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## A LAW RESTRICTING IMMIGRATION.

The foreign contract labor bill, which originated in the House of Representatives, has occasioned much debate both in and out of Congress. It was amended in the Senate, and sent back to the House somewhat improved. It is likely to become a law.

Inquiries have arisen upon its probable effect upon immigration in general and "Mormon" immigration in particular. Hopes have been entertained by the anti-"Mormon" fanatics, that in some way the bill would cripple the labors of our Elders in shipping their converts to this country. A review of its provisions will effectually dissipate this idea and explode those hopes.

The first section forbids the importation or immigration of any alien or foreigner into the United States or Territories or the District of Columbia, under contract, private or special, implied or expressed, to perform labor or service of any kind in this country. The second section makes void and of no effect any contract of this kind entered into previous to the migration of the person of whom labor is required. The third section imposes a penalty of \$1,000 against any person, company or corporation violating this law, the suit against them to include the alien or foreigner who is a party to such contract; separate suits may be brought for each alien or foreigner who is a party to such contract. The fourth section provides that the master of any vessel who shall knowingly bring or permit to land in the United States persons who have entered into a contract such as is contemplated in the Act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for six months for each person so brought by him into this country. The fifth section exempts from the provisions of the Act servants, domestics, private secretaries, skilled artisans such as cannot be obtained in this country, professional actors, artists, singers and lecturers, and provides that "nothing in this act shall be construed as prohibiting any individual from assisting any member of his family or any relative or personal friend to migrate from any foreign country to the United States for the purpose of settling here."

The last proviso settles the question of the applicability of the bill to "Mormon" immigration. It has no bearing upon our question except to leave it unrestricted in the plainest language. Our emigrants, if assisted by the P. E. Fund, are under no contract to perform labor of any kind. They are simply under obligation, as soon as possible, to refund the amount advanced, so that it may be used again for the benefit of others in similar circumstances. The object of the law is clear. It is to prevent the importation of hordes of laborers pledged to work for low wages and thus virtually be the slaves of the corporations which make the contract. It is in the labor interest of this country which demands relief. The labor question is one of the most serious that stares the country in the face, and though this measure is but a trifle in presence of the magnitude of troubles now threatening, it is a step in the right direction, and if it becomes a law will do no harm unless to the coolie and contract systems, and may do a little good in aid of other measures that will have to be adopted, in order to arrest the troubles which must arise from the agitations resulting from the vast amount of labor unemployed.

## THE SOLICITOR GENERAL'S SOPHISTRY.

We have seen no comments on the weak plea of Solicitor General Philips before the Supreme Court of the United States in the cases against the Utah Commissioners. But one point in it is worthy of a few remarks, for it shows the weakness of the cause the gentleman was defending, and is similar in logic to most of the arguments, or rather subtleties, resorted to by our opponents.

Mr. Philips claimed that as an alien woman becomes a citizen through her marriage to a citizen, which is an advantage, so Mrs. Clawson, on the other hand, must share in the disadvantages of her husband's polygamy and thus become disfranchised with him. Everybody will see that this is rank injustice; we do not think anybody will seriously claim that it is sound law. Suppose in any State or Territory the law should provide that a

person guilty of a felony, or a misdemeanor, shall be deprived of the right to vote at any election. Would it follow that the disabilities of the convict husband shall be shared in by the wife? If so why not make her share also the penalty of his crime and imprison her as well as him for the offence which he alone committed? One would be just as reasonable and lawful as the other. Or to reverse the rule, making that sauce for the gander which is sauce for the goose, if a married woman commits an offence against the law such as to deprive her of the franchise, the husband also must be disfranchised, and, to carry it out to its legitimate end, be made to share the penalty imposed for the crime of the wife. Its a poor rule that won't work both ways.

The absurdity of the gentleman's reasoning, if it may be dignified by that title, is really remarkable coming from such a source, and there is another element in the case that he did not appear to have considered. The fact is that Mrs. Clawson did not obtain the elective franchise through her marriage with a citizen. She is a citizen in her own right, and obtained the right to vote by direct act of the Legislature. Her right in and of herself to the elective franchise is as good as that of her husband's when granted, and entirely independent of his legal or political status.

The validity of the law giving to the women of Utah the right of suffrage was not disputed by the Solicitor General; he tacitly admitted that he could not assail it. He passed it over, after confessing its constitutionality, by saying: "We do not regard the question of the right of women to vote in Utah as sufficiently grave to require the detention of the court with an argument thereupon." The validity of the law was claimed and argued in the brief for the appellants, and the failure to even deny that point was a virtual admission of its soundness and legality.

