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ILL-ADVISED LEGISLATION.

The House did a sensible thing on Thursday last in rejecting a bill, introduced by Varian, the purpose of which was to revise the general statute of limitations, by changing the time within which civil actions must be commenced. One of the changes proposed was to extend the time for commencing suit on a book account, to three years, instead of two, to be computed, as at present, from the date of the last entry. The bill proposed other amendments of the present law, perhaps equally important in character. The judiciary committee, of which, by the way, the author of the bill is chairman, reported adversely on the measure, and the House adopted their recommendation.

Two or three bills have been introduced, looking to the taxation of mortgages, and at least as many more have been offered for the purpose of changing the present law in regard to the time within which real estate, sold at forced sale, may be redeemed. Other measures have been offered for the purpose of making radical changes in the present law relating to the sale of delinquent stock in corporations, etc.

All such legislation is of questionable expediency in this Territory, for two reasons. First, we are on the verge of statehood, and when that condition has arrived, a radical revision of the civil, criminal and political codes will be immediately necessary; hence legislation of such a character can serve but a temporary purpose, and may very well be dispensed with; second, a period characterized by the financial conditions which exist at the present time, is not appropriate for legislation affecting contracts between debtor and creditor, for though well meant, it is likely to do more harm than good.

The creditor class in this Territory know what conditions are pressing as well as do the debtor class, and in nearly all cases, they are adjusting their affairs and relations to conform to the conditions. Not many foreclosures are taking place, nor are many suits being planned, when the number of cases in which such course might be taken, is considered; and there is every reason to believe that debtors and creditors will get along quite as well with each other without the aid of any legislation in the power of our Territorial Legislature to give them, as with it.

It is well enough for the Assembly to audit the bills which shall be allowed, and do what can be done to provide for the wise and economical expenditure of public funds pending statehood; but there exists little need for enactments making important changes in existing laws.

A TESTIMONY FOR JOSEPH.

On another page of this issue will be found the account of an interview with William Smith, a brother of the Prophet Joseph. The conversation recorded took place shortly before his death, and as the subject of it was the Book of Mormon and the character of Joseph, it has peculiar interest in the Latter-day Saints.

The testimony of the aged brother of the martyrs is important for several reasons. In the first place the views he expressed may be looked upon as the result of a lifelong consideration of the topics discussed. It is not the sentiments of a youthful enthusiast, who might have been led astray by a fascinating oratory. William Smith was born in 1811, and had consequently reached a mature age at his decease. He had ample time to change his views, had he found, on a second thought, that his brother was not what he claimed to be. But he did not change his opinion concerning Joseph, but testified to the last to his nobility of character and integrity of purpose. In the second place, his testimony is that of a natural brother. He knew what he was speaking of. They had been reared in the same house, shared with each other joys and sorrows and vicissitudes, and knew well the characteristics of the another. And further, William Smith, although once identified with the Church and a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, was eventually led to associate with other organizations, and may on that ground be supposed to have had an interest in exposing any fraud that

plane will which, during his early identity with the apostles of the Church, he might have become acquainted, had there been any such to expose. His testimony is therefore that of an impartial witness, and as a man who filled prominent positions in public life to the satisfaction of his contemporaries, his words are entitled to particular respect.

"Uncle William" touches upon several important points in connection with the rise of his Church. He says, for instance, that society in the family would think of doubting the words of Joseph. His record was that of absolute truthfulness, and his character was always enough to those who knew him best. He was never known to indulge in fanciful ideas. The young man was that which he told his parents he should be, and when he told his parents what he had learned from his father, they believed him. Another feature of Joseph's character was his diligence as a worker. This, according to William, was a well known and acknowledged fact among the neighbors. The opponents of Joseph, in later years, invented the story that he was too indolent to work and sought to obtain a living by means of utilizing the credulity of others. But never was a more absurd charge brought against anybody. The magnificent purpose of the Prophet shows a man who was developed in the school of life, and the whole of his career is one unique exhibition of this only charge. Think of a man, who in a few years assumes control of a movement, including languages, who directs a large ministerial enterprise comprising two continents; who translates and publishes volumes; who builds cities and temples and experiments the experimental course of a growing Church; who presides and administers in the spiritual wants of worldly-minded and broken cases with loving tenderness for his own family! All this did Joseph accomplish in the few years between his call and martyrdom. Was there ever in the world a greater example of faithful work and diligence exhibited? No wonder that already as a boy Joseph's neighbors should prefer him to anybody, when a good day's work was wanted.

