

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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TITHING SCRIP.

Attempts have been made recently to cast discredit upon the tithing department of the Church, and falsehoods in reference to it have found an appropriate place. The Salt Lake Tribune has published several communications on the subject. It has been thus stated that contractors and others who desired to take advantage of their employees, have taken cash to the Bishop's office and purchased tithing orders at a discount, paying them out to their workmen at par and thus making a profit out of the wages of working people. The "News" has already denounced these statements as entirely false.

Everybody connected with the Presiding Bishop's office in this city declares, that the scrip known as tithing orders has never been sold to any one in that way. There is not any foundation whatever for the stories thus published. They were devised in malice and printed in spite. No such transactions have occurred. Gentlemen supposed to be hinted at in those communications have denied the charges, and the response has been, simply, ridicule of their protests and a repetition of the accusations, without giving the names of the persons alleged to have been engaged in that kind of business.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints receives as the tithes of its members, such products or articles of merchandise or manufacture as they tender. Payment is made of tithing "in kind." If a farmer raises grain, he gives the tenth of his increase. A manufacturer pays tithing with his fabrics, a dealer with his wares, a wage earner with a tenth of that which he receives.

In disbursing these varied articles to persons working for the Church, to the poor, the indigent and afflicted, for convenience sake a kind of scrip is issued, which passes current at the storehouses of the Church. It is the only way in which this extensive business can be successfully transacted. It is paid out at its face value and accepted in the same way. It calls for such provisions as may be on hand at the storehouses. The goods obtainable in this way are received and paid out as nearly as possible at their market value. Every person who receives them whether for wages or for alms, understands what they are and what they are for. No advantage is taken of anyone in their disbursement or their redemption.

If any person receiving this scrip chooses to sell it for cash, that is his own affair and nobody's business but his own and that of the person who buys it. Such dealings, however, are not carried on or countenanced by the Church or its authorities. But it cannot be prevented. It is not unlawful, and may sometimes be considered absolutely necessary by those who make such sales.

The question is asked by an anonymous writer to the paper that publishes such things, why payment is not made entirely in cash so as to do away with the scrip business. The reason is obvious to every person acquainted with the circumstances which we have briefly described. If everybody paid tithing in money, cash only would be disbursed for wages and for charity from the tithing offices. As it is, the system in vogue is necessary and of vast benefit to all parties concerned. The only difficulty with most of those persons who receive the scrip is that they cannot get enough of it. The provisions which are purchasable with it are such as they would have to obtain if they had cash to buy them with. And there is no complaint, usually, with them. Let those who are not concerned mind their own business.

As a rule it would be better in commercial circles if the scrip and retail order business could be entirely abolished, but there are circumstances which even in those circles render them necessary. The purchase of such paper at a discount by employees and paying them out to workmen at par, cannot be too strongly condemned. That is taking advantage of labor for the advantage of capital. Buying scrip at a discount also and tendering it in lieu of cash for tithing, is a species of sharp practice that shows a seared conscience and is displeasing to God and honest men.

These attacks which are made from time to time, in various ways, upon the Church and its authorities, are straws that show which way the anti-"Mormon" wind is blowing, and they indicate the sentiment actuating some people, that while the Church is to be debarrued from interfering in secular affairs, those objectors have a strong desire to interfere with and dictate the affairs of the Church. They will not succeed. And their meddling will gain them neither profit nor favor among sensible men and women of any party or creed.

## WHEREIN IT WAS "UNTRUE."

The Deseret News has published some of the comments of the eastern press on the intemperate attack made, by Mr. Landis of Indiana, upon the "Mormon" people in particular, and the State of Utah in general, during the debate on the question of exclusion or expulsion in the Roberts case. The paper in this city which has furnished that gentleman and other anti-"Mormons" with batches of slander, says:

"The 'News' is very savage in its attack on Congressman Landis of Indiana."

