

that from the first entered into the superstructure of state which they built, and it grew with a rapid growth and an endurance that could be overcome only by the decadence of those two main elements of its permanency.

Topolobampo is but another example of the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of erecting a permanent political or social structure with no better foundation than a scheme of financial profit, no matter what may be the advantages of soil, climate and auspices. But the world sees in Utah, as in New England, an example of what may be accomplished in the way of building a prosperous and enduring commonwealth, in the face of the most unrelenting opposition of nature and mankind, when right motives actuate the colonists.

#### UGHT TO BE IMPROVED.

The Associated Press is a very useful, we might say indispensable, institution; but that the room for improvement is large and growing year after year is painfully evident to those whose business requires them to deal with the corporation, meaning of course the newspaper fraternity. The tolls for news service are very high, and this fact, with the additional and important one that they are uncompensatingly paid, should be an incentive to the organization to give the best that there is in the market. This is not always done. We take up the papers east and west which employ a special service, and therein invariably some important item of news, which the Associated Press agents have neglected or set aside in the compilation of their dispatches. This should not be, and we make these remarks as much with the hope that they will be read where they will do the most good as for any other purpose.

In this connection, we find special dispatches in the Denver News concerning an attempt to wreck the train conveying the President and party in Arkansas, and a terrible and fatal accident on the Missouri Pacific Railroad in Kansas, neither of which items was furnished or hinted at by the Associated Press, though they seem of sufficient importance, especially when measured with the scale of many of the paragraphs provided to challenge the attention of any reporter. The dispatch first alluded to is as follows, being dated Memphis, Tennessee, October 15:

"When the pilot train preceding the presidential train arrived at a trestle between Bonnyville and Jonesboro, Arkansas, yesterday morning, the engineer discovered the trestle to be on fire. He did not make the discovery until it was too late to stop the train before the engine had passed over the burning portion. As soon as possible he backed the train off the trestle and jumped down to examine the fire. He found that a section about ten feet square was in flames and that the fire had been started on the under side of the timbers. The engineer and all the rest of the train men, with the help of some passengers, succeeded in putting out the fire, when it was discovered that the flames had not eaten dangerously far into the wood and the trestle was still safe for the passenger trains. Had the train been ten minutes later, however, there might have been another Chatsworth horror to chronicle. A News staff correspondent, who happened to be on the train, made a careful examination of the burned timbers, which gave unmistakable evidence of an attempt at train-wrecking. The fire was started on the under side of the cross ties in such a manner that there can be no possible belief that sparks were the cause of it. Then, too, the fire was certainly set to more than one tie at a time, for it could not have jumped from one to the other without burning the sides of the timber more than it did. The conclusion is almost irresistible that somebody had applied a torch to at least eight or nine of the timbers."

The second dispatch is from Kansas City, Mo., under date of the 13th, and is as follows:

"A disastrous accident occurred on the Missouri Pacific Railroad at 8 o'clock, 100 yards from the Blue River and between the Blue and Independence. An accommodation train, consisting of four coaches and a baggage coach, left Independence at 7:45, overcrowded with passengers on their way to Kansas City to participate in the Cleveland reception. Just after the accommodation train had left the city the Wichita express came thundering along, having eighteen coaches all heavily laden with passengers. Owing to the negligence of the train dispatcher the conductor of the Wichita express was not notified of the departure of the accommodation train until too late to stop. He whistled down brakes when within one hundred yards of the accommodation. The engine broke loose and smashed into the rear car of the accommodation, totally wrecking it and dismantling the engine. The Wichita express was running at the rate of 45 miles an hour. The scene that ensued was indescribable. The passengers made a wild rush for the doors and windows, and series of affrighted women mingled with the escaping of the steam of the dismantled engine. Many persons on both trains were injured in their attempt to get through

the windows. The last car of the accommodation was a combination baggage and passenger. It was full of passengers. Mat Chapman, baggage master of the accommodation, and Edward Milton, an employee, who were in the baggage car, were seriously injured. Chapman's right leg was broken and his body was lacerated. A lady who was standing on the platform of the Rock Creek station was struck in the abdomen by one of the trucks of the rear car of the accommodation train and killed. Solomon H. Reed, of Indianapolis, was injured about the head. Circuit Court Clerk H. H. Noland was very seriously injured. Nearly every one on the combination car was injured."

