DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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A GREAT WORK WELL DONE.

In accordance with the previous giving out, the river convention came to a close after a two days' session. The adjournment last evening was unattended by excitement or even demonstrations of a marked character and the proceedings throughout were in the main characterized by excellent judgment and the best kind of temper. It would hardly have been proper, or rather just, in view of the almost utter absence of rancor and rowdyism, to have permitted Governor Waite to retire home with his vials of wrath still ununcorked; there was so much of unexpected serenity that to gratify him was at the same time to add somewhat of the spice of variety to the proceedings. Of course he is still under certain circumstances, for "blood, logs, thunder!" but it is hardly likely that he will ever be nearer to any great quantity of it, outside of its natural channels, than when he was giving vent to his feelings in the shadow of the Chicago statehouse.

The work accomplished is truly gratifying to all real friends of bimetallism on this continent although the rate demanded is not likely to receive attention. The appeal made up to Congress and the country is dignified in tone, eloquent in diction and convincing in argument. It happily avoids prolixity as well as over-terseness, and is just such a document as honorable and patriotic men engaged in a high and public-spirited work can subscribe to without the fear of some day looking back upon such action with regret. We now believe that Congress and the East will listen to us, and that out of such listening great good will come to the whole country. So note it be.

THE POPE ON LABOR AND CAPITAL.

The pontiff of the Roman church has prepared another encyclical. It has not yet been formally published but its contents have appeared in the New York Herald, whose correspondent in Rome claims to have examined it in advance. In this pontifical document the aged ecclesiastical ruler of millions deals almost exclusively with the labor problem, and his utterances, being by the Catholic world deemed infallible, are of more than common interest.

The pope commences by declaring that constitutions and laws are the work of God and that society is not a human invention but a divine institution. Hence an individual who fulfills his duty to God cannot fail in performing his duty to society. Property is essential for the preservation and development of human life and must be held sacred and inviolable. "Cursed be he who removeth his neighbor's landmark." Yet the poor have a right to be assisted by the rich, not by alms but by useful employment. "If a man will not work, neither shall he eat," but it is the duty of those who can do so to provide work. This legitimatizes property.

The theory of the sovereignty of reason, the encyclical further says, is the source of all injustice, for each pretends to have reason for himself and each abrogates to himself the right of making his own ideas triumphant. Good reforms cannot be effected by those who act with unalterable confusion of ideas, passions and interests. The rulers of the nations stand as magistrates of heaven and it behooves them to rock out the wellare of the toiling masses who appeal to them for justice. The social question must be placed on a religious basis. Peace according to the Divine decree, must shut it not be lead by the sword or the law, legislation in accordance with the commands of God and religion should follow and keep pace with the times for the protection of those who obey the universal laws of the Creator. Atheism and a departure from the Christian faith are the great evils and stimulants of anarchy and socialism. The Christian faith alone is the bulwark of social order.

Reference is made to the perturbed state of affairs in Europe and it excuses. The question of strikes is then dealt with in the following manner:

A strike can be justified only as a means of defense, when an individual's interest is attacked. Never can it be justified as a collective act of aggression. Man has a natural right to forbid work. He has a right to remove every obstacle to his work and to use the value of his labor, and, therefore, when labor is neither prohibitive nor oppressive, or to be a right to refuse to continue it, this an individual right cannot be transformed into a collective right, nor can an act of defense be changed into an act of aggression in order to make a source of good to degenerate into a source of harm. An aggressive strike is not reciprocal between operative and operative, but an injustice, at all one upon the proprietor and his property. The operative strike is a passive and dominated movement, not an intelligent and free being. While it seems beneath the capital of the employer, it puts no money into his own pocket.

The exceptional activity that many so-called socialists reconstruct everything that is illegal, decreasing only those reforms which they regard necessary for the solution of economical and political difficulties. Such demands must be satisfied to avoid a more terrible upheaval. A sensible socialism is making rapid strides. Tumults and riots are most grave symptoms and call for the serious attention of economists and lawmakers, who must acknowledge that democratic socialism has ripened into a power that must be recognized by prudent tactics. Governments err when they take a hostile attitude to the church, "the great bulwark and shield of rulers and people."

