormons" that now raves daily, after a similar fashion, respecting living men who cannot be influenced by those who want to run all our State affairs. And yet Brigham Young's name designates one of our foremost institutions of learning, which he founded and which compare favorably with other establishments of the kind in any part of the country.

The sectarian and political opposition, as we have said, comes from anti-"Mormon" sources, and will have to be suppressed before this question can be settled. And the proposition to elect our school boards and city superintendents at the general elections, was made with a view to quieting, not provoking those disputes which have rendered our school elections scandalous.

The election of county and State superintendents of schools has worked no evil; it has not introduced politics into the schools; it has not imbued them with any sectarian influence; it has worked well in every instance; it has not excluded the competention of fitness; it has not dispensed with proofs of essential qualifications. Therefore it is reasonable to suppose that the election of city superintendent, will also be without one of the horrible consequences, conjured up by those who want to exclude persons of a given creed from participation in the regulation of school affairs. That point has never been met in all the noise that has been made in opposition by a very simple proposition.

Notice may as well be served now as at any time, that the discrimination against "Mormons" which has been complained of, has been and will be thoroughly understood, and will not be tolerated in future. If there is and a change in this respect on the part of those who have promoted it, measures will be taken to secure justice, fairness and deliverance from the political and sectarian domination that cannot and must not continue to prevail in school affairs in Utah.

BEWARE OF SHARKS.

A private letter to a resident of this city contains a timely note of warning against the operations of unscrupulous persons who sometimes deal in real estate. The contents of the letter are given publicity here, because it is stated that efforts are being made to lease barren lands, and to induce Utah people, by means of fraudulent representations, to change their property for worthless wastes.

The writer states that during a trip in California he had to stop over at San Pedro, and while there saw several real estate men who informed him they expected to obtain thousands of acres of land in Utah in trade for land in that vicinity. He says he found one victim of these methods that almost made his heart ache. It was a poor woman who related her experience. She had lived in the eastern part of Kansas, where she and her husband had owned 160 acres well cultivated and stocked and free from incumbrance. Then a land speculator came along telling them of the golden opportunities of the western state. At length they were induced to sell their home and invest in the prospective miracle. They had been told that a small mortgage attached to the new place, but it was comparatively nothing and could soon be paid off.

After mailing the exchange and moving to the new country, they had not been able to pay the interest on that "insignificant" debt, and finally the property was taken from them to satisfy the creditor. She was living in a tent with a sick husband and some small children, attracted out of their comfortable home in Kansas. And the worst of it is, she was not the only victim. There were others with a similarity and experience.

The writer of the letter is a Californian himself, but he thinks it only just to do what he can to warn people against the traps of swindlers.

There should be no occasion to sound this warning in Utah, but just now there is a decided effort on the part of many of our settlements to seek new fields of activity. This is all right in some cases, but the young and inexperienced need to be on their guard, for undoubtedly effort will be made to "do business" with them.

Ample information is to be obtained of reliable men as to suitable places of location for those who are desirous of moving out to new localities. There is no need of rushing on the growing descriptions furnished by people interested in disposing of worthless real estate at an exorbitant price.

THE CHINESE CRISIS.

If Lord Beresford's suggestion of a joint guarantee of the integrity of the Chinese empire is to be acted upon, there will be no time to lose. The dismemberment is going on and after a while only fragments will remain.

Russia is complete master over Manchuria, under the pretext of having leased some ports, and Great Britain holds Hong Kong under her "sphere of influence." Germany has already full control over the part "leased" by the Berlin government. Ports, islands, railroad and mining facilities are passing into the hands of the European powers.

The latest country heard from in the Chinese question is Italy. The Italians, who were so ignominiously driven out of Abyssinia, are now asking the Pekin government for the privilege of "leasing" San Mun bay in the province of Che Kiang, and also three islands off the coast, with the right to construct a railroad from San Mung bay to Po-Yang lake. Certain mining privileges are also asked for. The Chinese government indignantly refuses to grant these concessions, but Great Britain is said to support this demand, and the probability is that Italy will proceed to "lease" the coveted territory without the consent of the Pekin government. A London dispatch states that Italian warships have already landed marines at San Mun bay, virtually taking possession.

