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SALT LAKE CITY, - AUG. 20, 1907.

NOT A NEWSPAPER QUARREL.

The conflict started here by the manipulators of the falsely so-called American party is not a petty newspaper quarrel, although Mayor Mansfield has so characterized it. Those manipulators raked together a crowd and led a savage attack upon a Church, under pretense of conducting a political campaign. They carried this warfare first into the City campaign, and then into the county and school elections. They carried it to almost every town and hamlet in the country, and then to the national Capitol. They are still endeavoring to keep up the warfare, though they have been ignominiously defeated in more than one decisive battle. By daring to appeal to the "unwritten law" against the Constitution, and that in the very halls of Congress, they have aimed at the destruction of the constitutional rights and liberties of the State of Utah, as well as planned the bondage of a law-abiding people. Pray, call you that a petty newspaper quarrel?

In the olden times the class to which the originators of the so-called American party belong, in a meeting at Ogden, expressed it as their opinion that the people of Utah should be deprived of every vestige of political right, and that "the laws of this territory should be made by a council appointed by the president of the United States and approved by the Senate." The same spirit is still rampant. If those anarchists who pose as patriots par excellence had their way, they would disfranchise every "Mormon" because he is a "Mormon" and leave a "Mormon" community no other right than the right of paying taxes. A petty newspaper quarrel, indeed!

There is now, as there always has been, two opposite elements composing the anti-"Mormon" crowd. One contains the religious bigots who are narrow-minded enough to desire the destruction of the Church, on religious grounds. We are advised that some of these, although they demand the complete separation of the church and state, came together one day and resolved to support any political party that would do violence to American principles of government and "down" the "Mormons" politically. Another element of that crowd contains the unscrupulous politicians who are prepared to do anything for the sake of obtaining control of offices.

We have seen some of the results of this combination in this City, in the reckless expenditure of the people's money, or the squandering thereof, so that today there is a vast deficit which cannot be accounted for except by the lie that it is an inheritance from the administration of Mr. Morris. We have seen the same effects in the deplorable events that led to the resignation of the Chief of Police; the discovery by the ex-Mayor that the climate here is not quite as healthy as that of California; we have seen those effects, further, in the lamentable contention that has injured the business interests of the State and the City, settlers being driven away by the infamous falsehoods told about prominent Utah citizens and conditions here. We do not claim that all settlers have been driven away. Many have remained in spite of all anti-"Mormon" efforts to discourage them. But we do claim, and we know it to be a fact, that this City would now have had a much larger population than it has, had the unspeakable fanatics who are responsible for the anti-"Mormon" agitation been treated as they deserve. With peace and harmony prevailing among the citizens the development of this City would have been more rapid than it is. No, this is not a petty newspaper quarrel. It is, as far as we are concerned, a contest for the rights of citizens, for the Constitution that has been assailed, and for the welfare of this State and City.

We have no objection to the opposition to our Church that ministers of the gospel may feel it their duty to make, as long as they confine themselves to doctrinal, or ethical, or ecclesiastical questions. But we say to them, you have no more right to make a political fight upon "Mormons" than upon the Methodists, or Catholics, or individuals. Nor have we any objection to such opposition as one political party may interpose to the principles of another. That is legitimate. But when politicians band themselves together for the purpose of attacking a Church, it is time to call a halt.

NERVOUS AFFLICTIONS.

That nervous diseases are claiming an ever increasing number of victims, statistics on that subject seem to demonstrate. The fact is generally accounted for by regarding it as the result of the increasing strain of modern life, with its keen competition in business and mad race for amusements. Less attention is being paid to the effects of the increasing idleness in body and soul-destroying vice. But these are undoubtedly more enervating than the hardest physical labor or the most intense mental effort, or the shortening of the hours of rest by the hunt for amusements or attendance at social functions. These are detrimental to the well-being of the human system, but the pursuits of the slaves of bad habits tell even more quickly.

There is, for instance, the tobacco vice, considered one of the minor evils of our age and generation. It seems that the Americans consume annually

a crop of the weed valued at \$54,000,000, and that that is not enough but that twenty-nine million dollars' worth is imported, besides. What that means to the nation may be imagined when the statements of physicians are considered, who tell us that even the moderate use of tobacco leaves men with shattered nerves, weakened heart action and befogged mental faculties. The heavy smoker cannot do the work the non-user of tobacco is capable of, all other things being equal. An appalling number of apparently strong men die suddenly from heart failure, and this, it is claimed, is due to the use of tobacco. It has also been demonstrated beyond doubt that the use of the weed almost invariably creates a craving for stimulants with the result that the victims take to the habitual use of alcoholic liquors. If a strong race is to be reared, a determined fight must be made against enervating vices. Smoking is only one of them. The "little foxes" that "spoil the vines" must be looked after.