We insert these at this time and in this place that the reader may compare them for himself with some news notes which were not overlooked and which manifestly must have taken as much labor to procure as the above, which have genuine interest and which no publisher would object to paying for if he were printing telegrams as a feature of his paper. Because the Associated Press enjoys a quasi monopoly of the news distributing business is no reason why it should slight its patrons in the manner herein illustrated; on the contrary, it ought to profit by the lessons of the past wherein it has been notoriously shown how monopolies have been relegated to the position of hopeless dependencies by presuming too much upon their own strength and relying too strongly upon the constant submission of their patrons.

#### SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

The Century magazine for October, among the "Topics of the Times," has an article on the present situation in Utah. It is entitled "The Last Hope of the Mormon." It is written in a candid, unimpassioned spirit, and without that strong animus which generally spoils such contributions to current literature. There are some statements and arguments in it that might be easily controverted, but we do not wish to be captious. We refer to the article particularly, on account of the reference it contains to the conditions under which Missouri was admitted into the Union.

It has been contended by a number of would-be thought wise objectors to Utah's admission as a State in the Union, that the special provisions in her proposed Constitution vitiate that instrument because they are special, and that thus Utah would not enter the Union "on an equal footing with the existing States." This has been met with the argument, not yet controverted, that the people have a constitutional right to put what restriction they please upon themselves, even if Congress has not the right to impose unusual conditions upon them.

But the article in the Century goes a step further. It gives a brief history of the Missouri compromise and the means by which that State was admitted into the Union. From this it appears that a special condition was imposed by Congress upon Missouri, requiring the passage of "a public and irrevocable act" agreeing never to construe or to execute certain provisions of the State Constitution so as to bar free negroes the right of entrance into the State. This was passed under protest, the preamble to the act reciting the special requirement, and declaring that it was agreed to because "we cannot obtain our constitutional rights in any other mode than by giving our assent to the same." It was on this agreement, forced upon Missouri by Congress, that the State was declared admitted by proclamation by President Monroe August 10th, 1821.

Thus, Missouri became a State under special provisions not required in other State Constitutions. And these were imposed upon that State by Congress. If these unusual features did not vitiate Missouri's Constitution, why should unusual provisions operate against Utah's Constitution? The country has clamored for just such restrictions as the latter instrument contains, and to meet that they have been adopted by the delegates of the legal voters in Convention assembled.

Of course this does not meet the question of the power of the people to carry out or repudiate the special provisions adopted. But, in the case of Missouri, although it was known that the great majority of its people were opposed to the adoption of the obnoxious provisions, their probable rejection of them in practice did not act as a bar to the admission of the State. Why should this question, then, be raised against Utah, when the people have voted at the polls to sustain these special restrictions, and there is far more probability of their executing them than there was for Missouri's acting in good faith?

Such quibbles are raised in the place of arguments. They are interposed by those who expect to profit by the continuation of the territorial system, with all its anti-republican and anti-American features. If Utah's peculiar customs require peculiar provisions to ensure that political harmony widely thought to be essential to national unity, such provisions instead of being opposed by technical and hair-splitting objec-

tions, one would suppose would be welcomed on every hand. And the fact that the people of Utah, in order to meet the public demand, take upon themselves the task of framing and adopting those required provisions without any special demand by Congress, ought in itself to be evidence of good faith and a guaranty for the future.

There is nothing in the whole history of the "Mormon" people which justifies the pretended fear that they will violate any compact they may make with the Federal Government. It has been manufactured by those who have an interest in opposing the movement for Statehood, and adopted by bigots and anti-"Mormons" generally without much thought as to its weakness and puerility.

