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WILL THE CITY LOOK TO IT?

At the risk of being misrepresented and abused for calling attention to a great evil, we ask the city authorities to go or send some competent and trustworthy persons to Liberty Park, particularly the east side, and inspect the effects of smelter smoke on the trees and vegetation there. They are withered and seared by the metallic fumes, and as they are public property they are matters of concern to the municipality. The damage that is being done to private property may be seen in the orchards and gardens all the way out to Granger. There can be no mistake about it to anyone who has eyes and uses them.

Some hired apologist for the nuisance will say, of course, that the "News" is attacking the smelters in favor of the farmers. That is the usual form of reply to pertinent facts that demand attention and to wrongs that require a remedy. The truth is that the "News" desires the promotion of the smelting industry as much as anyone can do so. But it also recognizes the value and the rights of the agricultural and horticultural industries and those of the general public.

This is now an old grievance. But it is not palliated by age. It calls for something to be done to remove it. The subject has been debated, and litigation has been had in the courts, and money has been paid for damages that have resulted from the nuisance, but it has not been abated. It is just the same destructive agency in just as much force as ever. The city ought to take the matter up for the protection of its property. Will the mayor and council see to it?

We believe that something could be done to relieve the situation without injury to the smelting companies, if they were to determine upon a definite line of action with the full purpose of a radical policy in the right direction. If we are wrong in this opinion, the evil still remains, and is one that must be met. Is the farming interest in the sphere of the smoke nuisance to be abandoned, or shall the smelters be compelled to do away with the deadly fumes within a reasonable time? That is a question of more than ordinary importance, and it will not be settled by attempts to belittle it or by perverting that which is said for the sole purpose of promoting the general welfare.

THE NEW MOVEMENT.

The movement in aid of spelling reform, which has been in slow progress for several years, has received strong impetus through the endorsement by President Roosevelt of the proposed change in the spelling of about three hundred words in the English language. That has already given a prominence to the work which it greatly needed, and the practical adoption of the abbreviated spelling in government documents will do very much towards its general acceptance.

There is a division of sentiment among the advocates of spelling reform as to the propriety of using all the abbreviations proposed, as some of them appear almost ludicrous in the light of old forms. But they are no more radical and strange than is the modern orthography compared with that of a few hundred years ago, and when the public eye becomes accustomed to them the opposition will quickly vanish. We believe there has come to be a consensus of opinion in favor of a large number of omissions of needless letters in the spelling of common words, and that the reform now in motion will result in much good in many ways. It will prove a saver of time and an aid to the student and also to the ordinary writer, who wrestles vainly with the arbitrary modes of spelling which are contrary both to sound and sense.

We are reminded, in reflecting on the progress of this movement, of the endeavor to establish the phonetic (or fonetic) method of spelling by the late President Brigham Young, away back in the "early fifties." He grasped the idea of spelling reform with his usual foresight and quickness of perception, but necessarily had to leave the details of practical work in it to men who were familiar with it. The Deseret Alphabet was formulated and this complicated the phonetic principle with a change of characters for a new alphabet, and thus hindered the movement that he inaugurated. That formed a block to the way of his efforts in a right direction and caused its suspension indefinitely.

Experience has shown that the desired reform must be undertaken by gradual process. The old alphabet may be retained until the proposed changes in spelling are adopted and found to be beneficial, and still further progress is made in the same direction. Then alphabetical reforms can come, and they need not be of the radical kind that would throw aside the present characters, but only such as could be substituted by a few others better adapted for the purpose in view. The present proposition appears to be in the right line, and being to a large extent conservative, while it yet aims a great improvement, it bears the stability of success and to be the winner of still greater reforms in orthography of the English language.

REMEMBERING SLAVE DAYS.

The people of Osawatimie, Kas., have just been celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the battle fought at that place as one of the preliminaries of the great struggle that came later for the liberation of the colored slaves in this country. The accounts of the celebration say that thousands of visitors were in attendance, and that many prominent men were present. Vice President Fairbanks among others. The program included a sham battle by troops from Fort Leavenworth, and speeches by the Vice President, Senator Chester J. Long, Governor Hoch, and others.

The battle of Osawatimie was fought between a force of Missourians estimated at from 400 to 1,000 men, and John Brown with his little band of forty-one. The town was destroyed. Of the Missourians 31 were killed and about 50 were wounded. Among John Brown's losses was his son Frederick who was not taking any part in the conflict and did not offer any resistance. Nevertheless, he was shot dead by a party of pro-slavery scouts who were led, according to some accounts, by a preacher named White. The preachers, strange to contemplate, seem to have been very active in the border disturbances in the early days, when blood flowed, and many of them were on the side of the oppressors of their fellow-men.

