PART 2. THE DESERET EVENING NEWS. 9 TO 16

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

FIFTIETH YEAR. SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1899, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. NUMBER 217.

THE BIG PROBLEM OF PAUPERISM.

Is the State Bound to Support All Paupers? Or Can Wealthy Relatives be Made to Bear Part of the Burden?—The Case of Mrs. Barr and the Aylett Brothers—Visit to the Infirmary—Talk With Mrs. Whipple—Duty of Relatives—Carlisle and Kingsbury on Pauperism and Reform—Is Charity Better Than Legal Aid?

Now shall the destitute be supported? At the expense of the State? Or shall our relatives be compelled to defray a share or part of the cost of maintenance of their destitute blood relations who come upon the State for support?

Shall the Aylett brothers, for example, be compelled to support their sister, who has applied for your relief?

THE CASE IN POINT.

There is a case now pending which illustrates one great problem of pauperism. Mrs. Jasper Barr, a woman with five children, demands relief in her poverty. The county commissioners are willing to afford her aid; but they find that she has brothers who are abundantly able to do so, but refuse to do so. Their name is Aylett.

Jasper Barr, the husband of the sister of the Aylett brothers, has been in the infirmary for three years or more. He is now bedridden and suffering from spinal sores. His cheeks have to be turned to him. He is a proper subject for the infirmary, but the relatives refuse to support himself. He has a wife and five children, for whom he can never do anything in way of support.

Mrs. Barr has five brothers named Aylett, of whom four live in the state and one is away from home. The brothers are reasonably well to do; two of them are sheep-owners; one of them was counted out on the street to the order of usle article. He was nearly some Scottish descent and have no sympathies of poverty. The brothers refuse to support their destitute sister and her children. They say she married just against their advice and in the face of their warnings that if she married and married him they would not support her. They also claim that Mr. Barr has relatives who are wealthy. Mrs. Barr denies this, saying that Mr. Barr has only one brother and two sisters, one of whom, the brother, is an invalid in California, one sister is very poor in Kansas, and the other sister is in Missouri.

The commissioners propose to sue the Aylett brothers for the expense of keeping their sister at the county infirmary.

SEEN AT THE INFIRMARY.

As a preliminary step, and without previous warning to the management, a staff correspondent of the Deseret News called at the infirmary and asked to be shown through the institution. The request was kindly granted and the superintendent was shown. The steward, however, promptly requested that visits be made through the various departments and explained the work of the institution. It was the business when the visitor desired to make all careful observations were made of the appearance and condition.

The blind, the paralyzed, the lame, the very aged, the helpless infirm, and the unfortunate stricken with malady while they had no means to procure treatment go to this lodging, all these were there to share the generous hospitality of the relief provided by the county infirmary.

There lay a man afflicted from birth with a spinal trouble which prevents him from keeping his head still while he is awake, and which renders him subject to the most painful contortions; there several others in different stages of consumption, wasting away towards their quietus by racking and, there lay a Chinaman smitten with an incurable syphilitic carbuncle—an awful warning of the inevitable consequence of sin; in the other department was women helpless, blind, deaf, or paralyzed, mostly from old age; cripples, under the trees, were several men of broken fortunes who had apparently afflicted in various ways, but well enough to enjoy a glass of tobacco provided by the institution.

Amidst all this living death, this melancholy spectacle of the failure and misfortune of men and women, the unfortunate inmates of our world and frail we mortals are, who cannot avoid the sympathy which our nature is entitled to health and fortune might result in an application of the ruined and disheartened to the county commissioners for the shelter of this home and how little difference there often is between the deserving and the undeserving. Truly "man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble."

As are of quietness and contentment reigning throughout this home for the unfortunate. The inmates were apparently in good spirits. No appearance of sadness or discomfort discovered to the visitor. The only look was very busy with the putting up of large quantities of delicious raspberries as the reporter was shown through the department, and a robust man, some two hundred pounds, who had lost his mother that was settled upon inquiry, for the sole use of his sister, one of whom, the brother, is an invalid in California, one sister is very poor in Kansas, and the other sister is in Missouri.

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