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"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING."

An effort is being made to get up an excitement over an alleged attempt by some leading "Mormons" to aid people of their faith, in settling upon lands which will be thrown open to the Utah reservation. It appears that the presidency of the Wasatch Stake have sent out a circular, inviting correspondence from people who intend to take advantage of the drawing of lands under the law of the United States in reference to this matter, and offering to aid them in the manner provided by law for the purpose. This is construed by some intriguing persons as an endeavor to "steal" the lands in question in the interest of the "Mormon" Church.

There is nothing more to it than the fact that ever since the coming of the Pioneers into this region, the Latter-day Saints have been spreading out into adjacent valleys, and occupying them for homes, building up towns and cities. This work will go on, as opportunities offer for the acquisition and cultivation of agricultural lands, and as the numbers of the people increase.

The Presidency of the Church have had nothing to do with the publication of the circular here referred to, and are not connected with this particular case, except that their general instructions to the Presidencies of Stakes, and the Bishops of Wards, are to the effect that they are to lead their aid whenever occasion requires, to persons desiring to settle upon newly opened lands, or in moving from one settlement to another. In doing so, they but exercise an inalienable right common to all citizens of this republic, and the Presidencies of Stakes and Bishops, who are expected to watch over the interests of the people, are also acting within their legitimate sphere and calling in doing that which is for the interest and welfare of the communities under their charge.

The opening of the Utah reservation will of necessity be conducted according to law. In the drawing for the choice of lands, the instructions of the land department will, of course, be strictly carried out. There will be no preferences to any individual, or organization. There cannot be any "deal." We do not see how there could be even if such a thing was attempted or desired, but that assistance can be properly rendered to persons desiring to settle upon those lands by attorneys and others, is so well understood that there need be no controversy on that point.

The Presidency of the Wasatch Stake, in their circular, referred to "land office connections" and information which they were obtaining as to "trails of land most desirable for settlement." This has occasioned some comment, and the inference has been drawn that those gentlemen had some direct or special "pull" upon the land office by which preferences could be arranged for. There is nothing whatever in this supposition, and reasonable people will see that such a scheme would be impossible of accomplishment. A request for an explanation of this point was responded to by President W. H. Smart as follows:

"The third clause of the letter to the Presidency of Stake having reference to the procuring of desirable tracts of land for individuals 'through land office connections being formed by us,' had reference only to the relationship of our development company here, with a local land office business, such as is carried on by land attorneys in all communities."

Now as to the question of the right of leading "Mormons" to associate with their consanguine in arranging to settle upon lands, in a locality where these members of the Church would be under their ecclesiastical jurisdiction. We claim that they have just as much right to unite for this purpose, in a legal way, as have any other bodies of citizens of the United States. We receive in the Salt Lake Herald of this morning an article on this subject in which there is a call for non-Mormons to organize for the preparation and distribution outside of Utah of information as to the opportunities for the homeseeker on the Utah reservation; and it is claimed that "the proper distribution of such information will result in a rush of non-Mormons from other states which will have a decided effect on the political, commercial and agricultural situation in Utah."

Now if there can be no objection to such an organization for the purpose named, why cannot the "Mormons" who desire to do so endeavor to obtain lands and settle upon them for the building up of this State and for their mutual advantage? We notice also in the same article the following paragraph:

"The Western Federation of Miners is likely to play an important part in the

opening and settlement of the Utah reservation. When the convention was held in this city a few weeks ago, at an executive session of the chief officers, it was decided to investigate conditions in the reservation with reference to its mining possibilities. It was then determined to collect all the information possible and furnish it to the members of the association to enable them to reap some of the fruits of opening the new country.

"The understanding is now general that all this has been done since the adjournment of the convention and that many of the members of the Western Federation of Miners, especially those living in Colorado, will make a rare for the Utah reservation as soon as it is open to settlement. Some of these will make use of their knowledge of mineralogy and mining to get possession of good mineral properties. Others will locate and settle on farms and abandon mining altogether. Between the two classes of members the organization is certain to make its influence felt in northeastern Utah."

The logic which would approve of the efforts of the Western Federation of Miners, and of people living in Colorado, in organized movements to obtain possession of lands on the Utah reservation, and at the same time denounce the "Mormons" and a few of their number who are leading out in the same matter, and for the same purpose, is of a queer, and we may add, purely anti-Mormon character.