The Deseret News has not said anything against Mr. Landis, personally, nor reviewed his trade with half the sharpness and severity of the criticisms made by eastern journals. But we are requested to show wherein any of the charges made by Mr. Landis are untrue. We will therefore quote a few remarks from the official report of his remarks in the Congressional Record:

"I claim and shall contend that Mr. Brigham B. Roberts is not entitled to a seat on the floor of this House and should be stopped at your threshold, because he has violated the condition predicated upon which Utah was admitted into the American Union."

That statement is untrue, as anybody may demonstrate for himself by reading "the condition predicated," as it appears in the Enabling Act and adopted in the State Constitution. Mr. Landis said further of Utah:

"Ah, Mr. Speaker, that star is a false star; it does not shine with the brilliancy and luster of its sister stars. Its glitter is that of cunning and deceit, of treachery and fraud. It stands for crime and for a violation of the most solemn covenant ever made between a Territory and the Union."

"The time seems to have been considered peculiarly appropriate, and the circumstances in every way favorable for the dominant element in Utah to drag forth their cherished institution, and ask this government to dignify it and give it national sanction."

"It came by stealth, sir, it came by stealth, but it will be hurled back boldly and in the open day by the righteous indignation of the American people."

All those statements which we have quoted and which the Tribune approves and defends, are grossly untrue. Further on in his speech, Mr. Landis made this charge:

"The Danites, as pitiless a band of cutthroats as ever handled the glittering steel, carried on their murderous work of the Church, and the missionary, battled on the blood of apostasy, but the missionary worked on; the government practically withdrew from that valley of signs and tears, admitting its inability to cope with a monster so thoroughly entrenched amidst those mountains, but the missionary, with a courage that now seems sublime and a fidelity that to this day is an inspiration, battled on in the fear of God and for the love of humanity."

If that is not a repetition of "the stuff which years ago was poured forth from anti-Mormon sources, coupled with the old vituperation," what is it? Is it not "misinformation?" Were not all the alleged facts repeated in the gentleman's speech furnished him by emissaries from this city, with which the paper here which now defends him is in sympathy? But he went on further to say, in reference to the Republican candidate for Congress in opposition to Mr. Roberts:

"Anna Eldredge was nominated as a Republican, presumably upon the St. Louis platform representing, as our friends on the other side would say, 'vast aggregations of consolidated wealth.' Mr. Eldredge was a not a polygamist, but Mr. Eldredge was a Danite. Mr. Eldredge was a blood-thirster. Mr. Eldredge had murdered his man as a member of that infamous instrument of the Church for the extermination of apostasy, was indicted, arraigned, tried, and escaped conviction simply because the witness against him had in the meantime been killed."

We have already denounced this assault upon Mr. Eldredge as a libelous outrage for which there is no excuse. Coming from a member of his own party too, it is all the more indefensible, for it has not even the apology of partisanship to support it. Not only is it false as regards Mr. Eldredge, but also as to the Church of which he is a member, which was the real object of attack, in the flood of abuse that poured from the lips of the member from Indiana. After repeating several meases of scandal culled from the columns of our local contemporary which admires him so much, he said:

"In the face of all the facts here decided, it surely cannot be said that the people of Utah have kept faith with the people of the nation."

Does not that sound exactly like an echo from the pages of the Salt Lake Tribune? No wonder that paper can say nothing but eulogy of his harangue. Here is another sentence or two of the same kind and from the same source; he speaks of,

"Those women in Utah who by brutal blows have been forced to believe that their celestial exaltation will be in proportion as they choke down the instinctive attributes of refined womanhood and minister to the rotten and depraved notions of a corrupt and lustful priesthood."

One more passage from this rhodomontade will be enough:

"We should stop the gentleman from Utah at your threshold, turn him back because he and his people have violated the condition predicated upon which Utah was admitted into the American Union. Turn him back alone? No; but turn Utah back. He is a mere incident in this discussion. This will not be a rebuke alone to him, but to the people who sent him here, the people who in January, 1896, solemnly lied to the greatest nation on earth."

