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POPULISTIC LEGISLATION.

Too much legislation, one of the dangers of the times in the United States. In this popular form of government the voice of the people often calls for extreme measures that wisdom shows to be injurious. Particularly is this the case when they are aimed at wealth, or power, or corporate interests which the common mind regards as inimical to the toiling masses. The spirit of "Populism" and of a number of forms of "Socialism" is active and prevalent, and often pervades the halls of Congress and of State legislatures.

This is something for Utah lawmakers to guard against. While they are elected by popular vote to serve the public, they must not forget that they are to legislate for the whole State, not merely for any special portion, or faction of it, and that they are limited in their powers by the State Constitution. There are also general principles of right, of equity and of justice which should be kept in view, and which must regard vested rights as sacred, and protected by law and custom from the ruin which would overtake them if some of the wild notions of agitators were embodied in statutes.

The conservative and cautious legislator will live and grow in public estimation as his prudence and fairness become perceptible, while the rash bidder for popular favor who plunges into radical measures, clamored for by would-be reformers and framers of legislative novelties or unfitted imitations, flashes for the moment into public view and passes into deserved oblivion.

We offer a word of caution to the new members of our Legislature, particularly as to adopting, wholesale, enactments made in other States of the Union, which are not suited to Utah conditions, and which, on close comparison, are seen to be out of harmony with the Utah Constitution. Introducing a bill on request of some constituents is one thing, passing it and making it fit to our home situation is another and different thing. We hope there will be a sufficient number of steady, thoughtful minds in both the House and the Senate to weigh well every measure introduced, and prevent legislation that would be inimical to the State and its principal interests.

There is a tendency in many parts of the country to pass laws for the purpose of crippling or hampering railroads, the companies controlling which seem to be regarded as common enemies as well as common carriers. Whatever real cause there may be for this feeling elsewhere, we do not believe there is occasion for it in Utah. Yet a bill has been introduced, voluminous in extent and aiming at the regulation of their business, fixing rates, etc. This is framed on the basis of Iowa and Michigan statutes. There is no fair comparison between the situation in those States and the situation in Utah. Our population, the sparsely settled regions through which our roads run, the difference in freight traffic as well as other transportation, the cost of construction and repairs, the wages paid to employees, and a hundred and one considerations peculiar to the locality, render Utah railroading altogether different to that business in Iowa or Michigan.

Great care should be exercised not to meddle with traffic business so as to discourage new railway enterprises in progress in this State. It would be the height of folly to manacle them by restrictive legislation. All sound projects to facilitate our means of inter-mountain and continental communication should be encouraged. This has been the policy of the past; it should be the policy of the present. What the future may develop may prove another story. We have invited capital to come and develop our resources. We must not regard it as a foe, but a friend unless time shall prove it otherwise. The populist notion against it should find no abiding place in the brains of Utah legislators.

The proposition to put railroad affairs in the control of an appointed commissioner, endowed with extraordinary powers, to make changes, increase or lower rates, condemn bridges or other railroad property, and do other remarkable things with the consent of the Governor and the Attorney-general, is, we think, too extreme to gain the support of conservative men, and we regard it as a step in the direction of the concentration of power in the hands of single individuals that ought not to be countenanced in this republic.

We see no occasion at present to interfere in the business of the railroads in Utah by legislation. There are local means of settling disputes with them that are ample for the purpose. Laws fixing wages, the prices of commodities, the profits of commerce and kindred facts are not in the public interest, but are hindrances to private business. They should all be avoided. The Initiative and Referendum proposition, too, is unsuited to our conditions here, would prove cumbersome and obstructive, and is entirely unnecessary under existing circumstances.

This is not Switzerland and our law-making body is amply sufficient for all needful purposes.

The irrigation laws need some changes, but great care should be exercised in new and sweeping provisions, fashioned after the systems adopted in other States which would not be suited to the various conditions in Utah. There are vested rights here that cannot be disturbed, constitutionally, by any general measures, no matter how carefully worded. Ours is a complex situation, and there are questions as to water rights that cannot be settled by other than judicial decrees. Many of them have been thus fixed by law, and must not be disturbed.

