DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 3, 1899.

GIVE US A UTAH MAN.

The board of education has moved at last in the matter of selection a superintendent of schools for this city. It ought to have been disposed of long ago, and would have been if there had been a disposition among the majority of the men who constitute the board to comply, even in a little degree, with the wishes of the people, as the resident of Utah for the position.

That there are men in the State fully equipped and thoroughly qualified to fill the place is a fact generally recognized. But there are some persons who are determined to block the way. If possible, not every Utah born and bred applicant, and even of men from other places who have made Utah their permanent home. They form a small minority of the population and it is a plain proposition that the will of the many should not be stifled by the vote of the few.

The board has decided to place the matter in the hands of a subcommittee of three, who will have all the applications and papers bearing on the matter under consideration. A meeting is to be held, not later than March 1, when selections are to be made from the whole list of applicants, and they are to be invited to meet with the board on or before April 10. That looks well enough on its face. But there is something behind.

The intention is clearly manifested to throw the doors open to general competition. For while the resolution adopted yields to the force of public opinion, that the superintendent should be a Utah man, to the extent of stating that "Other things being equal he should be from our own neighborhood, or from the western or middle western states," it slides down on this easy grade to the end that "The whole country is not too large, nor are the successful and available school superintendents in it so numerous, as to cause us to hesitate to lay it all under tribute to our needs."

This and the further assertion that "we reserve to ourselves the widest liberty of choice," show which way the wind is blowing. Nevertheless, our Utah educators who are familiar with the system established in this city and its needs, who know the country and the people, and who are adapted by training and experience to the position now vacant, should present their claims and recommendations, and thus give the committee and the board no reasonable excuse for going outside the State for a superintendent of city schools.

We join with the board of education in the sentiment that we should secure the services of one whose "experience in superintending schools of some magnitude should be sufficient to give reasonable assurance of success in the position for which we seek" but we also unite with the majority of our people, in the conviction that Utah can furnish just as suitable a person for the position, all things considered, as can be obtained from any other part of the United States.

RESERVOIRS AND TAXATION.

Senator Wright's measure to free reservoirs from taxation seems to be a just measure, viewed in the light of the property of relief of any such works from taxation. If irrigating canals should be exempt from that burden, we see no reason why reservoirs, erected for similar purposes and conveying similar public benefits, should not receive similar relief. Every individual or corporate enterprise for purely private profit or advantage, should contribute its proper quota to the general and local revenue. But public concerns of the character named, which are known to be for the public benefit and not for private speculation, should be encouraged and nothing ought to be placed in the way of their success. Increase of the water supply, and improvement in its distribution, are crying needs in this community. This should be promoted in every proper way, and the benefits resulting will be felt in the enlarged area brought under cultivation, for which the public revenues will be materially increased. Multiply the reservoirs and encourage their builders.

THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY

In the discussion of the project of the Nicaragua canal, reference has often been made to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. This is the name of an agreement entered into by the United States and Great Britain in 1850 by which the two powers were pledged to respect the neutrality of the proposed canal through Central America. East Gulf represented England in the negotiations at the time, and he is often leaning upon as the originator of cordial relations between the United States and Great Britain.

According to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, England has signed certain rights to the canal, but at present there are many signs that no operation will be offered to the undertaking of the enterprise by the United States. The treaty may be modified in the interests of both countries.

The necessity of shortening the water route from the Atlantic to the Pacific is recognized in both hemispheres, and it is hoped that the benefits would be mutual. Harmony on this important question, therefore, will no doubt be reached and the canal will soon be a maritime and commercial accomplishment.

A GOOD POINT GAINED.

Gomez, the Cuban chief, has displayed as much good judgment in peace as he exhibited courage and skill in war. His influence is to be thrown in favor of pacification and the protection of Americans resident in Cuba. He recognizes his hard country and his all in the present unsettled state of affairs entitle him to prominent recognition, and this government will do well to place him in a position where he can accomplish good for the Cubans and report the policy determined upon by the United States.

