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ELECT A SENATOR!

The people of Utah are watching the proceedings of our State Legislature. They expect the members to spend the time allotted for their work to the best possible advantage. The deadlock of ten years ago was strongly disapproved. Something better is looked for at this session. The election of a United States Senator is of great importance, but it is not the chief business of the Assembly. Legislation is needed, and time should be taken to make it as perfect as possible and as complete as may be necessary. Long delays into useless fractions and fortunes will be viewed with disfavor and, if protracted, with much disgust.

It is rumored that a scheme has been formed to block the election of United States Senator in the interest of a certain candidate, and failing him of some "dark horse" to be trotted out later on. It is to be hoped that the gentlemen and ladies chosen by the electors of the State, will not suffer themselves to be drawn into any such plot, but that they will defeat it as soon as it develops.

Loyalty to a candidate is proper, particularly when pledges have been given. But there is neither merit nor profit in continuing a struggle when it is evidently hopeless. The public time and public money must not be wasted in a fruitless effort to show sympathy and friendship. Elect some suitable man and end the suspense!

Reports have been circulated that the Church, or its leading authorities, favor the election of this, that and the other candidate. All such assertions should be at once discredited. They are used by persons who would probably be the first to cry "Church influence!" in the event of an opponent's success. We are able to say, most positively, the Church has no candidate. It is not supporting or opposing any aspirant to the proud position of United States Senator from Utah. The Deseret News has no suggestions to offer as to the individual who should be elected. It is not in the field in any way. But the public want a speedy settlement of the senatorial question, and the News expresses that desire. Let there be no needless delay!

KEEP TO THE POINT!

Our anti-"Mormon" local contemporary is in a bad state of mind. That is nothing new. When cornered it usually calls itself and names. It is very often cornered. But its blasting does not count in these parts, and its fangs are no longer fearful. The sore spot of its case is in the reference to polygamy. Impersonal. Fair argument is as little to be expected from it as an admission that it has been mistaken. The Deseret News does not propose to retaliate in that kind of a spirit.

The question at issue is the right of persons in Utah, who were disqualified from voting under the laws of Congress applicable only to Territories, to vote and hold office under the laws of the State. Our venomous contemporary clings to the notion that the disfranchising clauses of those congressional enactments, though now defunct as in Utah, are still in force, notwithstanding their repeal in terms by Congress itself.

We have quoted the clauses in the Enabling Act which gave the right to vote, and to serve as delegates, to every male citizen twenty-one years of age and upwards who had resided in Utah one year. Also the provision in the same congressional enactment, that all laws of Congress and of the Territory not in conformity with that provision were repealed. And further, that the State of Utah, possessing full power to provide for the qualifications of voters and office-holders, had given those rights to all citizens having the required residence. Then the whole matter is tacitly settled, and quibbling about it is childish to the extreme. But, we are asked:

Is the obligation any greater for one who never was a voter, than for one who became a disfranchisee to the law has forfeited his privilege?

Certainly it is. The "one who never was a voter" is referred to by the queries as "an unnatural-born resident." Before such a person could vote he would have to be naturalized. The law prescribing the qualifications of voters requires every voter to be a citizen. That is an essential requisite. The same law confers the right to vote upon every citizen, male and female, having the designated residence. The alleged "disfranchisee" to have had have been repealed once so figure in the situation.

Legislators may change the qualifications of voters. Congress, for instance, provided certain qualifications and disqualifications in the anti-polygamy laws, but changed them and repealed those provisions by the Enabling Act. The Utah Legislature has gone further than the congressional legislation on this subject, and has given the franchise, not only to men who were disqualified by the now obsolete laws but to women, who, even also disfranchised by the dead legislation.

The cross of the country, largely ignorant of the details of this controversy, are led astray in many instances by the blunders or worse of our anti-"Mormon" contemporary, and are thus drawn into folly.

Now it does not affect the right or wrong of this question how the writer who makes the argument uses "Sapolio," or to use our contemporary's choice and typical language. It does not matter whether or not he is "hamstrung" or "able to walk even." Judging by every day appearance there would be poor sense in which to place the evidence of such stable-like adversary. The law and the facts are against the position he persists in taking, and no amount of personal virulence will impress it.

The point made there and clear by this contention is, that persons who were not entitled to vote under the old anti-polygamy laws, are now clothed with the elective franchise, and are eligible to any office to which the people of Utah choose to elect them. And, further, that this is not a Church question, but is entirely and essentially political.