It is amusing to note the fallacies of position and argument to which men will resort when assailing our institutions, but it is humiliating to see minds capable of higher and nobler efforts stoop so low as to employ sophistry and chicanery in opposition to simple truth, and, where they cannot be fair and manly in debate, strive to throw dust to confuse the bystanders and blind the eyes of the arbiters of justice.

## THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

A LARGE portion of our space is occupied to-day by the inaugural address of President Grover Cleveland. If is on the whole rather an able paper, although not what might be termed brilliant in a literary sense. It has several excellencies that are worth consideration, among which is simplicity. It is a plain, practical statement of naked propositions, so tersely expressed as to give the document a compendious tint. From a literary standpoint it is like a sturdy trunk with a number of stout branches, only partially clothed with foliage, creating the impression commonly made by an object in which there is more strength than beauty.

The President has gone out of his way to allude to polygamy, which he claims to be destructive to religion and the family. He advocates a repressive policy on the subject. He speaks unadvisedly on this matter as the system to which he alludes is destructive of neither of the elements of society mentioned by him, but is, on the contrary, preservative of both. That is undoubtedly the weakest portion of his address. However, he may honestly hold the opinion he has so unqualifiedly given. And we seriously doubt that he would endorse the doings of the local anti-"Mormon" crusaders, whose course is evidently not aimed at the repression of polygamy, but the destruction of existing family relationships, and the accomplishing of certain political ends. Doubtless they will take a little fresh courage from the position assumed by President Cleveland, but it is just possible that they may not have such good reason to be as jubilant as they may at present imagine. There is a great deal of difference between taking steps for the suppression of polygamy, and the outrageous course pursued by certain officials here, not specially intended to have that effect. Whatever steps may be taken against a certain feature of the religious faith of the "Mormon" people, we have no reason to believe otherwise than that, so far as Mr. Cleveland is concerned, they will be in accordance with the forms of law. So much cannot be said truthfully in relation to the present anti-"Mormon" raid.

The Republican administration is now practically extinct, and a Democratic President stands at the head of the Republic. Our sincere desire in relation to the new regime is that it may emulate the virtues of the administration now defunct and eschew its failings, which have been not a few. We wish the new hands at the pump of the old Ship of State plenty of power to keep her afloat while the numerous leaks made by those who have done their best to scuttle her are placed in repair, that the majestic vessel may glide smoothly over the ocean of peace, impelled by the breeze of prosperity. While we thus express our good desires, we are not free from

grave apprehension that there are "breakers ahead," and it will require the most consummate skill to enable the noble craft to keep out of the surf, to say nothing about dashing against the rocks of adversity.

If the general theory of the inaugural address is adhered to a happy day will dawn upon the nation. But in these days it is almost too much to expect so much unadulterated patriotism. Grover Cleveland has a mammoth undertaking ahead of him.

## THAT CANAL PROJECT.

The meeting of the committees of the county and city officers, appointed to investigate the matter of constructing a canal to carry off the surplus water of the Jordan river, which was held on Saturday, resulted simply in an adjournment till Monday evening, with a request for the committee appointed by the land-owners to be present with them. At Monday evening's meeting the feasibility of the project and the importance of its early execution were freely discussed, the general sentiment being in favor of the people whose land is subjected to overflow forming an incorporated company with a view to securing the right of way, by deeds of the land which the proposed canal will pass through. As soon as these preliminaries to the successful prosecution of the work can be arranged, the county and city officers express their willingness to furnish liberal assistance.

There are thousands of acres of land on both shores of the river which will be benefited and enhanced in value by being insured against the possibility of overflow in the future by the construction of this canal. Some of this land is already occupied by extensive and valuable improvements, such, for instance as the depot buildings and road bed of the D. & R. G. Railway, and the extensive brewery of A. Fisher & Co., which has recently been erected just west of the old adobe yard. These companies could better afford to construct the proposed canal entirely at their own expense than have their valuable property subject to overflow every year and run such risks of heavy loss thereby. But there are some scores, and possibly hundreds, of others who will be benefited in some degree, if not to so great an extent, by having a portion of the river turned from its usual course in the manner proposed, and they ought all to be willing to share in the expense.

It will be quite proper, too, for the county and city to bear a portion of the expense, for their respective revenues will not only be increased by the enhancement which it will afford to the value of taxable property, but because the work is positively necessary as a protection to the public highways.

We understand the route decided upon is now regarded quite favorably even by some of the Brighton folks, who so earnestly urged the claims of the old Brighton canal a short time since. It is now believed that it will prove a benefit rather than an injury to much of the land over in that region.

