DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 4, 1900.

TOMORROW'S ELECTION.

Candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education have been nominated in the several municipal wards. Non-partisan conventions have been held and the names presented are those that will come legitimately before the voters for their ballots tomorrow. Of course, anybody may be voted for. Every registered citizen has the right to cast a ballot for the candidate of his own choice, whether regularly presented or not. The names of the nominees of the conventions are these: Frank Branting from the First municipal ward; Arnold G. Gauque from the Second; Oscar W. Hoyle Third; Joseph Geoghegan Fourth; W. A. Nelden Fifth.

The nominations were made by acclamation in all the conventions but the Fourth, and there two candidates are in the field. There are also two in the First. In the latter, a petition has been circulated and signed by some persons not residents of that municipal ward, although it purports to be from "resident taxpayers," of that ward. Nomination by petition or without any formality will answer the purpose of its promoters, so far as they can gain votes. We offer no objection to the method although it is irregular, except that some persons have signed it avowedly to down the "Mormons." But we desire to see fair play and therefore protest against the manner in which the fight in the First is being conducted.

In the first place we voice the sentiments of the great body of residents in that precinct, in denouncing the attempt of the present members from that ward to put the same indignity on the people as was inflicted at the previous school election. They have insisted that one polling place was enough for that precinct, when it was well known that at least three were necessary to accommodate the voters. And when they found that another was inevitable, selections were made at the utmost extremes of the precinct. One in the northeast corner, the other in the southwest corner, leaving the central parts unprovided for. A third was agreed upon by the board, and it is to be in the annex of the Tenth ward meeting house.

This is one of the grievances that has caused so much dissatisfaction in that precinct, leading to the new nomination that has been made. The incumbents seem desirous of obstructing the voters and favoring their own projects. The body of the people there, also, resent the anti-"Mormon" spirit that has been fostered, and the falsehoods that have been circulated to prejudice non-"Mormon" residents there. If any prominent member of the "Mormon" Church, acting purely as a citizen, takes part in a movement for the nomination or election of a candidate, the cry of "Church influence" is raised; it is announced that religion is being dragged into politics. The very men that raise the objection are mighty glad to avail themselves of that "influence" if it can be gained for their side, in any conflict that occurs.

The story told in the Salt Lake Herald, for the purpose of fanning the flame of this prejudice, is utterly and totally false. It is stated and repeated in that paper, that at the Mutual Improvement meeting on Sunday evening in the Second ward, "slips" were distributed after the close, bearing the inscription: "Vote for Frank Branting for member of the board of education from the First precinct." We are informed by a number of gentlemen who were present, that the only "slips" then distributed, were those announcing a prize of $20 to the Sunday school having the most students in Evan Stephens' Sunday school singing class, by Christmas, 1900. These were circulated in all the wards.

Further, we are informed that no such a ticket or slip has been printed by any friend or friends of the candidate. No one can be found who will say he has seen such a ticket, except the representative of the Herald, whose imagination has run away with his vision and his discretion. Nor was any ticket relating to the nomination or election of the candidate distributed in the meeting on Sunday evening, nor anything else except the circular we have mentioned.

But, supposing some zealous supporter of Frank Branting had done all that is claimed. What then? Is the "Mormon" Church to be charged with the awful offence? Certainly, on the logic of the anti-"Mormon" agitators. Any sectarian religionist, in town or country, may work in politics on Sunday or week day, and it is considered quite legitimate. But let an active "Mormon" engage in a similar task, and the air is rent with cries of horror, and the prejudices of non-"Mormons" are worked upon, and the screws are applied and the lash is wielded, until weak people are terrorized and made to believe that something awful is going to happen if they in any way support a "Mormon" candidate for any office.

It is time that the citizens of Salt Lake City freed themselves from this attempt at that domination. We say again this "Mormon" and non-"Mormon" distinction in our public affairs does not originate in this Church. It comes from its enemies. We are well aware of their determination to prevent, if possible, any other control than theirs in our public affairs. Their secret councils and conclaves are not conceived up as closely as they imagine. We do not want to see the division which they strive under cover to promote take place in this city or this State. If it should come it would not be to their profit, they may rest assured.

But we, and a host of people here, are tired of this everlasting din about the Church doing this or that, whenever plans do not succeed according to the will of its enemies. And the people should show by their acts, and their votes too, that they are not to be intimidated by these calumnies and false accusations. Every citizen has equal rights with other citizens, and should not be suppressed in the expression of his sentiments and wishes because he is a member of a Church which it is the fashion to accuse of undue influence in secular affairs.