Gomez is no commonplace man. He is a patriot and a soldier, and he believes he will prove to be a statesman if and a peacemaker should the latter term be in popular scene. It is of great importance that the Cubans who have been in the field fighting for liberty against their Spanish oppressors, shall not misunderstand the aims of their deliverers, and that they shall not stand in the way of stable and suitable government upon their native isle. Gomez, more than all other men there, can help to quell any disturbances that may arise, very much greater than any other, and in retiring the Cuban troops from the armed field to peaceable pursuits. It is a great point gained to have the friendship and co-operation of such a man as Gomez.

CUBA AND ANNEXATION.

As has been expected, the question of annexing Cuba to the United States comes to the front as one of the chief questions which the inhabitants of the island are called on to decide. It is brought prominently forward now by the action of the committee of Spanish residents in Havana. This body claims that at least 200,000 Spaniards are in Cuba, and who intend to continue as residents of the island, are emphatically in favor of annexation to the United States, and that of the 200,000 Cubans a majority would be found to hold the same view if a vote were taken this month. It is further said that the only considerable opposition to annexation will come from the negro population.

The question thus raised is not one to be settled alone by the residents in Cuba, although their wish would go a long way in affecting the result. If the Cuban people do not want annexation, that probably will discourage the matter against it; but if they wish to be a part of this nation, then the other party to the proposed compact must be consulted. Previous to the outbreak of the war, President McKinley and his most trusted advisers became thoroughly acquainted with the island, and ascertained what, must be considered at the time as a hasty and ill-advised effort to have this government recognize the independence of the Cuban revolutionists. His attitude at that time also may be interpreted as favorable to annexation, if the inhabitants of the island should desire it. The policy of the administration was to leave the future of Cuba to the people themselves, the expression of their will to be taken when the dismay of war had passed, and calm judgment could prevail.

Independence has been a bright dream for many Cubans for years past, but that was under the oppression of Spanish rule. Now that the burdensome yoke has been removed, there are new features to be considered. Practical questions present themselves in a light where they could not be fully viewed before. It is now seen that to maintain citizens a new government would not have the resources, and therefore not the prosperity of that that would attend an American administration; while the people could enjoy no greater liberty. Besides, a free republic might be much more stable both from within and without. Then it is true, the same territory when attached to a more powerful nation that gives a satisfactory guarantee of freedom and peace.

These are some of the points that are being brought forward now, and when they are discussed, the Cuban people should have full and free opportunity to give expression to their wishes. To do this, it would be necessary for the nation to divide space, at least Cuba cannot be disposed of. It is for us to ask when the people there have what they want and tell it plainly.

LECTURES ON CHURCH HISTORY

A lecture course on topics of Church history is about to be instituted by the Latter-day Saints College. The first lecture is to be given this Friday evening, by Elder B. H. Roberts, who will treat on Succession in the Priesthood. Other lectures will follow, to be delivered by Elders Angus M. Cannon, Karl G. Maeser, C. W. Penrose and other well known speakers. The Tabernacle ward meeting house has been secured for the lectures, as more than a large attendance may be accommodated.

The course of lectures of an event of so much importance, which some have attempted to make, will be interested in the history of the church, of which they are members, and can obtain information from no other source, on account of the misrepresentations and misconstruction put so prevalent in the world. Our Elders in the mission field are frequently confronted with these statements and are called upon to explain them. The Elders should therefore avail themselves of every opportunity to gather authentic historical information, so that will render their work easier in the missionary field. Besides a knowledge of Church history is what essential to a correct appreciation of doctrine, many of the lectures now on record being given with special reference to the doctrines which are the distinctive feature of the Church of the latter-day saints. Church history also further the only key to numerous mysteries in the Doctrine and Covenants. We therefore commend this project, prose to the Saints generally and to the young Elders in particular.

COMMENTS ON ROBERTS.

The Lansing, Michigan, State Republican contains the following report of a discourse on that place delivered on Sunday morning by Rev. H. B. Ward. It is remarkable for the unbiased representation of the case and the understanding of the situation displayed by the speaker, on very rare among gentiles of the class:

It is hard for people to look at this question fairly, on account of the prejudices. We are a people with prejudices, and we have a Mormon question. Utah is a Mormon State. We all come with more or less prejudice, to regard this question. Because Mormons are Mormons, we have adopted canons so you can put aside your prejudices and forget your sectarian affiliations. Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist or Universalist, and be just and fair. Let us discuss it calmly with common sense and reason, let us look at the facts of the question.