Time may develop the wisdom of turning the whole of the river in the direction proposed for this canal; but whether such should be the case or only a portion of it be diverted in that way, it will render possible the reclaiming of an immense tract of land that heretofore has been comparatively worthless, and we look forward with anxiety to the commencement of the work. We only fear that it will be deferred too long, and therefore feel to urge those who are interested in the matter to attend in force the meeting on Saturday next, and take such action as may be necessary to have the work prosecuted to completion before the season for high water arrives.

## ENGLAND'S PERPLEXITIES.

GREAT BRITAIN finds herself confronted with an appalling array of difficulties that not only threaten her prestige and peace but her very existence. Her causes of alarm are of a most complex character, and have no parallel in her history or that of any other nation. The situation is therefore not a repetition of history, the complications in which that great Empire is involved are in many features unique and as startling as they are new.

Great Britain has been led in to her perplexing condition by her present government. In reflecting upon this subject, the conclusion seems inevitable that the policy of the Liberal party, especially under Gladstone, tends to the disintegration of the British Empire, because it enters reluctantly upon any struggle for the maintenance of its prestige and supremacy. It has been proved times without number that the competitor that enters a contest of any kind half-heartedly goes into battle with a tolerable certainty of defeat. This has been aptly illustrated in the position of England to-day in relation to the Sudan.

The Mahdi heads a revolt against the Egyptian government, not against Great Britain, but the supremacy of the latter depends largely upon the maintenance of the integrity of Egypt, upon which country she must hold the thumb of her hand of power. Other-

wise the Suez Canal, the avenue through which British war vessels can be sent by a near cut to India, to protect that part of the Empire from aggressive movements on the part of Russia or any other nation, would be worse than useless. In fact, it might be turned to her destruction by being utilized by the enemies of British rule.

If Britain were to withdraw from the Sudan difficulty and leave the Mahdi master of the situation, that singular, we might say phenomenal character, would doubtless rise in prestige in proportion as Britain would sink. Such a movement would cause millions of Mohammedans to believe him to be the veritable prophet who are now in doubt as to his identity with the expected deliverer. They would flock to his standard in myriads, and the half-savage hordes would overrun Egypt in swarms, causing such a situation as would startle the world. The further result would probably be another widespread revolt in India, accompanied by the horrible scenes of the former mutiny; for there is a bond of the most powerful religious sympathy among all the Mohammedan peoples.

Hence the campaign must be prosecuted at all hazards. And the dangers connected with it are terrible for contemplation, to say nothing of the reality. The Mahdi has had another success, the garrison of Kassala having fallen into his hands after a great slaughter of the tribes friendly to the Khedive who held it. This will further embolden him and his followers. The heat in that part of the world is about begun, as it generally enters with March, and is so intense that it can scarcely be endured by Europeans. Even now news comes from Korti that the British troops are attacked with typhus. Delays are dangerous, yet to undertake a campaign under such great climatic disadvantages in an enemy's country is an herculean contract, almost sure to result in great disaster by loss of life, even if victory should ultimately perch upon the banners of the invaders.

But this is not the only danger which threatens the British Empire abroad. Neither may it turn out ultimately to be the most perilous. England's calamity is Russia's opportunity, for the Bear is the traditional and unrelenting enemy of the Lion. The grizzly has an insatiable desire to put his paw upon John Bull's Indian Empire. In view of England's strait in Africa, knowing how difficult it would be for that country to actively face two great questions abroad, each perhaps equally vital, at the same moment, Russia has been massing immense bodies of troops in the southeastern part of her domain, and stringing advanced pickets outward through Persia to Herat, between which point and India lies but a narrow strip—the width of Afghanistan. As in Egypt England must protect her vital interests by keeping the Khedive in power and manipulating him, so must she bolster up the Ameer and keep him under her wing and clear from being corrupted by Russia. If the latter were to gain the control of Afghanistan, then Britain might as well bid good bye to India, as the power of the Czar would run right along the Indian line, over which he could at any time pour his military hosts. Mr. Lumsden, the English commissioner into whose hands has been confided the present guardianship of the important frontier integrity question in that part of the world, is now hard at work negotiating the preservation of the interests of his government. According to the latest accounts, the Ameer (in reality England) was likely to garrison Cabul, the capital of Afghanistan, with Indian troops. The meaning of this is simply to guard against any sudden aggressive tactics on the part of Russia.

But even these two leading features of England's situation are by no means the only ones of moment that may be considered good cause for her feeling uneasy. The wily Bismarck has also determined to take advantage of the tight place in which Britain finds herself at home and abroad. He has adopted the policy that has led to England's greatness; or at least largely contributed to produce it—the accession of new territory and consequent extension of dominion. Hence the German flag was lately raised upon New Guinea, an island in close proximity to the British Australasian colonies. The Teutons cannot continue this policy to any great extent without coming in direct conflict with British interests. The fact that France is in sympathy with Germany renders the situation still more strained.

