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## STILL A MATTER OF MOMENT.

Knowing the interest that is taken by the public in the comments of the American press on the official reports as to the case of Senator Smoot, we have reproduced a number of editorials from leading papers which have taken fair ground on the questions involved, and now present one or two more. The Chicago Chronicle gives a brief account of the two reports, and then summarizes and expresses its views upon them in these paragraphs:

"The majority report is based on two grounds—first, that Mr. Smoot is a member of a church which makes allegiance to the church paramount over allegiance to the nation, and secondly, that by that membership he is responsible for polygamous practices in others.

"The minority report declares flatly that there is little evidence on the illegality point and what little there is cannot be trusted because of the want of character in the witnesses. That alone, pronounced by five men of the high character of the senators named, should dispose of this reason without qualification. In any event the 'allegiance' to the Mormon Church is hardly in the nature of political allegiance and probably does not differ materially from that acknowledged by other men to some other churches that might be named.

"On that point, too, it might be said that for seventy years there were senators from nearly half the states who entertained a theory of an undeniable political allegiance to their several states paramount to that to the nation, yet nobody objected to their membership in the senate on that score until a situation, one might call it an 'over-tension' of the theory, brought these two types of allegiance, both political, into actual antagonism.

"No such situation can be said to exist as to the two kinds of allegiance alleged in this case, even if there were evidence of their existence, which evidence the committee minority says there is not. It is conceivable that religious feuds or combinations might readily make a like allegation against adherents of more than one of the other religious creeds.

"Touching the other ground, it is claimed even by the majority that Mr. Smoot's responsibility for polygamous theory or practice in others is only constructive at most, while it is not charged by anybody that he has ever countenanced or encouraged the theory or practice in others since the pledge by the church to abandon them twenty-six years ago. It is admitted also that he has never at any time sustained plural marriage by his own conduct.

"It would be a strange doctrine, even if it had been a polygamist before that pledge but had ever since kept the pledge, that he must not suffer as if he had not kept it. It is more curious to hold him responsible when he has never upheld the theory or the practice, either before or since the pledge against them. That amounts to punishing a man not for sin but for eschewing sin.

"Holding every member of any church punishable for all the sins of all the other members would work some disastrous results in any church. Senator Smoot would be judged by his own capacities and his own deeds and not by those of any other persons. Of his own clean living nobody doubts."

These are sensible conclusions, drawn from a rational consideration of both sides of the subject. The Denver News takes a somewhat different tack, evidently swayed by assertions in the majority report that are not borne out by the official record of the investigation. That paper says of Senator Smoot, the effort to oust him is "not because he is a Mormon, or a polygamist, but because he is a member of the Mormon apostles, a church hierarchy, whose functions are such as to make his service as United States Senator dangerous to American institutions." On that hypothesis the News proceeds to give some opinions in support of the findings of the majority of the committee, and sagely argues:

"The high authority exercised by an apostle no Mormon would question. He is by virtue of his office one of the heads of all the vast business undertakings which makes of the Mormon Church a great industrial corporation, as well as the source from which emanates all the vast religious organizations of the Church. How a man so elevated and consecrated to religious and financial duties can be spared for a political office is a question that the best friend of Mormonism might well ask, and one which the critics of that body say can only be answered on the assumption that the Mormon hierarchy wishes to make its political control complete."

The Denver News in that one paragraph shows pitiable ignorance of Utah affairs, although it is such a near neighbor. There is no apostle who "by virtue of his office is one of the heads of all the vast business undertakings, which makes of the Mormon Church a great industrial corporation." If the Denver News editor had read the full report of the investigation he might have learned better than that, to say nothing of inquiry into business conditions here. The office of an Apostle in the "Mormon" Church does not set with it position in any of the business undertakings in this city or in this State. And, as a matter of fact, the Church itself is slightly interested financially in but a few of them and not at all in most of them. President Joseph P. Smith is President of several business institutions which are joint-stock concerns, and he is elected by the same means and methods as any layman might be chosen, or is chosen, in a banking, commercial or railroad corporation. A few of the Apostles have shares in some of these mercantile and manufacturing institutions, which they have acquired by purchase and which are or have been on the public market.

"How Reed Smoot as an Apostle could be spared to do duty as a Senator" we would respectfully suggest is nobody's business but his and his associates, and has nothing to do with

the question under consideration. The information, too, or rather the "assumption" that in his election to the Senate "the Mormon hierarchy wishes to make its political control complete," is just as destitute of foundation as the rest of the assumptions of the Denver News.

The Mormon Church, or "hierarchy" had no more to do with Reed Smoot's election than the Denver News had, unless the contrary is proved by the fact that some of the citizens who voted for the legislators who chose him for the position, are members of the Mormon Church. But, as a large number of them were not "Mormons," but Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians or non-religionists, it is as reasonable to conclude that he was elected by the non-"Mormons" of the State. The trouble is, that the Denver News chooses as its source of information the most unreliable and misleading spring of bitterness that it could possibly use for the purpose. But it is not alone in that kind of folly.

