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"CHURCH INFLUENCE" ISSUE.

The Boise Capital News has published some liberal and pertinent articles on the subject headed as above, and on Monday evening had a lengthy but meaty editorial on the same topic. In answer to a renewed attack by the Idaho Statesman, in which a lot of old issues were revived and attempts were made to associate the "Mormon" Church with certain political movements in Idaho, The Capital News made a vigorous and sensible reply and closed with an expression of sentiments which we herewith append. We do not care to discuss the matters in dispute between a number of Idaho papers and the Statesman, which are only of local importance. The following remarks, however, we commend to the consideration of thoughtful people everywhere.

"The Mormons as a people have as much right to their belief as have any other denomination, so long as they obey the law and are good citizens. If, as their opponents assert, there are polygamists among them, why not proceed against the individuals, and not condemn every member of the Church, regardless of guilt or innocence? There is a law against bigamy and there are officers who are sworn to the enforcement of that law. It is not a matter for political parties to deal with and there is no call for disenfranchisement or the re-establishment of the test oath. Regarding the fight against the seating of Senator Smoot, the Democratic Rocky Mountain News of Denver, makes the following extremely sensible argument:

"Persecution is the best means in the world to increase the cause attacked. All apparent persecution should be avoided with scrupulous care as nothing will so strengthen the weakening bonds of a theocratic government as any suspicion of martyrdom. The Roberts matter, necessary as it was and beneficial in the end, was at the time a fruitful source of revival for Mormon loyalty. To attempt to make a fight against the seating of Smoot was unwarranted and useless, and greatly aided the very forces it seeks to attack. All danger may best be guarded against by the spread of general enlightenment, the natural commercial environment, and a mitigation of the keen antagonism felt by the older Gentiles. Cordial relations between the opposing elements in Utah should be encouraged since the young Mormon can in this way best be impregnated with that unselfish spirit of the times which is the chief everywhere for the forces of progress."

Our anti-"Mormon" fellow citizens should not forget the fact, that members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are entitled to just as many rights and privileges as are the adherents of any of the different religious bodies in this country; also that their votes count just as well as the polls as do the votes of persons who are opposed to them in religious views. The highest ecclesiastical in the "Mormon" Church has the same right to his own opinions respecting parties and policies and candidates for office, as the newest convert to the faith, and as the most violent opponent of that faith. He also has an inalienable right to the expression of those views no matter who, or how many other persons dissent from them.

The use of improper influence, attempts at coercion, whether by physical force or priestly domination, are an entirely different matter and are to be resisted by every freeman. They may and should be denounced as destructive of individual liberty. They should not be confounded with those constitutional rights and privileges that belong alike to all citizens of this Republic. They are hostile to the spirit and practice of the "Mormon" creed.

This insane shouting of "religious influence in politics" whenever it is alleged or imagined that some prominent "Mormon" Church official has expressed his opinion on a political subject, or his choice of a candidate for office, is the most absurd and silly of anti-"Mormon" expedients. But the cry has been raised so often and so loudly, that it has had the effect of arousing many unthinking persons to view it as a danger to the public, and to deter some influential and respected men from taking any part in political affairs.

We deprecate this and believe it to be

a great mistake on their part, and hope that the time will come when every American citizen, no matter what may be his religion or his party, his status in church or state, his power among the people, or the attitude of his enemies, will feel and exercise the utmost liberty of speech and action, within the lines of law and of righteousness, and will use his influence for the benefit of mankind according to his best light and wisdom, utterly regardless of the howls and misrepresentations of the foes of human freedom.

THE WEST IS PROSPEROUS.

A "merchant" writing to the New York Mail and Express, intimates that "unscrupulous Wall street speculators" are misrepresenting the business situation of the country, and warns them that the attacks they are making may create a reaction which in a natural way would not set in for a long time. He claims that it is generally known that a certain Wall street information bureau has sent out many thousands of letters during the past few months warning investors against buying certain stocks that need the undertaker's care rather than the doctor's, etc., which, to a more or less extent, also has a demoralizing effect. Then he says there is no need for such doings. There is much money waiting for investment and the often spoken of "lack of purchasing power" does not exist. He further says that the West is financially sound. He has just returned from a western trip and can state "that the actual conditions of business all over the West do not justify the gloomy view emanating from Wall street only, and from nowhere else. There is 'brisk' business everywhere, and with unusually large crops now assured, it will continue so for at least another year or longer."