Utah is a State of America. Utah was admitted to the full privileges of sisthood, on equal terms with all other States of the union. The citizens of Utah citizens of the United States just as the residents of Michigan are. The people of Utah are citizens of Utah, and citizens of the United States, and are entitled to offer under the same conditions as of any other state. There are no exceptions or conditions in regard to citizenship for the Mormons. Declared by President Harrison, and Congress, who had to deal with these under exclusion. During the last fall's campaign Brigham H. Roberts was duly nominated and elected to a seat in the House of Representatives at Washington. He is a citizen of Utah, and a citizen of the United States. The manner of this election was as fair as one can judge, therefore he was entitled to the authority large enough, so he represent would not consent his election. These are the facts in the case. Mr. Roberts is declared elected the churches from far and near from the city that he must not be allowed to take his seat. He is to be tempted so by the powers and the press has gathered into great proportions. The question is, shall Mr. Roberts be entitled to his seat? Shall he be allowed to take his place? Some contended that he is a citizen of the United States entitled to it; that he is elected and is a citizen and that as a citizen he has a perfectly legal right to his seat.

Let us consider some of the reasons urged why Mr. Roberts should not be seated.

It is urged that he must not be seated because he is a Mormon. But has he not a perfect right to be a Mormon? Is it a crime to be a Mormon? Is it a crime to be a Universalist or Presbyterian? Is it a crime to be a Congregationalist? This is a free country and there are no questions asked of a man who is a citizen of the United States. Is it a crime to be a good citizen must be either a Methodist or a Universalist. He can be a Mormon if he chooses. Does not the constitutional provision of this government in that man shall be allowed to worship God after the dictates of their own conscience without any restrictions from the state whatsoever. In the light of this provision Mr. Roberts has as much right to worship God through the medium of Mormonism as I through that of Methodism.

Again, it is urged that he should not be seated because the Mormons are trying to spread their religious teaching beyond the limits of their own state, and the teaching of Mormons will give the more strength to an idea. But the Mormon has just as much right to try to convert me to his religion as I have to try and convert me. Mormons have as much right to spread their faith as the Methodist, Presbyterian or Universalist churches.

Again, it is urged that Mr. Roberts must not be allowed to take his seat because he is a polygamist, but these three, so far as I know Mr. Roberts does not deny this, but even beside that he has not been a party to, and these will still take his seat. In this I believe the people had their real objection. It seems to be the general feeling, not only among people that the government could do, but that the government could do and ought to do some of the legislative branches of our government are made up of men who are a polygamist. In this the people are moved to deep and sacred convictions. It is revolting to think of such a thing as this being before the people of the country. A bad example, indeed. I appreciate this feeling and sympathize with it. But I believe there is another view to this. Why has Mr. Roberts been driven? Because his brethren, a religious system, who so fear and moved to him, so fear to you—but would him to take there to our religion has taught us to take sides.

But it is urged that polygamy has been abolished. Yes, it has been, and when it came to prohibit any more plural marriages it has not attempted to take away the privilege of those who had the privilege of this law. And even with this law in force Mr. Roberts would be entitled to be those who were married so he easily abrogated and not able. If he had taken them before the law was abolished, and, in accordance with his religious teaching and belief, the passage of this law abolished the legal obligation to those before his God. He has no more to answer to those than you or I have, and he is the first one wife.

But it is urged that Utah by permitting plural marriages since has violated her compact, and so Mr. Roberts should not be allowed to take his seat. This is a serious charge. I believe the only way in which this has been urged against Utah is in the matter of polygamy. If this be true, the privileges of statehood should be withdrawn, and that would be a serious calamity to Utah. The people of Utah are not responsible for the laws of colonization. This is what should be investigated by Congress. Utah is a Mormon State, and the Mormons—not a "Mormonite" seeking to spread its teachings—and Mr. Roberts represents the people of Utah. Shall they not be allow plural marriages? If, the first then she deserves no time, but if the second, then she has not violated the settlement under a State. But will it be proven that Utah has violated her compact? Utah is a State of Mormons who are not. Utah's citizens stand before the world as the Mormon Mormons or Utah is, and are as eligible to offer as any other lawful citizen of the United States.

