

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## CAN'T WE AFFORD TO BE FAIR?

The fact that only one side of the case of Senator Reed Smoot, under investigation before the Senate committee on privileges and elections, has been heard by that body, or rather by the few members of it that have attended the hearings, does not seem to be recognized by a number of newspapers, religious ministers and ladies of Christian associations who have made up their minds and are not slow or chary in announcing their verdict. It seems to many old-fashioned and conservative people that good taste, common charity and American fairness would suggest that judgment should be postponed, or at least its announcement be withheld, until "the other side" has had a chance to meet the allegations that seem to be accepted chiefly on hearsay and on that bias that comes from popular prejudice.

The wise man of biblical celebrity has recorded some strong sayings against the person who "judgeth a matter before he heareth it." And it is usual, even when the vilest criminal is on trial, to withhold condemnation until the defense has been made and the whole matter, pro and con, has been summed up and submitted. This common custom seems to have been ignored in the investigation that has been but partly conducted, and even one of the judges has rushed into print and proclaimed from the platform his conclusions against the accused, before a word of defense has been spoken, or a syllable of testimony has been introduced in refutation of the charges preferred.

Another peculiarity of this investigation has been the almost total departure from the purported purpose of the proceedings, and the introduction of matters that have little or no bearing on the original case. The fitness and qualifications and election of Senator Reed Smoot have been apparently laid on the shelf, while the alleged tenets and doctrines and discipline and ceremonies of the "Mormon" Church, largely as interpreted and dissected and ridiculed by its opponents, have formed the chief topic, and what some of its members are said to have done or left undone appear to have been substituted for evidence as to the acts or omissions of the Senator whose seat is placed in jeopardy. All that, as the late lamented Senator Hoar remarked, may be vastly interesting but can scarcely be called relevant to the issue.

There may be some remote bearing or distant connection between these questions that have been considered at so much length, and the right of Reed Smoot to a seat in the United States Senate, to which he was chosen without doubt, in due form, according to law and by a legislature legally elected by the citizens of Utah. And that may be brought out to be made. But still the truth remains that only one side of the case has been presented, and ordinary fairness, to say nothing of common decency, would suggest to just minds that judgment ought to be withheld until the defense has been heard and "the other side" has had its limelight.

How much of the so-called "evidence" already introduced and on which popular prejudice has been aroused is but heated atmosphere—the say-so of individuals who but repeat what they have heard and which they choose to denigrate "common sense," the general public do not seem to consider. On such testimony as has been accepted in many instances in this case, any member of Congress whose enemies made charges against him might be utterly condemned and cast out, if they had any direct bearing on his character. But most of the "repute" taken as evidence against Senator Smoot, has no connection with him or with his course personally or as a public officer. Yet it has been paraded in print and commented on publicly, as though it was "proof strong as holy writ," and he was guilty of the alleged doings of other people.

We do not believe that such snap judgment would be taken in any other case but that in which the "Mormon" Church has been placed on the rack. The pulp and the press have joined forces against an unpopular religious faith and organization, and that has been the means of obscuring the real question before the Senate and the country, and of causing the uncivilized

and un-Christian cry, that sounds like the echo of the demand of the maddened populace twenty centuries ago, "Away with Him, He is not fit to live!" Whatever may be thought of the relevancy of the proceedings, their bearing against the accused, or their value as evidence about anybody, we submit to our contemporaries of the press and to the public generally, that it is most unjust and improper to fulminate judgment and demand condemnation and punishment before one witness has been heard for the defense, and the Senator's life has been presented to the committee, and the country. Fair play is a jewel that does not seem to shine much in the present misty popular atmosphere.

## "PLEDGE BREAKING."

We have heard a great deal of nonsense about "pledge breaking" in Utah, lately, but now comes an eastern exchange and charges that the United States government is "preparing to break a solemn pledge." That matter ought to be looked into carefully by the immaculate leaders of the un-American party.