We warn the Legislature not to act rashly or hurriedly on any bill introduced of an important nature, no matter how strongly it may be urged or plausibly advocated. What is done should be for permanence as well as present requirements, so far as that is possible, and the future welfare, development and progress of our beloved State should be paramount over every other consideration.

THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIR.

The situation at the University appears to have assumed the shape of open rebellion against the constituted authorities, and an agitation for the purpose of spreading that rebellion as widely as possible among the students. The faculty, we presume, take this view of the case, and their attitude is therefore perfectly correct. "To rescind the action, in view of the present attitude of the students, would be fatal to discipline." There is not the slightest cause for the agitation. The suspended students are welcome to return, as soon as they are willing to do what any gentleman would do—apologize for the mistakes made. The misdirected chivalry that supports them in their stubborn refusal to submit to the counsel of their teachers, is unequalled. Possibly it is doing more harm than good to its objects.

The time in which we live has as one of its characteristics utter disregard for authority, both divine and human. This is seen in the home, in the school, in the state, and in the religious associations. It is a well recognized principle that only fits his heart well to obey, is fit to command; but in this country, all the citizens of mature age have the privilege of being commanders, in the sense that they are self-governing; they are sovereigns, as well as subjects; it follows, that unless they have learnt well to submit to proper authority, before they assume the duties and privileges of citizenship, they are but poorly equipped for this position. But where can they be trained in this direction, if not in the home, and the school? It is almost forgotten in our age that obedience is a virtue, without which human society must fall into anarchy.

We think Mr. Pratt deserves a word of encouragement. He has, as far as we can judge from reports, bravely taken a stand for order and loyalty, although this has rendered him exceedingly unpopular among some of his fellow students. We are very much mistaken, if the time will not come when even these will respect him. Boyish pranks, when viewed in the light of mature experience appear quite different from what they do at the age which is proverbially destitute of wisdom.

THE CANAL TREATY.

The signing of the Panama canal treaty by the two interested governments, closes the preliminary negotiations. The ratification of the treaty by the Senate is all that is needed now, before the beginning of actual work.

The United States will pay Colombia, it seems \$10,000,000, and then an annual rental of a quarter of a million dollars. For this consideration the United States acquires the right to complete the canal, and to provide for its proper maintenance and defense.

The payment of an annual rental may cause some debate, because it has very nearly the appearance of a tribute, but that fact should not delay the matter. Colombia has now a large income from the operation of the Isthmian railway, and the port dues collected from the shipping, and it is but natural that the country should not be deprived of this income. On the other hand, the \$10,000,000, if invested properly, will more than offset any possible losses of port dues. So the terms secured by Colombia are very liberal.

The United States now, through a lease good for a hundred years and renewable at the pleasure of this country, comes into possession of a strip of land, six miles wide and extending across the Isthmus. That is the chief point. For the privilege secured this country can afford to pay a liberal price.

A POSSIBLE DANGER.

The London National Review, speaking of the Venezuela affair, expresses the view that Germany is perfectly willing to risk a certain amount of unfriendliness with the United States if thereby a breach could be effected in the friendly Anglo-American relations. And in this connection the paper goes on to say:

"Although it is not yet recognized either in Washington or in London, the Kaiser has reason to regard his political position in the United States as a strong one. He believes that the German vote, which is being steadily organized by the German embassy in Washington, through the medium of the German-American press, will ultimately constitute an imperium in imperio of such a formidable character that no American President will care to jeopardize party prospects by alienating it."

development. They will not exchange the heavenly manna for the fleshpots of Egypt, with the accompanying servitude. The Germans in America, we believe, are, as a rule, good citizens devoted to the American government. That they love the fatherland is also true, but not to the point of striving to establish a German empire here. They would not be true men and women, should they forget the place that gave them birth, or the surroundings of their childhood. But this sentiment is not antagonistic to loyalty to the land of adoption and its institutions.