Then, I have said, be the same of all principles, however complicated this Mormon question may be, as the Utah citizens to be seated, and not only citizens of the United States, but as Utah elected as a citizen, he is just and perfect right to be allowed to take his seat in the House of Representatives at Washington.

Fifteen or twenty years ago in the temperate air of Denver. They built soon enough to form and raise the foundations at the shrine of the golden god.

The board of education is rather slow but still get there in end by. Mills probably would claim not to be filled in the people or a year after the date of his appointment.

An attempt is being made to get out the coal and crushed rock under one five of the Capitol. It would appear that not much due is left now for the trusts to get a grip on.

The extinguishing of the fires in the Diamond coal mines is causing some work for the company and for the public. Work is to start up again there, next Monday. We congratulate.

The present convention throughout the State is reasonable, profitable, and all that. But a little enthusiasm and warmth to follow close is just as reasonable, and so many people would be equally enjoyable. It will come.

All the Cuban insurgents appear to have been hugged by a New York syndicate. It is to cover now for the capitalists who failed in the competition to say "the game was not worth the per-loss."

A morning contemporary, baffled and defeated, now has recourse to blasphemous and imbecile scolding. That is natural and excludes relief. But how can Latter-day Saints in any way support a paper that does not even show decent respect for the name of the Deity?

The Americans, cousin of Joanna, Greece, has died at Indianapolis, he was taken two weeks ago. This will be another case for exploration by the Philadelphia doctors, who agreed that Thayer was so well dissected by Andrew that it was not a nervous case.

Gen. Shafter says the army department did not give him a vote of thanks for securing the release of Lieut. Holman. How much more does the party general want than the credit given him for capturing Santiago, which included all the business directly connected with the army's victory there?

Utah sympathizes with Colorado and Wyoming in the losses caused by the blizzard there, and is thankful that the big storm landed in those valleys so gently as to cause practically no loss, while the snow was yet so abundant as to be of great value to the agricultural interests of the state.

Commissioner Kerns, who has been in Samoa, and paid an extended visit to the Philippines, says of the situation there is not as serious as reported in the newspapers, and by all odds is much better than if Aguinaldo were to be left in control. That seems to be the unanimous opinion of those who get a close view of the situation.

A coal mine is a valuable adjunct to a railway, when it is properly situated. But the Kansas and San Francisco found to close proximity very unprofitable yesterday, when six hundred feet of its track went down six feet as a train was passing over a coal mine under the roadbed, a serious accident being narrowly averted.

We are told that the American-Canadian high joint commission is about to agree to cede a portion of Alaska to Great Britain, as the latter can have an open waterway to the Klondike. It may be set down that if there is any concession from present American claims, it will be when Britain clearly proves her right thereto. America is not giving away any territory just now, as would be found on an attempt to ratify such cession as is alleged.

RATIFY THE TREATY.

[Chicago Times-Herald.]

Where, then, does the Senate find ground, justification or encouragement for the idea that the ratification of our state of war with Spain? Not in reason. Not in patriotism. Not in the will of the people. It can only be in a selfish and wicked disregard of the public welfare and the price of our republican government. The honor of the United States is going in arguments which justify the repudiation of an obligation fairly and honorably made on the Eric lands of the ballot box.

[Spokane Review.]

Indeed, there has been opposition to every expansion movement of this nation. The constitutionists would have held the flag at the Mississippi; they opposed the acquisition of Louisiana, of Texas, of California and of Oregon. In the opposition to Oregon every argument was advanced that is now brought against the acquisition of the Philippines. But these arguments were finally swept aside, the United States established its sovereignty over the Oregon country, subsequently states were created, and the latest and greatest of the sisterhood of states was made the home of a prosperous, enlightened and patriotic people. Who expects that historic record will repeat itself now? Who in all this land would surrender one foot of American territory?

U. S. CONSULAR SERVICE.

[Philadelphia Times.]