The allegation is that, by a series of agreements between the civilized tribes in Indian Territory, the government guaranteed the absolute prohibition of the liquor traffic in that Territory. But in the pending statehood bill the Territory is joined to Oklahoma, and if this bill passes, it is argued, the United States will have no control of the matter, and will not be in a position to enforce a law which does not apply to one part of the proposed new State. From the 4th of March, 1906, and until the State shall take action, if it ever does, the pledges of the government as to prohibition will, therefore, be a dead letter, it is said. And this "will be a gross breach of faith toward the civilized Indians who surrendered their lands on the solemn pledge that liquor should be forever barred from that district."

What a field for agitation is here opened up! Clearly, either the government must break its solemn pledges with the civilized tribes; or, Oklahoma must be made a prohibition State, with or without the consent of the governed; which also would be pledge breaking; or, the statehood bill must be torn up. The situation is intricate enough to attract the loving attention of agitators. Possibly, if the financial end of the matter were managed with the diligence with which the hat is passed around at religious services, wagonloads of petitions might be secured. The charge of "pledge breaking" directed against the government would at least be a notable variation in the vaudeville known as the protest against Senator Smoot.

## REAL "RACE SUICIDE."

There is an article in the current number of McClure's, on tuberculosis, which seems to deserve attention. It is by Samuel Hopkins Adams. The author designates that malady as "the real race suicide," and attributes it to ignorance, prejudice and greed. These, he claims, are the causes to which the fact can be traced that this disease remains "the scourge of the world," although it is "often curable, almost invariably susceptible of alleviation, and always preventable."

Mr. Adams calculates that of the 75,000,000 inhabitants of the United States, 8,000,000 will die of tuberculosis, or, in other words, that nearly every tenth person will fall as victim of that disease. And he maintains that this is due mostly to ignorance. The only serious source of infection, he says, is by the sputum coughed up by the sufferer; if this is properly cared for, as by means of disinfectants, the intelligent consumptive is never a peril to others. And modern science can relieve his own condition—can cure it, if it be not too far advanced—by the simple means of cleanliness, fresh air and sunlight, and regular habits.

All throughout the country, Mr. Adams says, consumptives are perishing for lack of the simplest treatment, because no special effort is made to take care of that class of sufferers. Much of the blame is due, he argues, to the proprietors of tenement houses. He urges every citizen to lend his countenance to the education of the public, the appropriation of sums for sanitariums, and the enactment and enforcement of wise legislation.

It is certainly necessary to keep before the public the dangers of ignorance, and prejudice, in the matter of hygiene, and we believe, too, that special efforts are called for in the war upon consumption. At the same time, it is encouraging to note that the progress made by medical science and general interest in the subject of hygiene, has resulted in notable prolongation of human life. The median age of the aggregate population in continental United States (that is, the age which exactly divides the population into halves) is now 23.35 years. That is to say, one-half of the population is above that age, one-half below it. One hundred years ago, it is said, the median age was 15.37; since 1820 it has increased on the average by two-thirds of a year each decade. The average age (that is, the quotient resulting from dividing the total years lived by the living population) is some years higher than the median age, being, for the aggregate population in 1900, 26.2 years.

This shows good results from the efforts made at the prolongation of human life, and should encourage to further efforts in the same direction.

## CALCULATE THE COST.

A resolution has been introduced in the Senate, for the compilation of statistics showing the cost of militarism in all countries during the past century. Such statistics would, of course, be only approximately correct, because no country can give exact figures as to the cost of a single war. That cost of maintaining armies, navies, fortifications, etc., can be calculated, but to these expenses must be added the enormous loss of productive power

that is withdrawn from the various fields of industry by the countries that maintain large standing armies, and the cost of property destroyed during military operations. These losses can only be estimated, but the sums, even if approximately correct, would—use a familiar expression—"stagger humanity."

The New York World calls attention to the fact that the indebtedness of the nations of the world amounts to over \$20,000,000,000. This enormous debt is mostly for war expenses not yet paid. Some of it, but only a fraction, represents the cost of railroad building and other industrial enterprises, but most of it is the cost of wars and militarism. Were armies and navies rendered superfluous, by the operations of peace courts, this indebtedness might gradually be wiped out. There would be more money for the furtherance of education, arts, sciences, trade, and all productive and elevating activities, and the progress of civilization would be that much more rapid.