The following figures that appear in a Washington dispatch give an idea of the immense volume of the country's business in tobacco and liquor. A billion more cigars and several more million gallons of whiskey and beer were consumed last year by the American people than during the previous year. The annual report of the collector of internal revenue shows receipts from all sources for the year of \$269,664,022, or \$30,561,234 more than in 1906.

The receipts from spirits were \$156,336,901.89, or the surprising sum of \$12,942,846 more than the previous year. Tobacco brought \$51,811,069.69, as against \$48,422,997.28; fermented liquors, \$59,567,818.18, an increase of close to \$4,000,000.

Of corn, rye and other whiskeys the consumption was 11,409,252 gallons above the previous fiscal year, or 134,142,974 gallons.

Is it any wonder that nervous ailments increase or that "heart failure" and similar causes cut short the career of so many apparently strong men?

IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

We understand the Ogden Tabernacle choir has been invited to attend the irrigation congress to be held next month in Sacramento, Cal., and that a liberal appropriation goes with the invitation. It takes, however, we are told, in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to take the organization there, and it is to be feared that, unless friends will come to its aid in a liberal and substantial manner, the invitation must be declined. And that would be a pity. The Ogden choir under the leadership of Elder J. Ballantyne has become one of Utah's excellent musical organizations of which the State is justly proud.

As we have stated before, Utah should be well represented at that gathering. Irrigation is vital to the entire intermountain region. We hope this State will be able to make a good showing in the matter of exhibits, because there is a good chance of successful competition. If we want to secure the national appropriations for irrigation works, to which the State is clearly entitled, we must exhibit the products of our soil and industry at places where those interested in such matters meet and confer with each other.

A "COGENT" ARGUMENT.

The Tribune has become unusually bitter over our exposure of its error in maintaining that the Church is engaged in interstate commerce. It complains that we failed to quote the "cogent" part of its argument to that effect.

Yet we quoted freely and exactly the paper's own words, and in the very article which embodies this complaint of that paper, it fails to quote a line of what the "News" said on the subject. However, we trust that we shall never be found ungenerous in stating the argument of an opponent; and we here give space to each of the arguments used by the Tribune to show that the Church is a common carrier of freight and passengers, that it is guilty of rebating, and that it should therefore be "regulated," or, better still, uprooted and abolished by Congress, etc.

The first point of the Tribune's argument is this:

"Through its numerous agents . . . the Church is tremendously interested in many concerns whose business extends over and affects numerous States."

If so, then those engaged in interstate commerce include every church, every commercial house, every person, in fact, who buys or sells anything transported by railroads over the boundaries of any one State; but this is far enough from constituting any of them "carriers of freight," much less of convicting them of "permitting an unlawful discrimination in passenger and freight rates"—the only offense named in the laws against rebating.

The second point made by the organ is as follows:

"It must be borne in mind that, by means of these contracts with interstate transportation companies, they are in reality engaging in interstate commerce."

So says the organ; but the courts say that only those who are licensed to carry freight or passengers for hire are engaged in interstate commerce. Who knows best, the Tribune or the courts? The third point is thus elaborated:

"As a third proposition, it must not be forgotten that the money which is employed in the exploitation of these concerns is taken from the funds of the Church which are collected for religious purposes."

The organ seems to think that because the Church gets its funds from voluntary donations, it "collects" them; and that to buy Church furniture, etc., therewith is not using the money "for religious purposes;" also that this somehow makes the Church guilty of rebating—all of which is absurd enough to produce laughter before any jury.

As a fourth proof that the Church is somehow a violator of the laws regulating railroad charges, the organ says with apparent gusto:

question of implicating the Church in violating the interstate commerce laws.

No one knows better than the Tribune that the Church does not contract for the immigration of converts, while the reference to "female converts" is so absolutely contemptible that we refrain from affronting our readers by copying the remainder of it. It is, however, equally false and more slanderous, and is a fitting climax to the puerile argument which we have so patiently refuted.

We wonder, however, if any of the lawyers of this city have read that paper's wonderful explanation and discovery—that the Church is a common carrier, and ought therefore to be despoiled by some sort of federal process or congressional law!

Perhaps an apology to our readers is due for paying so much attention to an argument that seems to have its origin in an insane asylum, but it seems necessary to state the truth, as long as its assailants succeed in deceiving citizens on whose votes the fate of the community may depend. We have no desire to wrangle with a concern that has placed itself on a level with the gutter, but we are anxious that no one shall follow the lead of the deceiver blindfolded.

Is it cool enough for you?

Mr. Rockefeller says he is hitched to a cart. Back up, back up!

No, Mr. Taft does not go globe-trotting to reduce his weight but to increase his chances.

Railroad men insist that there is going to be a coal shortage, but no car shortage. That guarantees kindling wood.

Mr. Sheets is finding the McWhirter affair greatly like Wags, the dog that adopted a man. There's no getting rid of it.