Mr. Adams reported to the House last session from the committee on foreign affairs a bill for the reorganization of the consular service that ought to become law. We do not know whether it could be carried through the Senate at this time, but it would be wise to pass it. It is the House and this at least to put the subject before the Senate for consideration. The Adams proposition is in accordance with the resolutions of all bodies which have attention to the commercial relations of this country so to the absolute necessity of an organized corps of trained consular officers. Nothing while the United States has had little intervention in the way of trade with the outside world, it has cared politicians and other incompetent persons, attempt of a consul's position. Our commercial men abroad become there was no place for them at home, did no great harm, except somewhat to injure their employers, but if this country is to become in any sense a world-power, it must be differently.

[New Orleans Times-Democrat.]

Here is a commercial from a foreign or in business experience and long observation. Albert E. Yates, formerly of Chicago, now of Havana (Cuba), has been a member of the consular corps. Yates gives an interview which has caused worry of Havana (Cuba) and the departments of state and which was in part as follows:

"The American consul, as a rule, is the sort of man to cultivate the acquaintance of business men in his district. If a man is a large war of business is willing to work out at all times to assist his country. Yates, if he is not, he has not all the essential facts likely to be useful to the traders engaged in the particular description of goods used. Then again, when he sees anything to change of importance he does not wait for a month to be made the information, in a comparatively lengthy report. He writes out the statement concerning the matter promptly, perhaps even the same night, as was the case in one instance that came under my observation, catches the last mail, it is published in Washington, and the trade of the country and is entitled all over the United States, with no longer interval from the time the information was received than would be taken by many of our consuls in preparing the report. I quite admit that the foolish reports may be more exactly correct in some respects, which is only to be expected as the result of much greater deliberation, but in these days of telephones and telegraphs and steam and wireless communication is almost everything, and an idiot cannot should be almost as smart as a journalist."

Z. C. M. I. Spring Opening Sale

NOW ON, OF

NEW AND ELEGANT WASH GOODS.

36-inches wide Sea Island Percales, perfectly lovely goods of excellent quality and sure to give satisfaction in this Sale, per yard, only 11c

36-inches wide Percales, dark, handsome shades, elegant patterns, specially suitable for Wrappers, in this Sale at the exceedingly low price of per yard, only 8½c

36-inches wide Fine Percales fading 8 yards for $1. These goods come in dress lengths and are in very desirable patterns and colors. Ladies should not fail to examine this stock. Remember the low price, per yard, only 12½c

36-inches wide Merrimack Gingham for their fine hundring qualities—come in fine dark wrapper shades, and in this Sale are less than New York prices. We are offering them, per yard, for only 12½c

36-inches wide Madras Cambric—a special Waist material—elegant stylish goods, come in stripes, the delicate shades beautifully blended, in this Sale, per yard, only 12½c

Standard Prints, a very fine line that sell regularly at 4 1-2 cents per yard, will go in this Sale at half price, that is 12 yards for 36 cents, being, per yard 4½c

Yard wide dyed Cambrics, the best Wash Goods that can be purchased, durable and fashionable, in this Sale, per yard, only 12½c

32-inches wide Olympia Cloth, in reds, electrics, and navies, perfectly lovely goods, at bargains that are a splendid catch, being in this Sale, 12 yards for $1, or, per yard, only 8½c

Yard wide "N. B." Percales, choice patterns, excellent dress goods, sure to please, cut down in this Sale at 12 yards for $1, per yard only 8½c

La Reine, 32-inches wide dress goods that give general satisfaction. We have a choice stock of this high standard material, which is offered in this Sale at, per yard, only 10c

SPRING OUTING FLANNELS. We have just received an immense stock of Spring Outing Flannels, specially purchased for our Annual Sale.

14 YARDS FOR $1.00.

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The office of the Utah Sugar Company has been removed from the Home Fire Insurance Company's building at 20 Main Street to the Deseret News building, corner of Main and South Temple streets.

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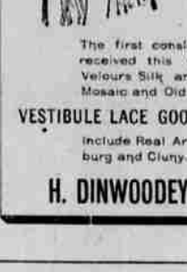

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