"The people who originally settled in these mountain valleys and who made it possible for the people of other faiths to come here and reap the advantages for which their Pioneer work cleared the way, claim the right, in common with all citizens of this country, to spread out and occupy such lands as are available for their sons and daughters to dwell upon, and thus to aid in building up this State and making it a power in the land. They are seeking for no extraordinary privileges. They are demanding nothing of anybody but that which the law allows and provides for, and they are not to be checked or hindered in this good work by any amount of noise, or bluster, or threats or misinterpretations of their motives or their acts.

"Mormons" have as much right to settle upon the Utah lands under the laws as any other class of people have, and they propose to maintain their rights, and at the same time will accord to others equal privileges no matter who they are or where they come from. Rational people will understand this. Let others say what they please, let fury and falsehood do their worst, but let the Latter-day Saints who desire to acquire lands for homes on the tract opened to settlement, move quietly along the way provided under the national law, and pay no attention to the shafts of malice or the tumult of strife-breeders and obstructionists.

ANOTHER SACRIFICE.

As a contribution to the long history of disasters, of which the Fourth of July is the center, the Sacramento Bee tells the tragic story of a boy at Santa Ana, Cal., who recently died of lockjaw following a wound made by a blank cartridge fired in a so-called toy pistol. A lad in Sacramento has also been wounded in the palm of the hand by the same agency and the Bee fears that unless the sale of this most dangerous toy be prohibited, the coming Fourth of July may not pass without the sacrifice of some boy's life through the foolish notion that "everything should go" on the Fourth. Every year has its own record of tragedies of this kind, but the practice continues. We would think parents would be interested in surrounding their children with the necessary safeguards against danger to life and limb.

NEXT PEACE CONGRESS.

The next international peace congress will be held at Lucerne, Switzerland, commencing on the 19th of September. According to the preliminary program, now published, several important topics are to come up for consideration. Among these are:

1. Study of the conditions of the establishment of an international federation.
2. Franco-German reconciliation—to be taken up in connection with the report and proposals of a special commission appointed to consider the subject.
3. The economic causes of war; reports on the workingmen's movements in the interest of peace, and on the general subject of industrial concentration.
4. The neutralization of land and water areas.
5. The work of the coming Second International Conference at The Hague.
6. An international auxiliary language; and.

4. Questions of propaganda—among others, proposals of the Swiss Peace Society for a co-operation of nations in the peace movement; and the organization of international clubs.

The coming international gathering at Lucerne, in the interest of peace, promises to be one of more than common interest and importance. The participation of delegates from this country will be very large. In fact, the American element will exercise great influence upon the deliberations, as was the case at The Hague, where the congress would have been a failure, but for the presence of the American delegates. But though there will be many Americans there, there will not be as many as there should be. Every church, every industrial organization, every benevolent association, ought to be represented there, in some way, in order that the voice of the nation be heard with due emphasis in favor of the efforts of the peace societies for an advanced civilization.

EUROPEAN TROUBLE.

The negotiations concerning the difficulty in Morocco are proceeding rather slowly, and the continental press seems to apprehend the possibility of war between Germany and France. It seems very improbable that a matter of apparently so little concern to Germany should be so seriously regarded, and unless the government of that country has some ulterior object in view, not apparent to a common spectator, it is impossible to see what justification the Moroccan imbroglio offers for an outbreak of hostilities.

Still, it is not forgotten that the quarrel between Germany and France in 1870 was apparently of as small significance as the present subject of controversy. Yet, it resulted in a terrible clash of arms, and the overthrow of an empire.

Germany is, of course, always on the lookout for chances of expansion. It is claimed that the Kaiser is intimating that the Fatherland is in possible danger of invasion through Belgium. That would mean that that country will some day be urged to join the German federation. And then there is the question of Holland, and also of Denmark. Such, at least, is the ambitious scheme that is credited to the German emperor, and it is thought possible that the stirring up of trouble in Europe furnishes an opportunity for the carrying out of this scheme, partly at least.

The schemes and plans of the European governments may not appear to concern this country, but it is pointed out that if Denmark, or Holland, should join the German States, the Danish, or Dutch West Indies would also change flag, and the German government would be in a position to force the United States to take a decided stand in regard to the Monroe Doctrine. And thus the controversies on the other side of the Atlantic might become of immediate concern to this country. The establishment of a permanent tribunal before which all international questions can be properly argued, becomes more and more of an imperative necessity, because of the ever increasing difficulty of confining international controversies to the nations immediately concerned. Wars must eventually, give way for peaceful discussions and decisions.

The chauffeur loves a shining mark.

Why not call it the Bonneville Boulevard?

Russia is a dual monarchy, czar Nicholas and Anarchy both reigning.

When told to "yield or be sunk" the mutineers of the Kniaz Potemkin were mute.