OH, WHAT A "FRIEND"!

A prominent church official, some years ago, publicly expressed his pleasure at the fact that Utah legislators had the honored reputation of being impervious to financial corruption. He was utterly opposed to lottery and concealed influence in politics. It is gratifying to know that those sentiments are entertained today, not only by that gentleman but by all his associates in the Church. And we are sure that they are shared by the members of both branches of our State Legislature.

There would be no need to refer to this, but for a renewed effort of an anti-"Mormon" contemporary to make it appear that another prominent official has endeavored to promote or encourage corrupt influence in present politics. There could scarcely be anything more contemptible than this insinuation. The private letters which have been spread before the public, with the intent to create a false impression, cannot be fairly construed to signify anything like the meaning which has thus been shamefully attributed to them.

The corrupt use of money to influence legislators or any one else, in political or other affairs, was not mentioned or hinted at in that correspondence. The references to personality and friendship on the part of a candidate for public office, were as far removed from such a thing as honor, truth and consistency are from the being that conceived the charge and the sheet that has published it.

When a gentleman donates money to aid in the expenses of his party, to help a public enterprise, to promote the welfare of a church, or school or any other laudable organization or cause, it is only a depraved mind that would lack such benevolence with bribery, and refer to it as corruption politically or otherwise.

There is no conflict of opinion between the two gentlemen whose utterances are displayed by our anti-"Mormon" contemporary, and the malicious endeavor to so construe them, will be duly appreciated by the people of whom that antisectarian paper pretends to be the chief friend.

A PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

The request of Admiral Dewey for the appointment of a commission to confer with him and General Otis, in an effort to satisfy the Filipinos as to the intentions of the United States, is to be complied with, and that, we take it, will render unnecessary any further dispatch at home on the subject. It is not impossible that the admiral's fact sheet of Dewey's made him to correct any misunderstanding the natives may have regarding our future plans, and it is absolutely certain that the recommendation of the admiral and his associates, after close observation on the ground, will weigh more with the American public than the opinions of orators.

It is stated that President Schurman of Cornell university, Colonel Charles Denby, ex-minister to China, and Professor Neal C. Worcester of Ann Arbor university are to be members of the commission. Both Schurman and Denby are said to be leaning toward annexation. Professor Worcester is said to be a former resident of the Philippines and a personal friend of Aguinaldo. A commission consisting of such men and backed by Dewey, whose name must be a household word in every nooks, should be able to perform a good mission among the followers of the Philippine leader. The commission, it is understood, will have for its field of inquiry exactly the ground which its report is before the public, it will probably be found that the alleged desires of "imperialism" have been much overestimated.

SAMOA'S KINGS.

The situation in Samoa threatens to assume a serious aspect. If the disputes convey the facts the representatives of Germany at Apia have violated the Berlin treaty by which the affairs of the kingdom were arranged.

Under this agreement the islands were declared neutral territory, and the citizens of the United States, Great Britain and Germany were given equal privileges of residence and trade there. The right of the native to elect their own kings was also recognized, while all the supreme power were prohibited from exercising, separately, any influence upon the government, the election evidently being to prevent either of them from gaining any undue advantage. According to the treaty a chief justice was to be appointed by the three powers jointly. This functionary was to have the power of passing upon the validity of elections.

After the treaty some years ago Malietoa was declared king and Mataafa, a popular chief, was called. Recently the gentleman was permitted to return on condition that he take no part in politics. But when the king, Malietoa, took sick, the friends of Mataafa at once commenced to work for his election to the royal office, not knowing, perhaps, the conditions on which he had been permitted to come back to his native land. Malietoa died, and the representatives of the treaty powers were unable to agree upon a successor.

The municipal president, a German, assumed almost dictatorial powers. The American and British consuls protested against German aggression. During this wrangling Mataafa's friends rallied in great numbers and elected him king. But the chief justice, an American, decided in favor of Malietoa. There are now two chief kings, one supported by the local representative of the signatory powers, and the other encouraged by the Germans.

At the latest accounts, Mataafa had successfully fought the forces of his rival and a German had, it is said, seized the office of the chief justice. The latter, if true, is a serious violation of the Berlin treaty.