Let every member of that Church who has been at all swayed by these constant calumies cast off his fear of them and feel entirely free to act with his friends for the public good, perfectly indifferent as to what the calumniators and howlers may think or say. Do what is right, let the consequence follow." Every registered voter should go to the polls tomorrow, and support the candidates who will work for the general good and give Utah talent a fair chance at competition with improved ability, no matter what may be the applicants' politics or creed.

PORTO RICAN ASSEMBLY.

On the third day of this month the legislative assembly of Porto Rico met. And the event is memorable in the history of that island, as being the first since its union with this country. Its deliberations will be followed with a great deal of interest in this country. Naturally the new conditions make it necessary for the representatives assembled to pay attention to many things that need adjustment, and the future of the island will depend greatly on their statesmanship and patriotism.

The only congressional legislation for the island, recommended by President McKinley, in his message, is for the disposition of lands formerly belonging to the Spanish crown and now being government property. All other matters are left to the representatives of the people, and even on this question they can, of course, by valuable suggestions, exercise much influence.

The problems before the assembly are chiefly of an educational and industrial nature. The people need schools of a modern pattern, in which the principles of citizenship can be instilled into the minds of the rising generation. They need lessons in industry, that the resources of the country may be developed, and not lie dormant for want of enterprise and intelligently directed labor. They need a moral education by which the family relations will become more firmly established, and they need safeguards for that liberty of thought, speech and worship which is theirs under the American flag, but the beneficial exercise of which presupposes the predominance of the very highest virtues and qualities of human nature.

There is a great deal of work before the Porto Rican legislators in these directions, and the progress of their labors will therefore be watched with keen interest. The transformation of the island from a Spanish dependency to a free country has commenced well and made rapid progress. There is no reason to doubt that it will be continued to the benefit of the people most directly interested.

ARGUMENTS FOR MILITARISM.

One of the best arguments ever advanced in favor of a large standing army is this, that to be well equipped for war is the best means of preserving peace. This is the argument that has prevailed in the great European continental powers, until their peace armies have become a more heavy burden than an occasional great war would have been, entailing the sacrifice of life.

The same argument is now being advanced in this country. It is contended that if the United States had had a large army, Spain would never have dared to break the peace with this country. The idea prevailed in Spain that our military resources consisted of no more than 25,000 poorly trained soldiers, scattered over a vast area in the different military forts or stations, and that we would not be equal to the task of crossing arms with their 200,000 soldiers on Cuban soil. Spain did not believe we meant to fight, and particularly not on short notice. And therefore the controversy was permitted to drift beyond diplomatic control. If we had had a large army, there would have been no war, it is said.

This reasoning is, at first sight, plausible, but the question naturally arises, How large a military establishment does this country need, if the object is to keep all other countries in awe of our power? Would 100,000 men be enough? Or half a million? Germany and France have followed that line of policy for thirty years, until they are both at the limit of their power to make sacrifices for military purposes. The result in those two countries does not furnish a good precedent for a nation that values the freedom of its citizens.

But further, is it true that large armies prevent wars? The two South African republics, relying on the righteousness of their cause and the trusty rifle of their patriotic citizens, did not hesitate to take the field against the most powerful empire of the world. And more remarkable still, the Chinese boxers, encouraged, it seems, by the government, threw down the gauntlet to the combined armies of the world. In neither case was the magnitude of the military forces of the opponents a preservative of the peace. Turkey slaughtered her Armenian subjects at the very threshold of European military civilization, and Greece endeavored to fight Turkey, not counting the fearful odds against her. Switzerland has a tremendous military establishment for a country of its size, but no sooner ago Germany broadly hinted at the necessity of wiping the little republic from the map, because certain political agitators found refuge there. It is not the army, but the mountain fastnesses and public opinion in Europe that constitute the safeguards of peace so far as Switzerland is concerned.

The agitation for the introduction into this country of European militarism, if it is not merely an effort for the creation of numerous positions for promising young men, it is an anachronism. Europe has inherited its present systems from previous conditions so different from ours, that there is no point of comparison. Ours is a country destined to lead in the universal procession toward the final triumph of the industries, the arts, the commerce, and all that is useful and beautiful. The incorporation into its institutions of foreign militarism with all its attendant evils, would be a disaster to that progress, and to the entire world.

BUSINESS OF CONGRESS.

The Boston Herald, commenting on the coming re-apportionment of the House of Representatives, calls attention to the fact that even if the House is increased in size, the only difference would be that there would be that many more Representatives to vote and to ask for the privilege of speaking, but that it would make no perceptible difference in the real transaction of business.

