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**A GREAT GATHERING.**

If our legislators have had any doubt as to the real attitude of the dominant party on the prohibition question, the mass meeting in the Theater last night must have removed every vestige of it. There can be no doubt any longer that the party, if the majority rules, stands for state-wide prohibition. There can be no doubt that that is what the party demands of the present Legislature.

And in this the sentiment of the party is the sentiment of the majority of the people of the State. Members of all parties and churches and especially the women who are wives and mothers, are united on this one great issue. The enthusiasm in evidence at the Theater last night meant that behind that gathering, which will become historic, stood not only a party but a people united in defense against unappealable evils.

The meeting was, first of all, a magnificent demonstration for prohibition. But, it was also a notice that the people of Utah are not slaves of party leadership, but that they demand of their political leaders to do what is right, and that, only so far as they lead in the paths of righteousness, can they command the rank and file. It should not be necessary in Utah to hold mass meetings in order to make this clear. The people here expect their leaders to teach correct principles by word and example. They expect to exercise the prerogative of governing themselves and this was the sense of that magnificent gathering of citizens, if enthusiastic applause and emphatic protests against every attempt at usurpation prove anything.

Some telling speeches were heard at that gathering. The opening address of Hon. Neph Morris was, from every point of view, masterly. It was clear, logical, forceful, to the point and straight forward. It was easily one of the best oratorical efforts heard in this city for a long time. Dr. Short was hardly as entertaining as he usually is, though when denouncing the evils of the liquor traffic which he did with unmistakable earnestness, he carried the audience with him. At times he did not succeed in making it entirely clear whether he was for prohibition or some other method of dealing with the drink evil, but there was no room for doubt as to his position against any alliance with iniquity. Mrs. Shepherd, Hon. George A. Smith, Hyrum M. Smith and Judge Agee of Ogden made excellent addresses.

Now, what are our legislators going to do? The people have spoken. The Republican party has spoken. No party deal with the liquor interests binds any of the representatives of the people to an unrighteous bargain. They are free to act. What are they going to do? The people are asking for prohibition, not for an "equally good" substitute. There is still ample time to pass a good, conservative prohibition law that will do away with the liquor traffic. We trust the people will not ask in vain.

**RETURN OF THE FLEET.**

The American battleships returned home on Washington's birthday, after a glorious cruise around the globe. Our officers and sailors were fêted and feasted in the ports at which they touched, in South America, in California, in Australia, Japan and China. They had an opportunity of rendering efficient aid to the survivors of the earthquake stricken coasts of the Messina straits. Everywhere they delivered a message of good will, of friendship, of world-brotherhood. It was, from every point of view, the most remarkable voyage ever performed within historic times.

And the ships return in the best of condition. Critics have said that modern naval war engines are not suited for their purpose. This is the answer. The ships returned after their circumnavigation of the earth in perfect trim, without having met with the slightest disaster. They return with the production of an Atlantic liner, giving an ocular demonstration of the seaworthiness of the vessels, the ability of the commanders, the manliness of the crews, and the efficiency of the whole service. What can the muck-rakers say to that?

The United States navy has returned from a mission of peace and good will. It has done its work without molesting anyone. May the expressions of friendship exchanged on this remarkable voyage never be forgotten, and may the country never have occasion to send its ships out upon any other errand than one of peace and humanity!

**GOES TOO FAR.**

Senate bill No. 21, "An act to punish life convicts for committing assaults on others by means of force or otherwise," has passed both houses of the Legislature and now goes to the Governor.

In our humble opinion the bill goes entirely too far. It provides that "Every convict undergoing a life sentence in the State Prison of the State of Utah, who, with malice aforethought commits an assault upon the person of any other person, or who, by means of force, or by administering any poisonous or deleterious substance, which will likely

produce great bodily injury, shall upon conviction, be punishable with death."

The object of the bill is a good one. The protection of the warden, the guards, and other persons from assaults by the desperate criminals serving life sentences, is of course highly necessary; but this bill is vague on even the life of a condemned person.

What kind of assault is it that will "likely produce great bodily injury?" That word "likely" and the term "bodily injury"—just what do they mean? These expressions to different persons may mean almost anything. They should be replaced by others of definite import.

Instead of the words "great bodily injury," the word "death" should be substituted. The words "or upon any person whomsoever" should be eliminated. The words "by means of force or by any kind" are too wide and might easily be understood to mean some trivial instrument not at all likely to cause death.

As the bill now stands, if two prisoners engage in an altercation and one strikes the other with a broomstick or a mop-rag he must be put to death. If it is proved the act was committed "with malice aforethought." Yet this last strict-sounding phrase does not relieve the situation at all, since malice aforethought in law means only intention to commit the act. It does not mean in law what it signifies in the popular sense. To the average man, this phrase is usually construed to mean "with intent to kill;" but it means in law only "with intent to strike" or to do the particular act complained of.