Turning from that unsatisfactory and illogical attempt to enlighten the public on this matter, we note a lengthy but vigorous and sensible editorial in the Springfield Republican. Much of it, however, is devoted to the supposed condition of affairs in Utah, embracing the "polygamy" question and the "money power" but, after all that has been said on these matters, the Republican shows that the marital status of Senator Smoot is beyond reproach and beyond question. It also takes the ground that "it has not been established that he has been, is, or would be, controlled as a member of the Senate by the Mormon Church." On this point it makes some very sarcastic references to the influences known to be behind a number of leading senators, and after summing up the chief arguments and statements of the two reports, it concludes its able article with these two paragraphs, with which we will close our quotations today:

"In view of the apparently established fact that Mr. Smoot has personally opposed plural marriages, even as a member of the Mormon hierarchy, it is difficult to accept as sound the reasoning of the majority report. If his personal influence in the Church was in opposition to polygamy, but was at times overcome or nullified by some of the brother apostles, by what principle of justice should he be made to suffer for their crimes? Mr. Smoot is scarcely to be considered the Mormon Church, and the Senate would find a tenuous support for expelling him under the theory that he is the Mormon Church. He is constitutionally plain Reed Smoot, who cannot be fairly accused of having personally violated the laws or proved to have incited or encouraged others to violate them.

"Unhappily the case of the Utah senator has been deliberately delayed far beyond the necessities of the situation, owing to the grave reluctance of many of the ablest lawyers of the Senate to enter to try, at the Church, which he belongs, even when that Church has inherited faults which society deprecates and the laws condemn."

## RUSSIA AND THE JEWS.

The news from Russia reflects a deplorable condition. Murder and robbery are of daily occurrence. Strikes add to the confusion, and the price on food rises. Under the circumstances, the prediction that the country will, in a short time, be in the grip of a revolution appears far from improbable. Only the threatened upheaval will be worse than a revolution under recognized leaders; it will be anarchy, wild and uncontrollable, as the raging torrents after a cloudburst.

A Russian correspondent of the Berlin Nation, some time ago, foreshadowed the coming storm. In case the Duma should be dissolved. In answer to the question, what will be the consequence? he says:

"The delegates will go from house to house telling the people, especially the peasants who are building up the greatest hopes on the Duma, how they will be the saviors of the government. This will be quite enough to rouse a storm throughout the country and set on foot a popular uprising such as Russia has never before seen. We must bear in mind that the peasants are not only sporadically taken part in the struggle between the people and the government. In October, November and December of last year it was only the working men and the townspeople who took part in the important events of that struggle. The election campaign has, however, drawn the peasants into the maelstrom of political conflict, and the outcome of the election shows plainly that the masses are standing and will continue to stand on the side of the 'New Russia.' What will be the next act in the national Duma is therefore not difficult to predict."

To many the constantly recurring popular onslaughts upon the Hebrew population appears inexplicable. They prove, however, to what length ignorant people can go in brutality, when inflamed by bigotry and urged on by villainous agitators. Falsehood is sometimes a terrible power. Even in our own enlightened country we have seen recent examples of this. A short time ago a man and a woman told the city authorities at Springfield, Mo., that they had been accosted and the woman insulted by two negroes. The negroes were arrested and subsequently murdered by one of the most brutal of American mobs. It was shown that the woman lied and that the man wilfully corroborated her falsehood. Another instance has been brought to public notice, by the press dispatches. A young girl in an Illinois town stayed out late one night, and, being afraid of chastisement, told a terrible story of having been attacked by a negro. The negro was arrested, and within a few hours a mob was formed to murder him. Before this was done, however, the girl, under severe questioning, confessed that her story was fiction. The mob then slunk away. If such occurrences can take place in this country, it is not difficult to understand how race hatred can produce mob murders in a country like Russia. The Jews have property. Much of this falls into the hands of the rioters during the confusion attending the massacres. This is one of the strong incentives, and we presume some of the officials share in the plunder and therefore fail to give the victims the protection to which they are entitled.

How long is the world to witness the

atrocities which are now of almost daily occurrence in the blood-stained domains of the Czar? Probably until the nations of the earth unite on some plan of deliverance. Today a remarkable movement is going on among the Jews themselves. Slowly they are gathering in Palestine. The language of their fathers is being revived. The waste places of their country are being rebuilt. Let the Christian nations take a hand in this movement, and establish the Jews in the land that is theirs. That is the only permanent solution of the Jewish question. And, unless Russia listens to the voice of humanity and ceases oppression, she will undoubtedly be broken to pieces and humbled into the dust, and her rulers will perish, as did the Pharaoh of the oppression. For, "history repeats itself."

