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THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 27, 1903.

A MOST IMPORTANT BILL.

A very important measure was presented in the Legislature today. It is, in our opinion, the most important that has engaged the attention of our lawmakers. We were of the opinion, until this bill was prepared, that it would be impossible to enact an irrigation law covering all the varied needs of different sections in this State, without months of careful inquiry and preparation. But it seems that the joint committee of the Senate and the House, with the aid of State Engineer Doremus and Attorney F. S. Richards—experts on the water question, have formulated a radical measure, going to the very bedrock of the matter, and providing for a new and complete system of regulation of the water supply in the State.

First, there is to be an official hydrographic survey to determine what waters are and can be utilized for irrigation, domestic and other beneficial uses. Maps of these are to be kept in the State Engineer's office. Then there is to be a general filing with the State Engineer of statements showing the claims of water companies and individuals, with their post-office addresses. A time is fixed for the applications for decision as to water claims, with all particulars as to the appropriation, the flow of water per second, the extent of land to be irrigated, etc. After that time has expired, applications are to be barred. Adjudication will be concluded by referees locally appointed, which will have extensive litigation. Water rights will be determined and certificates issued, which can be recorded and will establish water rights as definitely and securely as titles to land.

One of the results of the measure will be that new appropriators will not be able to go on to a stream above those who have settled water rights, and seize on the water as has been frequently done to the injury of the prior appropriators. Also the water cannot be wasted by users as in many cases heretofore. The amount which each rightful owner can use will be determined, the capacity of his canal or ditch will be known, and the whole matter be placed on a permanent basis, that we believe will be satisfactory to every reasonable user of water in the State. We hope the bill will be thoroughly investigated by the Legislature and, if found to be as it appears to us, will be enacted at the present session, as it is one of the essential needs of the times.

FOOLISH LEGISLATION.

During the last days of this session of the Legislature a large number of bills will come up for consideration, and there is danger that some measures will be pushed through which ought not to be passed. They would be a disgrace to our statute books. A list of them all would take up too much space for these columns. A few of them have been already noticed and commented upon. There are three new before us of which we will make brief mention, with the hope that they will be thoroughly weighed before action is taken upon them.

One is a proposition to make an employer responsible for personal injuries to a workman or employee, caused by the negligence of any other servant or agent of such employer, the compensation to be the same as if the person who caused the injury was not such employee.

Thus, if a bricklayer should drop a brick upon a fellow workman and crack his skull or break his nose, the employer of the workman would have to pay all damages and make the same compensation as would be due from the injured to the injured if they were not his employees. The illustrations could be multiplied ad infinitum. In addition to this provision, any contract between the workman and his employer to exempt the latter from such damages, is made null and void.

Another, no doubt proceeding from the same source though not introduced by the same member, makes it unlawful for any person, company or corporation to engage workmen to change from one place to another in this State, or from any place out of the State into Utah, when there is a strike, without stating in any contract, proposal or advertisement that there is a strike, lockout or labor trouble at the place of proposed employment. It provides heavy penalties for the infraction of these provisions, and makes it a felony to provide guards with arms for the protection of workmen brought into this State or from one place to another in the State, during a labor trouble, by means of an advertisement or contract that does not state that there is a strike in process.

In other words, it is a bill designed to encourage labor troubles and prevent the places of men on a strike from being filled by other workmen from a distance, who are willing to work in their stead. Also to leave such workmen exposed to violence from strikers and

punish those who protect them. It is a "striking" evidence of what turbulent labor agitators would do if in power.

The third bill referred to is that which would levy on a person who destroys a tree, "treble the amount of the damages which may be assessed therefor, in a civil suit," and for injury done by gas, fumes or smoke to a house, barn, corral, or premises adjacent, or to land, crops, trees or animals. The idea of forcing the defendant to pay three times the amount of such damages is preposterous.