We think these quotations are sufficient to show that charges were made by Mr. Landis that are positively untrue and uncalculated for. Also that he was supplied with his misinformation from anti-"Mormon" sources emanating from this city. The gentleman may believe them. That, however, does not make them true. The endorsement given them by our contemporary here adds nothing to their reliability. It only serves to show that it is still in the old business of defaming the "Mormon" people, and exhibits the same hand which, every now and then, is engaged in hurling vile missiles at a Church and a people as far above its level as the sun-lit firmament is above the pools of earthly corruption.

## SENSIBLE HEALTH AUTHORITIES

From the Kansas City Star it is learned that a few smallpox cases exist in that place, but what is of more interest to Salt Lake City is the fact, that the health authorities there are doing all in their power to keep down excitement and to fight the disease with rational means. They do not proclaim a case of chicken pox, or of varioloid, confluent smallpox in order to find an excuse for compulsory whole-sale vaccination.

Dr. Coffin, city physician of Kansas City, in a recent interview with a Star representative, said there was a great deal of needless alarm over the contagion. Then he continued:

"This is not smallpox, as people used to know it, but is a mild form brought about by several causes. The negroes who are afflicted and now live at St. George's hospital take the matter in a very good spirit for they realize themselves that they are in little danger of losing their lives. An old negro woman said: 'I ain't scared. Dis ain't no smallpox, only de Cuban itch.' While this may not be true, it must be remembered that what we now call smallpox is simply a remnant or modified form of the disease and has none of the deadly features of what was called smallpox years ago."

The physician explained that there had been about 200 cases in the city in four months. But the disease is so mild that those who are afflicted often do not realize what is the matter with them.

The doctor, of course, believes in vaccination, but he points out that when the disease has reached the pustular stage, vaccination does not prevent its spread.

What the board of health is doing is also told by the Star. When a case of smallpox is heard of, guards are sent out to surround the house, and then a physician is sent for to examine the case. People thus quarantined are fed and cared for by the city. When patients are sent to the hospital their bedding, mattresses, pillows, quilts and blankets are taken with them and all the furnishings of the room are destroyed by fire. Sulphur and formaldehyde is used in fumigating the apartments and they are quarantined from eighteen to twenty-one days. The hospital patients are not discharged until they have been given a bath in chloride and then taken into a fumigated room and supplied with new clothing, paid for by the city.

But notwithstanding these precautions and expenses, the health authorities do not hope to eradicate the evil until the beginning of April, when warm weather sets in.

The Kansas City health authorities are particularly anxious to remove the impression that there is danger of an epidemic. Dr. Coffin says:

"It is a mistake to speak of an epidemic of smallpox. There is no epidemic. It is better and more truthful to say simply that smallpox prevails. The proportion of the disease to the population is very small and compares more than favorably with other cities of the west. The old time smallpox is practically eradicated in this entire country. What we have now is a very mild form of the disease."

We believe this can be said of the few cases that have appeared in this city. There is no epidemic, and there is no cause for a panic.

## REBELLION ENDED.

The staff correspondent of the Chicago Record, a few days ago, telegraphed his paper, to the effect that the war in the Philippines is over; that there is nothing further to be surrendered, but that there always is danger of a conflict between the American troops and some of the natives.

We are reminded of this statement by the Manila dispatch announcing that a scouting party of the Twenty-fifth infantry while operating near Subig, was ambushed with the result that a number of lives were lost, and several men wounded. Affairs of this kind may be looked for, just as lynchings and assassinations may be expected in certain parts of this country. They are the natural consequences of a long period of war and lawlessness.

But the correspondent of the Record suggests that a speedy declaration of policy by Congress would greatly lessen the danger of future conflicts. The time is ripe, he thinks, for a conciliatory policy, many of the Filipinos only waiting for the announcement of the terms which Congress undoubtedly is willing to grant.

