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DESERET NEWS PHONES. Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department of the Deseret News, will save themselves and this establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers:

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LAW AND TESTIMONY.

It is not to be wondered at that the people of the East, and even many members of Congress, are surprised at the open avowals of President Joseph F. Smith concerning his family relations. But it is remarkable that newspapers here, that have published time and again the charge that the gentleman was living with his plural wives, and that have discussed the matter editorially, now pretend to be astounded at the disclosures of the fact. It is also astonishing that they should deny the general understanding concerning the difference between polygamy, i. e. the contracting of plural marriages, and the living with plural wives in the marriage relation.

These matters have been discussed by the Salt Lake press so often that the subject has become hackneyed and to many readers really offensive. And now, to try to make out that President Smith's explanation is something new, and startling, and "contrary to the spirit and letter of pledges given by Utah to obtain statehood," is an exhibition of dense ignorance or wilful perversity. The subject was threshed out in the constitutional convention at which the Constitution of the State of Utah was framed. The clause in it concerning the vexed question was adopted, after a full discussion of the very point presented by President Smith before the committee on Wednesday.

This matter was also clearly understood when the Enabling Act was passed by Congress. Here is the only reference therein to the subject: "Provided, that polygamous or plural marriages are forever prohibited." President Smith was exactly right. The Constitution contained this provision in the same language. It was so inserted with full understanding that it meant just what it said and nothing more. It was the only "pledge" on this matter either asked of or made by Utah. To plead misunderstanding of that, at this late date, is to confess deplorable ignorance. To say, too, that this was not intended to stop at the point indicated and to go no further, is to ignore the entire discussion of the matter in Congress and in the convention.

The broadminded and liberal people here and elsewhere who have understood the situation, as President Smith avowed, have let alone the family concerns of people who contracted plural marriages previous to statehood, or previous to the manifesto. That is well known. To claim to the contrary is farcical if not mendacious. The ignorance of the eastern public ought not to be emphasized by the pretended surprise and sneering comments of Utah papers that ought to, if they do not know better than they talk.

One morning paper, the Tribune, trying to be smart and censorious, talks about President Smith's remarks concerning a "hearing before the master in chancery (on the suit for the Temple lot at Independence). That is a sample of real ignorance both of fact and of principle. There was no suit of the kind by this Church about the Temple lot at Independence. So in regard to the same paper's assertions about prosecutions for unlawful cohabitation, it says:

"The public attorney who prosecuted too vigorously would never be elected to any office again; the judge who might be too severe might as well never be a candidate again; the Mormon juror who consented to a verdict that was resisted by the accused would likely be distellowed and perhaps ruined; the witness too zealous would be under the ban."

Is that so? How about Judge Zane and Judge Huskin? Were there ever any more severe judges or lawyers on this very question than they and have they not been "candidates again" and elected to the bench? But why should an attorney prosecute such cases "too vigorously"? Or a judge be "too severe"? That kind of procedure was very common in the old times of bitterness and vengeance, but is not popular now in these parts, although there are

still venomous writers who would like to revive them.

As to witnesses in cases before the courts when attorneys were "too severe" and judges showed their anger by frothing at the mouth, there is no wonder that they were careful to testify to nothing but what they knew absolutely. It is very easy to say, out of court, that we know such and such things, but when under oath and not required or expected to give hearsay evidence, it is remarkable how little a person often is found to actually know of such matters "of his own knowledge." Writers who talk so glibly about "perjury" because a witness says he doesn't know, would be in the same fix if called upon to testify under oath to statements they freely make in print, but which are only common rumor or fabricated accusations.

President Smith's candid statements have been made freely and frankly and not by compulsion, nor can they rightly be said to be "confessions." As to other "Mormons" when before the courts, have not scores of them stated openly that they had plural wives and lived with them, and gone to prison because of their own testimony? When even that was not permitted by reason of attorneys and courts being "too severe," compelling defendants to plead direct, did not many more plead guilty to unlawful cohabitation and receive sentence and serve their terms?

The old anti-"Mormon" gull and wormwood and sinuous prevarication and abuse in the Tribune, oozes out in acid volume mingled with a pretended half-eulogy, half sarcasm, about the testimony of President Smith before the committee. But it matters little. The protestors and their organ will elicit much more than they want in the examination and will fall in other directions. The country will learn the facts, and the rational and sensible will perceive the true situation, and whether prejudice prevails against Senator Smoot or not, the result will be the spread of "Mormonism" throughout the world. But we advise the antis not to shout too loudly or too soon.

General education would pave the way for popular government, and that form of government would be the true antidote against revolutionary agitation.