Still, it can do no harm to be reminded occasionally of a possible danger to American institutions, that may hide in a "patriotism" that seeks nourishment always in the past, rather than in the present. That cannot be encouraged. The very least they can do, who have come here and become participants in the prosperity and happiness of this country, is to study its language and institutions and place them first in everything of a temporal character. It is well, perhaps, to be reminded occasionally of the danger of the violation of this principle, since vigilance always must be the faithful attendant of liberty.

THE ANTI-MORMON TALK.

The Chattanooga Times under the foregoing head publishes the annexed timely editorial:

"The notice that a Mormon Bishop or Apostle's voice to his Church bid him to take the side of the hierarchy when a contest between it and the government should come, is nothing but a superstitious sensation. The Mormon leaders are not fools. They are no more deluded, as between their church and the law of the land, than are other religiousists."

"After the Mormons had been expelled from Missouri and Illinois, in 1838, and started on their historic pilgrimage for such shelter as they might find from their enemies in the heart of the Rockies, they did not even turn hostile to their government. The supreme leader, Brigham Young, when the Saints were camped along the Platte west of Omaha, early in 1847, raised 600 young men among his followers, offered and equipped them and sent them through the wilderness 1,400 miles, to join the detachment of our army, holding California. No braver, more faithful soldiers ever served under the American flag. Not a man of them was known to be guilty of drunkenness, or of any other delinquency, of neglect, of cowardice. The Mormons did splendid service for many years, holding the Utah Indian tribes in check. They promptly volunteered when the Spanish war was declared. The state is closely divided, the majority inclined toward Republicanism. The Church doesn't number more than 450,000 communicants, a large majority of whom are women, as is the case with other churches. They are scattered over many states, 20,000 of them being in the south and a large community of them in northern Mexico. If they were disposed to do their country wrong, they could only bring destruction on themselves by making the attempt, which they know as well as we do. Both sentiment and interest impel them to loyal courses. They are thrifty, law-abiding, the most progressive, liberal, charitable and enterprising people in all the West."

"Let them alone and both they and their country will go along all right."

Senator Teller has proven himself a vote getter.

To be enfranchised is not always to be enlightened.

President Harper draws his "wade" from the big guns of finance.

Mrs. Roosevelt is a prima donna, at least she is the first lady of the land.

There is far more sophistry than philosophy in the University embroilment.

To practice economy a man must have money; otherwise he merely practices penury.

J. P. Morgan has hurt the feelings of Mr. Gates of Chicago. A case of the Gates ajar.

General Miles has arrived in Paris. Now his six hundred dollar uniform will be put to the test for Paris is nothing if not dressy.

What became of those revolutionaries that adorned the desks of the Colorado legislators? They made the chamber look like a sail des armées.

This is the silly season. The Sultan of Sulu is dead," says the Boston Herald. The silly season is perennial and is confined to no climate or country.

The man Doblin is a monumental liar by his own confession and absolutely unbelievable in any particular. He deserves the perjurer's punishment.

To a man who has been in prison so long that liberty has no charms for him and he prefers to remain in durance, surely life is hardly worth living.

In the recent automobile show in Madison Square Garden some of the machines were dubbed "lady killers." Their special province is to kill ladies only.

It is no crime to graze sheep on forest reserves. How the lambs, the sheep and the shepherds will now gambol about. They will do it without reservation.

A New Jersey woman insists that she has been bewitched by a cup of tea that a neighbor gave her. It must have been a pink tea for they are very bewitching affairs.

Is holding up coal trains to become an industry in this country? It cannot be justified even as an agrarian movement, which in some people's eyes justifies everything.

Senator Morgan's solicitude for the validity of Senator Heenan's credentials is something very touching. Had he been a Nicaraguan instead of a Colombian, would it have been so great?