Before forming any conclusions as to the real status of affairs further information must be had. In Samoa, as in other places, German patriotism sometimes carries the representatives of the Fatherland too far. Once before a German consul had to be recalled from Samoa. He was given, we believe, a reprimand by his government, and a reparative office, and the present representative of German interests may possibly aspire to some similar reward. At all events the Samoan situation proves how difficult it is for persons with separate interests to maintain jointly "neutral" territory.

AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE.

It speaks well for the intelligence of the people of Utah that for there has been but little occasion for prosecutions, to enforce the law in relation to attendance at schools of children between the ages of eight and fourteen years. To give the little ones as good an education as possible, law or no law, has always been the general desire of the settlers of Utah, from the earliest times, as it is today, and the result is that there is a less percentage of illiteracy in Utah than in most of the States of the Union.

People who have been constantly taught to look upon intelligence as the glory of the Eternal One and to aspire to companionship with beings surrounding His throne, will certainly strive to advance in knowledge. They have the very highest motive for maintaining good schools and for giving their children the best education obtainable.

These remarks are called forth by the fact that proceedings have been instituted against a parent in this city, for alleged neglect of sending a child to school. The circumstances in this case may be an exception to the rule, but it has been, and is, no need in any part of Utah to force obedience to the law making attendance at school compulsory.

COLONIAL POLICY.

The Vossische Zeitung says that the voyage next summer of the German cruiser Arcona to the Pacific, will be in consequence of the intention of the German government to acquire the Caroline islands. The announcement from Madrid that the Spanish government will ask the Cortes for authority to sell its Pacific possessions not included in the peace treaty, seems to confirm the statement by the German paper.

The reason given for the necessity of selling out is Spain's inability to defend her colonies, it being estimated that 4,000 men, a man-of-war, and two gunboats are needed for the purpose. This fact furnishes a strong argument in favor of the ratification of the Paris treaty. If Spain cannot govern the smaller group of islands, she would certainly be unable to hold the larger possessions. How long would Philippine independence, if it were granted, continue in the Pacific, looking after the interests of the great Fatherland?

Germany has entered upon the policy of expansion on a gigantic scale. Present indications are that the empire aspires to the position of a world power, and that she means to make her second to the humble subjects of the kaiser as among those whose voice is heard in the councils of the nation. Ever since the war with France that policy has prevailed, or perhaps rather since the annexation of Schleswig-Holstein after the struggle with Denmark. Today Germany holds vast possessions in Africa. She has colonies in Asia, and has just obtained a foothold in China. She is contemplating the purchase of several Pacific islands, and is actively looking in all directions for advantages.

All this is but wise statesmanship. Judging the future by the past and present, it is not possible to escape the conclusion that the world is on the eve of industrial and commercial complications without precedent in human history. The great nations are busy planning for positions in this future contest for national existence, the outcome of which will depend largely on the foresight of those who make the preliminary arrangements. The United States inevitably has an important work to perform, and cannot afford to deviate from a course that led to the acquisition of Louisiana, Florida, Alaska and lately Porto Rico and Hawaii.

The charting that is here out, or off, is not at all in favor with the pessimists.

Text plus telegraphed from China as to a quiess on the Nicaragua canal is not sufficiently potent to bring the enterprise to a full stop.

The visit of preachers to each house in Havana, to improve sanitation, is likely to cause more nibbling among the residents than did the transfer from Spanish sovereignty.

Gov. Roosevelt refuses to return Depew's letter of a man convicted of offense against the civil laws of New York. He would keep such men out of the way of temptation.

By the way, not that a connection is exercised over cable messages from the Philippines, Gen. Otis should report progress without too many delays.

Col. Harvey of Chicago appears to have got both birds in his "hand," to say nothing of what was in the bush in securing the railway and lighting system in Havana and Santiago in Cuba.

The effort in Illinois to have impeachment for life substituted for the death penalty for brought a unanimous protest from prison officials, who have murderers on their hands long enough, as the law now stands.

R. W. Bird and wife of Eldora, Iowa, celebrated their sixty-fourth wedding anniversary on Tuesday. The husband is 91 and the wife is years of age. With them marriage does not seem to have been a failure.

Judging from the official code of a morning contemporary, it is very wicked to spend money for political purposes, except when dishonored under the direction and supervision of that contemporary.

Upon the clerk of the Montana legislative house announcement that four bills had been introduced by a certain member, mentioning one whose name had been connected with the recent bribery charges, half a dozen other members immediately arose with the inquiry, "What denomination?"