When California was admitted to the Union, the slave states turned toward the plains of Kansas for the restoration of the equilibrium. As the country was but sparsely settled it became the scene of conflict between the East and South, representing liberty and slavery, respectively. The question was as to from which part of the country the greatest number of settlers should come. After a contest of immigration that had lasted for two years, the vote for freedom still prevailed.

Then, it is claimed, fraud was resorted to in behalf of slavery. It is stated that Missourians came over to Kansas in great numbers, remained a day or two, voted, and returned to their homes. They even brought with them their friends from the south, it is said, who also participated in the elections. This continued for two years, and when 1856 rolled around, force began to be used on both sides. Lawrence was attacked and partially destroyed. Missourians came over to Kansas with their guns and Kansas went over into Missouri. Both committed acts of violence and crime.

John Brown came to Kansas at that time of agitation. He was a bitter foe of slavery and always ready to defend the cause of liberty. Naturally he took a prominent part in the conflict raging, and an effort is now being made, it seems, to transfer to the battle of Osawatimie the importance generally attached to the affair at Harper's Ferry.

John Brown is a peculiar character in American history. He was duly convicted of murder and treason, but he met his fate like a hero, and the time he spent in jail before his death, he manifested so many good qualities that he won the respect of all who knew him. He had a burning desire to do something for the abolition of slavery, but he was an unruly spirit to whom American methods seemed too slow, if not ineffective altogether. It is admitted that he, in giving his life for his principles, proved to the slave states that slavery was no longer safe. When people are willing to die for a righteous principle, the opponents of that principle, had better prepare for defeat. And John Brown proved that there were abolitionists to whom righteous principles were dearer than life itself. That was one of the services he brought to the great cause of liberty, and it is all right to remember him and his life, even if some of the methods he employed cannot be approved.

NOT ANXIOUS FOR PEARY.

Mrs. Peary, wife of the Arctic explorer, is said to be very enthusiastic in her belief that her husband will accomplish the object for which he has spent so many years in the frozen regions. He sailed from New York about a year ago in the steamship Roosevelt, and his intention was to go as far north as possible on this vessel, and then proceed across the ice toward the north pole. No word has been received from him for several months, and some of his friends have expressed anxiety for his safety. Mrs. Peary, however, says no message from him can be expected as yet. "When word comes from Mr. Peary it will be a cable message from South Labrador," she is quoted as having said recently. "Should no tidings be received before November it will mean that another year will be required for the search, for he told me before he sailed from New York that this was to be his last trip toward the north, and that he should stay away as long as he could, to locate the north pole. He has everything in his favor for a successful ending of the voyage."

LACK OF SLEEP, BAD.

A "Physician" quoted in "Nordstjernen," calls attention to the fact that lack of sound sleep is a greater detriment to the physical and mental development of children, than many are aware of. It is well known, he says, that the medieval inventors of torture found that, to deprive their victims of sleep soon resulted in death. And that is just the kind of torture many children are subjected to. Insufficient sleep injures the body, blunts the mental faculties, causes distorted perceptions which take the place of the will power, and thus prepares the way for insanity and crime. According to this view, the increase in these evils, is traceable, in many cases, to the lack of good, health-producing sleep.

The writer referred to above points out that many of the children of the poor are huddled together in small rooms, where they are tormented by insects and perspiration in the summer, and cold and damp in the winter, and there they pass the night in a lethargic slumber. Instead of sound sleep. Besides, very often the children are kept awake by the cries of grown up persons, and during the night hours they receive impressions which are anything but morally pure. Half-grown boys and girls take those impressions with them into their daily lives, and the seeds of evil sown grow and bring forth a harvest of moral corruption.

If this is true, as it undoubtedly is, it is also true that the evil is not confined to the poor. Many young boys and girls, in this amusement-mad age, spend evening after evening at pleasure resorts, dancing halls, and theaters, and deprive themselves of sleep during a great part of the time that nature intended for rest and recuperation. If, while thus indulging in nightly pleasures, they are attending school, they are bound to injure themselves. They are burning the candle by the light of it, and they will some day find it burnt out much sooner than necessary. Such foolish expenditure is a draft upon the future which must be paid back, and often with compound interest. It is necessary to take care of youth and health, in order to enjoy life, and never is that more necessary than during the school years. That age should not be devoted, to any large extent, to social functions that rob the participants of necessary sleep. The student must be in full possession of all his faculties, or he will not accomplish the object for which he attends school.

It follows, that in order to have the full benefit of the blessings of sleep, noisy streets should be avoided for homes. The effect of noise during the day time is said to be bad enough. If it interferes with the repose of the night, it is simply murderous. The truth of this may not yet be generally recognized, but it will be, as people get more experience with noisy apartment houses in business centers, where there is a continual rush and bustle, almost all night as well as all day.