That special provisions may be introduced into State Constitutions not embodied in others, and that these form no rational or constitutional objection to the formation and admission of States adopting them, has been amply proven by the history of other States besides Missouri, and the absurd arguments to the contrary, which have been advanced by one or two leading journals and echoed by a number of the little ones, are evidence of the poverty of the reasoning and shabbiness of the cause of Utah's political and sectarian enemies.

#### ALMOST EPIDEMIC.

The number of cases of typhoid fever in this city is very large, and they seem to be increasing. So much is this the case that it appears to be assuming the form of an epidemic. We understand that it also exists to a considerable extent in some of the settlements, Draper having been mentioned as one town in which it is especially prevalent.

While it is not made the subject of quarantine regulations, great care should be taken for the purpose of preventing the spread of the terrible malady. We are of opinion that precautions of a preventive character should be officially enforced for the protection of the community. Upon the communicability of the disease a high class work contains the following:

"From the investigations of various physicians, amongst whom Dr. William Budd, deserves especial notice, it appears that the living human body is the soil in which the specific poison of typhoid fever breeds and multiplies. The origin of the disease is unknown, but the poison is communicated or contained in the diarrhoeal discharges which issue from the diseased intestine. These discharges, as they dry up preserve the germs of the disease; and if, through atmospheric or other agencies, these germs enter the living body, they communicate the disease and diarrhoea soon commences. As the evacuations contain the specific virus of typhoid fever, the disease may be propagated amongst healthy persons (1) by percolation through the soil into the wells which supply drinking-water; (2) or by issuing, through defects in the sewers, into the air which is inspired; or (3) by exhalation through the apertures of small ill-trapped water-closets or privies, which are at once the receptacles of the discharges from the sick, and the daily resort of the healthy. The atmosphere thus infected with the poison is far more dangerous than that immediately surrounding a fever patient."

The same eminent physician suggests the following details of procedure, which he holds should be attended to as soon as the disease appears.

"1. All discharges from the fever patient should be received, on their issue from the body, into vessels containing a concentrated solution of chloride of zinc. 2. Two ounces of a caustic solution of chloride of zinc should be put in the night-stool on each occasion before it is used by the fever-patient. 3. All tainted bed or body linen should immediately on its removal be placed in water strongly impregnated with the same agent. 4. The water-closet should be flooded several times a day with a strong solution of chloride of zinc; and some chloride of lime should also be placed there, to serve as a source of chlorine in the gaseous form. 5. So long as fever lasts, the water-closet should be used exclusively as a receptacle for the discharges from the sick."

It is presumed that where skilled physicians are in attendance on cases they will direct compliance with those or similar effective regulations, but there are conditions and places where the information as to how to take proper precautions is not readily obtainable.

A leading physician of this city informs us that what in the early days of the settlement of Utah was called "mountain fever" was neither more nor less than typhoid.

#### THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR CONVENTION.

The convention which has been in session for three weeks at Minneapolis and adjourned to-day, was in some respects a notable gathering, albeit without notable results. As a

distinct and actual convocation of the bone and sinew of the nation, the capability of that class to legislate and regulate was put to the test, and the aggregate results cannot certainly be gratifying to themselves or their friends. In point of respectability and dignity, it was not altogether wanting; but when weighed in the balances of statesmanship, it was several degrees removed from a success.

Too much time was spent in bickering over unimportant details, and a great deal of the remainder of the sittings was taken up with calling offenders to account and visiting harmless wrath upon business establishments which had failed to conduct themselves in accordance with the registered will of the Knights of Labor. Boycotts were established here and removed there with a solemnityavoring somewhat of mockery when the indifference of those assailed to what was done or undone is considered. Two of the leading papers of Indianapolis—one, the Sentinel, of national reputation—were freighted with the embargo of the order, and if bills for the advertising of those journals had been forwarded, them it would not have been much out of place, since that is about the only effect it could possibly have upon them.

—A mysterious disease, fatal alike to hogs, cattle and horses, prevails on a few stock farms in the neighborhood of Davisville, Cal. The symptoms are swelling of the throat and head, the animal dying of suffocation in the course of ten or twelve hours. No remedy has been found.

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