It would seem that it should not be so difficult to agree on a Philippine policy. All will admit that the United States must assume full control of the archipelago, just as it has done over Cuba. How long such control is to last must depend on circumstances. In the Philippines, as in Cuba, a time must come when under American principles of government the will of the people must be heard, and when that time comes, there is no doubt that a popular expression of opinion would be in favor of identification with the Union. After due enlightenment and experience, the Filipinos undoubtedly would feel that their safety, their industrial and commercial interests would be best served in a union with the country that gave them American liberty.

## SENTIMENT IN ENGLAND.

The opening of the British Parliament has taken place, and it is evident from the proceedings already reported that there will be a lively exchange of opinions on the present situation.

In the Queen's speech the African war is characterized as an effort to resist the invasion of Natal, by "the South African Republic and the Orange Free State." Grief is expressed on account of the sacrifices the war has made necessary, but gratification is felt at the valor of the troops and the loyalty of the colonies.

The Liberal leader in the House of Lords, Kimberley, undoubtedly spoke for his party, when he expressed the belief that, although foreign governments were friendly, it was necessary to prepare for possible dangers so as to be ready to surmount them. He criticized the government for not being well posted on the extent to which the Transvaal was equipped for this conflict. The reply by Lord Rossbery was in the nature of a rebuke, but he agreed with the premier that the country can

carry the war through, and that it will be done, no matter at what sacrifice.

It is evident from the tone of the debate that there is no difference of opinion as to the necessity of conquering the South African republics, although opinions about the wisdom of the government are divided. It is fortunate that the Parliament opened before the fall of Ladysmith and the surrender of General White for the announcement of that catastrophe would certainly have added fuel to the flame.

The Liberal leader in the House of Commons, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, also declared his intention of supporting the government policy of prosecuting the war to a finish, but he denounced the policy that brought the armed conflict upon the country.

All are confident that England must win. It may take a much longer time, though, than is expected even now. Russia was compelled to carry on military operations in the Caucasus for twenty-five years before that region was quieted. An enemy that merely defends himself in mountain fastnesses and avoids pitched battles in the open field is not easily subdued.

The Boer shell-factory has been blown up; but the trap-mill seems to be working right along.

Americans are learning that Filipinos can lay traps, too; and another of these has been sprung to the serious injury of an American scouting party.

"It looks like war," says a dispatch from Frankfort, Ky., this afternoon. Certainly it does, unless there is a sudden change in the progress of events there.

The story of a hundred counterfeit \$5 pieces at Boise, Idaho, will cause people here to be on the alert for a time so as not to be imposed on by any of the "shiners" that may come this way.

When Dr. Jamison reflects on his attempt at one time to conquer the Transvaal with a few hundred raiders, he must feel thankful to Providence that he was not at that time adjudged insane and confined to a lunatic asylum for life.

Kentucky's governor has adjourned the legislature for a week, and called it to meet in the southeastern part of the State, nearly 200 miles from the capital. This change may have a soothing effect on the situation, which could not be allowed to drift, as it was getting worse.

The speeches in Parliament thus far have been both annoying and discouraging to the British public, who assert that quarreling over failure is the uppermost feature, when it was supposed that union for the integrity of the empire and the triumph of British arms would be the prevailing policy.

Ladysmith is not yet taken by the Boers, and not likely to be for some time, judging by the plucky message received from Gen. Buller, which is about as cheering as anything that has yet come to British ears. Gen. Buller would be fully justified in another effort to relieve the heroic defenders of Ladysmith.

One affliction that has to be borne by Britain in the latter's failure to wage a successful aggressive campaign in South Africa, is the load of impracticable advice and egotistical criticism from assumed military writers, whose knowledge of actual conditions in South Africa is quite as limited as their suggestions are profuse.

The situation of the people of Guantanamo, Cuba, is an illustration of the advantage accruing from American administration in the island. When Gen. Wood went there in 1898, water was scarce and was sold in the streets from house to house. Now an ample supply is given on the American plan in each house, and from a modern system of waterworks.