Mrs. Langtry has lost her voice. Another "sans everything" stage. The naval review was a great sight. And it cost a sight of money. Statistics show that Russian officials no longer die natural deaths. King Edward has proven that Union Pacific is the royal road to wealth. The streets belong to the people, of course, but the contractors have the usufruct.

Candidate or no candidate, Vice President Fairbanks is an unusually active man.

"Count that day lost whose low descending sun sees no betwixt." Fight fans' proverb.

By fighting the railroads, which carry the people, Hoke Smith carried the state of Georgia.

It won't seem quite like old times in Cuba until we are able to read about the trochias and the tortures.

It was a woman who "peached" on Banker Stensland. And formerly, no doubt, he called her a "peach."

"Samuel Gompers is not the people," says the Los Angeles Times. This is reassuring and settles a disputed point.

The President's letter to Public Printer Stillings on spelling reform shows the movement to be a sort of initiative and referendum.

If an officer couldn't manage a crazy man without calling on a citizen to help him, how did he manage to manage the crazy man and arrest the citizen, too?

There is a shortage of seven thousand dollars in the funds of the New Mexico prison. The institution should open its hospitable doors to the guilty party.

Larger towns could have given the irrigation congress a bigger welcome than Boise did, but none could have given a heartier one. Three cheers for Boise!

"Among other notable public improvements in Omaha, Mae Wood has moved to Kalamazoo, Mich." says an exchange. The Michigan state insane asylum is situated there.

Dr. C. W. Hayes of the geological survey says that the backbone of the continent is weak. It is not so important that it be strong as that the backbone of the nation be.

Success to Palma in his efforts to put down rebellion. If he cannot, Uncle Sam may have to, and that would be an unpleasant task; and possibly dangerous for the little republic.

It was newspaper enterprise, and not official activity that caused the arrest of Stensland. If officialdom had but half the enterprise that newspaperdom has how different things would be.

"The people of Pueblo, and especially the business men of the city, have good cause of complaint against the paving contractors on account of the slowness with which the work of paving is being pushed toward completion," says the Chieftain. It is the same right here in Salt Lake City.

SPELLING REFORM CRITICIZED.

New York Times.

Mr. Roosevelt is nothing if not sudden, and his unexpected adoption of the simplified list of words prepared by the simplified spelling board, whose expenses are borne by Andrew Carnegie, is perfectly characteristic. In Germany they were more deliberate for years, and the moderate changes recommended, though put forth with the government authority, were not made the subject of an imperial decree. The French language, too, was slightly simplified in its spelling, but upon a report made by a committee learned in such things, and adopted by the government. The natural prejudice to which Prof. Matthews refers is undoubtedly a thing to be reckoned with. There are sound philological arguments to be made in support of the reform, and the committee has made them. There are also many reasons and serious ones for leading Prof. Matthews' advice to go slow.

New York Sun.

What its effect upon usage may prove to be it is not possible to say. Backed up by the printing trade of the country at large, that is to say, by all the newspapers and by all the publishers of books and periodicals, something would undoubtedly come of it. It is very doubtful, however, if the printers will follow it to any appreciable extent. The reason for this is

not as might be conjectured, reasonably enough, that they are not inspired by a sufficient animosity to the English language, but that they do not care to incur the expense. What that would amount to the President will doubtless learn when he hears from the government printing office. May we be permitted to doubt that had the President been aware of the practical consequences of his ordering he would have thought twice instead of not at all before he issued it?

Washington Dispatch to Boston Globe. Privately officials did not hesitate to say that they hoped it was not true, because it would entail an endless amount of work on their part, and mean practically that everybody from the head of the department down to the youngest clerk would have to go to school again and learn how to spell. Many typewriters and stenographers in the departments are none too sure of their spelling at present, and if they have to take a new course they will be at their wits' ends. Still, there is a bright side to the matter. A stenographer who is a bit shaky on his or her spelling can claim that it is the new phonetic system according to the President's instructions, which ought to be sufficient excuse.

Boston Transcript. Therefore, the government printing office must run two sets of spellings—the executive and the legislative. It does not print for the supreme court, that body having always preferred a private printer of its own, upon whom it could keep a close hand, since the leakage of its decisions, often printed in advance of their reading, would prove a highly serious matter. But in the great government workshop itself one bank of spellings, proof-readers and revisers will have to be dedicated to one form of spelling, and the rest of the shop to the other. This will be awkward and vexatious, and would apparently afford opportunities for numberless mistakes.

JUST FOR FUN.