And this reminds one that the important committees of that body really transact the business. The debates are generally arranged by the committees, and as a rule have no influence whatever upon the votes. Everything is prearranged. Says the Boston Herald:

"Thus the national House of Representatives is not the body that it once was, and is, indeed, very much a different body from the corresponding House in the State legislatures. It will be remembered that Speaker Reed stated, some time since, that it had ceased to be a debating body. The member who goes there thinking that he is to be heard at his will on behalf of his constituents soon realizes his mistake. He is allowed to make a set speech, at a time to be arranged by others, which may or may not be listened to, the chances being in favor of the latter. He can sometimes achieve an early reputation, but this is seldom. The Littlefields who appear in that body are few. For the most part he must be content, unless he is a man of exceptional ability, to wait and work up to a position of importance which can carry him into the inner House. There are several Republicans who have attained this position by the force of talent of late years; the Democrats who have done so are few. But Mr. Reed's position as regard debating is true. The ordinary debater, if he rises at all, must do it after years of trial, unless some unforeseen luck favors him. There are many more blanks than prizes in this lottery. The debater who figures with some importance at home in his State legislature is apt to be lost in the national legislature. Whether the national House of Representatives is increased or otherwise in members, the inner body there is the body that controls its business, and the chances are that long service will be necessary to procure admission into it."

China wants peace. America and Europe want reparation.

Emperor William didn't even say to Mr. Kruger, "I'll see you later."

Congress, like Christmas, comes but once a year, therefore let's be jolly.

The older the government grows the longer the presidential messages get.

When it comes to grand canals, Venice won't be in it with Nicaragua.

It is doubtful if President McKinley could ever become a short story writer.

Chicago's stock show isn't nearly so recherche an affair as New York's horse show was.

The era of expansion is upon us. Even the reports of the members of the cabinet have expanded.

All the registered citizens should go to the polls tomorrow and vote for the men of their choice.

The mayor has vetoed the bicycle ordinance. A veto is at times as handy as a pocket in a shirt.

It begins to look as though the concert of the powers at Pekin had become a go-as-you-please affair.

If half the charges made against the Guardian Trust company be but true, it has been anything but a guardian angel.

Chaperons are good in their places. Sometimes the trouble is that they are too anxious to take the places of the chaperoned.

French soldiers going to the relief of beleaguered German troops is one of the strange results of the anomalous situation in China.

The patchwork bike ordinance having been properly vetoed, let the law stand, and bicycles run where they will do no harm.

Patriotism alone would not have impelled any one to wade through the presidential message. Only curiosity and dogged persistence could have done it.

When Congress opened, the desks of the Speaker and of members of the House were covered with flowers. This would indicate that they are a blooming lot.

The London Standard says that the United States has "acted as a drag on European diplomacy." Fortunately it has refused to join in the drag net policy.

That telegram from San Francisco, in which President Canned is represented to have discussed the senatorial situation in Utah and indicated the preference of the "Mormons," sounds very "fishy" and has all the earmarks of an assinine canard.

The century is fast drawing to a close, and many are making close-of-the-century wishes. Andrew Carnegie, in a lecture on "Philanthropy" the other day related this: "I read the other day in a periodical this question: 'What evil would you wish abolished at the end of the century?' I took my pencil and wrote this answer: 'That the killing of men by men, under the guise of war and the profession of arms, now most honorable, should become most dishonorable.'" It is a most honorable wish, one that should find an echo in the hearts of all civilized and Christian peoples.

The English press is highly delighted over Emperor William's refusal to receive Kruger, and thinks that England is thereby placed under obligations to Germany. If this is the opinion in England what will it be in Germany? If any obligation has been incurred the kaiser may be relied upon to demand its fulfillment.

The Walker commission has unanimously recommended the Nicaragua route. This recommendation can scarcely fail to have a marked influence upon the fortunes of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and a favorable one. The beginning of the canal's construction will be the most interesting event in its history until its completion is announced.

Sunday, in Vigan, island of Luzon, twenty-two hundred natives took the oath of allegiance to the United States. Gen. Young attributes their action to the re-election of President McKinley and the arrival of a stronger body of troops. This is almost Cromwellian. "Trust in God—and keep your powder dry," said the great protector to his soldiers.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

Springfield Republican.