## DRY FARMING.

In the July Century appears an article on dry farming, which should be of immense interest to both farmers and others, all over the so-called arid portion of America. The author gives an account of what is called "the Campbell system," and shows the wonderful results obtained where this system is followed intelligently. The principle is to store up in the soil, as far as possible, the snow and the rain that fall in any given locality. To do this, the writer in the Century says, two things are necessary:

"First, to keep the surface of the land under cultivation loose and finely pulverized. This forms a soil mulch that permits the rains and melting snows to percolate readily through to the compacted soil beneath; and that at the same time prevents the moisture stored in the ground from being brought to the surface by capillary attraction, to be absorbed by the hot, dry air. The second is to keep the sub-soil finely pulverized and firmly compacted, increasing its water-holding capacity and its capillary attraction, and placing it in the best possible physical condition for the germination of seed and the development of plant roots. The 'dry farmer' thus stores water not in dams and artificial reservoirs, but right where it can be reached by the roots of growing crops."

By following out these methods a rainfall of 12 inches can be conserved. We are told, so effectively that it will produce better results than are usually expected of an annual precipitation of twenty-four inches in humid America. The discoverer and demonstrator of these principles has made it possible to cover with wheat and corn, alfalfa and other useful crops, tens of thousands of square miles of fertile land on which nothing but sage brush, cacti, Kansas sunflowers and bunch grass are now found.

What this means to the country is best appreciated when the vast amount of arid land, that cannot be reclaimed by irrigation even, is considered. Snow or rain falls, to a certain extent, everywhere, and when the precipitation is utilized, as suggested, millions of acres will be added to the habitable area of the country. It is thought that no less than 500,000,000 acres could be reclaimed from its present unproductive and comparatively worthless state just as rapidly as settlers, whether native born, or immigrants from foreign countries, could be taken to it.

The possibilities of this country as to the production of food and wealth seem boundless. Industry and intelligence will bring forth more and more. The more that is needed, the greater will be the supply. We fancy, though, that dry farming as here described, would be most remunerative under a system of co-operation. It necessitates the employment of machinery, and constant labor, and in both a great saving could be effected by co-operation.

Now let Congress enact a law regulating the speed of automobiles.

When legislation can prevent speculation it can prevent panics, but not until then.

The lock-type canal is a go. Now let the canal go to a finish, and a quick and brilliant one.

The house has passed a bill regulating the checking of baggage. This will put a check on the railroads.

M. Alladin's wonderful lamp doesn't shine very brightly. He may have hid it under a samovar.

No one ever has known and probably never will know why so many men are made doctors of law.

John D. Rockefeller may not be able to break the bank at Monte Carlo, but he can buy it if he takes the notion.

To make too rigid the qualifications of immigrants would be in the case of the Russian Jewish refugees to shut the gates of mercy on mankind.

Secretary Wilson says that the eleventh commandment is not "Don't get found out," but "Keep your mouth shut." Why doesn't he observe it?

Three separate committees have been sent to investigate the Bialystok massacres. In investigations as in other things, too many cooks spoil the broth.

Professor Wiker of Heidelberg has figured it out that the garden of Eden was near the north pole. And very naturally it was a cold day when Adam got left.

"The Constitution never was so severely strained as it is with 500,000 women clamoring for the dismissal of Senator Smoot," says the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"The man whose wealth and nothing else lifts him into public life has no business there," says Senator Beveridge. It may be, but they got there just the same.

"Competition and individualism are the parents of present conditions of trusts, combinations and colossal fortunes," says Senator Elkins. Please, sir, which is the father and which is the mother?

by competent archeologists. They have only recently been discovered, there may be more in the same locality. The United States law on the subject should be rigidly enforced.

## WHITE INDIANS.

New York Mail.  
There is a tribe of perfectly white Indians on the Upper Amazon, and another in Mexico. There is a tribe of white Filipinos, absolutely savage, living in the interior of Luzon, and even a tribe of negroes in Central Africa who are certainly white in comparison with their neighbors. And no one can tell whether they are the result of a freak of nature. If they are the latter, it may indeed be true that our whole race is but a perpetuated "sport," like wheat and the other grains, which are but cultivated grasses, liable to listen to the call of the wild under wild conditions.

## RUSSIA'S DISGRACE, AND OURS.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
Although the latter reports confirm the impression created by the first, that the massacre of the Jews by the Russian populace in Bialystok, in western Russia near the Polish frontier, was the most horrible since Kishinev, the carnival of slaughter was less prolonged than on that occasion and was brought to a close by the less tardy intervention of the authorities. The usual cloud of mystery surrounds the origin of the outbreak. As in the case of Kishinev there is a more or less clumsy attempt to excuse the attack on the Jews, though in this latter instance it seems plain that somebody threw a bomb at a religious procession, and the populace was of course quick to assume, rightly or wrongly, that the thrower was a Jew. The protest did not lack plausibility, especially in a community where to accuse any Jew is often to condemn all.