A congressional committee has concluded that United States in the national Constitution, means only the States in the Union, and not the territory over which the United States have jurisdiction. By this rule a man residing in New Mexico, for instance, or possibly in the District of Columbia, is not a resident of the United States, yet is one of United States territory. Such strange things do come in legal definitions once in a while.

Martial law was not proclaimed in Kentucky this morning, as had been expected by some, but the State capital is provided with a military force which ought to keep matters in order till the time of excitement is past. In the face of the atrocious crime perpetrated Tuesday morning, the leaders of all parties should be sufficiently impressed by the serious character of the situation to proceed without undue anger and excitement, and let the trouble settle within the control of the civil law.

Such an "open" January as the present month is without parallel in the history of Utah since the Pioneers came. The effect of the failure of snow until such time as the frosts are not severe enough to retain it in the mountains for irrigation purposes is causing much uneasiness among agriculturists; while the "dry" farmers are also being worried by the present outlook. Certainly the prospect of a good water supply in the West the coming summer is not over-encouraging.

## SHELDON'S NEWSPAPER.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Rev. Charles M. Sheldon's proposed experiment of editing the Topeka Daily Capital for one week on the general plan of "What Would Jesus Do?" is regarded with curiosity by the newspaper world in general. Such experiments—the temporary assumption of any business by men not trained to the work—commonly end in actual failure. But this scheme, probably, like the famous "women's editions," will reap revenue for the beneficiaries whether they be the owners of the paper or Mr. Sheldon, a pet philanthropist. At all events, it will be interesting to know what a man who has made so close and conspicuous a study of the actual living of the precepts of Christ as Mr. Sheldon has undoubtedly done, can make of the news of the day.

Topeka Capital.

As to the results from the object lesson which this Sheldon edition will afford, we would not venture a prediction. They are sure to be many, they may be revolutionary. A world that is reading millions of copies of "In His Steps" every year and even now taking

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# Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Supt

them by the thousand every day from scores of presses before the ink can dry on their pages, may be a world that is waiting for a daily paper modeled after that remarkable book. If it is the world will get what the world wants.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mr. Sheldon has clearly outlined his views of what constitutes an ideal newspaper, and let it be a newspaper at all! The mirror he would hold up to the world's doings is narrow and circumscribed, and the light of truth that falls upon it is passed through doctored lenses. Perhaps, however, the energetic moralist will understand the responsibility to the great reading public better when he comes face to face with his new duties. Perhaps he will appreciate the fact that if he would do the greatest good to the greatest number, he must make a paper that will circulate. And if, instead of chasing ideal journalistic butterflies he will buckle down and make the Capital better in every department, news, editorial, advertising and all, he will show he is a reformer of the practical kind, and not a narrow minded experimenter, dominated by a shallow and impracticable idea.

Wilkesbarre Union-Leader.

Possibly the novelty of the scheme and the knowledge that after six days the paper will revert to its present methods of conduct will save it from disaster, or even suffering, from a business standpoint, and no doubt there will be an increase of circulation, as there will be a great deal of curiosity to know what a newspaper run on Mr. Sheldon's plan will be like. But were it a permanent transfer of management and method it is altogether likely that it would make an entirely different kind of history. The people are not quite ready for so radical a departure in journalism. The time for it may come during the twentieth century.

Denver Post.

A daily paper at Topeka is to be turned over to a preacher for a week to enable him to demonstrate his idea of what a religious daily should be. If he meets with but a small percentage of the worry and bother which falls to the lot of the worldly editor his Christianity will go flickering up the flame before the week is half spent.

Omaha World-Herald.

Rev. Charles M. Sheldon hesitated about allowing "In His Steps" to be dramatized, fearing that the actors and actresses presenting it would not be Christians. He will now manage a newspaper for a week. Is he as anxious about the telegraph operators, country correspondents, employees of press associations, reporters, desk men, printers, stereotypers, pressmen, newsboys, news agents, express messengers, mail agents, postmasters and deputies as he was about the theatrical profession? We fear Brother Sheldon is overworking his press notice department.

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