The following propositions are laid down in conclusion:

The maximum of labor, as well as the maximum of salary, should be fixed. The hours of labor should be arranged, giving due attention to days of rest.

Industrious should be modest and maintained for the sick, the lame, the blind and for those who are honorably unemployed, while punishment should be meted out to the drones of society. Laws have been made almost universally for the protection of women and children laboring in factories and shops, but in how many cases have these laws been enforced? Inspectors of work should be appointed everywhere, whose duties should be to see that these laws are not infringed.

It will probably not be denied that this document is a timely note of warning or that it contains much that is true. But as far as it suggests that the nations of the earth return to the bosom of the Catholic church as a step towards solving the problems with which it deals, it will probably be unheeded. For it is not demonstrated that those countries in which that church has fall away are any better off than their more "infidelic" neighbors. True Christianity would indeed be an efficient remedy against all social evils, but the greatest evil of the time is that the nations of the earth refuse to accept that remedy, although freely offered to them for more than half a century.

HONOR.

The San Francisco Examiner recently offered five prizes for the five best definitions of the word "honor" and received several hundred of them. They embrace a wide range of thought and expression and a correspondingly wide range of merit. The winners were those who sent in the following, the number of each being in the order here arranged:

Honor—The soul's self-respect.

Honor—The polished armor of true manhood; the shield and buckler of true womanhood.

Honor—The self-appointed law of a noble soul.

Honor—The bravery of justice springing from a heart of truth.

Honor—The keystone to the arch which constitutes true nobility.

Here is one that we think equal to any, but it is a little too lawyer-like and lacking in the essential element of brevity:

"Honor is a mental armor which, in order that we may have the esteem and respect of our fellow-men, must be kept bright and unsullied. To keep it so it must be secured by self-sacrifice and right doing. This mental armor not only brings the esteem and respect of fellow-men, it also protects us against sin and supports us in temptation."

The author of the following would be a good hand in the dictionary compiling business one would think:

"Honor is True nobleness of mind; magnanimity; dignified respect for character, springing from purity, principle or moral rectitude; a distinguishing trait to the character of good men."

A little too pompous to offer it is one strictly poetical and much prettier than any other:

"Its perfume sweet when all the virtues bloom."

It is interesting to see how many different definitions of the same word can be devised and how far apart the minds and thoughts of men, though beginning at a common point, can be made to separate.

"A VERY SERIOUS MATTER."

Under the above caption this morning's Tribune takes the News to task and traverses in a general way the statements contained in our local item of yesterday on some alleged damage of the city's superintendent of waterworks. This is all right as far as it goes even if Mr. Ryan were guilty as charged, for it is still under the written and understood guarantee, entitled to a release. This paper is not the judge nor the jury in the matter; but if wrong has been done by any official or against him, we propose to the best of our ability and the extent of our information to enact the role of public prosecutor. This much by way of denial of our contemporary's foolish insinuation regarding the News. This paper is not "engaged in pre-campaign work," has no "deep-rooted" or other kind of hostility toward the Liberal or any other political party, and each a thing as "cussedness" is as unknown to its nature and disposition as to its vocabulary.

The Tribune, in its role of counsel for the defense in this case, proceeds to stand as an attack upon the Liberal party a mere statement regarding Mr. Ryan by a man whose word stands good till he is shown to be unworthy of belief. Are we to understand that Ryan and that organization are so thoroughly interwoven that one is the other, or rather that the other is one? Or can it be that he is all that is left of that once doughty but now doubtful combination? And if such should not be the case, does it follow that the party spoken of is so vulnerable and sensitive that a personal charge against its members or any one of them reboundsing upon itself and must be repelled for its safety? Why, this attitude of our neighbor says more against its party than the News is disposed to do even if it has the materials to work with on hand in abundance!