This is true, especially of our own immediate region. The activity in mines and in railroad building, the fine crops, and other conditions work for prosperity for a long time to come. There is no necessity for heeding the calamity howls that are sent up by wild speculators every time a water-bubble of their own creation bursts. At the same time, wisdom dictates prudence in investments and expenditures, so that bad times, when they do come, may not overtake one unprepared.

CHINESE RATTLED.

The recent plot to blow up the British legation in Peking, while a military ball was in progress, is commented upon as evidence that foreigners cannot win favor, or friendship of the Chinese. Suspicion has even been aroused that either the empress dowager or some one very close to the imperial throne was either the instigator or in some other way a party to the plot, as the event is associated with the British legation's refusal to attend the empress dowager's entertainment at the summer palace.

But is it, then, so strange that the Chinese should hate foreigners with almost unquenchable ardor? Foreign missionaries have operated among them, apparently as forerunners of the invading hosts that have desecrated their graves, and appropriated their land for railroads and other purposes. Foreigners have compelled them to admit opium. They have taken vast stretches of territory, and laid waste portions of the country, in retaliation for outrages committed. They have outraged their women, and massacred their men. Foreigners have forced open the Chinese markets, while closing their own; they have forcibly entered China's ports, while closing their own against the Chinese. They have, in short, done everything to make themselves obnoxious in the eyes of the Chinese, and then they wonder that they cannot win favor.

In this country where race hatred flourishes, it should not be difficult to understand the sentiments of the Chinese, after the experience they have had with the white race.

EVIL, THAT GOOD MAY COME.

At various times it has been pointed out by the press, that ministers of some denominations are resorting to the most absurd expedients in order to induce people to attend their churches. In this country, social entertainments and similar attractions have been tried, but with little success. The climax of absurdity, however, has been reached by an English clergyman, in his frantic efforts to induce children to come to his Sunday school. He has distributed cigars and cigarettes to the boys, as rewards for attendance. This sounds incredible at a time when the moral and physical evils of smoking are known from experience, and when moralists and legislators combine their efforts to check the evil. But the clergyman in question is, perhaps, as ignorant of ethics, as he must be of the laws of nature, and of theology. The story is told by the London Daily Mail of October 2, and the school is said to be all saints' Sunday school, Wellington, in Somerset. The section of the school in which the practice is in vogue is the Bible class where a number of lads are taught by a teacher under the supervision of the vicar. The London paper says:

"Some Sundays ago each of the boys was presented with a strong cigar, and they were promised that if they attended regularly, and induced others to come, they would all be presented with cigarettes. The attendance the following Sunday increased nearly a hundred per cent, and the teacher came provided with a large package containing neatly-mounted cases of cigarettes, each boy receiving a packet of ten or a dozen."

"The cigarettes were handed round in the presence of the vicar, the Bible class leader explaining that they were given to the boys as an inducement to them to attend the school. A further promise was made that all new boys attending the class would also be presented with cases of cigarettes. One of the following Sunday increased nearly a hundred per cent, and the teacher came provided with a large package containing neatly-mounted cases of cigarettes, each boy receiving a packet of ten or a dozen."

This is a fearful mistake. To teach young boys to smoke, is to teach them

one of the first steps on the road to moral degradation, and perdition. And to do this in a Sunday school! And a Bible class! In all probability public sentiment has already condemned those who were responsible for the error. But men who know so little about children are not fit to be teachers. They cannot be trusted in the most responsible position any person can occupy. For such is that of a teacher, who is supposed to direct, at the beginning, life's solemn journey. The end very often depends on the proper direction in the beginning. The responsibility for many a career of crime rests in the first instance with parents and teachers.