FOREIGNERS AS CRIMINALS. It is customary with a certain class of people, to charge the foreign element in this country with criminal tendencies, and on that ground it has been proposed to restrict immigration, as well as on the ground that the foreigners compete unfairly with American labor. It seems, however, that statistics, as far as available, do not sustain the charge of criminality, beyond the average percentage. One of the publications of the Chicago Bureau of Statistics contains, says the Chicago Record-Herald, a table showing the percentage of population and arrests in 1900 by nationalities for twelve large American cities. It appears that for all these cities the foreign-born residents formed 26.1 per cent of the population and furnished 29.3 per cent of the arrests. The Italians, numbering 1.1 per cent of the population and furnishing 1.4 per cent of the arrests, were above the average in criminality, but the Russians (including Poles), with percentages respectively of 3.5 and 3.7, were below; while the Austrians, with percentages of 1.2 and 1.8, had a still better record. It may be said, also, that the Italian record was by no means the worst on the list.

The Record-Herald wisely remarks: "As the arrests referred to include arrests for misdemeanors and for the violation of city ordinances, as well as for crimes, the figures cannot be said to have any great value. So far as they go, however, they are distinctly unfavorable to the alarmist's point of view."

INTERNATIONAL LAW NEEDED. Considerable disappointment is expressed in this country, and not without ground, over the decision of The Hague tribunal, in the Venezuela matter which was referred to that court, on the suggestion of the United States. The decision was in favor of the countries that threatened to collect their accounts by force. So far as the monetary consideration goes, the decision is considered of little importance, but it is pointed out that it gives a precedent in favor of war for the purpose of collecting bad debts. The United States contended that all the creditors should be given an equal chance, while the court held that the powers which resorted to force should have the preference in the matter. That, certainly, is a queer decision. It is as if, in private litigation, the court should give preference to the creditor who could prove that he had threatened his debtor with personal violence, before asking the court for a judgment. It does not prove, though, that arbitration is wrong in principle, or that The Hague court is a useless institution. But it proves the need of a code of international law, according to which all cases can be adjudged. Let the nations come together in a universal congress and adopt such laws and rules as are needed, and The Hague court will fill its mission. But in the absence of such laws, the decisions will naturally be more or less unsatisfactory.

Russia and Japan seem to be getting a "good ready."

San Domingo is the bete noire of American republics.

Mr. Taylor goes on the theory that all that gets into his net is fish.

In his way the Father of Lies is one of the chief captains of industry.

Mr. Ham of Boston seems to have lived on the fat of the land.

The Digger Indians should be given a chance to dig the Panama canal.

In Ohio there is no other Richard in the field when General Dick is around.

Russia will ignore Japan's treaty with Korea. She also ignored Japan to her cost.

When Port Arthur falls, if it does, the dull, sickening truth will very soon be heard round the world.

The snow is a little disagreeable in the streets, but think of the blessings it is laying up in the mountains.

The Chicago Colombian exposition has just closed its final accounts and declared a dividend. Is this not a long time for so progressive a city as Chicago?

Dr. Harper of Chicago university says that \$3,000 a year is not salary enough for a full professor. That all depends upon how many times a year he is expected to get full.

at present is threatened with revolutionary agitation from many directions. There are the anarchists who advocate assassination of the rulers. There is the social democratic party, that is seeking to bring about parliamentary rule. The Jewish revolutionary party which had its origin in the persecution of the Jews, aims to bring about religious toleration, and the removal of Jewish disabilities. And there is the Students' Revolutionary League, which seeks to do away with present arbitrary forms of government, and to attain liberty. It is confined to the educated classes, and is a protest against the rigid censorship exercised by the czar's government with relation to books, periodicals and newspapers.

All these parties have their headquarters outside of Russia, and carry on their agitation within the empire by secret means. Millions of little folders and pamphlets are distributed among the Russians by private agents. Formerly, revolutionary agitation in Russia was confined to the educated classes, and more particularly to students. But now, it is said, disaffection with absolutism has gained much strength among the peasantry, and even in the army. In some instances troops have refused to fire upon mobs engaged in rioting, and some time ago, at Vilna, a soldier shot the colonel of his regiment instead of executing the order to fire upon strikers.

Colonel Henry Watterston declines longer to be responsible for the Democratic party. And presumably the party declines longer to be responsible for the gallant Colonel.

The Chicago money lender, Major William Bell, who received thirty-two thousand dollars in four years as interest on a loan of four thousand dollars, makes Shylock's name a synonym for charity and humanity in comparison.

The honor of the country has been saved. Mrs. Bradley Martin has been thought to be a hopeless victim of Angliomania for some years, but now it is announced on good authority that she has just ordered forty-nine pairs of shoes to be sent to her from this country.

