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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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SPECULATIVE MINING VENTURES.

CONSIDERABLE interest has been excited over some mining prospects in Piute County, and companies have been organized with capital stock placed in the aggregate at very high figures and bearing the names of responsible parties, with the object of developing the mines and making the fortunes of the stockholders. Reports, more or less sensational, have been circulated concerning the richness and extent of the discoveries, and circulars have been issued in which offers of the capital stock are made "at very reasonable figures." Some persons too have been canvassing for subscribers, offering the shares which are placed at $10 for twenty-five cents. All this has made quite a stir, particularly as the names of the highest authorities in the Church have been published as stockholders, and held out as an example for others to follow and as a sort of guaranty that the scheme is reliable and likely to be of great benefit.

We do not know anything as to the actual status of the project. It may turn out all that is anticipated by its promoters. They are very confident of success. But it is should be no misunderstanding, the public mind concerning the position occupied in relation to it by the prominent men of the Church, whose names have been mentioned as large holders of the stock. This will be made clear by the following letter, which we have been permitted to print and to which we invite the attention of all our readers:

SALT LAKE CITY, U. T., October 23rd, 1891.

To the Peteta Gold and Silver Mining and Milling Co.:

Gentlemen—A number of friends have called to my attention a circular which has been issued by your company, setting forth its incorporation and the amount of stock which has been placed, and the number of shares into which it is divided, and also that our names appear in the list of shareholders, followed by a rather glowing description of the valuable mines which are owned by the company, and announcing that it is believed that no safer investment can be made by the public than by purchasing some of the limited number of shares which are offered for sale at reasonable figures."

Some expenses have been incurred by one and another that have caused us to think that we had better return to the company the stock that has been so liberally and kindly given to us. We hope our motives in doing this will not be misapprehended. We appreciate the generosity which prompted the organizers of the company to give us each 5000 shares of stock; but you understand that our position is different from that of an ordinary citizen, and that many things which might be done by citizens in private life, we cannot do in the position we occupy without exposing ourselves to criticism.

On this account we take the liberty to say that you will please consider these shares as still the property of the company and not belonging to us.

With kind regards, your brethren,

(Signed) WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

This should be sufficient to place the brethren right in the public mind. They are not promoters of this enterprise, neither have they bought any of the stock of the corporation. And in view of the influence that might be used by the use of their names they think proper to decline the gift of shares which the company generously made to them.

It is not unusual in organizing associations of this kind to place on the list of stockholders the names of prominent persons to give the corporation prestige. The shares are donated and the benefits derived from the use of those names are often greater than the price of the shares would bring. This is frequently done without any ulterior motive. But sometimes the purpose in view is to induce people to invest in doubtful or worthless projects, and is thus spiritualized to obtaining money under false pretenses.

In the present case the company claim to have excellent prospects. But it should be understood that this is about the extent of the basis on which it is organized. As we understand it, the mines have not yet been worked. They may turn out all that is anticipated and they may not. It is a matter of speculation. Therefore people should be careful about investing on any other ground or expectation. If they think the venture is worth risking money in it and they have the means to spare for the investment, that is their own affair. And what they do should be done on their individual responsibility. That is the main point. They should not be induced to take shares on the plea that capitalists, or "the men," or church authorities are in it.

Every business institution, or money-making enterprise, or mining concern should stand on its own merits. Any investments in either should be made on business principles. A struggling home industry may need support without promise of immediate returns. In that case the matter should be understood, and no flattering appeals be held out to gain the help that is wanted. In the promotion of any scheme involving the investment of capital, the utmost candor should be used, and every investor should act with a clear understanding of the situation and not merely because of the use of great names in connection with the venture.

We are glad to see that the presiding authorities of the Church have set themselves right in this matter, and we are sure it will be gratifying to a host of their friends and followers. At the same time we desire to do no injury or injustice to the company which placed their names on its list of stockholders, nor do we attribute improper motives in any one connected with it. If the properties owned develop into all that its most sanguine promoters predict, they will no doubt be worth the money paid for the generous return of stock which they so generously donated.

A RECOURSE OF COWARDS.

THERE is one form of falsehood and calumny for which all honest men ought to have the most unutterable contempt. When it comes into a newspaper the latter can only be properly designated as a journalistic nuisance, and the men who resort to such a sneaking method as belonging to the most degraded of cowardly creeks in human shape that make upright people ashamed of such specimens of their kind.