By all means, spread the enormous figures of the cost of militarism before the world, in broad daylight, for that will furnish a most powerful argument in favor of arbitration and peace.

Senator Platt is still entitled to say, "Me, too."

Senator Depew's victory is a Black eye for Governor Odell.

The weather bureau man's reports are drawing it mild now.

A good many Colorado candidates seem to have a friend at supreme court.

Even unionists cannot make any objection to keeping open house New Year's.

Christmas trees are about the only things that have come down in price lately.

Many New York society women are going to Boston to take in the rest cure. Philadelphia should be their Mecca.

If Rojstvensky's fleet does sight Japanese warships what will it do? A few fishing boats almost scared it to death.

So Senator Depew wins out in his fight for re-election. Was Governor Odell bluffing all the while? It looks somewhat that way.

General Kuropatkin has no doubt whatever of his ultimate absolute success. Compared with Kuropatkin Candidate was a pessimist.

Next year the New England society of the city of New York will have its hundredth annual dinner. A hundred dinners in a hundred years aren't very many.

Every time the Japanese take a fort the Russians say it is unimportant. "What's the good of anything? Nothing," appears to be their frame of mind.

For the time being Bessie Bouton has thrown Cassie Chadwick and Nan Patterson to the shade. If she turns up all right she will cease to be famous.

On some of the Mexican railroads the passenger steps on a scale and is ticketed according to his weight. This is because the trains are so slow and the waits so long.

Fort Gaines, Ga., farmers and merchants have begun to burn their share of two million bales of surplus cotton. Which simply proves that a fool and his money (cotton) are soon parted.

It is said that stringent laws are needed for the Panama canal zone. Strange how stringent laws are always needed for colonial possessions. It was one of George III's pet theories.

Massachusetts wants the Department of Agriculture to aid in exterminating the gypsy moth. If Massachusetts will catch the moths, Secretary Wilson will be glad to see that they are exterminated.

They say that Secretary of the Navy Morton can ask more questions in a limited space of time than ex-Minister Wu could ever think of. Whether or not he can answer them is another question, asked by others.

A Denver man, bent on suicide, requested his barber to cut his throat. He refused. Queer barber that. In spite of protest and against one's express request, a man's barber usually cuts his face when getting a shave.

## A DARING OPERATION.

New York Tribune.  
An operation, the like of which has seldom been performed in this country, took place recently at St. Mary's hospital, Passaic, N. J., when the skin of a rabbit was grafted on a wound ten inches square on the thigh of Cornelius Post, fifteen years old, who was burned two years ago. While playing around a match factory in that city, the lad picked up a piece of phosphorus and stuck it in his pocket, and it burned his leg and thigh. The wound on the leg healed, and an attempt was made to graft skin from friends of the boy on the other wound, but this was unsuccessful. The grafting of the rabbit skin was decided on as a last resort. The rabbit was secured several days ago, and watched closely by the physicians of the hospital. This morning the hair on the rabbit's neck was shaved off close to the skin. The wound on the boy's thigh was scraped down to the tissues, and an incision fifteen inches long was made in the rabbit's back after the animal had been placed under chloroform. The rabbit's skin was sewed around the edge to the wound on the thigh. Then the animal was bandaged to the lad's leg, and will be kept in this position until the physicians are satisfied that the skin is grafted. The rabbit will be fed on specially prepared food. If the operation is not successful the leg will have to be amputated.

## THE SIZE OF AN ATOM.

Science.  
How large is an atom? "Perhaps the simplest, though not the most exact, way of arriving at a rough estimate of the size of atoms, is by measuring the thickness of a soap bubble film, where it is as thin as possible, just before it bursts," says a writer. "Such a film, if

composed of atoms, must be something like a pebble wall. Now, a pebble wall would not stand if it were not several pebbles thick, and if we had reason to suppose that it was about a dozen pebbles thick we could easily make an estimate of the size of the pebble by measuring the thickness of the wall. That is the case with the thinnest region of a soap film. It is found to have a very definite and uniform thickness. It is the thinnest thing known, and by very refined optical means its thickness can be accurately measured. It must contain not less than something like a dozen atoms in its thickness, and yet it is only about the twentieth millionth of an inch in thickness by direct measurement. So that the diameter of an atom comes between one two-hundredth-millionth and one three-hundred-millionth of an inch. In other words, from about 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 of atoms can lie edge to edge in a linear inch."