From all this it is apparent that the crisis with China is no longer a question of the future. According to the latest advices it is expected that within two weeks it will be definitely known, whether Great Britain is to resist further on the maintenance of the Chinese empire and the "open door" arrangement, or whether this policy is to be reversed. If a reversal is to be decided on, an scenes most likely at the present time, the dismemberment of the Mongolian empire will proceed. The sudden withdrawal of Germany from the Philippines, and the protestations of friendship for the United States may find an easy explanation in the Chinese situation.

The naked fact seems to be that the European powers are now coolly deliberating upon the division of the defenseless country. If a satisfactory agreement can be made, the map of the world will be changed, perhaps before the beginning of the next century.

GENERAL OTIS.

Col. Chas. A. Woodruff contributes to the New York Independent an interesting sketch of the career of the soldier now at the head of the military forces in the Philippines.

General Lloyd Stephen Otis commenced as a volunteer, and is now carrying the reputation of being a thorough soldier and a strict disciplinarian. The idea of the Filipinos surprising him is amusing to anyone who knows his vigilance and his ability to prepare for every emergency. Stilling Hull, who was a master of Indian strategy, never surprised the troops under Otis.

According to the record Otis entered the service of his country in 1861 as captain of the 16th New York infantry. He became a lieutenant colonel the following year, and was honorably mustered out in 1865. Then he entered the regular army and became a colonel of the Twentieth infantry in 1898, and brigadier general in 1895. He was twice brevetted for gallant conduct, once in Apache campaign and once at the battle of Chapel House in the Virginia campaign.

General Otis's fight with Sitting Bull is regarded as one of the most notable events of modern Indian warfare. It took place on October 15, 1876. It began when the hostile Sioux attacked Indian going from Glendive creek, Montana, where Otis was stationed, to Tongue river. Otis was in command of six companies of the Twenty-second infantry. When Captain C. W. Miner, with companies H, G and K, of the Twenty-second, and company C of the Seventeenth, returned to Glendive station, from which they had just set out with the intention of escorting a train of ninety-four wagons and one ambulance to Tongue river, and reported the Yellowstone country full of hostile Sioux, signal fires everywhere, and that they had been attacked by a force of about 700 warriors, Otis took 125 infantrymen and went out with the train himself. This was four months after the massacre on the Little Big Horn, when the Indians under Sitting Bull were particularly dangerous and safe.

General Otis is described as a man about five feet eleven inches high. His figure is spare rather than stout. He is wiry and quick of movement. His gray eyes are piercing and his face is tanned by long exposure to the sun and the wind. During the Civil War a bullet struck his face, but the scar of the wound is hardly noticeable. He is a man who makes friends very slowly but he keeps them permanently. It is believed that the Filipinos will soon learn that the words of General Otis are to be relied upon, for he does not speak much, but what he says he means.

The dispatches from the seat of rebellion show that there is much anxiety among the followers of Aguinaldo, but with a soldier of the quality and career of General Otis directing the operations there, this need cause no alarm. Advices so far are encouraging. The rebels are driven back, routed and dispersed in every skirmish, with but little loss to the American troops.

The defenders of our flag now are in a position to force a decisive engagement upon the insurgents, the outcome of which cannot be in doubt. The discontent seems to be confined entirely to the island of Luzon, and this will facilitate the final settlement of the Philippine question.

The Klondike country will soon be close to the rest of the world in the matter of news. The Dominion government has begun the work of constructing a telegraph line.

The smelting furnaces now include all the great places of the country but three, and these cause to under a contract, making the trust about as complete as possible.