Other inhuman measures are those providing for an oppressive and unjust and unequal income tax; for the punitive and referendum; for the water commission of five for Salt Lake City; for raising the school taxes; anti-railroad propositions, etc., etc. All we ask is that none of them shall be rushed through without full investigation or by way of compromise; or through personal feeling, sympathy or antagonism. Better pass nothing more this session, than to get into a hurry and pass upon the State Legislature that which will bring discredit upon its promoters and injury to the public.

THERE ARE OTHERS.

A morning contemporary admits that if the proposed water commissioners should lease or sell any city property that the State Constitution says shall not be alienated, leased or sold, the action would not be effective as against that instrument. Just so. Then why pass a law that gives them power to do the very thing thus forbidden? It would only be provocative of litigation. Perhaps there are some folks who would grow fat on just such a condition of affairs.

If the water commission is appointed, what property would be in its control to "alien, lease or sell," except waterworks and appliances and lands and streams intimately associated therewith? These are placed by law and by the Constitution in control of the municipal corporation, solely and entirely, and cannot be lawfully turned over to any special commission or company or person. The bill attempts to make this conveyance, and therefore it is unconstitutional.

It is asserted that, "the opponents of the bill can bring against it no stronger argument than this." That depends on what is decided to be strength. This ought to be deemed strong enough. The "News" has furnished a number of reasons. Senator Williams has presented others, and we hope there will be enough advanced in addition to the unconstitutional points that have been raised, to send the measure to sleep or strangle it with the "water cure."

MURDER ON THE INCREASE.

Chicago's chief of police, Mr. O'Neill, has recently expressed himself to the effect that the crime of murder is growing more common than formerly. "All over the country," he said, "there seems to be an abandonment to impulse. There is a fever of unrest and recklessness which comes from a lack of proper moral training."

This chief did not hesitate to say that the exponents of moral teachings practically are unable to impress their ideas of obedience to the Deities. Few murders, he thinks, are premeditated. Most of them are due to lack of moral restraint.

One cause of the growth of the terrible evil, to which the attention is called, is the tendency to regard those who commit heinous crimes as irresponsible. "Medical insanity" is a new form of a malady that is likely to be heard more of, as the occasion arises. For if a criminal can be legally sane and medically insane, it should be possible to prove some kind of insanity in every case, where murder is charged, unless, indeed, the accused happens to be somebody without money and without influential friends.

Disregard for human life is a surmise of disease in a nation. Not long ago, at the Fordham College banquet, a judge of the supreme court of New York, Morgan J. O'Brien, took occasion to say that there was danger of the overthrow of the Republic by the powers of anarchy. He expressed apprehension that our "splendid fabric of liberty may fall to rise no more." He intimated that it may "go down as a republican Rome did before the Vandal and the Hun."

This, of course, was oratory. There may not be much immediate cause for alarm. But it is quite certain that if the Hun and the Vandal are permitted to hold sway; if human life is to be held cheap; if violence is to go unrestrained, the "splendid fabric of liberty" will soon be torn and tattered. The unrestrained rule of anarchy is sure to be followed by a deluge.

But if it is desired to stem the tide of violence and give society an impulse in the opposite direction, it will be necessary to go to the very root of the trouble, and apply the remedy there. And on that subject it may be well to quote Herbert Spencer. He says:

"Literature, journalism and art have all been aiding in this process of barbarization. For a long time there have flourished novel writers who have rung the changes on narratives of crime and stories of sanguinary deeds. Others have been supplying boys and youths with tales full of plotting and fighting and bloodshed, millions of such having been read and heard of, and the result is that the changes of our civilization are being retarded. As indicating most clearly the state of nation, at feeling, we have the immense popularity of Rudyard Kipling. In whose writings accounts of nominal Christianity is joined with nine-tenths of real paganism, who idealizes the soldier and glorifies in triumphs of brute force and who, in depicting school life brings to the front the barbarizing activities and feelings and shows little respect for a civilizing culture. More and more the spirit of conflict has been exercised by athletic games, interest in which has been actively fostered, first by the weekly press and now by the daily press, and with increase of the honors given to physical prowess there has been decrease of the honors given to mental powers. Meanwhile literature and art have been aiding. Books treating of battles, conquests and the men who conducted them, have been widely diffused and greedily read. Pyrotechnical full of stories made interesting by killing, with accompanying illustrations, have every month ministered to the love of destruction, and have too the weekly illustrated journals. In all places and in all ways there has been going on during the past 50 years a re-

rudescence of barbaric ambitions, ideas and sentiments, and an increasing culture of blood thirst."