Of peculiar interest in the account "Uncle William" gives of the way in which Joseph was led to seek the Lord in prayer. Having heard a Methodist minister preach a sermon on the familiar text "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God," Joseph understood this to mean what it says and decided to follow the advice. Like the greatest of the reformers, Luther, he grasped the reality of the word of God and regulated his conduct accordingly without fear of man. This made him fit to be the instrument in the hand of the Lord to accomplish the greatest work in this age.

The friends of Joseph, who stood by him during all the various phases of his wonderful career, learned to love, honor and respect him as only a good man, a man of God, can be loved and revered. And the thousands who in his teachings have found a true message from the Eternal Father, share these feelings. They honor him as they honor the Prophets of old. The world at large is not yet prepared to view him in the same light. He is still looked upon more in the same way the majority of the Jews and Romans looked upon the crucified Messiah. But this will change some time, as he is little understood and his real character is seen through the mists of slander and villification that have been gathered about his memory. It was always so. Future generations know those who were slain by the tomahawks for the sake of righteousness.

WAR IN THE AIR.

One report from Brazil is to the effect that President Peixoto is not waiting for the completion of a dirigible balloon to annihilate the rebels, and that this machine of warfare will soon be ready. It is to be used, like the airships in "Uncle Concrete," to float over the rebel ships and drop dynamite bombs on their decks.

If the Brazilian president really is experimenting in this direction and is successful—something as yet highly probable—the monitor navies in the South American republic will mark an era in the art of warfare. If submarine boats attained the perfection necessary to admit of the construction of ships moving in the air, the nation which first took to them would be almost safe from attack by sea, and if these are adapted to purposes of war, naval forces, land fortifications and armies are useless, for with a few of these implements of destruction falling dynamite bombs on an adversary, no protection would be efficient. The heaviest armor-plated ships would be as helpless as the old wooden vessels were against the monitors. Each country would look to under the necessity of constructing similar air ships and the battles of the future would be transferred to the upper strata.

There may not be much foundation for the story of Peixoto's interest in airships, but some time the idea will surely be realized. A Swedish journal has already announced the invention of crossing the Atlantic in a balloon. He must think its flavor now to start an airship. If he does, ships will soon be constructed, and the air will be navigated as the ocean. When the time comes, the new warfare will speedily be adapted for purposes of war. For may we not hope that then, if not before, warfare will be resisted in politics? When an army can be annihilated in an instant, there should be no more for a struggle. It has often been remarked that the invention of the implements of modern war would finally lead to the cessation of war. With the adoption of the balloon for such purposes, the development would seem to have reached that perfection. In the interest of peace, then, the sooner the air ships be built the better.

THE ANNUABLE BUSINESS.

At noon on Monday next, January 22, 1894, it is time set for what is designated as the Annual Order of Legal Americans to meet in its alleged "battle with monopoly." The society is so in the old organization which its leaders assume to believe will become the most powerful of the many kindred associations that have flourished in the United States. Its promoters are doubtly sufficient of ultimate organization, such as the Patrons of Industry, Farmers' Alliance, and societies of that class, but the new order is indebted to be looked still, and to their farmers, laborers, mechanics and business men.

The society was instituted by representatives from thirty-seven of the states, at secret meetings held in Chicago on December 27 and 28 last. It now has divisions in nineteen states, Delaware and South Carolina being the exceptions. The announcement of the "battle with monopoly" means that of that time the division commanders will institute a general work of promulgation and will organize the recruits into brigades, regiments, etc. The grand commander of the order is D. A. Reynolds, of Lansing, Michigan, whose "grand orders No. 1" begins as follows:

> You are then and all hereby authorized, instructed and commanded to call about you such trustworthy assistants as you may select, complete those order brigade officers officers as in honor, duty in the choice of the order and command them to report to you for duty on Monday, Jan. 22, 1894. You are further commanded to take the field at 12 o'clock noon, on Monday, Jan. 22, 1894, and present to my aide-de-camp your respective commands by the authorities of Legal Americans.

