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IN DEFENSE OF UTAH.

A Denver dispatch reports that a lady belonging to the Federation of Women's clubs the other day made the charge that "Mormon" families in the southern portion of Colorado are practicing polygamy. She made this charge, we suppose, on hearsay, or on the authority of loose rumors, for the purpose of inducing action in support of the movement to favor an anti-polygamy amendment of the Constitution. It is too bad when the good ladies have to build their well-meant reform efforts upon false pretenses and defamations of character.

In Oregon a similar question has been brought up in the legislature, but it met with little encouragement. A resolution urging Congress to undertake the extermination of polygamy had been reported favorably to the senate of the Oregon legislature. Senator Kay said his committee had endorsed the resolution, "because it could do no harm," to which Senator Bingham replied that it had become the custom to pass things through the legislature upon the argument that they "could do no harm," but that this is a bad practice. Other members also opposed the resolution, and then Senator Kay sarcastically remarked that if any of the members were personally affected by the resolution he would amend it by providing that it should not apply to members of the Oregon legislature.

Senator Abraham, according to a report in the Portland Oregonian, took up the matter in defense of the State of Utah against which the resolution was understood to be aimed. He said that Utah is a law-abiding sister state and entitled to respectful consideration and treatment from other states; that the subject of polygamy is made the excuse for aspersions upon the state upon all sorts of occasions, though the most serious offense that can be charged is that a few "Mormons" are supporting wives to whom they were married while polygamy yet prevailed.

He cites an instance, the report goes on to say, that came under his observation. At a mining congress in Portland, Utah offered to erect a permanent building for the Mining Congress and the offer would have been accepted, but some agitator raised the subject of polygamy and hinted that Colorado would erect such a building as that offered by Utah. Upon this argument the Utah proposal was rejected and Colorado has never done anything toward providing the building. He asserted that if Utah cannot suppress polygamy, the arm of the United States cannot accomplish the same end. The resolution was indefinitely postponed.

That is the only way in which to treat that matter. Utah is still suffering from the insane agitation that was conducted by defeated politicians of a very low class, but their influence is waning. Their party must, however, be eliminated as a political factor in Utah, by citizens who place the welfare of the State over and above their personal interests. They must be deprived of the power to harm Utah, as they have done in the past. When this is done, there will be no attacks upon our State by people in other states, who know nothing about us except what they have been told by defamers. In the meantime the manly stand taken by Senator Abraham and others in the debate on Utah is very much appreciated here.

CRIMES AND SALOONS.

It was really a sad picture that was presented to the readers of the "News" Monday night, in the description of the saloons, or dives, visited by Councilman Peterson and other gentlemen, on Saturday evening. They found in those places boys and girls of ten or age, hard characters and small children inconspicuously mingling together; they found evidences of gambling, prostitution, and other forms of law-breaking.

It was a sad picture, but there is nothing surprising in it. To those who reflect a moment it must appear evident that the largest number of saloons must depend upon illicit business for existence. The competition is very keen. That is, the number of saloons is generally too large for the regular consumption of liquor, and their expenses are very heavy. In order to make both ends meet, saloon keepers necessarily must depend on such illegitimate business that can be carried on in connection with drunkenness. For that reason, in the trail of the saloon always go gambling, and prostitution, and very often robbery and murder. The saloon business draws crimes with it, in its trail, as surely and as naturally, as the sun attracts the planets. Gambling, prostitution, stealing, quarrels, etc., are but the satellites of the saloon.

Anyone can make a calculation for himself to ascertain the least amount of money that is needed to keep the saloons going. In this City we have over a hundred saloons. Each pays \$100 a month license. Those who drink pay that. Each pays a more or less high rent, in some places hundreds of dollars a month. That is another item for the drunkards. Then there are taxes and other expenses. All in all it does not cost any less than half a million dollars to run the dram shops of Salt Lake. It probably costs more. But

it certainly costs that much. There is half a million dollars to collect from the people for that business. And the cost of the stuff itself is not included in this estimate. Let us be moderate and say that that is only a million. A million and a half to sacrifice annually in this City upon the altar of Bacchus!

As a matter of fact, the saloons must take in at least \$50 a day in order to pay. That means for a hundred saloons \$5,000 a day. There are more, and there are other places where intoxicants are dispensed, which also must make money. Is it any wonder, then, that the saloon keepers must resort to all kinds of illegitimate business to keep their establishments?

There is no remedy for this law-breaking that is a curse to so many citizens, but the closing of the saloons. Regulation has proved ineffective.

FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT.

The commission plan of city government is no longer merely an experiment. It has been tried in many places and is being adopted in others. Hardly a month passes without some new evidence of the strength of the movement for better government.