We refer to the dastardly resource of designers who connect actions and circumstances which never had an existence. The leading figure in the fabrication may be a "high church official," a "certain Bishop," or "old Mormon," "an aged woman who has resided in this city for three many years," "at a meeting held at a certain place," etc. Names and dates and places are left out, in order that the utterly false character of the statements may not be subject to complete exposure. Where names and places have been given the identical falsehoods have been retailed, as in the case of the fabricated "Bishop West Red Hot Address." Such exhibits of the cowardly concoctions of these professional liaiers have made them cautious, and names, places and dates are now carefully omitted, in order that the slanderers may avoid being caught.

A newspaper in this city, notorious for deceitfully, constantly has recourse to the invention of such manufactured individuals and circumstances. After constructing these fabrics of falsehood, it points to them with the exclamation, as to sneer—"Now, doesn't that show the true character of the 'Mormons' and their religious leaders?"

To what a depth of depravity people have sunk who engage in such covert and contemptible means of gratuitous injury! It is safe to say that ninety-nine per cent of all such fabrications as those now referred to and which are, as already stated, made liberal use of in an anti-"Mormon" journal of this city, have no vestige of foundation in fact.

NOT A BUSHRANDE INDUSTRY.

A few days ago the military department of France indulged in another sham battle. The soldiers played at the game of defending a great city on one side and carrying it by assault on the other. Germany, Austria and Russia have all been indulging in this pastime, while the French and English nations have also had great fun in dividing their respective fleets into hostile squadrons and going through manoeuvres in imitation of real fighting.

It is evident that one of the leading aims of all the prominent governments of the world is to keep their fighting power up to the highest possible standard. Thus the spirit of war permeates the whole earth, probably to as great an extent as at any time during its history.

Even this country is catching the spirit of the times. The result of this is that there may may be a great military display at the proposed World's Fair in 1893. The proposition of General Miles to entertain at Chicago on that occasion a hundred thousand men of the National Guard is being seriously discussed, with a prospect of being adopted.

It is natural that such a proposal should come from a soldier who is in love with his profession. It is questionable, however, whether a great military display is in unison with the real object of the approaching Columbian Exposition. The entire genius of the exhibit ought necessarily to be pacific from every standpoint, like the initial one of its class inaugurated in London in 1851 and of which Prince Albert the Good was the originator. The object of the Prince Regent was to increase international communication and harmonious efforts, to encourage the arts and industries of the world, to bring about a time when resource to warfare would be abolished. The general impression is that fighting—of which military displays are eminently suggestive—is not one of the industries the cultivation of which is desirable. Hence the propriety of a military exhibit on a gigantic scale at the World's Fair of 1893 would be somewhat questionable.

EXCITEMENT IN CANADA.

GREAT excitement prevails, it is said, throughout Canada, because of the resignation of Secretary of State Chapleau. He is the recognized leader of the French Canadians, and upon the day of the 20th inst. in Montreal conferring with his friends. Earnest efforts are being made to effect a compromise. The province of Quebec is intensely Protestant, in and it is Orange, and if Premier Abbott should compromise with Chapleau, then this province would antagonize his government.

On the other hand, Quebec demands, as a provincial right, representation in the Cabinet, and Chapleau is named as the most fitting person. He is leader of the French Conservatives. He is sent in control twenty-two votes in the Dominion House of Commons, and so he is a railroad expert, therefore it is urged that he be given the portfolio of railways. The French Canadians claim that the charges of malfeasance in office against him are all conferred because of race hatred. They also assert that they will not stand the sacrifice of their champion to the fanaticism of Ontario Orangemen.

Annexation is being talked of, not alone in Quebec but among the British Canadians on the border at Windsor and Stony Point. The Springfield *Republican* thinks that at present there is possibility of political annexation with the United States, that there is no discontent in Canada with the English connection. The Toronto *Mail* practically rates itself and has few if any grievances against England.

There is another obstruction to annexation which deserves consideration. In Quebec the Roman Catholic church is virtually a State institution. In fact, it is an integral part of the provincial government, and is subsidized from its treasury. Should Quebec become a State of the American Union the condition could not hold. The Roman church would have to take the same place as all other denominations, and it is not likely that under those circumstances the church will advocate annexation, no matter how earnestly the politicians may desire it.