The picture is well drawn. It is true to life. It indicates where the remedy must be applied, if at all. And if it is not, the time will come when the prediction of Chief Justice O'Brien may come literally true.

REFORMS DEMANDED.

The reforms demanded for Macedonia are of so mild a character that it is difficult to understand how even an honest effort on the part of Turkey, to carry them out, would establish permanent peace there. As set forth in the press dispatches, the plan involves chiefly the reorganization of the gendarmerie and police under European supervision; some changes in the administration, and a modern mode of collecting taxes. The Sultan remains in power, and he is not even asked to give adequate guarantees for the execution of the reforms demanded.

The Macedonians will never be content with these reforms. They have before them as a pattern the privileges obtained by Bulgarians, after these had been subjected to indescribable atrocities, and they are likely to risk much in order to obtain a similar form of government. They will not be content with less, and will probably rise in open revolt to obtain it, unless they are restrained by the great powers. But these may as well let the events in those countries take their own course, first at last. Some time the situation there will have to be adjusted in accordance with what is right.

Turkish rule came upon Asia Minor and parts of Europe as a curse. It never was intended as a blessing, and never can be. It came upon that part of the world, when it had deliberately rejected the heavenly light that was kindled in Palestine, and substituted for it the gross errors of men. It came as divine retribution upon superstition, idolatry, persecution and blasphemy. But its time is limited as a force in European history. Statesmen would do well to recognize this truth.

SHAKING GERMS TO DEATH.

The latest reported discovery in the world of germs, is that these can be killed by mechanical shocks. The statement is made on the authority of an English bacteriologist, in the London Lancet. It is said that bacterial cultures were placed in the engine room of a manufacturing establishment, and in four days the germs were totally destroyed, the result being attributed to the constant vibration. Test tubes have also been shaken at the rate of 180 shakes a minute, and the germs died. That is the reported discovery. If it proves correct, railroads with uneven tracks ought to be considered health promoters, and street cars should run on triangular wheels. In order to give the public the full benefit of the germ-destraining jars and jolts.

In the meantime, Prof. Finson's treatment of skin diseases by light, is becoming popular. Certain forms of skin disease, notably lupus, commonly considered incurable, have yielded to treatment of the blue and violet rays of light. In Copenhagen there is a government hospital where more than six hundred cases have already been cured. One hundred and fifty cases have been successfully treated in England and many in Paris. In this country doctors are using this discovery, in connection with the X-ray, for treatment of deep-seated cancer, and also for the cure of eczema. Whether this is on the principle that the germs are shocked to death, by being struck by certain rays, is immaterial.

OPINIONS DON'T COUNT.

Under that statement as a heading, the Worcester Spy of Feb. 22, says of the election of Mr. Reed Smoot to the Senate:

"The United States Senate will make a serious mistake if it refuses to elect Senator-elect Smoot to take his seat, provided the only objection against the man is his religious belief. Our constitution guarantees religious freedom. It is not for the United States Senate to declare that the Mormon religion or the Chinese religion or any other is to be a bar to a man from a seat in the Senate."

"A man's acts alone, not his principles nor his beliefs, should be investigated. If Smoot is not a polygamist, he should be given his seat."

Legislation is long and time is fleeting.

The powers do not seem to care to court The Hague court.

Mr. Lelich's name comports most admirably with his mission.