General Arthur MacArthur's talk about a European conspiracy to disrupt the western hemisphere, reads very much as though the gallant general had been reading about an American Battle of Dorking and become a convert to the alarmists.

It will be sad news to those who do all in their power to make Salt Lake appear to be the worst city in the country to know that Roman Catholic Bishop Henry Cosgrove declares that

Davenport, Ia., is the most immoral city in America.

It looks like small business for a legislative body to pester over a small thing like a free ride that may be given to a public official. Why not deduct from his mileage the value of a buggy ride, tendered by a friend while the official is traveling to and fro on public business?

Senator Teller is to be congratulated on his re-election. He is a wise counselor, a just man and a courageous supporter of all he believes to be right. Colorado, too, is to be congratulated on the peaceful settlement of an unpleasant contention. "All's well that ends well."

If the Navajo Indians are starving they should be relieved immediately. If they are not the fact should be ascertained beyond dispute, and in seeking the fact that alone should be kept in view and no defense or apology for any agent or defendant attempted. If the Indians are in want but not starving, their wants should be relieved.

Lady Henry Somerset does not agree with the women who have protested against the exhibition of Watt's painting "Love and Life," in the White House. She is quoted as follows: "As president of the World's Women Christian Temperance Union," she says, "I feel it should be made clear that the objections raised by a few women are not held by the majority of the great temperance society, which realizes that that wonderful allegorical picture has in it nothing but tender, beautiful teaching, with the purity of treatment and intention which marks all that great master's works." It is a great truth that people generally see in their surroundings a reflex of that which is within themselves. To the pure all things are pure, and vice versa.

LEAVES A GOOD NAME.

The New York World.

Mr. Hewitt was a wealthy man, yet he did not believe in heaping millions uselessly together, but chose the better part, living an example for emulation, not a mark for envy, leaving that good name which is better than riches.

New York Herald.

In the death of Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, New York loses a figure conspicuous during nearly two generations in every work to ameliorate the conditions of private and public life. As mayor of the city he was an example of unswerving rectitude in that important office, and in the halls of Congress his absolute sincerity, high intelligence and intimate acquaintance with business and economic questions made him a representative of whom the metropolis was justly proud.

The New York Commercial.

It was as a New Yorker, however, that we prize Abram S. Hewitt most. In times of stress we called upon him to come from his counting-room and direct us; in all matters of great moment we asked his counsel; his knowledge was a storehouse on which we perpetually drew; his wisdom and steadiness and pertinacity inspired and held our confidence. A year ago, in recognition of his invaluable services in promoting the scheme of rapid transit for New York, the chamber of commerce presented him with a gold medal inscribed: "By his genius benefactor of the city and conservator of the commonwealth."

New York Journal of Commerce.

Abram S. Hewitt stood as one of the finest examples of American manhood. From modest beginnings, he rose to conspicuous success in business, bringing with it wealth no part of which was under the suspicion of being ill-gotten. He came into the opportunity of an established industry, but it was by sagacity, administrative ability and an integrity which commanded implicit confidence that he helped to maintain and extend it. It weathers every storm with strength unimpaired and never suffered from labor troubles, which speaks much for the wisdom and tact of those who managed it.

The New York Times.

Of the work done by Mr. Hewitt in connection with Cooper Institute, both during the lifetime of its distinguished founder and afterward, thousands of the men and women who reaped the advantage of it are living witnesses. He was generous in money, and still more liberal in the bestowal of time and care and thought in this most original and beneficent work. He was also deeply concerned that those who worked for and with him in his business should have every incentive to good service and all practicable opportunity for advancement. It was his fondest hope that there had never been a strike at his works.

The Hartford Times.

Abram S. Hewitt was a great man. As the chairman of the National Democratic committee in the memorable presidential campaign of 1876, as a member of Congress, as mayor of New York and in other capacities he exercised a very great influence over the public affairs of the nation and of the city of New York.

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Seat sale begins today.

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PRICES: Night—25c, 50c, 75c, Matinee—25c.

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White Armurors.

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