As the formation of the Dominion, Quebec and Ontario started on an equal footing. Now the latter province has a surplus of $7,000,000, while the former has a debt of $20,000,000. This indicates that the Orangemen are the best statesmen. Besides, their province is better governed, and public works are abreast of modern improvements.

The Dominion debt has grown from $78,000,000 in 1870, to $238,000,000 in 1890, and with scarcely any compensating increase in trade or population. Quebec, even now, is accumulating to offset a loss of $10,000,000. So that matters are quite complicated among our northern neighbors.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO has on its hands a woman's suffrage question which is attracting the attention of the press of the whole country. The last Legislature of Illinois passed a law conferring suffrage on women so far as the election for school superintendents and other local officials is concerned. On the first Tuesday in November next a school superintendent will be elected in Chicago. The women, thinking that the new law entitled them to vote for candidates for that office, flocked to the registration offices to be qualified. But to their intense chagrin they were refused registration.

It appears that this law as a literary production is something like the response from a Delphic oracle or from a priest in the temple of Isis it can be construed many ways. Even its constitutionality is questioned. However, the Election Commissioners in their instructions to the judges and clerks of registration say:

"Only such women as have received a certificate of naturalization from some court of record in this State prior to January 1, 1891, are entitled to register."

A woman's suffrage law that admits even in the remotest way of this interpretation must be a curious document. One commissioner dissented, holding that the law entitled all women having the qualifications of age, citizenship, residence, etc., the same as males, to register. In some cases a few women were registered, but in the vast majority by registration was refused.

There is no doubt that the intention of the Legislature was to do justice to all women in the matter of voting for school officers. But the statute was loosely drawn and in specifying how women of foreign birth could become entitled to vote it failed to make specific the qualification for native born women. The result will be that the courts will have to determine the matter, and meanwhile the lady citizens of Chicago like many others of their sex will have to wait.

A NEW YORK POLITICIAN.

THE New York *Mail and Express* announces that "General Hazen is opening up all his guns and stores of ammunition on the enemy and making a rolling good fight from headquarters."

We are not particularly surprised to learn of this prodigious effort of General Hazen, but it is a little unusual nevertheless. It was not very long ago that the gentleman sent to his favorite newspaper for a reporter, in order to announce with as little trouble to himself as possible that he was going out of politics forever. He had fully satisfied himself with office, he said, and henceforth he was going to live for himself and let his constituency do the best they could.

We are not sufficiently conversant with his face to reveal the position within the gift of the people which he opened on this occasion as having been honored by his good offices, at any rate, he had swapped the best of his desires without much effort on his part, in other words the people had been all his life shooting greenbacks upon him, and he thereby enjoyed those most further aggravation of that sort.

His remarks upon himself in this connection were very elaborate and very emphatic, if not pertinent, but somehow, here he laughs, helping the people with all his might to force him back into the New York legislature for another term. The quality of self-sacrifice attributed by the politicians to the men who serve the people in office was never so well vindicated before.

WILL IT BE WAR?

THE government of Chile treats the demand of the United States for reparation for the murder of American seamen, in Valparaiso, quite cavalierly. The answer almost amounts to a refusal. Should the Chilean rulers decline to change front and comply with the reasonable request of this country, we will have a small war on our hands. It is hardly probable that the Junta will maintain the present attitude on the question for any length of time. Unless the demand is satisfied it will be a chilly day for the little South American Republic.

Should our government be forced into hostilities by the continuancy of Chile, the result of the conflict would almost be a foregone conclusion. It would not, however, add much to the naval or military prestige of this great nation, as a giant, even if he be good natured, obtains no credit for whipping a dwarf, no matter how much the little fellow may deserve the castigation. We hope that the diplomacy brought to bear on the issue will be of a character to obviate the necessity for resorting to the adjustment of the sword.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

THE census office will publish a series of ten bulletins, giving in statistical form the operations of the railways of the United States for the years 1880 to 1890 inclusive. The first is devoted to the New England States, and was published some months ago. The second is just out. The territory covered by it embraces New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and a portion of West Virginia. The length of line in this territory in 1880 was 14,779 miles, and in 1890 18,093 miles. The number of locomotives in 1890 on this territory, comprising group 2, was 5117, and in 1890, 8,128. The passenger coaches increased from 5,091 in 1880 to 8,522 in 1890. Freight cars increased from 212,270 to 304,155.