A good deal of higher education is only hire education after all.

Murder Knapp is entitled to a niche alongside the Benders and Holmes.

State of Montana would not sound so well as the State of New Mexico.

The inventor of the Gatling gun is dead. He had a rattling time while he lived.

In San Francisco Mascagni is winning triumphs. In Boston his reward was lawsuits.

Maxine Elliot is to star in "Her Own Way" next season. It is a most captivating way.

If the legislative clerks will take care of the minutes the hours will take care of themselves.

Mardi Gras at New Orleans went out in a blaze of glory. So did Pike's Opera House in Cincinnati.

Count Roni Castellane favors a Franco-American alliance. Pas en-core, mon cher Castellane.

A Vermont man died the other day leaving twenty-six children. He was not a graduate of Harvard.

Legislators who are charged with changing their views might retort that they are only dissolving views.

Senator Morgan is to the Panama canal treaty, what Senator Stewart used to be to the silver question.

Cincinnati has just had its greatest

fire. It is hundreds of millions behind Chicago and Boston. Still it will do.

If the Isle of Pines is to become American territory it should be attached to the Pine Tree state as a county.

Alfred Knapp's confession of five murders makes him guilty of murder in the first degree, raised to the fifth power.

The statehood bill riders having been pulled off it is not proper to speak of the national legislature as "a congress of rough riders."

It is said that a woman's tongue is longer and thinner than a man's. Perhaps this is the reason it is sometimes sharper.

Having tackled almost every other problem the Commercial club might now bend its energies to a solution of the servant girl question.

Mr. Littlefield says there are eight hundred trusts in this country. This simply shows that the Americans are as trustful as well as a hopeful people.

Again Mrs. Cornelia Cole Fairbanks has been elected president-general of the D. A. R. The lady does not believe in any third tier limitations.

It is a novel theory that girls born in summer and autumn grow to be taller than those that come into the world in spring or winter, says an exchange.

Beadle's dime novel idea by all means.

Mabini, the ex-Filipino leader, has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States. He held out longer than any of the other leaders and in his obduracy he found himself isolated no doubt. May he become a good and loyal subject!

THE PARKER BOOM.

Portland Oregonian.

The universal acclaim with which Judge Alton B. Parker has been received from Democrats, in Oregon as elsewhere, has afforded some observers with the emotion of surprise. It is felt that few of the Democratic rank and file ever heard of Parker before, and this seems an insignificant reason for his sudden and widespread popularity. Our old friend Milt Miller, or maybe it was Jim Townsend, was applied to on the question, and he replied instantly that Parker exactly fills the bill. How is this?

New York World.

They will be loving Judge Parker "for the enemies he has made" pretty soon.

Louisville Times.

Judge Alton B. Parker does not now hold, as David B. Hill did a few years ago, that the best way to get the presidency is to go out and hustle for it.

Savannah News.

The New York Commercial Advertiser makes some remarks on "the 'Parker boom' of Judge Alton B. Parker. But there is time enough for it to wake up and get such a movement on it that nothing can stop it.

Detroit Free Press.

He (Judge Parker) is in a retiring mood at this time either because early rooms are liable to early death, or because he is so little known to the country at large that too strenuous an effort to push him at this stage would probably be reactive.

Chattanooga News.

Doubtless Mr. Norfield believes that if Mr. Olney were to come to Tennessee and make a speech, his boom would take on life and vigor. Between the two booms we are of the opinion that Tennessee would line up for Judge Parker.

Brooklyn Eagle.

There are many Democrats who could be named for honorable defeat. Judge Parker is the only one seriously thought of as the nominee who might win.

Nashville Banner.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion of Democrats who are anxious to have the party "get together" that some man be made the presidential nominee who has not made himself so obnoxious to any class of Democrats as to cause them to withhold their support or make them indifferent to his success, and this is one of the reasons why Judge Parker has been regarded by many as one of the most available men, and not because he has not positive views on all public questions.

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