Compulsory cleansing of the streets and houses is being inaugurated by the American authorities in Porto Rico. When the people of the island get cleaned up they will hardly know themselves.

Agricultural says he paid Cubanos $75,000 for munitions of war, and only got 500 rifles and 2,000,000 rounds of ammunition. Admiral Dewey collected the rest, to the great discomfiture and disencouragement of the Filipino rebel.

The Argentine wheat crop, reported to have been injured by heavy rains, is found to be all right, so that a bonanza supply of breadstuffs will come from that quarter of the globe this year.

Bolivia is succumbing to a revolution and Ecuador has just about succeeded in suppressing one. That there may be no hitch in the whirling program in South American republics, Peru expects to launch an insurrection within a couple of weeks.

Thibetan exploration will soon lose its historic fascination. Another traveler, M. Bonin, a Frenchman, has passed through the country after numerous hairbreadth escapes. Now that the hairsbreadth is assured, the breach may be easily widened by adventurous travelers, till the journey is reasonably safe.

The Chinese insurrection which is threatening the overthrow of the present dynasty is already being followed by what is worse than actual warfare—famine. The people in the districts afflicted by the insurrection failed to till their fields from fear of both parties, and as a consequence the scarcity of food extends over a very large area of the country.

"Notices are being served on the Gentiles that the purpose is to put educational matters in this State absolutely in Mormon hands," says a local contemporary. These "notices" have been served on the public only by said contemporary, as an evidence of its high regard for and the friendly intentions toward the "Mormon" people. Surely that will catch "Young Utah."

A noted French military writer might have referred to the slaughter charge of the Wyoming volunteers, in the battle near Manila yesterday, as "magnificent, but not war," yet it was of a class of impulsive heroism that has played a wonderful part in crowning the Stars and Stripes with the laurels of victory. And the way the rest of the American line responded to the impulse was not only magnificent, but was war as well.

A law has been passed in Oklahoma prohibiting the exercise of Christian Science. As described in the dispatches the law is clearly an invasion of the religious rights of that society. The point aimed at by the lawmakers could have been reached constitutionally and acceptably, by preventing the exclusion of physicians from the sick room as practiced by some Scientists, and by insisting on medical attendance in certain cases.

The Filipino insurrection business seems to be near the culmination point. A "New" special brings the important information that Gen. Otis has decided to strike an effective blow at once, with his entire force, and expects to capture Aguinaldo. The government at Washington also anticipates important news in a very short time. This village augurs well for two things, namely, some hard fighting that will include the Utah boys, and a speedy ending to the Philippine insurrection. May the latter come without too much of the former.

Russian friendship for the United States is again proclaimed by the czar's representatives. Certainly that friendship is most constant, since it is clearly the aim of the Russian government to enter a new commercial deal by means of its trans-Siberian railroad and a line of Muscovite steamships across the Pacific. The future importance of Russia in its growth into a greater commercial power cannot be missed; and that growth is most readily promoted in international relations by cordial friendship for the ruling powers of North America.

A note should be made of the fact that a local paper now refers to the anti-"Mormons" as "clientlike," an epithet in which people outside the Church generally do not take kindly, and which "Mormons" therefore, in a spirit of courtesy have almost discarded, although no offense ever was intended by the use of that word. The fact is pointed out, because after a little while the paper referred to is sure to charge that the "News" or the "Mormons" have revived the term, for some sinful purpose.

The status to be established in Samoa has been definitely settled upon. Germany admits that the consul was wrong in causing the trouble there, disclaims responsibility for his acts, and recalls him at once as condition that he can leave the islands promptly, he having been held there for contempt of court; the United States and Great Britain agree that only Dr. Raffel, the German consul, was to blame, and they upheld Chief Justice Chambers and Malietoa Tanus to be installed as king. With this arrangement, the whole matter is to be regarded as settled.

