

THE GERRYMANDER.

In his last message to Congress President Harrison said: "I have recently been advised that in one county of a certain State three districts for the election of members of the Legislature are constituted as follows, one has 65,000 population, one 15,000 and one 10,000, while in another county, detached, non-contiguous sections have been united to make a legislative district." This illustrates what is meant by the term "gerrymander," and as applied to political apportionments is usually adopted for party advantages. By it the Democratic districts can be made Republican, and vice versa. Too much could not be said in condemnation of the practice. The word is pronounced with a hard G and is derived from the name of the politician Gerry, who introduced the system.

Shortly after the great political revolution in Wisconsin about two years ago, the legislature enacted a new apportionment law, said to be favorable to the Democratic party. The Republicans were indignant, and charged the legislature with an attempt to steal the State by gerrymandering. The Democrats replied by saying that they only adhered to the policy adopted by Republicans since 1876.

The matter was finally taken to the supreme court of the State, and on the 22nd inst., at Madison, the decision of that tribunal unanimously declared the law unconstitutional. The court advised that the Governor may convene an extra session of the legislature for the special purpose of enacting a new apportionment law, or the districts may remain as they were before the law passed by the last legislature.

The decision is explicit and is already attracting wide attention. It is based on the theory that the county is the primal territorial unit of representation, and that in the formation of assembly districts counties should not be dismembered. That is, no assembly district can lawfully be formed which embraces territory in two or more counties, unless the whole of such counties are included therein. Fractions of two or more counties or one county and a fraction of another county cannot comprise a constitutional assembly district, which it is decided must be entirely bounded by county lines. The law in question dismembered 20 counties.

Many Democrats as well as Republicans rejoice at the decision. And both agreed in stating that "gerrymandering" prevailed previous to the apportionment of the last Legislature. It is said that Governor Peck will issue a call for a special session, to consider a new apportionment measure in harmony with the decision of the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin.

IS IT PRESS CENSORSHIP?

A BILL of a rather peculiar character is now pending in the House of Representatives at Washington. It provides that the Postmaster-General shall have power to exclude from the mails newspapers containing the advertisements of medical specialists.

The measure purports to aim at suppressing the indecency sometimes embodied in those advertisements, and for this purpose the Postmaster-General is to be made sole arbiter, interpreter, and administrator of the law. The supposition is that the bill is inspired by that wing of the medical profession which is opposed to advertising. It must be admitted that there is a good deal which is reprehensible in much of the advertising matter pertaining to medical nostrums and patent panaceas for all the ills that flesh is heir to, but it is questionable whether it would be a wise proceeding to give the Postmaster-General absolute authority in determining what is and what is not indecent. The bill aims at a vital element in the revenue of newspapers, and if the income from advertising medical specialties were taken away the prosperity of many a country organ would be shattered.

A GREAT LAWYER'S WILL.

THE late Senator Joseph E. McDonald had a national reputation as a lawyer and legislator, yet it appears that his last will and testament is about to become the subject of a trial in the courts which promises to excite an interest that is without precedent in the State of Indiana. By the terms of the will, Mrs. McDonald inherits the whole of her husband's property, about \$140,000 worth. Included in this is a certain piece worth \$40,000, and it is claimed that it was intended for the Senator's children and grandchildren. The will does not so specify, but the contestants allege that the will has been tampered with. The person who, it is supposed could settle this difficulty, Mr. Hutchings, a confidential clerk, is now in the lunatic asylum.

The deceased Senator married late in life a very beautiful woman. His family did not indorse the marriage, and harmony does not prevail between Mrs. McDonald and her step-children. The case excites unusual interest, because of the prominence of the parties. It is a thousand pities that these differences have arisen, and it is to be hoped that a settlement will be arrived at without further strife and publicity.

PROGRESSIVE ANARCHISM.

THE anarchists are alarmingly active in Paris. They are making scientific investigations with a view to discovering a poison which cannot be detected in the human system. The object of this pursuit is to use poison as a means of murdering people condemned to death by the conspirators. The ground of this proposal is that dynamite is not sufficiently effective and its application involves too much risk to the user. Dynamite has not yet been abandoned by the anarchists, however, as the bursting of a bomb in the house of M. Bulot, yesterday, testifies. The building was wrecked and several people were badly injured.

If we merely read of such things in history in place of their being current incidents, we would think that the times in which they occurred were thickly impregnated with the most horrible

features of barbarism. Seeing they are matters pertaining to the present, they are dismissed with a passing reflection, except perhaps by the people immediately injured by them. Sooner or later it will dawn upon all people capable of serious thought, that the subject is one that will some time affect the whole civilized world, from the fact that this social excrement is of rapid growth. Conditions of a threatening character which were scarcely thought of and hardly anticipated twenty-five years ago are now remarkably common.

PAROWAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of this Stake convened in Cedar City Tabernacle, on Sunday and Monday, March 20th and 21st. Present on the stand, Apostles John H. Smith and Abraham H. Cannon, the Stake Presidency, Bishops, etc. After the usual opening exercises, President Thomas J. Jones reported the Stake as being in a prosperous condition. He hoped the Saints would strive to remember and put in practice the instructions given during this conference. The various wards in the Stake were reported, and the reports indicated that the Saints are improving both temporally and spiritually.

The following speakers addressed the conference: Apostles John H. Smith and Abraham H. Cannon, Presidents Thomas J. Jones, Morgan Richard, Jr., and Francis Webster and Elder Uriah T. Jones, and many important subjects were treated upon.

The general and local authorities were presented and the following changes made: President Thomas J. Jones having, with the consent of the First Presidency of the Church, retired from the Presidency of the Stake, was honorably released by unanimous vote, Uriah T. Jones was chosen and sustained by unanimous vote as President of the Stake, and Morgan Richards, Jr., as first Counselor and Francis Webster as second counselor in the Stake Presidency. The calling of Bro. Uriah T. Jones to the presidency caused a vacancy in the bishopric of the Cedar Ward, which was filled by Bishop Carry making choice of Brother Lehi W. Jones as his first counselor, he being sustained by unanimous vote, as was also the remainder of the local authorities.

The usual Priesthood meeting was held and business pertaining to the Stake transacted.

On Sunday evening the semi-annual meeting of the Sunday School Union was held. Superintendent Joseph H. Armstrong reported the Sunday schools in the Stake as in excellent condition. He appealed earnestly to fathers and mothers to assist in encouraging the young and rising generation both by precept and example.

Elder Jos. T. Wilkinson and Apostles Smith and Cannon occupied the remaining time in discoursing upon subjects of great importance to the young.

The attendance at all the meetings was good. The singing was excellent and the Cedar City choir are entitled to credit for the part they took in the exercises.

Conference adjourned for three months to meet in Parowan.

WILLIAM H. HOLYOAK,
Stake Clerk.