One of the questions to be considered at the Postal Congress which is to be held in Rome in the spring, is a two-cent fare for letters between certain countries in the postal union. This is a matter that has been discussed for years. The measure should pass. Another matter for consideration is an international arrangement for prepaid reply correspondence. That, too, is a measure in which there is much popular interest.

BURTON AND THE NAVAL BILL. New York World. The announcement that the British program of naval construction for 1905 has been cut down, presumably because of the Russian sea reverses, adds the comment of fact and the emphasis of example to Congressman Burton's protest against the rapid increase of our naval expenditure.

Springfield Republican. The courage and independence shown by the Republican congressman from Cleveland, Mr. Burton, in attacking the naval appropriation bill as extravagant and uncalled for by the nation's needs, deserve cordial recognition. Even if Mr. Burton errs in his judgment as to the proper size of the American navy, his readiness to stem a popular current that he believes is headed in the wrong direction must be generally admired.

New York Evening Mail. It seems to us that Mr. Burton's attack on the naval bill is inspired by the same nervous fear of enlarged national responsibility. The country is too big, too uncared for by the nation's needs, let us not take the measures to defend them; let us disarm and seek "the victories of peace, not those of war," let us get back to the good old days. This in substance is Mr. Burton's plea, and it is blind, as all such pleas are blind, to the fact that no nation's voice is potent for peace in the world, or for the defense of its own interests, unless the force is behind it to make it effective, if necessary.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. When a prominent Republican like Representative Burton comes out against naval extension his act attracts the country's attention. In these days, when the value of a great navy effectively handled is strikingly illustrated in Japan's case, anybody who would ignore the work of American naval extension is sure to excite the resentment of his countrymen.

SENATORIAL MANNERS. New York Evening Post. As to senatorial manners, the passage between Senator Warren of Wyoming and Mr. Tillman tended to bring a certain levity into usually grave proceedings. Mr. Warren's production of a bottle—contents unanalyzed, but described as "cough mixture"—from Mr. Tillman's pocket amused the galleries, and was strikingly like the humor of the play as described in Mr. Wister's "The Virginian." Mr. Tillman took the jest in good part, but other senators could not laugh at it, which shows that the most august bodies fail to arrive at uniform conceptions of humor. Nobody thought the joke good enough to appear in the Congressional Record, though doubtless its wit was not inferior to much that enlivens those grave pages. In the interest of the dignity of the Senate, it seems well to agree by common consent that all bottles shall be left in charge of the sergeant-at-arms.

Boston Herald. Senator Warren of Wyoming is the Elephant's Child of the Kipling story. The trouble with the Elephant's Child was his insatiable curiosity. He asked his aunt, the Ostrich, why her tall feathers grew just so, and the Ostrich spanked him with her hard claw. He asked his uncle, the Giraffe, what made his skin spotted and the Giraffe spanked him with his hard hoof. He asked his aunt, the Hippopotamus, why her eyes were red, his uncle, the Baboon, why melons tasted just so, and thye both spanked him with their handiest weapons. And still he was full of "satiable curiosity, just as Senator Warren of Wyoming was when he stuck his hand in Senator Tillman's pocket, pulled out the bottle of boracic acid and smell of the contents. Senator Warren of Wyoming ought to be spanked.

"The Complete Anas of Thomas Jefferson" is the title of a handsome volume that has just made its appearance, edited by Franklin B. Sawvel, Ph. D. These "Anas" consist of Thomas Jefferson's private notes, and it is claimed that the present volume is the first in which these notes have been brought together in a complete collection. The "notes" throw volumes of light upon the history of the time that saw the birth of the American republic, and the effort to place them before the public in this way will be appreciated. Thomas Jefferson, notwithstanding his defects as a man, was the perfect citizen, and his "principles" are identical with American government. He belongs to no party, but to the country, just as much as Washington. The volume contains, besides the "notes," an introduction, and a Biographical Sketch, by the editor, and an "Explanation of the Three Volumes Bound in Marbled Paper," by Thomas Jefferson. These are not to be better understood by reading the notes. There are also five illustrations, "Full Length Portrait of Thom. Jefferson," by E. F. Andrews; "Monticello, Jefferson's Home," by E. S. Ripley; "Page from Anas," Portrait Bust of Thomas Jefferson," by Gilbert Stuart, and another "Fac Simile Page from Anas,"—Round Table Press, Greenville, Pa.

Mr. Cleveland denies the allegation of Mr. Scott that he entertained at luncheon in the White House Mr. Taylor, the Kansas colored politician, and defies the allegation.

The Maryland legislature has passed a "Jim Crow" car ordinance. It is a little late, is it not, to put such laws upon the statute book of any American state?

When the locomotive that hauled the trains across Lake Balkal went through thrice, horses were substituted as the motive power. A donkey engine would seem more appropriate.

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