Couldn't Resist. "Have your enemy touch this panel with his finger," said Caesar Borgia to his sister Lucretia, "and instantly a poisoned needle will dart forth." "But how may we be sure that he will touch it?" "Oh, well, have it freshly painted and hang out a sign to that effect."—Los Angeles Times.

Privileges. "Has wealth any special privileges in this country?" asked the tourist. "Certainly," answered the American citizen. "Wealth entitles a man to wear a silk hat every day in the week, and also gives a license for the use of light-colored gaiters and side whiskers."—Washington Star.

Milk and Kerosene. The New York papers are blaming Rockefeller for a recent rise in the price of milk. In New York people think that milk is a by-product of petroleum probably.—Cleveland Leader.

As a Last Resort. As a last resort the czar might bring action to place Russia in the hand of a receiver.—Cleveland Leader.

To Save Their Lives. The board of health of Dublin has ordered all diseased cattle to be killed in order to save their lives.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

She—I can never marry you, but we can at least always be friends.

He—I suppose that is one of the advantages of not getting married.—Philadelphia Record.

Lady—Did the natives like the perfumed soap I sent them? Returned Missionary—No, madam. They bit into it, and threw it away.—Detroit Free Press.

"The boarders don't seem to like our country vegetables," said Mrs. Corn-tassel.

"That's funny," responded the farmer. "They ought to like 'em. They was bought right in the same town they come from."—Washington Star.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The article of most general appeal, perhaps, in Recreation is "The Nomads of Romy," by Jessie Parton Tyree, being a story of a visit to a typical encampment, setting forth the peculiarities of this remarkable wandering people, and explaining their strange manners and customs. "When You Went to the Fair," by Roscoe Brumbaugh, gives a sympathetic portrayal of the attractions and distractions of a typical county fair. "Cruising the Florida of the North Pacific," by D. W. and A. S. Idling, tells of a trip from Vancouver into the great icy stretches of Bering Sea. Of particular interest to sportsmen will be found the article by Edwin Sandys on "Some Aquatic Quail." There are several other articles of interest to sportsmen. The illustrations throughout are interesting and clear cut.—23 West, Twenty-fourth Street, New York.

The September Field and Stream will delight the sportsman and all outdoor people. F. H. Henry, F. H. Dunn, contribute "The Princess Fishes," a story full of human interest. Jay Smith's "Bear Hunting in the Olympics" is humorous and instructive. F. L. Hard- ing, "Gerard Game Fishes of the United States," running serially, deals with the leaping tuna and white sea bass fishing. Walter B. Welch describes the trout fishing in California in summer, and Fred von Nelda tells of September shooting along the Delaware.

"The Two Ends of a Story," by Buck A. Corbin, is a tale of Tennessee mountain feuds and deer hunting. Norman H. Crowell spins a yarn of an editor's bear hunt. Alvah D. James' "My Friend Jones" is one of his best, while late the fun he had with Alvah on a pike country creek. Most timely is B. W. Mitchell's "Squirrel Shooting." In his "Tracks and Trailing" series Josef Brunner describes "cat" tracks of all kinds and dispels some of the illusions relative to our domestic cats. The departments also contain much timely information.—45 West, Twenty-first Street, New York.

Progressive West for August has a number of features of special interest to western readers. Among these are, "Glimpses of the Southland—Manhattan, Tonopah, Goldfield," and "Public Survey in Nevada," and attention is paid to "Mines and Mining" and Nevada's school system.—Reno, Nevada.

The following is the list of contents of Annie's magazine for September: "His Little Partner," novelette, William McLeod Raine; "Audrey Graves," serial, May Sinclair; "Aristocratic White Sulphur," essay, Anne Rittenhouse; "Autumn Song," poem, (Clinton Scott); "The Silver Doctor," short story, Edith Maynard; "The Marrying Off of Dolly," short story, M. H. Vorse; "The Changeling," short story, W. A. Fraser; "A Banjo Song," poem, J. Lee Matherson; "The Lesson," short story, Robert E. MacAlarney; "Gipsy Wind," poem, Frank Dempster Sherman; "The Head of Achilles," short story, Constance Smedley; and Pearl Humphrey; "The Ace High," short story, F. Walworth Brown; "With Violets," poem, Margaret Houston; "When Pippa Stopped," short story, Walter P. Eaton; "The Vagabond," short story, Charlotte Becker; "American Complexities," essay, Carolyn Rapelra; "The Canyon," poem, John Curtis Underwood; "Plays and Players," Channing Pollock; "For Book Lovers," Archibald Lowery Sessions—Seventh avenue and Fifteenth street, New York.

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In the men's line we would suggest giving early orders on clothing made to order as the rush comes in September. Same as in the spring, we will be crowded, and ask those who do not like to be disappointed, to order now."

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