At all events, to hang the life of even a condemned criminal, serving his sentence upon so slender a chance as the wording of this bill would give is certainly to extend the death penalty so that it will include so many kinds of trivial offenses that judges and juries will be sorely puzzled to find out any kind of assaults by life convicts to which the death penalty as prescribed by this bill does not apply.

**OUR TRIBUTE TO MARS.**

The pension bill appropriating \$180,000,000 for the benefit of the war veterans has been passed by Congress. For the maintenance of the army \$105,000,000 is asked for, and for the navy, \$137,000,000, making a total annual outlay for the military expenses of this country of \$469,000,000. That is a considerable sacrifice on the altar of Mars by a nation whose mission in the world is one of peace.

But unless there is a return to first principles, the annual expenses for military purposes are likely to increase. Instead of diminishing, the pension roll will decrease as the veterans, one by one, fall in the battle with the dual enemy, but the expenses for the army and navy will go on increasing. In 1900 the total expenditure for the army was \$46,000,000. During the military operations in the Philippines, it rose to \$108,000,000, but in 1902 there was a reduction to \$90,000,000. In 1904 and 1905 this expenditure was only \$62,000,000. The estimated cost of the army for the coming year is nearly the cost during the Philippine troubles. And the cost of the navy is sure to follow a similar increase.

In order to realize more fully the enormity of our war expenditures they should be compared to those of the great military nations of the world. The net cost of the British army and navy is \$365,000,000. The annual expenditure of Germany for army and navy is \$285,000,000. France spends \$253,000,000. Japan spends only about \$40,000,000 a year on her navy, and her army expenses were, before the war, less than \$25,000,000. During the war Japan spent \$500,000,000 from October, 1903, to May, 1905, on the army, and \$90,000,000 on the navy. The fact is, then, that we spend in times of peace about as much as Japan spent during a costly war, for war purposes. And yet the United States is a peaceful nation. We fear no attacks, because our policy is not to meddle in the affairs of others. We have no plans of aggression, and no designs upon foreign territory. Why should we need to spend more than any other nation on our military establishments?

It is true that a large portion of this money goes to the old veterans to whose self-sacrificing patriotism the Nation owes its existence, and this is very proper. What little the soldiers get in their old age is but an inadequate expression of the gratitude of a great nation. But, even with this left out of consideration, the army and navy expenses of this country exceed those of most other nations that have a reputation for warlike propensities.

**THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.**

At the close of the year 1907, there is about thirteen months ago—Utah had one liquor dealer for every 300 of population. Her estimated population at that time was 240,000, and the number of her liquor dealers, ascertained from the internal revenue report, was 1,124—these being thus classified: retailers 84, wholesale dealers 21, brewers 5, malt retailers 42, malt wholesalers 13. At that date, the commonwealth which most closely paralleled Utah's population was the great key-stone state of Pennsylvania, where for each dealer there were 217 of population. In the rest of forty-six states which with Alaska, Arizona, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Indian Territory, and New Mexico make up the fifty-two commonwealths known as the United States of America, the general average of population to one liquor dealer is 211. Utah is thus slightly better than the general average—indeed she and Pennsylvania are exactly half way down the column, which is really in-parkable in its range, and furnishes material for some startling comparisons. For example, our neighbor Nevada, which has had to endure more than its share of trouble on various occasions and on various grounds, is able to show from these figures that she is not the only thing that thrives there. She stands pre-eminent, unrivaled and secure in the honor "best" state, the paradise of liquor-dealers for the services of one sa-

loonist are required, or at least his support is maintained, by every 36 of her people. At the extreme other end of the list is Mississippi, where it takes 2,112 people to keep one liquor dealer busy. North and South Carolina stand next best in this respect, for with them one dealer is sufficient for about 1,700 of population, suggesting that there is just now more truth than poetry in the famous remark frequently quoted as having passed between their old-time governors. The western record is bravely kept up by Montana with 111, California with 123 and Arizona with 133 population respectively to one dealer. Utah supports more saloons in proportion to population than Hawaii even and nearly twice as many as Indian Territory, so that, while she is far from being the most blinding, she is no less distant from the other and the wretched extreme.

Of course the foregoing figures are susceptible of some alteration during the year which has elapsed since they were compiled. It is not to be hoped, however, that they will show much change for the better in the states where the liquor traffic has not been interfered with by legislation. No one looks, for instance, for much reduction in Utah's proportion; for if population has increased, it is all too likely that saloons have increased likewise.

For the year ending June 30, 1907, the fifty-two states and territories of the Union consumed over one hundred and forty million gallons of spirits, over one billion eight hundred million dollars of malt liquors, and nearly sixty million gallons of wines—a total of about two billion twenty million gallons. Just how much of this enormous amount was handed out by Utah's eleven hundred dealers, and swallowed by Utah's 260,000 cannot with anything like accuracy be told. But if there is anybody who does not agree that Utah's share, whatever it was, was much too large for the state's or the individual's good, he will please stand up and be counted.

