DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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Business Office

ATTACK ON PRESIDENT CANNON.

The much-discussed attack of the New York *Times* upon President George Q. Cannon, and incidentally upon the men who bear his name, and the enterprises with which he or they are associated, has at length been received in all its slimy length of venom and falsehood. The honored names of many leading and influential men are also mentioned in flippant and sarcastic criticism and by a scheme of distortion that is without even the merit of ingenuity, the nameless slanderer seeks to cast suspicion upon events and transactions that are in truth as open and honest as the day. President Cannon's gross crime in the eyes of this infamer appears to be that he has had a successful life, and that as a result of half a century of association with and labor among the people of Utah, he has acquired influence among them. The head and front of his offending is this—and nothing more. Beginning with a lie, the assault is continued in the same strain through several long columns, and almost every paragraph concludes with the charge that thus has this "remarkable man" become an owner of mining or mercantile or bank or manufacturing stock, an editor, a farmer, a railroad proprietor, a cattle raiser, a promoter, a politician, or a counselor in the Presidency of the Mormon Church, as the case may be. Such attainments are the very essence of atrocity, this base scribbler would have us believe! And yet President Cannon's mail is at present heavy with congratulations from far and near—as the leader of a great banking house in New York expresses it, congratulations "on past achievements in the advancement of mighty enterprises for the welfare of your part of the country, and congratulations on the influence to institute and carry on new enterprises, which even an enemy is forced to give you credit for."

Each and every charge of fraudulent, dishonest or even questionable conduct in the accomplishment of the purposes with which President Cannon is accused, it is safe and easy to deny, to brand as false, and to prove to be false to the satisfaction of any fair-minded person. As honorable men's life and record are of themselves a sufficient answer to any lies that envious and degraded souls may put in circulation. And as to the fact that the assailant in this case happens to be anonymous, we imagine that a close analysis of his work will go far toward showing the animus and motive behind it. If not indeed disclose the very identity of the hand itself.

We shall hardly have time or space to go through the whole article today, or to subject it to the searching analysis above hinted at. But the first two or three columns may receive a little attention, and meanwhile the observant reader will be able to note, we think, certain evidences that will lead him to the conclusion that not the Church itself, nor the Mormon people as such, but the leaders of the Church with whom President Cannon is associated in all the various enterprises mentioned, but he and he alone is the object of the villainous assault. Primarily, then, jealousy of or hostility toward him personally may be fairly upon as the motive; he appears to have full reason for the mental willingness that "some enemy has done this thing."

That some of President Cannon's family or relatives have had a share of success in business, in every or political aspiration, is filled with great envy. But surely this is not to be charged in dishonor to him; yet it is one of the subjects on which he is attacked. Nor does it appear quite why he should be blamed because Mr. J. E. Clawson and "Joe" Dooley gave offense to the *Times* writer by coming to Salt Lake City last year. As a matter of fact, other gentlemen also came, some of them from the East, some from the West, some from Europe and we think we can a few diplomats from far off Japan and one or two learned men from India. The arrangement should have included all these.

Mr. John Doe's statement as to the charge of fraud in President Cannon's acquirement of mining stock will probably cost an additional endorsement; he is the man said to have been injured, yet he insists that he wasn't swindled at all, that any charge of fraud is ridiculous, that the transaction was in every way straight and legitimate. As to the romance of any deal in "nonassessable" stock in that mining property, there were various other stockholders in the company and all saw the same understanding as to the "nonassessable" of the stock. President Cannon again is the only one mentioned, yet even with all the above said plainly that the *Times* standpoint of his gouging by it is utterly untrue.

As to his real estate belongings, either of property that at one time was supposed to belong to the Church, or any other property, President Cannon's partnerships in every case open, legitimate and according to contract. He is not the only real estate owner in Utah; there are others who have bought property at the same time and in some cases from the same parties that he did, while he and his family are alone mentioned; his right of possession is as unchallenged and as free from suspicion as anything of the kind ever was in the world. The same may be said of ownership of banking stock and stock in Z. C. M. I., both Church concerns the *Times* writer understood, and both we long to say, good sound institutions to which no one need be ashamed to be either a stockholder or an official.

The next count in the indictment is that President Cannon is an editor, the possessor of "unbounded literary ability," and that the establishment which bears his name prints a good many books, magazines, etc. Well, is there any crime in all this? And is there anything in between in the fact that two of the sons are the principals or bosses (not owners) of the Deseret News and its publishing? President Cannon himself had the least to do of all the parties concerned in the arrangement of that issue; he knew nothing about it until its accomplishment was well under way, and certainly there is not one of the stockholders of the original company who raised his voice against the creation of an agreement which they regarded as highly favorable in that it relieved them all of the financial risk and responsibility, which the house took upon themselves.

The Utah company come in for a tremendous attack, as do the sugar factory, the Salt Lake and Los Angeles railroad, salmon beach (which is described as magnificent but of which the infamous falsehood is told that it was partly built by money obtained for the completion of the Temple). In all of these vast enterprises President Cannon's connection is referred to as though it were blameworthy; and yet there is no solitude of truth in a single unworthy motive attributed to him or in any charge of a single improper or suspicious business transaction. He is the accomplisher who, of all those associated with those companies, is the one that has to occupy so much of the *Times* writer's attention and so much of the *Times'* space.