The Chicago Record-Herald notices that Berkeley has adopted the commission plan, qualified by a modified form of "recall." San Diego has voted to abolish its city council and substitute therefor government by a mayor and five other elected officials, each of these having a department to look after and be responsible for to the people. Maine and Massachusetts have joined hands with California across the continent. Portland is considering a scheme of concentrated and simplified administration. This does away with the council and provides for a mayor and four commissioners elected on a ballot sans party labels and nominated by petition. It contains provisions for the recall of incompetent or dishonest commissioners and for popular control of franchise legislation. Boston is asking for a new charter radically different from the present one. The new scheme does away with the common council; creates a board of nine aldermen without legislative powers except the power to pass upon appropriations; introduces a new recall feature, direct nominations and similar reforms, and—a totally new idea—gives the mayor an advisory board of five eminent citizens, whose duty it will be to aid and make suggestions to that official.

No mistake will be made if Salt Lake gets into the line of progress for better city government. But the point is that the people should be given a larger representation than is usually the case under party management. The business of the city might be placed in charge of a few competent commissioners, but these should be responsible to a large, representative body of citizens, chosen by the people and charged with the duty of looking after the commission. There is an approach to the realization of this idea in the Boston plan, which contemplates the appointment of an advisory board of five citizens, to act as counselors to the mayor, but this does not go far enough. The actual control, especially of the finances ought to be vested in a large, representative assembly, and the commissioners ought to be appointed by this body.

NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

A local business man is authority for the following story which proves that whisky drinking is bad business:

A man came to his office and asked to borrow a sum of money on real estate. The gentleman telephoned to a friend of his who makes it his business to furnish money on good security.

"What kind of a man is he?" came back over the telephone.

The business man who related the incident to the "News" said he did not know him personally, but that he looked respectable. He smells of whisky, however.

The sentence was hardly finished before the gentleman at the other end of the phone, who had thousands of dollars waiting for borrowers, said, "If he drinks he can have none of my money."

That gentleman is not a prohibitionist. He is no fanatic. He is simply a business man who has found by experience that a fellow who drinks cannot be trusted.

A prohibition law would help many a man on in life.

NOT TOO FAST.

The legislators should go slow in the matter of granting extraordinary powers to any set of men to levy special taxes upon the property of citizens. The so-called park commissioners ask for authority to compel property owners to "park" their property according to the plans of the commissioners. If the owners fail to carry out the plan, the officials mentioned will do so for them, at their own price, of course, and levy a special tax against the property.

The proposition is all right, if the citizen is financially able to do the work and refuses because of stubbornness or lack of public spirit. But what about the many who may happen to own a piece of property and who are already staggering under the burden of general and special taxes imposed from time to time by extravagant administrations? Are they not entitled to any consideration at the hands of legislators?

From the very first day of the settlement of Utah the people had their eyes open to the value of beautifying their homes, and they did so as fast as circumstances would permit. Under the fatherly advice of their leaders they planted trees and shrubbery and flowers, and laid out lawns, and made a Garden of Eden of a desert. But there was no compulsion, and no graft. How different now! The people of this City have been plunged into the abyss of indebtedness, and there is nothing but increase of taxes, and special taxes, in view. In addition the cost of all commodities of life is kept at the highest possible limit. Let us have all kinds of improvements

as fast as the City can afford it; but do not empower city officials to act the part of the foolish man who runs in debt deeper and deeper and at the same time puts on style to deceive his neighbors. It does not pay. The settlement will come some day.

IT IS IN THE BLOOD.

The Warden of the Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Major McLaughry, has come to the conclusion that Indians are naturally gifted as stone cutters. His experience with the Indians confined in that institution has led him to that conclusion. As farmers they are not a success. But as workers in stone they become artists.

The Major is reported to have said that some years ago an Indian said he would learn to cut stone. When he was allowed to try, he went ahead with wonderful rapidity. The experiment was so successful that others were allowed to try and almost without exception everyone of them succeeded. They did equally well in stone setting. Their work ranks right up with the white cutter or setter.

Major McLaughry recently said to a reporter: "Look at the ornamental stone work in those brick walls. Practically every bit was done by Indians under an Indian foreman. That foreman came to us absolutely ignorant of stone setting, yet in a year or two he had not only mastered the trade, but he was made foreman. It is unusual to have a convict foreman. He is generally a citizen. This same Indian is now free and earning \$8 a day in the capacity in which he was employed here. I have heard of other Indians who have gone out of here, having learned one of these trades, who are buckling right down to good, hard, honest work."

"It is refreshing to see the pride these Indians take in their work. We have no trouble in getting them to do their tasks. In our stone cutting shop we employ on an average about thirty-five Indians. When the Jamestown exposition was under construction the government ordered us to turn out much of the stone work to be used in the government building there."