It is only fair to state that this country is not far behind Great Britain in church absurdities. Although we do not have Sunday school teachers who encourage the children to smoke, we have a pastor who believes in a smoking room as an adjunct to divine worship. Recently at a convention of Universalists in Detroit, one of the speakers said, as quoted by a contemporary:

"My idea of the ideal church is one with a large gymnasium, with a reading room, a smoking room, a place where the young man can go without fear of being dragged into a prayer meeting. I do not encourage smoking, but if your boy or your brother or your husband does smoke, don't let him go down town to places where the whole atmosphere is full of vice, let him smoke in a place where there is no danger of his being ruined. If your girl dances, provide a clean place for her to dance in."

Of course, there ought to be a saloon also, connected with the "ideal church," not to speak of a variety show, and other "attractions."

DECREASING BIRTHRATE.

The latest country to complain of decreasing birthrate is Prussia, and it is expected the emperor will give that question his attention and suggest some drastic remedy. According to a dispatch the minister of public instruction and medical affairs finds that the vital statistics of Prussia, which comprises three-fifths of the population of Germany, show a steady decrease in the birth rate there since 1881. In the latter year it was 49.9; now it is only 36.5. In the city of Berlin the birth rate has fallen from 46 in 1881 to 26.6 this year. The latter is only 4.4 above the rate in France.

The question is one that disturbs all the leading countries of the world. France has shown the most marked decrease in the ratio of births to deaths. From 1815 to 1830, it is said, the proportional excess of births over deaths for every 10,000 inhabitants was 61. Between 1831 and 1850 it dropped to 31. In the following twenty years there was a further decrease, the excess of births numbering only 25. In the decade ending 1900 the excess was reduced to six, and in the latter year the proportionate excess of births over deaths in every 10,000 inhabitants of the republic was only three. France entered the nineteenth century with a population of 26,000,000; she closed it with 38,000,000. Great Britain started with 12,000,000 and ended with 41,000,000, and the population of Germany had grown from 15,000,000 to 56,000,000. But even in England, the birthrate has declined alarmingly since 1861, and the same is the case with Germany. Europe should try to lighten the burdens that the military establishments necessitate. The European rulers should adopt the suggestion of the czar and decrease their armaments. The laborers should be given a chance to make a comfortable living, instead of working like slaves for a pittance. That is the only remedy against the decrease of population of which the civilized world now complains with but too good ground.

THE WAY OUT.

The Canadian members of the Alaska commission are said to be very much incensed at the conclusions arrived at by the majority. They regard it as a sacrifice of Canadian interests by the British. Similar views, it is reported, are entertained by the Canadians generally, and particularly those of the west. And yet, there can be no reasonable doubt, that the American contention is based on facts.

There is now no other way for our Canadian friends to obtain the access to the sea they so much covet, than to join the American Republic, to which the coast line belongs. If the mountain will not go to Mohammed, Mohammed must go to the mountain, and the result will be the same. Some believe that Canada and the United States should accept a common political destiny, and possibly that will be the ultimate outcome. The Canadian Northwest is being settled largely by farmers from the United States. Thousands are drifting into the Canadian wheat belt, and they must necessarily strengthen the neighboring sentiment between the two countries.

Job with all his boils was not so sore as the Canadians.

"What is graft?" asks an exchange. A private spigot in a public barrel.

Premier Laurier on receipt of news of the decision: This is so sudden!

The Czar will not go to Rome. It is very certain that Rome will not go to the Czar.

"Let me forget" we advise you now to go and see that your name is on the registration list.

Lord Alverstone can now realize the position of Adams, when he defended the British soldiers.

General Chase may have never smelled powder but he has been, and is, under fire just the same.

It is very doubtful if on his return to Chicago Dowle will be able to say that he came, he saw, he conquered.

Mrs. Nation felt very much put out when she was ejected from Dowle's Madison Square Garden meeting.

When Richard cried aloud: "A horse, my kingdom for a horse," he doubtless had in mind such a horse as Creceus.

Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst says he

has no sympathy for Dowle. So far as the records show he never had any sympathy for anybody.