We have not yet reached the charges of his political influence, ranging not only all over Utah, but developing itself also in the Idaho politics of a few years ago, when with "test oaths," and constitution-making, and change of front and so on and so forth, the Salt Lake correspondent of the New York *Times* has found much matter for his poisonous assaulting. But the continuation of the subject will do for another day.

THE JUDICIARY ARTICLE.

In the discussion thus far, by the Bar Association, of the proposed judiciary article for the State Commission, leading members of the bar have shown commendable consideration for the rights of the people generally, relative to the important subjects dealt with. For instance, upon a proposition that the supreme court judges should be nominated by lawyers who had been admitted to the bar of the supreme court, it was suggested that such a plan would be resented by the people as "a thing of the lawyers." The point was well taken, so that is precisely the view the people would hold, for, not withstanding the contention made in support of the plan, that "lawyers would choose judges more wisely than the people could," the public sense of the legal fraternity would that the selection of Commissioners upon the principle that the people shall exercise power, whether or not they do it best wisely, then lawyers would. The consideration, however, showed its wisdom by ruling the proposition down.

There is another provision in the article which should receive some consideration from the same standpoint—that it may be viewed as "a trick of the lawyers," and it therefore may endanger the Constitution when it comes before the people. That is the provision with reference to the salary of judges of the supreme and district courts. Already the members of the bar have agreed to recommend at least three supreme court judges and not less than five judicial districts, each with one to three judges. This makes a possible twenty judges, by section 10 of the proposed article, not yet passed upon by the association, it is provided that the judges of the supreme and district courts shall receive "a compensation for their services of not less than $3,000 nor more than $4,000 a year per annum." Taking the minimum figure, that would be eight judges at $3,000, or $24,000 a year for judges' salaries alone—one-fifth of the present Territorial revenue. This is the lowest possible figure allowed, it might be increased many times.

Now the New Times not only seems to deny compensation to judicial officers, it seems good and able men the salary must be reasonable for the quality and volume of work performed. But we do not think the intention of such a clause in the Constitution would be injudicious, and would be very properly resented by the people as "a trick of the lawyers." Understanding as we do the amount of judicial work such a clause would honor the employment of a district judge at $400 a month, which would not be a fair salary for the services which one or more of the judicial officers in Utah would require for some years to come, and might be regarded even by lawyers as a fairly good thing considering the rush now made by them after the remunerative judgeships—but to the principle of placing in the Constitution any provision of the character of that salary. The "not less than $3,000" is the negative of a salary grab. If the chief and said judges should not be paid more than a stated amount it might have been acceptably left the "not less" form is a declaration that the judiciary at least shall be treated a moment look at the public purse.

Why not have the salary question wholly in the legislature, so far as minimum figures are concerned? We do not believe the lawyers are wrong in that the people's representatives in the matter of paying for judgeships. If they are, the people will not let it pass twice. The question of salaries is a proper subject of legislation according to the varying conditions of the State, and such legislation should not be engrafted upon the Constitution, where it cannot be changed or amended without great difficulty. There is just as much reason to fix the minimum pay for jurors, attorneys, clerks, probate judges, or other officers whose salaries may be regulated by statute as there is for making a rule apply to district court judges. The other arguments in favor of the proposition for a $3,000 minimum limit is to prevent the people, through their legislative representatives, reducing the figure when they consider that circumstances justify it. Certainly the people will look upon any effort of that kind to be first made as "a trick," and we anticipate that the wise and patriotic members of the bar will see it.

CHINA ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

The most important news from China, lately, is the announcement that Li Hung Chang has been ordered to resort and submit with the mission of negotiating for peace with Japan. The viceroy is known as favoring the reformation of China on the principles of Western civilization and his secondary into power again can have but one significance—that the experiment of last week experiment that to his policy alone is the salvation of the country to be found. It this view is acted upon, after the war, the vast empire will be opened to the world. Activity on a gigantic scale will commence. Efforts will be made to build railroads and introduce every other needed improvement, until the country has attained a position of equality at least with her new successful rivals.

It is more than likely, however, that Japan is in no hurry to terminate the war. If the other powers allow the little giant to proceed, some excuse will in all probability be found for postponing the final arrangements until the victories between incompatibility march through the gates of Peking. For not only is this supposed to add glory to the banners of Japan, and the protection of the humble operations supplies her treasury treasuries for the expenses of an indefinitely that will all but exhaust the resources of the enemy. Under the circumstances, unless Li Hung Chang's diplomatic abilities are vastly superior to those of his opponents, peace cannot be looked for just yet. But when it shall have been arranged and China recovered, in some degree, from her present losses, an era of activity may be expected that cannot but have a beneficent influence upon the trade of the world or at least of the countries that have foresight enough to take care of their interests in that remote region.

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