The action of the New York bar in endorsing Czar Nicholas' international arbitration scheme is commendable. It would transfer the settlement of difficulties from the field of battle to the words wars of the lawyers, without jeopardizing the latter either physically or financially.

We are told daily by the would-be heralds of an anti-"Mormon" year of jubilee, that Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, "Christian" ministers, and ministerial associations are exerting themselves against the Church. Well, that is no news. Such efforts have been made by the same parties for the past 40 years or more. And the sectarian jubilee has not come yet.

The proposition for the United States of Colombia to contract the Nicaragua canal and thus force France into a hostile attitude towards the United States, because of important French interests to be maintained in Colombia, may seem an effective scheme to those seeking to prevent it; but it may be set down that no European power is going to war at present over an isthmian canal.

The Deseret News is in receipt of a communication from a lady in the west, speaking for "young Utah," protesting against the unspeakable hypocrisy of a newspaper that professes friendship for the class so designated while at the same time aiming vicious stabs at the interests of the State. "Young Utah" is as disgusted as "Old Utah" at the performance of Josh, who kisses the object of his murderous attack.

NELSON DINGLEY.

Chicago Times-Herald.

In all questions relating to finance and the revenues of the country Mr. Dingley's authority was unchallenged. He did not belong to the artillery of the House. He left the oratorical cannonading to men more generously endowed by nature with the physical capacity for making a noise. It was his business to see to the ways and the ways of revenue and to furnish the munitions for combat. He belonged to the small minority of tireless and competitive congressional workers upon whom the nation must always depend for the legislation which is of "large import and of permanent value." It was his business to dig and to formulate while others talked. His was the genius of initiative, the propelling force that sometimes forces the machinery of legislation.

Paris Journal.

Congressman Dingley was one of the few men in Washington whom the people of the United States have implicitly trusted. He was a statesman, and his life before the public, as well as in the privacy of his home, was as blameless as few lives ever are. In these days of small, base political cant and selfish politicians, when the dearest rights of the people are endangered every day by unprincipled demagogues, and when the sinfulness and corruption in public office is so common that fair minded men are becoming almost afraid to seek public preferment, it is a relief to have such men as Dingley in office.

Although Mr. Dingley has disappeared from the living galaxy of American statesmen, Mr. Dingley was not a great man. He was a great and honest man in public life in this country, but he was an able, conscientious and efficient servant of the people.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.

Correspondence New York Times.

The New Year brings to its hand one tremendous question for overshadowing, for all who know what is passing under the surface, every other European interest. This is the question: What will happen in France in the immediate future? On November 2 I asked you those words: "My own opinion is that a coup d'etat is a more probable outcome than the creation thus of a foreign war." Since then the view has come to be held by a majority of observers, and even now, in the wake of events, the details of the danger of France are for from being a matter of certainty. Two great events have marked Prince Victor Napoleon had resigned his claims in favor of his brother, Prince Louis, who, by the way, is about to be created a general in the Russian army, thus out to be incorporated. It is around the person of the former (but) the dynastic conspiracy has grown to its present vast proportions and imminence. Now it is quite certain that the intention of the chiefs of the French party is to place a Napoleon once upon the throne of France, and very soon.

Contemporary Notes.

The Philadelphia Ledger is noted that it is unnecessary a mere abstract question of law, when the supreme court really results, and that the decision of military is really in the throes of a great social problem. France is sick almost unto death, and seems the result of the war to cut clean out and the wound well cauterized, the court even the ex Spain is dying.

Nineteenth Century.

The people feel that the revision of the Dreyfus trial will be a brilliant one, but they know that their property. Hence the affairs of their position. This effort has proved for us a large evil, the gravest of which we were far from expecting. It has made a frightful breach in the moral and social foundations of our society.

The situation is generally considered to be more critical than it was a year ago, for a long time and that the safety of the republic is seriously menaced. The secrecy of the proceedings is believed to have not contributed to concentrate all the antidreyfus elements on themselves and to put this cause either as president of the republic or in some other capacity. Meanwhile, on the eastern of the "Dreyfus" the agitation goes on and the agitation. The scarce my time over, at so many other matters have drawn Dreyfus. It must be held in mind, however, that nothing can be safely predicted of the future movements of that country. The most threatening why may only exist in a night mare of wind, and a "bad" may suddenly develope into a devastating cyclone.

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