Major McLaughry has come to the conclusion that all our Indians have come down from the Aztecs and that they have inherited the art of stone working. Once in a while, he says, a negro will develop into a kind, however, he has found on inquiry that the negro has Indian blood in him. "It is in the blood."

The more "cheek" the less blushing.

In New South Wales the in-fighters are out.

The anti-prohibitionists are having a run time.

It takes a millionaire to keep his wife in hat pin money.

A man may be dippy without being addicted to dipsomania.

Never having felt a financial wound, Mr. Carnegie jests at tariffs.

Some are on the "water wagon" and some are on the "free water" wagon.

Attorney Heney refuses to look upon Mr. Calhoun as another St. Patrick.

Senator Tillman may say with Rip Van Winkle, "And are we so soon forgotten?"

How many lions, elephants, hippopotami, etc., will be killed in the name of science?

If children were more like church bells! Then they would do as they are told.

Tramps would cease to be failures if to saying nothing they would add sawing wood.

Men no longer try to lift themselves by their boot straps. Boots are no longer worn.

Possibly Foo Fi Fo Fun merely wanted the blood of an Englishman for purposes of transfusion.

You can drive a horse to water but you can't make him drink, but you can drive a man to drink.

The state food and dairy commissioner wants a food bureau. What's the matter with the cupboard?

How is it, happiness being largely a mental state, that often those with the least mentality are happiest?

Many moves have been made in behalf of Thaw but so far he has been unable to move away from Mattowman.

President Roosevelt will deliver lectures to the students of Oxford, the Sorbonne and the University of Berlin.

When the forests are all cut down and the wood burned, the people may have to go about in sackcloth and ashes.

Down in Harrisburg and Pittsburg thus far fire has not consumed the tabernacles of bribery, nor is the congregation of hypocrites desolate.

In Georgia Judge Taft is proving himself to be a regular "lady killer." Is there any connection between this and the fact that he was once secretary of war?

Jim Paten and Joe Hulch of Potter county, Pennsylvania, are firm believers in the efficacy of the "big stick." The other day they were attacked by a couple of bears and beat them off with their big sticks.

No less than 522 American newspapers printed accounts of the new steamship "Rotterdam," and her maiden passage. These items have been collected, under instructions from Albert Frank & Co., to Burdette, the press clipping expert in New York. They have been classified by cities, bound in dark lavent leather, hand-tied and in replica of the binding of Louis XIV's time. The finished book has just been delivered by the Burdette people and is to be presented to the Holland-American line. Every newspaper that printed an item is

represented, a prominent position being given to the "News," says a correspondent of this paper.

SALARY OF THE PRESIDENT.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
No man seeks the Presidency for the sake of the salary; few, perhaps, retire from their service at the head of the government as well off financially as when they entered the office. The honor of serving in the line of Presidents, of adding his name below that of Washington, Lincoln and Grant, and of contributing his share to the progressive history of his nation is a large consideration. If there was no salary given the President it is more than doubtful if there would be any dearth of acceptable candidates for the place, or if the nation would be any less ably served. Fortunately, neither our Presidents nor our Governors are moved to accept office primarily for the money there is in it; something higher and more creditable actuates them. There can be no serious objection to increasing the pay of the President; neither is there any crying need that it should be done.

THE SOUTH TO CHOOSE.

From the New York Globe.
It is for the South to choose. If southern white men, putting aside silly fears of negro domination and ceasing forever to talk of a reconstruction period that ended thirty years ago, show a disposition to consider national issues on their merits, they will aggrandize their section and remove the last vestige of sectional bitterness. But they can expect no president who has regard for his oath of office to countenance the deliberate violation of a constitution which he swears to uphold and defend.

A BLACKSMITH-OCULIST.

London Chronicle.
General Booth's operation for cataract recalls the wonderful native skill of a blacksmith near York, who some forty years ago successfully performed this delicate operation on several of his fellow villagers. The fact became known to a doctor in the neighborhood, who so admired the blacksmith's skill that he provided the means for his education as an oculist. To the blacksmith the removal of the cataract was no more than a mechanical feat, but when he became acquainted with the structure of the human eye and its amazing delicacy he was so overpowered by the fineness of what he had done in ignorance that he lost his nerve, and with the fear of knowledge he insisted on returning to his anvil.

INTERESTED LEGISLATORS.

Indianapolis News.
It has been found that sixty-two members of the House of Lords who voted against the licensing bill are owners of stock in brewing companies. And the investigation is not complete. For only forty or fifty companies of 200 were examined. What the lists of the unexamined companies show is not yet known. In addition, there are many holders of debentures, whose names would not appear on the lists of shareholders. It is said that there are at least 140 peers who own more than \$12,000,000 of brewery stock. The sixty-two peers who voted against the bill, of course, voted as the saying is, for their own pockets.

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