Britain's dilemma is serious. If a foe will not yield, even when prostrate, shall he be exterminated? The tendency under such circumstances is always toward the harshest measures, and it is no surprise, perhaps, that the dogged persistence of the Boers in fighting for their nationality should have brought their conquerors perilously near to a barbarous level of warfare. If the Boers continue unyielding, the British can solve the problem only by a process of virtual extermination—and that might succeed with comparative speed, in view of the small number of Boers. But can Great Britain afford to write across her splendid history so terrible a chapter as the virtual extermination, by fire, sword and exile, of a brave Teutonic people, who loved their national life enough to perish for it almost en masse?

Boston Transcript.

Any trouble with France as a result of the visit of Mr. Kruger is not considered for a moment by either the British press or public. Meanwhile, Mr. Kruger is calmly enjoying the plaudits of the multitude, telling them of his renewed confidence in a satisfactory settlement of affairs in South Africa, threatening to make public certain state papers revealing damning secrets of the war, if he finds such action necessary, and announcing that if this fails he will return to the Transvaal.

San Francisco Chronicle.

It is evident that the people of France would like to go to war with England. Doubtless this feeling is reciprocated more or less by the British people, but they are less demonstrative than their exuberant neighbors across the channel, and the impossibility of the British islands to support their overcrowded population without food and raw material from abroad must impress the most thoughtless of the British people. They need not and would not fear France alone, but it would be impossible to foretell what allies France might bring to her aid, or what complications might arise with other nations at points of clashing interests. There is no present danger of war between France and England. The French government will find means to repress the too exuberant demonstrations of its mercurial population. Nor will the Boers find in France any material aid to their cause.

Worcester Spy.

While every lover of freedom can but admire the courage and fearlessness of Paul Kruger it is a foregone conclusion how the uneven struggle will end and the decision of the venerable patriot can have no other effect than to cost the lives of some more British and Boer soldiers. It cannot alter the final result.

Chicago Record.

With the close of the exciting scenes attending Kruger's welcome to Paris the threat of a dangerous outbreak of hostile feeling between the people of France and those of Great Britain is materially lessened. The Parisians evidently did their utmost to make Kruger welcome and to display their sympathetic hostility to England. President Loubet himself gave the famous burgher a cordial greeting, a fact which stamps the affair with a semi-official character. But the people of Great Britain, with remarkable good sense, seem to have kept their temper. However much resentment they may feel, the majority of them have been wise enough to conceal it. To have given vent to any angry remonstrances would have been only to magnify the importance of the event and stimulate excitement across the channel.

Kansas City Star.

The British lion would fight all of Europe rather than let go of the possessions it has won after its humiliating struggle with barbed wire and traps. Europe has no wish now to tackle the thoroughly aroused Britain. Russia is not ready and Germany and France would both suffer terrible industrial depression with their ports blockaded and their foreign commerce cut off. If Oom Paul sees any vision of intervention he has less actual cause for hope than inspired Kossuth when the militia of New York brandished their guns and hurrah for Hungary.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The December number of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly is an unusually fine magazine. The frontispiece is a striking picture, "Waiting!" The Sword Fisher at work. Then comes this list of contents: "Christmas Bells," verses, Martha McCulloch-Williams; "The Black Prince and the Little Captain," A Christmas story, Sarah Winter Kellogg; "The Food Killers," Arthur Henry; "The Man of Wrath," a story, S. R. Crockett; "Christmas Gift," a poem, Frank L. Stanton; "The Scout," a story, E. Hough; "Life Saving on the Great Lakes," William D. Hulbert; "The Case of Private Sam Weeks," a story, W. R. Lighton; "The Curb Market's Greatest Swindle," a story, S. A. Nelson; "Twenty Years of Empire Building in Africa," Burton J. Hendrick; "How Nibsey Won the Day," a story, Jessie Wade Manning; "A Hazard of Hearts," chapter x, Alix Johns; "Mis' Hepsy's China," a Christmas story, Nina Picton; "Jerusalem in 1900," Cleveland Moffett. Not the least important part of this magazine, as well as others that appear at this time, are the advertisements of Christmas literature.—Frank Leslie Publishing House, New York.

Tales from Town Topics, a quarterly publication, contains a novelette, "The Food for Love," and a number of smaller stories, verses and poems. It is a companion to Town Topics, the well known society journal, that contains short stories, financial and commercial articles, etc.—Town Topics Publishing Co., Fifth Avenue, New York.

Cassier's Magazine for December has illustrated articles on "Electricity at the Paris Exhibition;" "Machine Tools at the Paris Exhibition;" "The Steam Automobile;" "Machinery in Agriculture;" and other subjects of general interest. The frontispiece is a fine portrait of Charles Hill Morgan, retiring president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.—The Cassier Magazine Co., New York.

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