The new twenty-dollar bills are to be works of art. A case where art is long green.

Secretary Taft should require Chief Engineer Stevens to give a bond to keep the place.

The Mayor's proclamation regarding fireworks is a fine pyrotechnic display of civic virtue.

The beet crop has not been ruined; but the crop of lies about the beet crop has been ruined.

In that eight-oared affair between Yale and Harvard, Taft's prayers seem to have availed more than Roosevelt's.

The officials of four Chicago packing houses have been indicted. It goes to show that there is some virtue still left in the Republic.

The Chinese government is trying to stop the anti-American agitation. Perhaps it fears that China may be disgraced by a Rock Springs massacre.

If St. Petersburg officialdom may be believed there is nothing but peace and prosperity in Russia. There is nothing like an official assurance, not even truth.

Mr. Carnegie has a big start but if Mr. Rockefeller wants to give him a race for the philanthropic prize he can give him a close finish even if he does not distance him.

The places where fireworks and firecrackers are for sale have any number of toy pistols for sale, but the police do not seem to be able to see them, though every man else can.

A New York man has been sentenced to kiss his wife once a day for a year. That is like the sentence imposed upon Rancho Pango—that he must give himself two thousand lashes with a kourbash.

Senator Patterson has been cited to appear before the Colorado supreme court and show cause why he should not be punished for contempt. When he gets there, he will conceal his contempt (if he has any) and show his eloquence.

At the sale of the late Senator Hawley's library, Francis Wilson's "Recollections of a Pioneer," a copy of the costly limited edition, and with autograph, brought but \$6.50, while a first edition of John Hay's "Pike County Ballads" fetched only sixty cents. The "Ballads" will go up now.

DANGER OF PEACE.

Pueblo Chieftain.
The conclusion of a treaty of peace with Japan will be used immediately by the leaders opposed to the government as an argument to inflame the people and the soldiers returning from Manchuria will aid in spreading the fire of revolt rather than assist in quenching it. Russia must make peace for the sake of her domestic interests, for to continue in the path of war will surely render the empire into fragments. Yet peace-making itself is a dangerous task, and it may well provoke the explosion that is inevitable without it.

TO SETTLE THE MATTER.

San Francisco Call.
The Scandinavian is the parent stock of England and America, and the stream has been renewed and enriched by immigration to the United States. If the question were left to the decision of Scandinavian Americans, the two countries would separate in peace and remain united in friendship. It is a cold country to be hot-blooded in, and the world will lament the decision of bloodshed. Let Sweden hasten to recognize the independence of Norway and remove a vexatious legacy from the foreign offices of other nations.

DIFFERENT LAW METHODS.

Kansas City Times.
Could Secretary Taft more forcibly have illustrated the difference between American criminal trials and English procedure than in the point that in England the judges retain complete control over the method by which

counsel try the case? The people here are so familiar with the processes of delay by which the most conscientious judge is absolutely impotent against the tactics of cunning counsel for the defense that it is difficult to imagine any state of things where the judge controls the lawyers and "holds them to the point at issue." But Judge Taft assures the public that it is possible even here in America, and that the "cure for the growing cancer" of defeated justice "may be found in statutory amendments."

THE CHINESE CONTROVERSY.

Portland Oregonian.
American goods can be shut out of China with very little difficulty, and the curt assumption that the Chinese will continue to submit to the outrages which the Immigration Department is heaping on them because they are in need of certain goods is not well founded. A prohibitive import duty can be levied against American goods in a very short time, and it will stop their sale in the orient as effectively as would the plan of killing the purchasers.

COURTESY TOWARD THE CHINESE.

New York World.
In the view of the President it is not so much the provisions of the Exclusion law which are at fault in giving offense to the Chinese as their harsh enforcement. Secretary McCall, in applying the law, is directed to "exercise the fullest courtesy and consideration" toward all Chinese of the exempt classes. Post officials in dismissing our case for Ah Sin will refrain from picking him down as if he happens to be of mandarin rank. The concession to international comity will not be lost on the Chinese.

BLESSSED PEACE MAKERS.

The Commonwealth.
"Blessed are the peacemakers"—and all Americans should rejoice that it was an American president who proposed peace to Russia and Japan. It is said to think that any international dispute can reach a point where bloodshed is demanded by either side, but it is gratifying that reason has not been restrained by temporary detestment was followed by an awful sacrifice. President Roosevelt deserves credit for seeking upon an early moment to render the good offices of the nation, and it is fortunate that our country's attitude toward both of the belligerents is so friendly as to make it proper for us to take the initiative.

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