The home situation of the "Tight little Isle" is in no better shape than her foreign affairs. The present government has not the confidence of the people. It is held in power by a burned thread—the personal popularity of the Premier. It is safe to say that if those votes cast in opposition to the recent censure resolution had been thrown out, the result would have been an overthrow of the administration. The number of those who voted in the negative on mere personal grounds and not on principle would certainly number more than fourteen—which was the Government's majority. This will be admitted by those conversant with the British characteristic of holding stubbornly on to a prejudice of almost any kind, until the last vestige of reason for doing so is swept away. This is an anomalous position—for a government to hold the reins of power in modern England minus the popular confidence.

Then the masses of the people are not only alarmed at the situation of

the empire abroad, but they are in a chronic state of discontent at the hard times that have obtained in the country for years. Their ominous growls are heard at monster meetings, which though now peaceable may not long remain so. For no man can tell how soon the dread shriek of "bread or blood" may be heard from the famishing hordes. The hopeless condition of trade may be conjectured from the fact that the appointment of a commission to ascertain the causes of the depression and feasible remedies was voted down. The reason for this action was a deplorable one—it might raise hopes of better times that would be doomed to disappointment. There are also the agitation and destructive tactics of the blood-thirsty Irish revolutionists to contend with. The explosions and murderous doings of these foul conspirators that have startled the world heretofore are to be thrown into the oblivion of comparative insignificance in view of what is to follow. So the advocates of dynamite as a terrorizing medium to compel political liberation state, and their promises are not likely to be fruitless.

We would not wonder if the Gladstone government should be shortly overthrown, to be succeeded by a conservative rule. If so Lord Salisbury would probably be the Premier. Such a change would be succeeded by what Lord Beaconsfield called "a spirited foreign policy." The Earl of Salisbury is a typical Briton. He is fearless almost to rashness, and the chief objective point of his policy generally would be to uphold the honor and Empire of Great Britain.

The subject into which our thoughts have been running might be continued into a consideration of the position not only of England but all the great powers. The situation throughout the entire world is full of perplexities, and all things appear to be in "commotion." We cannot help inferring that a gigantic climax in mundane matters is approaching, the parallel of which is not to be found upon the pages of history. Surely God is working among the nations, that through the operations of His providence a clearer and more pacific condition may ultimately evolve out of the impending crash.

## THAT INTERVIEW.

A FEW days ago what purported to be an account of an interview between Hon. George Q. Cannon and a Chicago reporter of the Associated Press, came westward over the wires. The following, which appeared in the eastern papers, is evidently the correct account of the conversation:

CHICAGO, Feb. 22d, 1885.

Mr. George Q. Cannon, of Salt Lake City, ex-Congressional delegate, arrived from the West yesterday. Mr. Cannon declined to make a full expression of his opinion as to the present status or future of the Mormon problem, excusing himself on the ground of the condition of affairs prevailing at home. In response, however, to certain general questions Mr. Cannon indicated the state of things existing under the operation of the Edmunds law. He declared that such a condition of affairs had never before existed in the United States as that to which people were now subjected. He warmly condemned the system of espionage which, he claimed, was followed by the government—a system under which, he understood, rewards were privately offered for the conviction of Mormons, and a system enlisting the services, as chief detective, of a man named Gilson, guilty some years ago of subornation in the famous Dr. Robinson case. Trade, Mr. Cannon declared, was demoralized, and the people were in a temper to take some steps in self-protection, but were held in check by the influence of the Mormon leaders.

## WILL NOT ABANDON UTAH.

Mr. Cannon positively denied the truth of the rumor that the Mormons intended to abandon Utah, saying that the late trip of President Taylor to Guayamas was in connection with the interest of certain southern colonies. Emigrate from Utah they could not. In Utah they had dwelt for forty years. There was their property, wealth, interests and homes. From the new administration the Mormons expected nothing; no gleam of relief came from that direction. Cleveland they did not know, and his policy toward them they could not foreshadow. In a change the only hope was that things could not be made worse. The republicans had even seemed disposed to bring Mormon affairs to this bad pass just for the benefit of the democrats. Of course Utah would not obtain admission into the Union, because the United States Senate was republican.

"Would the denouement of this aggravated state of things in Mormonism assume a violent popular character?" he was asked.

No, he didn't think it would; but what the outcome would be Mr. Cannon politely refrained from predicting.

## LOCAL NEWS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, MAR. 6.

**Reports Wanted.**—The secretaries of Y. M. M. L. A. of Salt Lake Stake, who have not yet filled up the blanks for reports lately sent them, and returned the same to C. B. Felt, 155 N. East Temple Street, will please do so immediately.

**The Museum.**—The Deseret Museum has received a large case in which to