As to the charge that this paper has been for some time past a vehicle of more or less sensational and vindictive charges against city officials, we can truthfully say that it has not intentionally been sensational nor in any case vindictive. We aim to get the news and generally do get it in excellent season and publish events or discoveries as nearly correct as it is possible to care and investigation to make them. In doing this, no doubt that bloodhounding, talk creating condition described as a "sensation" is sometimes produced, but this is attributable to the matter rather than to the manner—to the facts themselves, not to the matter thereof. If the publication of what goes on at the City Hall or elsewhere constitutes a sensation, who is properly answerable for it—the causer the vehicle through which it reaches the public? We positively disavow any intention of cultivating notoriety or causing our paper to be in demand by any such methods.

We agree with the Tribune that if the charges are true that men who draw pay from the city have been earning that pay by working on a private farm, those who are guilty should be sent to the penitentiary. We also subscribe to the proposition that if not true, those who make the charge, or any false charge under oath, might to be sent there. But this is far from justifying the mighty leap to the jubilatory conclusion that the charges are false. We note a simple statement by Mr. Ryan to the effect that the charge is false; but we also note the sworn statement of Mr. Duncan that it is true. The latter is a man of apparent intelligence, manly bearing and circumspect of purpose. Undoubtedly he knows the consequences of willfully forswearing himself, and it is principally this risk which the one who takes an oath incurs that gives it its value above other statements to which no penalty is attached. We submit the presumption that the signer of an affidavit be deemed as swearing to the truth till by other sworn evidence he is overborne.

Since it pleases us to be able to agree with even a fault-finder whenever we can consistently do so, we will state further that the time for more talking would seem to be ended, and that an appeal to the courts is of course the thing in order.

GERMANY'S GRAND OLD MAN.

The more the civilized world outside of Germany knows of Prince Bismarck and his really great capabilities even in advanced age, the more must it be disposed to look upon his political decapitation as an opprobrious humiliation to him and a dangerous experiment for the country. That he may have become rusty, and grumpy, and even presumptuous, is likely; and in his moods he may have been a rather hard official to get along with. But did one ever know a man who was always as serene as the first blush of a June morning—never insulted, never "out of sorts" and never displaying even a little of that perverseness which we use and all have inherited—that was really good for much else? He would represent a combination of negative qualities, while Bismarck is as positive as the attraction of gravitation.

The inner life of the man, while not perhaps free from repinings, is on the whole an excellent one and in places resplendent with an act of genuine philanthropy and even tenderness, showing that his heart is in the right place if the exterior is rougher and more rugged than is attractive. A short time since he received a non-political deputation of boys from the Hamburg Wilhelm gymnasium and gave the young fellows some good advice as to the manner in which they should utilize their time at the university, and then spoke of his love for music. He said: "I used to play formerly, but I was only a moderate hand at the piano, and was glad when I could give it up, as it irked me to have to practice. Afterwards I was extremely sorry I did give it up, for music is a faithful companion in life. I missed it at many a party, and I recommend all of you who have any talent for music to cultivate it, and take a warning from me so that you need not reproach yourselves with the mistake I have made."

Evidently Bismarck is not one of those who fall under the opprobrium of having no music in their souls. But his soul is greater and grander than merely being the abode of harmony it has own words are a correct exposition of his principles—and as the Divinity of the beyond why should they not be? On the same creation we rule—"If you trust in God and yourself you can dare almost every obstacle! Do not fear to venture anxiously! One must not always be asking what may happen to one in life, but one must advance fearlessly and resolutely." Worldly wisdom unfitted to reverence and devotion—without such qualities who could be truly great? With them, and patriotism and courage, who could be otherwise?

WHY WE FAILED.

The caption placed by the New York World last Sunday over a collection of opinions gathered from all sections of the country, and occupying ten large columns of small type in that great newspaper. It is a pleasure to observe that there is no Utah report in the collection—the reason for which will be sufficiently evident from the second heading: "The Men who have been Crushed in the Financial Struggle Tell the World what Crushed Them." There are no such men in Utah. A few may have been pinched a little, but crushed—none!

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