The table relating to employes shows that in 1880 there were 124,861 in 1890 208,921. The employes are divided into four departments, the structural, the equipment, the transportation and general administration.

The business table shows that in 1880 145,757,629 tons of freight were moved, as against 245,993,000 tons in 1890. In 1880 the number of passengers carried was 81,730,906, and in 1890 176,030,000.

The total earnings and income for the group for 1880 were $564,296,754, and in 1890 $792,202,853. The total expenditures, including miscellaneous, for 1880 were $457,848,884, in 1890 $671,521,005. The total operating expenses for 1880 were $420,296,428 and in 1890 $573,712,282.

The years 1884 and 1885 show enormous decreases in earnings. They were two very hard years in railroads.

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

The Brazilian government contemplates spending $700,000 on World's Fair exhibits.

Cholera prevails at Damascus. On the 19th inst. there were thirty cases and ten deaths.

The Amer of Afghanistan is negotiating with Russia for a Russo-Afghan reciprocity treaty.

Ranchers near Idaho Falls are selling potatoes in the field at 10 cents per hundred pounds.

Work on the Idaho State University is progressing rapidly. One wing will be under cover by Christmas.

Millionaire Flood and party from San Francisco beat the Mackay record around the world by 16 minutes.

It is figured by statisticians that more than one half of humanity die before reaching 16 years of age.

A Prohibition statistician estimates that $1,100,000,000 are expended yearly in the United States for strong drink.

The population of Jerusalem is increasing. In 1879 it was 25,000, now it is 30,000, of whom 10,000 are Israelites.

Along the Snake river fruit belt of Oregon peaches and apples are being fed to hogs, because fruit growers can not harvest the crop as it matures.

Jim O'Neil and wife are in New York. He is about to travel to San Francisco. Mrs is seeking money, and giving taffy to Americus.

Near Austin, Minn., wolves devoured a four year old boy, and were on the point of devouring his little sister when the father appeared.

Mr. W. W. Phelps, United States Minister to Berlin, says that Washington is the most beautiful city in the world.

The Kimberly (South Africa) diamonds mines are still showing new discoveries. All the miners there are Kaffirs.

The English nobility are becoming Americanized. The Duchess of Marlborough has had an elevator placed in the family seat Blenheim. Other noble houses are following suit.

A number of prominent ladies are working hard to secure a pardon for Mrs. Maybrick. Geo. Hamilton is taking an active part.

Herman Oelrichs of New York has purchased the Bancroft cottage at Newport, where the famous historian performed most of his work.

Chicago women are making a hard fight to vote at the next election. 140 of them are registered, but the election commissioners will not permit them to vote.

Bloom and Schaeffer, two well-known millionaires, have been at enmity for eighteen years. They shook hands on the 27th inst. Now the country is safe.

A terrible epidemic of cholera is raging in Amoy, China. Hundreds of people have died, and many English and American missionaries have succumbed to the disease.

Sheriff McLendon, of Memphis, paid $600 for a pair of boots the day before the battle of Shiloh. In the battle he had a leg shot off, thereby losing $300 as well as the leg.

At a Farmers' alliance meeting near Little Rock, Ark., a dreadful row occurred. Five persons were killed and several wounded. Guns, pistols and knives were used. Politics caused the disturbance.

Herman Duffie of New Brunswick, N. J., aged 8, height four feet, weighs 142 pounds, fifty 240 pounds, and can spend a barrel of flour, has just been sent to the State reform school. He whipped every boy in his neighborhood.

Excitement prevails in Montana mining circles concerning duty on the exportation of silver. 1000 tons of bullion are held at Vancouver awaiting instructions as to duty before shipment to the United States.

According to the records of the patent office few subjects receive more attention from inventors than that of the registry of stockings. Even the dull is not more generally than any other device in the cargo cities.

The steel swords of certain European cities are being photographed simultaneously with the photographing of the people on the streets. Lectures can in future reproduce sights and sounds by means of the lantern and photograph.

Sidney Lanier secured letters of introduction to Lord Rosebery to prominent citizens of Georgia. At Rome he got engaged to a belle, borrowed her diamond ring, got her friends to cash a $100 bogus check, and then decamped. He was arrested in New York, brought back to Rome, tried and found guilty. He has a young, handsome wife.

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