General Chase of Colorado is beginning to realize that the government of the Centennial State is not a military autocracy.

From the descriptions of the dress of Dowle and his followers we are convinced that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

The freedom of the city of Limerick has been given Andrew Carnegie. If so minded Mr. Carnegie is rich enough to buy the place. Still, to him that hath shall be given.

Aylesworth and Jette, the Canadian commissioners, feel so sick over the award in the Alaskan boundary case that it may be necessary to arrange a modus vivendi for them.

Senator Hanna professes admiration for the late Samuel J. Tilden and indorses Jefferson and Jackson. There is some poetic justice in this. Lincoln has long since been indorsed by the Democrats.

Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Gage thinks one of the problems of the day is to find proper custodians for wealth. It may be, but the number suffering from that trouble is comparatively few. The great problem still is as it always has been, how to get the wealth.

According to the figures published it is costing a little less to live now than a month ago. The Dun index number for commodities of all classes, figured at their relative weight or importance in consumption was 87.378 on October 1 as compared with 88.541 on September 1, and 89.648 in October of last year. Especially contributing to the fall were cotton, breadstuffs and iron and steel. It is believed that the following tendency will be in evidence for some time.

Some very interesting figures regarding accidental deaths in New York have been compiled by the board of health of that city. In the year 1901 there were 436 persons killed by vehicles and street railways. In 1902 the number of such deaths grew to 538. When the figures for 1903 are compiled the death list from street accidents will have reached nearly 1,000, estimating from the number already recorded. There is something wrong somewhere. No city of like, or anything like, size has any such a record.

The young Duchess of Manchester, formerly Miss Zimmerman of Cincinnati, has a great idea of the deference due to an English duchess. Not long ago she was standing in the lobby of an Irish hotel, waiting for her husband, when an American woman stepped up and said: "I beg pardon, are you Miss Blank? I am waiting to see her." The duchess drew herself up somewhat haughtily and replied: "I am the Duchess of Manchester." "Oh, indeed, I am from Cincinnati, too," was the rather severe reply, and the stranger bowed and passed into the hotel.

GOING TO THE DOGS.

Kansas City Times.

Mr. Reagan declares that the United States is rapidly drifting into a monarchial form of government; that it "is even now governed, not by men, but by money," and that "the result will be dissolution of the confederacy of states or a monarchial form of government." Unfortunately too many believe in the possibilities of such an outcome. It may be wholesome for the country to be awakened to the dangers of certain tendencies that do not enlighten us as to the why and wherefore—Judge Reagan will doubtless be the president of the new republic. He has had the experience to fit him, for not only has he been congressman and senator of the United States, but he has been high in authority on United States soil when it was not under the United States flag. In his earlier youth—yet, 45—he was a member of Jefferson Davis's cabinet.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Just forty-two years ago last spring Judge Reagan was no less thoroughly convinced that the end of the union was at hand, and was not disillusioned on that point until four years later. From the tone of his jeremiad it is clear that what he once considered a desirable consummation he now thinks a lamentable if inevitable fate. This time the union is to be destroyed because it must be, not because it ought to be. He is reconciled to the union as it is and cannot see its approaching dissolution without a pang.

New York World.

John H. Reagan, of Texas, sole survivor of Jefferson Davis's cabinet, says that "the United States is drifting rapidly into a monarchial form of government." As Mr. Reagan is eighty-five years old the Republic will doubtless last his time—and longer.

Kansas City Times.

It is to be noted that the gloom of Judge Reagan's forecast of the doom of the republic is relieved by one glimmer of light. The stingray out of the black sky comes from the lone star of Texas. It is comforting to learn that when despotism gets its clutches on the government's throat, when the king is finally crowned in Washington, when J. E. Morgan, J. D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie are dukes of the realm, then Texas, at least, will remain "as the hope of the people for free representative government."

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25c

A big collection of embroidered lawn and spangle or cutwork squares, for the side table or dressing case—come in a variety of newest artistic designs square or round. Size 12x12, worth 25c. Thursday only—10c. Size 18x18 worth 50c. Thursday only—

15c

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