The command then goes on to direct in detail certain reports to be made. The new organization is military in its character and political in its purpose. There are three degrees in the order—workmen, knights militant and national guards. While it is claimed that the latter two are purely fraternal in their secret movements, yet they dominate in official prerogative the first-named class, whereby the political work is claimed to be done. The officers include J. J. Ingland, treasurer of the Patrons of Industry of Michigan, as grand quartermaster; Rev. Myron Reed, of Denver, as grand chaplain; W. C. Bateman, a Texas Farmers' Alliance leader, as grand sentinel, and other prominent labor agitators to whom have been given high-sounding titles. The basic principles of the order are stated to be these:

> The equal legal and political rights of all men in America.
>
> The preservation as trustees of all armed forces not recognized by the Constitution.
>
> The establishment of postal savings banks.
>
> The absolute non-interference of any foreign power in American industries or American affairs.
>
> Governmental ownership or control of all necessary monopolies.
>
> The nationalizing of all unearned land grants, the same to be held as inalienable national property.
>
> Governmental issue of all money in sufficient volume to transact the business of the country on a cash basis.
>
> The referendum of all legislation of vital importance.
>
> The exclusion of European criminal and pauper labor, and the making of robbery a capital crime, to be dealt with as treason against the national government.

According to the statement of its presiding officer, the mission of the order is to unite all industrial orders in the progressive and aggressive brotherhood, the stranding of a means through which the people may express to Congress their wishes on all questions of great national importance, and for the protection of the inherent rights of Americans from the encroachments of monopoly. It is proposed to organize legislation in the interests of the masses through the initiative and to submit all questions of national importance to the order and by the order to the people through the referendum in the following manner: All great national questions are referred through the order from national to state, state to county, county to local, and finally by the local organizations to the people, who vote on the question by writing their names and the word "yes" or "no" upon a ballot. These ballots are certified to by the local commanding officer and sent back through the proper channels to be laid before Congress. This is what is called the referendum and it is what makes the order national. It also makes apparent the object in locating the national headquarters at Washington.

As is usually the case with organizations which are unknown to the government of the country where they are instituted, the Annual Order of Legal Americans has a catchy title to enlist patriotic sentiment to its behalf. Its support will certainly be a rallying cry in these days of soul-stirring business and financial stringency. But the actual gains that the order may be found that they are inappreciable to an extreme degree in comparison with the National Commission, and that the anti-monopoly issues in the last analysis should be for the interests which would make the most organic assault on the evil, if we can call it by the name, by doing away with the political power which it exists.

The promoters of the order in the early [illegible] are impressed with the importance of sufficient to compel the attention of the people of the country, and it is to be hoped that they will be able to do so. It would delight one sight more improvement of the conditions of the industrial not provided by and acceptable to the genius of the national Constitution, and would set up an abyss and superior to the government of the Constitution the government of a secret society established on principles opposed to those which brought forth the Republic. Such a society cannot be tolerated with safety in the Union.

In the questions that should be brought before the national legislature for consideration is that of the necessity for emphasizing national existence and institutions. The idea that the right of secession some before the duty of union was effectually disposed of in the last great war. The idea that new methods of government can be introduced here through secret societies should be as thoroughly removed by appropriate legislation, and that, too, before there is any necessity for a resort to arms. If there are people in the United States, native or foreign born, who are not content with the form of government prescribed by the Constitution, they should be given to understand that while they are at liberty to go elsewhere to carry other form into effect, this country is not the place for their attempts. The design exhibited by the Annual Order of Legal Americans is subversive of the Constitution and therefore traitorous in its nature, and its promoters should receive the treatment which delivers to that kind of business de-

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The Utah Populist makes its bow to the Salt Lake public today. W. A. McKenzie is the manager, and he proposes to publish his paper every Saturday, "to advance the interests of the National People's Party here in Utah." No. 1 contains a good deal of spicy reading matter that will hurt a body's sensibilities, several ghastly attempts at humor that are really painful, and some bile that on the score of either truth or respectability were better left unpublished. Still, the sheet seems to have within it the elements of stirring up the other party organs quite entertainingly, and its wrathful ire are plenty and pointed enough to keep the enemy awake and hopping. In the dogmas of the Populist party are many very excellent ideas, and in the enumeration of those words not see why the Utah Populist should not attain a considerable measure of success.

THE COLUMBINE.

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Pale Rose! there, with cross so soft and bright
As lady lips, and tender as dewy eyes!
Be emblem, true grace and power of God's
All tender to the day; be grace of sons
And benefactions of our industry.
Feed, generously, our bright-winged honey bees
That find our children sweets, from which we grow
In grace and strength and peace, and make the days
Amen, and long lost fortune forward with
The peaceful prophecy of the modern world.
So floral emblem of our new-born state
And food so, in the fragrant, happy years
Of the new incoming Floral Age.

