

of what was never a general practice among the Mormons. Such ludicrous misstatements as the [Atlanta] Constitution make out not to be unchallenged.

We are curious, naturally, as to what the national house of representatives will do in Mr. Roberts' case. Under the Constitution it is the sole judge of the election and qualification of members; and we do not think the country would go to ruin if the new member from Utah were allowed to serve his term through. A polygamist delegate, from Utah Territory, sat in the House for eight years, and the country survived. And during Mr. Cannon's incumbency as delegate, the sentiment against Mormonism in general, and the outcry about polygamy in particular were far more violent than now, when all men who care to understand the situation, know there is nothing left of plural marriage in Utah except a rare case, here and there, where the marriage occurred when they were sanctioned by the local law and by the Church. The Mormons, as a body, have abandoned polygamy, in good faith. Such is the uniform testimony of those who are objectively familiar with the subject.

The Springfield Republican takes this conservative view:

Mr. Roberts' side is worth hearing. He admits that he has more than one wife, but the plurality of his marital relations originated before polygamy was prohibited by law. "The settlement of that question," he now says, "after years of strife and heartache, left upon men moral obligations from which no decrees of the Church could release them and no act of the State absolve them." He means, of course, that after having promised certain women to cherish and support them before the world as his wives he could not honorably desert them thereafter. Besides, says Mr. Roberts, no law is being violated. "The demand of the American people," as expressed in the Utah enabling act, went no further than this: That perfect tolerance of religious sentiment shall be secured, provided that polygamous or plural marriages are forever prohibited. In his opinion, future polygamous marriages were prohibited, while those already existent were not interfered with.

Mr. Roberts' interpretation of the law may not be correct. However that may be, it is highly probable that he is not a willful violator of law, but simply an outspoken, honest man, who finds it difficult to readjust himself to the new conditions forced upon Utah by the righteous blows struck at the practice of polygamy. Reared in the Mormon religion, which approved of the polygamist idea, he contracted plural marriage whose obligations he has refused to repudiate, owing, he claims, to what he considered his duty toward the women he had married. It is well known that men of his stamp are numerous among the older members of the Mormon Church. New plural marriages are no longer contracted by them, if we are to believe the defenders of the faith, yet those already existing at the time of the revolution in Utah are still in many cases undisturbed.

Under such circumstances the question to be considered by the opponents of polygamy is not so much the moral principle involved in plural marriages as the practical effects of making an issue of Mr. Roberts' right to a seat in Congress. Polygamy in Utah will not survive for long in the face of hostile laws; the real struggle is over. Hasn't the time now come when toleration for such cases as that of Mr. Roberts may be wisely practiced? Human nature must be given some leeway. No one had the right to expect that all the marital relations of polygamist Mormons could be suddenly sundered by an act of Congress any more than one could reasonably have hoped that conferring freedom upon millions of blacks would raise them at once in the social and political scale.

The Utah people may safely be left to settle this question themselves. In the recent election both the Republican and Democratic candidates for Congress were Mormons and polygamy was not a paramount issue. The defeated Republican candidate says that he shall make no contest for Mr. Roberts' seat, and if any contest is made it must be by a Populist who polled but 2,000 out of a total of 65,000 votes.

Although Hobson took on a \$6,000 contract for a magazine he refused a \$50,000 lecture offer. He had to draw the line somewhere and apparently did not do it too soon.

TO OUR READERS.

The publishers of the "Deseret News" has thought best to discontinue the weekly edition of the journal after the present number, which is the last of the volume, and the announcement is hereby made to our readers. It was issued for the purpose of preserving in a condensed form a record of the daily events as chronicled from day to day, but the circulation has not justified the additional expense of publication.

Those who have paid in advance for the Weekly will receive the Semi-Weekly until their subscription expires. Thereafter we hope they will forward to us their orders for the Semi-Weekly or Daily News.

THE COMMON DRINKING CUP.