## THE MISSING WOMAN.

The World of Dress.  
To be frankly old—with white hair, with a lovely network of wrinkles that look like lace—is to be a belle. One may also be quite young. It is the time between that matters. The middle-aged woman is gone, so completely gone that, in a little while, the world will talk quite gravely of preserving a specimen for posterity. In a few years specimens will be sought for—like Sheraton furniture.

## THE DISRAELI ANNIVERSARY.

New York World.  
It was Disraeli who bought "over-night" the controlling interest in the Suez canal which has given Egypt to Great Britain and made her mistress of the Mediterranean. It was Disraeli who checked the Russian influence in Afghanistan and made the recent expedition to Tibet possible. It was Disraeli who broke the power of the Zulus, annexed the Transvaal and laid the foundation for the present South Africa. It was Disraeli who turned Russia back from Constantinople, and thereby drove her through Manchuria to Port Arthur. It was Disraeli who convened the Berlin congress, in which can be found one of the influences that finally brought about the present war in the far east. Judged by the single standard of material results, the Earl of Beaconsfield was the greatest constructive British statesman of his generation—in fact since Pitt.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

A New Year's reception at the White House is interestingly described by Smith D. Fry in the current number of Leslie's Weekly. Other features include a cover drawing in colors by George T. Tobin; a drawing by R. T. Shultz, showing New Year's noisy carnival on New Year's eve; Walden Fawcett's article and photographs which make clear the methods by which the signal officer directs the advent of the new year is telegraphed all over the world from the naval observatory at Washington; and a review of the leading events of 1904 by Charles M. Harvey—New York.

"The Descendants of John Parker of Lexington, Mass.," is the title of a large illustrated volume that should be of interest and value to all the members of that family. The book is more than a dry genealogical record. It is a biography as well, portraying the characteristics of the various generations of which it is a record. The publisher is Theodore Parker, 17 Sever St., Worcester, Mass.

Madame presents some novel features in its January number. A music supplement of four pages with engraved cover containing the words and music of Lon Dinmore's popular song, "The Language of the Eyes," is one of these. The first of the series of articles by some celebrated living artists appears in the January number, and is a story written by Ada Rehan, in which she pays tender tribute to the late Mrs. Gilbert. The last picture of Mrs. Gilbert, taken shortly before her death, is also used as one of the illustrations for this sketch. —Ford Publishing Co., Indianapolis.

Ainslee's January number comes in a handsome cover design, by Thomas Mitchell Pierce. The list of contents is as follows: "A Beaten Harvest," novelette, Marie Van Vorst; "The Shepherder," short story, B. M. Bowser; "Two Women," poem, Emma A. Oppen; "Renaissance," short story, Marguerite Spalding; "Song in Winter," poem, Joseph C. Lincoln; "The Phantom Ha-Ha," short story, Vincent Harper; "The Social Side of Chicago," essay; "The Master Hand," short story, Kilbourne Cowles; "The Waiting of Palermo's Jacob," short story, Holman F. Day; "The Best Laid Plans," short story, Joseph C. Lincoln; "The Paternal Burglar," short story, Cyrus Townsend Brady; "The Fatal Floozie," short story, Leonard Merrick; "The Tooth of Time," poem, Arthur Stringer; "The Confessions of a Club Woman," essay, M. H. Vorse; "The Golden Butterfly," short story, Edith Macvane; "The Problem Browning Set," short story, Cosmo Hamilton; "The First Impression and the Last," short story, Robert Hichens; "The New Year," poem, Margaret Houston; "Some Dramatic Surprises," Allan Dale, and "For Book Lovers," Archibald Lowery Sessions. —Ainslee's Magazine Co., New York.

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