EDITH ELDER.

Of our state cannot and the golden time
Of peace and prosperity, the presence love
And amazing beauty of God's universe.

ALBERT C. HOWDEN.

To accord for our publication in the press of Utah.

Jan. 16, 1894.

(COMMUNICATED.)

ON COMPETITION.

It has been said that "competition is the life of trade," and some have jocularly said in regard to new claimants for business patronage, "the more the merrier." Like many other so-called "wise old saws," these quaint contain a truth, but they involve also a vast amount of error and lost. In fact, there is everywhere today an acknowledged and active protest against unrestrained competition; for it is as a protective measure that "trusts" are organized, to preserve investment and secure a profit thereon, if human nature can, or will, submit to the measurable suppression of individual enterprise, at the dictation of a central ruler. Competition finds no place, when production is less than demand. Both buyer and seller are then satisfied, whether the supply be labor or its products, such as sugar, wheat, iron, wool, cotton, steel, or any other thing. The man who dispose of his labor or his goods is no more satisfied than is the consumer. But no sooner is this demand foreseen or observed, than a host, experienced in production or otherwise, endeavor to fill a presumed vacuum. The selling price recedes, and profit vanishes from undue and unwonted competition.

In the case of labor there is the same evil, where protective organization, and among artisans there are rules and regulations for preventing any excess of educated or trained supply. Its opportunity is limited, and organization being less potent than aspiring, when a strike is resorted to, the success is always problematical, for every alliance are not always the outcome of training. There is everywhere a certain amount of spontaneous ability, or ability proceeding from somewhat similar pursuits, which in an emergency can be called upon to fill an advanced place or force from time to time. As the firmament becomes the register, the mirror of matter the photograph, the commonplace steps into the shoes of one whom he has watched and can imitate to his own advantage.

To be sure, immense and continuous effort is made to fashion in organization every branch of skilled and auxiliary labor, so as to preclude failure in a contest with the employer or capitalist. But after all there are facile elements in the masses which, desiring advancement, seize upon circumstances and make strides fatile to the main. Prevention, alone, hardness, and even violence have been resorted to as so-called protective measures. Then the strong arm of the law is invoked for the preservation of property and that liberty of the man which is fundamental—"that is the pursuit of happiness for himself or family, he shall dispose of his labor and ability in his own way and on his own terms!" Organization claim that individual right must yield to the pleasant good of the whole, much on the same basis that society exacts the relinquishment of a few things of individual right for the security of others!

Million alone, among the philosophers, has suggested on a broad scale the regulation of the supply of common labor among men, by legislation and education. But human nature as it is, does not seem prepared for a practical, forceful application of an improved theory at the best. Certain it is that poverty appears more prolific than where wealth prevails. If exposition of rapid division is an evidence of nature's intention, the well-to-do, the cultured, the educated so to speak, are limited in increase, and so, in humanity at least, "the survival of the fittest" appears to be rather a questionable conclusion. Whether statesmanship will ever grapple with this problem, or whether to solve it humanity will try to wash it out in anarchy and blood, time can only determine. But when the unemployed are numbered by hundreds of thousands, and life depends upon labor which cannot be reached, surely the foundation is appropriate at least the necessities which are every where in visible abundance is one which may become irresistible, and in the taking of protection thereof much destruction may take place of that which is most valuable because beyond reproduction.

However, the intention was not to raise conversation on those phases of labour competition, but to call attention to a local condition, which materially affects our interests as a business community. We need not recapitulate the fact of financial strain to which the last few months have witnessed, or to the conclusion, unwelcome though it may be, that competition is not as rapid as some would desire. We note that pressure has been and is upon the entire community. Naturally hopeful, most have become more or less indebted one to another, and every one has wanted to collect, and every one who had anything—in view or responsibility—wanted to sell. The merchant, the farmer, the steamman, and the laborer, in making honorable effort, have become competitors in their respective lines. Advertisements in the papers of our leading cities call attention to enforced sacrifice of goods and commodities. Here and there one has failed, and assignees for realization have paid little attention to cost or value. Legitimate business has become more or less paralyzed, buyers bewildered, and every one almost somewhat restless, uncertain and unsettled.

It has been a query to far more pretentious cities and communities than ours as to whether distributors or storekeepers were not very much in excess of necessity, and whether in multiplication they do not demoralize and destroy each other. To secure patronage is there not an undue cutting of prices, and to increase trade is there not a disposition to give more for pro-

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