The use of a common drinking cup for school children has long been suspected as a means of communicating contagious diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, the mumps, measles, chicken pox and various ailments of the eye. To remedy this a drinking fountain has been invented by a citizen of Rochester, N. Y., which, if brought into common use would do away with the use of drinking cups in public places. It consists, according to an item in the Scientific American, of a marble pedestal about 3½ feet high, capped with a funnel-shaped basin 12 inches in diameter. Upon applying pressure to a lever at the base of the basin a jet of water shoots up from the center of the basin and into the mouth when held over it. With a little practice one's thirst may be abundantly satisfied without the intervention of a drinking vessel of any kind. The jet is arranged so as not to spatter. This device admits of no contact of the lips with the jet pipe or any other portion of the apparatus, the water flowing from the supply pipe through the jet directly into the mouth, and all waste into the bowl, where it immediately flows off by an escape pipe. None is allowed to accumulate. If it is to be used by small children, wooden steps at one side enable even the smallest child to obtain an adequate supply of water to slake his thirst.

No doubt this device, if adopted in the schools, would be the means of preventing the spread of much disease, but in the meantime it would seem practical for each child to carry with it a little drinking cup of its own and use only that during school hours. A suggestion to that effect by superintendents of schools would be carried out immediately.

CONTEMPIBLE PRACTICES.

The plan adopted by certain principals of the schools of this city to aid the election of their preferred candidates in the contest today, is that of the heelers and toughs of the great cities of the country. It is a plan that has been worked here before, but to do justice to those who have practiced it here and elsewhere, their operations have generally been confined to political campaigns rather than to school elections. A fine picture, truly! Those who are in charge of the tuition and early guidance of the rising generation plunging into the political pool like so many swashbucklers obeying the

behests of a huge boss and actually in this contemptible business out-heroding Herod! And it is not the first time the same practice with perhaps a different application has been engaged in, either, as is now partly shown by what is slowly arising to the surface of affairs.

The whole matter, to be plain, without being criminal is inexcusable to the very verge of criminality, involving as it does phases of both extortion and corruption. An assessment of three dollars per capita was levied upon each of the teachers for the purpose of creating a fund to be used for promoting the election of certain candidates, we are told. One of those assessed had the manliness to withstand the imposition and was threatened with decapitation the suggestion being made that all who refused to "stand in" would fall under the displeasure of the "gang." It must have been an effective proceeding, for the campaign, seems to have been going to the satisfaction of those who conceived and engineered it.

The "News" is not sorely concerned as to the personnel of the school trusteeship so long as they are qualified and honest, which it has no doubt all of the candidates are. It does seriously object, however, to such means being employed to elect any one as those referred to or any others as bad. An election of the kind going on today should of all things be free from even the suspicion of wrong-doing, and this one is not free from it; and the worst part of it is, the unsavory work of those who of all men should keep their hands clean.

IRRIGATION PAYS.

The Farmer and Dairyman calls attention to the fact that fruit grown by irrigation is always the highest priced in the market, because the flavor is more natural and the juice more abundant. This has been proved, it is said, at the sales of eastern and western fruit on the Denver market, where the latter always is preferred. The irrigated peaches, pears, apples, strawberries and grapes always look better, taste better, and sell quicker. The irrigated fruits never lack for moisture. When the buds are swelling the orchardist puts on the water, which is absorbed by the growing trees. As the blossoms come forth sufficient water is applied to assist the tree in forming good fruit. When the foliage indicates drouth additional water is given, and throughout the entire growing and ripening season, man has control of his fruit's destiny. The results are perfect specimens, natural flavor and plenty of juices. Insects do not disturb the thrifty, well irrigated and properly pruned tree, the foliage is luxuriant and when harvest comes the yield is prolific. Irrigation is the handmaid of orchard and vineyard prosperity.

What is true of the products of the orchard is equally true of agricultural products, and thus the extra labor required in localities where farmers and gardeners must irrigate the soil in order to secure a crop, is not without adequate compensation.

The school election is going along quietly, as such elections should go. We are promised some noise after the result is disclosed, but that will depend somewhat on other things.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland will marry Prince William of Weid, Prussia—eighteen months hence, if during that time his behavior shall be good.

It is stated that it costs \$30 to get married in the Philippines. This is one of the very first things to be reformed,