Lord dressing off proclaims the self-made man.

The anti-prohibitionists are in a tight place.

The roll of wealth beats the roll of fame, honor or ocean.

Every man is as good as his word; but the trouble is with the word.

Their trial for killing Senator Carmack will cost the Coppers a "barrel."

A colony may assert and establish its independence but a husband is not a colony.

Sometimes a man simply wants justice to examine it and see what it looks like.

Dress making parlors in the "stockade" mean, of course, keeping shop for countenance.

Perhaps the best piece of legislation enacted at the present session of Congress is the bill for the final disposition of the Brownsville case.

President Eliot thinks it is absurd to carry the multiplication table beyond twelve. Every school boy thinks it is absurd to carry it that far.

"There's no place like home." The Atlantic fleet experienced the worst weather of its world-enduring voyage after it arrived in the home port.

If the Japophobes had not lost their heads the congratulations from Japan on the safe arrival of the Atlantic fleet would be coals of fire upon their heads.

President-elect Taft is catching up with his correspondence. It must be an unusually swift postman who is carrying it or he would have overtaken it long ago.

Mrs. Russell Sage has sacrificed a house to have a tree. She should be made an honorary member of the commission for the preservation of natural resources.

A Columbia professor says that street car straps are literally loaded with microbes. They must hang on somewhere and where else can they hang in a crowded car?

It doubtless would be a much better world if everybody had charity towards all and malice towards none, but it would be such a strange one that none would feel at home.

At Berlin President Roosevelt will address the students of the university in German at the Sorbonne he will talk to them in French; at Oxford he will speak in reformed spelling.

"Congress can so revise the tariff as to take \$2 or \$3 a year off the shoe bill of the average American family," says the Chicago Tribune. But that will scarcely be the sole aim of Congress at the extra session.

Mrs. Ellen Peck, aged seventy-nine years, of Spark Hill, N. Y., has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for obtaining money under false pretenses. She certainly is old enough to know better.

"State wide prohibition bill favored by large convention. Tag rule applied by the promoters. Calm and noncommittal is made that anybody who disagrees with convention leaders cannot speak. Consequently it was most harmonious. Speeches of 'Prohibition or nothing,' which please liquor interests of the State, rules strongly at the meeting and all goes well as a rule and dry Program can accomplish," says the Inter-Mountain Republican. Well, is not that scarce for the game, which is scarce for the gambler?

**ROOSEVELT IN EUROPE.**

Los Angeles Times.

There is no occasion for surprise that the King and Queen of Italy are to meet Theodore Roosevelt when he lands in Italian soil, and that citizenship is to be conferred on him while in that country. Whatever our city in Europe the President may visit, he will there meet a warm welcome, in-

deed, his standing in the eyes of people and rulers in Europe is on quite as high a plane as in his own country. More might be said. There is some division of opinion here about the strictness of executive duty. There is none over there. The people in almost all parts of Europe think him the greatest executive living. The exception is (or was) Germany, where they were accustomed to give the Kaiser the first place and Mr. Roosevelt second. Among the common people there is no limit set to the estimation in which the American President is held. Indeed, it is remarkable how high the names of three American stand with the common people of Europe. Franklin, Lincoln and Roosevelt are popular idols. If a vote were taken of all the countries as our three greatest men, the majority would name these three Americans.

**THE DIRECT PRIMARY.**

The Argonaut.

The Schurman of Cornell says that his only objection to the direct primary is that it will not do the things that are claimed for it. On the contrary, it does their opposite. So far from improving the quality of the public service, it "discourages independent and self-respecting men" from entering it. So far from attaching the adventurer, it gives heart of grace to the demagogue, the self-advertiser, and the reckless and unscrupulous soldier of fortune. We are reminded of a well-known jurist who was asked if he would rather be tried upon a criminal charge before a judge and a jury or before a judge without a jury. He replied that if he were guilty he would insist upon a jury, but that if he were innocent he would prefer the judge only. That is the attitude of the candidate for public honor. If he is a political mountebank he would rather appeal to the credulous audience that can always be moved by mountebank tricks, by oratorical fireworks, a reckless prodigality with money, and sensational movements. Upon the other hand, if he has real graces of head and heart, a genuine capacity, and a genuine character, he would rather appeal to a selected body of men who can appreciate these things and discount everything else. The part of the voter is to see that the convention is made up of men qualified to judge the gentleness from the false. If the voter sends bad men to the party convention, he will send bad men to the Senate or anywhere else.

**JUST FOR FUN.**

Victim's Consent.

Doctor (to patient)—Your case is a very serious one, sir, and I think a consultation had better be held.

Patient (for sick in case, for anything)—Very well, doctor, has as many accomplishments as you like.—Spare Moments.

Excessive Caution.

"You seem to have a mania for running your motor car backward."

"Yes," answered Mr. Chuggins. "Only I can't make it up. It's an idea of my own to prevent bicycle policemen from following me without my seeing them."—Washington Star.

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