## BERNHARDT.

New York Mail.  
Mme. Bernhardt sails for home with a comfortable surplus of over \$100,000 from her arduous tour. Even with that Americans are in her debt. She came to the United States frankly to make more money, dashed from city to city with a convoy of press and business agents who could invent no advertisement so effective as her own bare genius, played 27 times in theaters, tents, music halls and under whatever shelter the locality happened to offer, and departed for France carrying her sixty-four years with the same ease and grace as when she landed. It has been a tremendous physical feat and an allied individual triumph, of which no other living actor is capable.

## PEACE AND GREAT ARMIES.

Boston Herald.  
Have the great armies and navies of the old world made the peace of Europe more secure? Such security is assumed to be the reason of their existence. But it is possible to show that these huge, and yearly bigger, forces of warfare imperil peace rather than assure it. The very possession of the armaments makes the possession of peace impossible. It is diplomacy, not armed legions, that secures the continuance of peace. Many well informed persons believe that the excessive zeal of the German Emperor would be pressed matters to the first point but for the recent conference at Algeiras. There is a certain contumacy now to be borne by any ruler, or country, that forces war upon Europe, and it is the possibility of that shame which leads the most sagacious counselors to avoid a clash at arms.

## JUST FOR FUN.

A little girl was out walking with her aunt one day. The aunt bowed to a man they were passing. "Who is he, Aunt Jennie?" asked the little girl. Mrs. Littlefield told her that he was Mr. Melrose, the village undertaker. "Oh, yes," replied the child quickly. "I remember him. He undertook my grandmother."—Harper's Bazar.

"Dead little town you've got here, isn't it?" said the passenger with the heavy watch chain, as he ordered a cup of coffee and a sandwich at the little eating house near the railway station. "Yes, sir," answered the man behind the lunch counter. "Nobody ever comes here but body snatchers or poor relations of the deceased. Which are you?"—Chicago Tribune.

"It's this way," explained the client. "The fence runs between Brown's place and mine. He claims that I encroach on his land, and I insist that he is trespassing on mine. Now, what would you do if you were in my place?" "If I were in your place," replied the lawyer, "I'd go over and give Brown a cigar, have a drink with him, and settle the controversy in ten minutes. But as things stand, I advise you to sue him by all means. Let no arrogant, domineering, insolent pirate like Brown ramble on your sacred rights! Assert your manhood and courage. I need the money!"—Modern Society.

"Sometimes," said Uncle Eben, "it seems to me like a reformer was one of 'esehere people dat has to talk two hours an' a half to 'spress one o' den commandments. An' dere warn't no 'spects 'dat dat in de first place."—Washington Star.

The ambitious country lad had been reading the town papers. "Dad," he said at breakfast one morning, "I'm tired of this here farm life. I want to go to town and be a corporation lawyer or a frenzied financier, or something of the kind." The old man frowned. "Don't talk such nonsense," he remonstrated. "If you really have a strong ambition to go to town you can start somebody's pig right around here, without going to all the expense of going to town."—Chicago News.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the July issue of The Popular Magazine appears the first installment of a new serial called "The Rockspur Nine," by Rust L. Standish. It is a basical story, and while it is intended primarily for the younger readers of the Popular, the opening chapters indicate that it is quite lively in prose the sort of story which appeals to older readers as well. There is a complete novel by Howard Pyleman, entitled "The Men with the Stars," there are short stories by Louis Joseph Vance, George Bronson Howard, W. B. M. Ferguson, Cecil Whittier Tate, B. M. Bowser, and other well known writers, and there are two other new serials by E. Phillips Oppenheim and Richard Marsh.—Street & Smith, New York.

The July Century is a fiction number with a serial "Senior France with Uncle John," by Anne Warner, and short stories from Alice Hegan Rice, author of "Mrs. Wiggs," Anthony Hope, Harry Stillwell Edwards, Lawrence Mott, Edna Kenton, Grace Eleanor Townsend, Annie C. Murrehead, George K. Chestnut and W. Albert Hickman. The last is a new writer, rich in humor. Among other features which make the number notable are two articles of timely value and importance, a discussion of "Why the Boys Leave the Farm," by L. H. Bailey, Director of the School of Agriculture, Cornell University, and a full account of "Dry Farming—the West's Hope," by John L. Cowan. Reading of absorbing and vital interest is Cowan's story of the progressive results possible from the scientific soil culture in arid regions without irrigation. The 27 stories of the number include a tint inset showing the Colorado Falls design for the "Fountain of the Five Great Lakes," a reproduction of Timothy Cole's wood

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