California papers say that experiments in rain making are to be made in the southern part of that State. Eight thousand dollars will be expended for that purpose, and the bombardment of the sky is to be tried once more. As will be remembered this was done on the Texas plains a few years ago at the expense of the government, but without success. It is believed that the failure was due to the extreme dryness of the Texas atmosphere and that the result in California, where the air has more humidity, will be different. Should the experiments now planned produce rain the experiment will undoubtedly be repeated in other places.

The following good story is told of Lord Kitchener, the hero of the Soudan campaign. One day a Dervish spy was captured and brought to the headquarters of the Anglo-Egyptian army. Neither threats nor bribes could extort a syllable from him. Another spy, brought in a few minutes later, could not be induced to say anything. Both were placed in a well-guarded tent for the night. Half an hour later there was dragged into camp a third spy, who would not open his mouth. He was confined in the tent with the two who had preceded him. Soon the guards outside heard the murmur of conversation within. The spies, two of whom had pretended to be dumb and deaf, were talking. An hour later the third spy appeared at the door of the tent and asked to be conducted to headquarters. It was Kitchener himself, who in disguise had won the confidence of the spies and got the information he wanted. Long ago Lord Kitchener became thoroughly familiar with the language and customs of the natives.

THE FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Chicago Times-Herald.

In assigning the Fifty-fifth Congress a place in history the historian will judge it by the epoch-making character of its work and not by any individual examples of statesmanship which the discussion of new and stirring issues may have developed. Measured by this standard the war Congress which expires today must pass into history as one of the greatest of Congresses.

Chicago Record.

As a "war congress" its expenditures were necessarily high. The appropriations footed up probably over $1,000,000,000. But this sum was contributed by a Congress which was making history very rapidly and along new and aggressive lines of national development.

A "COMPROMISE" ARMY.

New York World.

Instead of getting an imperial standing army of 100,000 men, Mr. McKinley has had to accept the Bryan plan embodied in the German army bill—60,000 regulars and 35,000 volunteers for two years, and to admit that, in relation to a standing army of only 27,000 men, Charmion Hull, godfather of the doomed Alger-Corbin imperial bill, says that this "miserable makeshift" will not last longer than the session of Congress next winter. It is possible, indeed, it is probable, that a bill ready to reorganize the army on a modern military plan shall pass Congress next winter. But the Republican majority in the next House is narrower than that in the present one. The sentiment against a big standing army is showing itself fully as strong in the Republican ranks as in the Democratic the country through. There is therefore no great probability that any such scheme for constituting a huge political and semi-mercenary army as Alger, Corbin and Hull devised will become law.

Chicago Democrat.

As the bill now stands it will result in installing nearly 30 experienced officers out of the army in 1901, unless something else shall have been passed to take its place before that time arrives. Political appointments to the army are the curse of the bad results of this law, and perhaps the very evils may result in their correction.

THE ARMY AT MANILA.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The Sun opponents of regular infantry enlisted in Manila, in addition to the seven regiments which preceded them, will give General Otis the best army of its size that any American general ever commanded. Not that these troops are braver than those of the Civil war period or than the men led by General Shafter at Santiago, nor that many of them were, but because they are equipped in a far more modern way than were the heroes of Chickamauga and Appomattox and for the further reason that they are able to make use of an experience in tropical warfare which they did not have when they invaded Cuba and Porto Rico. It is to be hoped and to some extent expected that existence will not be reached. The American officers and soldiers have just left Honolulu for Manila. If they can get a fair chance at the rebel leaders with a proposition to come into the United States on a footing with the inhabitants of our territories, there ought not to be much trouble in securing peace.

Chicago Times-Herald.

There are gratifying indications that the administration is fully alive to the demands of the situation and is settled upon a thorough effective policy. It is the purpose to drive the volunteers an opportunity to return to this country, though it is expected that many of them will enlist to keep our army up to the desired quota. In any event it cannot be doubted that the sentiment of the great majority out of a tropical and troubled climate, where they have had months of trying service is most prudent and wise.

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