Mr. Harriman denies that Reno story; that is, he denies telling the reporter he would like to own all the railroads in the United States.

Probably that street car conductor who caught a robber Sunday night has been rendered fearless in handling mealhour rushes.

"The telegraphers' strike is settled!" shouts a head-line, but we know now it must mean, settled down to a good old test of endurance.

The Teton valley people are to get a railroad into the valley. They have demonstrated that everything comes to them who get out and rustle.

There are persons who predict a time if the price of lumber continues to climb, when tooth-picks will be luxurious. What will wooden legs be then?

They served Japanese mineral water at a Jap-American love-feast on the coast the other evening. Mixed dishes were served to show good feeling. Both sides contributed considerable taffy.

It is estimated at Washington that Uncle Sam's smoking and drinking bill for last year was over \$250,000,000. Uncle Sam aren't you ashamed of yourself? A great big man like you spending millions on weeds that burn and stuff that bubbles and—that's about all!

Despite the efforts of Mr. Sheets or his attorneys, he has been at last placed in a position where, if he is really innocent, he can remove the stain from his name. His case is now ready for the district court and a jury. Either his guilt or innocence will be proved and the public will have the satisfaction of knowing that the affair was concluded as it should have been long ago. Justice will be satisfied, too. The state and the defendant will be satisfied, or should be, after a fair trial and a verdict from good men and true have been obtained. But Mr. Sheets says he will carry his fight to the Supreme court rather than have his case get before a jury. Strange!

The Fool-killer ought to take a run out to Los Angeles. Some one there ought to be removed before he does any more harm by his idiotic so-called "practical jokes." His latest performance is the limit. This unknown funny man took a dead snake, coiled it in a telephone box, pried its mouth open and then closed the box. A street car conductor had to use the telephone and "this awfully funny joke" was meant for him. He fell a victim, all right. He is now a raving maniac. The shock, when he pushed his face close to the telephone box to feel the snake and to see it coiled as if ready to strike sent him into a delirium from which recovery is said to be doubtful. The perpetrator of the joke would probably plead "thoughtlessness" but his malady is utter brainlessness.

MUSIC IN AMERICA

Mme. Melba in a London interview. The Americans are a really musical people, for the reason partly that they can afford to pay for the best of everything, and therefore hear the finest artists and the best performances. There is no orchestra in the world to equal the Boston Philharmonic.

SAN FRANCISCO'S SPIRIT.

Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The latest advice from San Francisco evinces only the tireless energy of the people and the hope and optimism of their spirits. From the beginning they have had a common determination to call the catastrophe a fire rather than an earthquake. In-spiring poems, articles, pamphlets, books have been sent out broadcast testifying to the courage and confidence of the inhabitants of this sorely tried community. Not suffering alone from the wrath of nature, the city's own virtues, in the shape of political soundness and tyrannous labor unions, have settled around the bones to pluck them of their remaining flesh. From all its troubles San Francisco is emerging victoriously, and it deserves the praise and encouragement of the world.

A MOST PERNICIOUS WEED.

Zion's Herald.

The effects of smoking the marihuana weed are so terrible that the Mexican government is to make a vigorous effort to exterminate the plant throughout Mexico. Orders have been issued to the soldiers not to smoke the weed, but the practice has been continued, many of the victims committing horrible crimes when in a frenzied condition, and now radical measures are to be taken looking to the eradication of

the weed from the soil as well as from the markets of Mexico.

BIG BATTLESHIPS.

Brooklyn Eagle.
Because England plans to build a warship of 30,000 tons displacement is no reason why we should build one still larger. The race for size supremacy is becoming a nuisance which all the naval powers would do well to restrict by a general agreement.

JUST FOR FUN.

Advantages of System.

"It was a personally conducted tour."
"How are they?"
"All to the good. Post-cards were brought to us at every town. Often we didn't have to leave the train."—Pittsburg Post.

The Universal Hope.

It is hoped that messages of peace may soon be passing between the telegraphic employees and employees.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Ahead of the Game.

"His wife writes from a summer resort that she has seen the great sea serpent."
"That's nothing. Ever since she and her mother left he has been seeing twenty snakes to their one."—Atlanta Constitution.

Still Encroaching on Man.

Now there are women burglars. Isn't there any avocation in which the women won't take the bread out of the men's mouths?—Topeka Journal.

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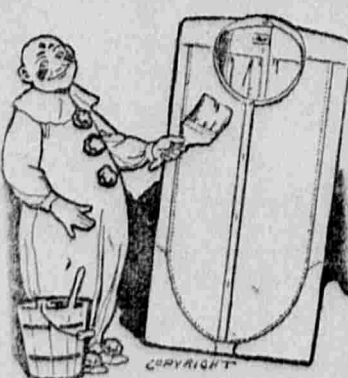
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