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## UNJUSTIFIABLE DENUNCIATION

We find in the Improvement Era for February some excellent comments by President Joseph F. Smith on the demagogical speech of Senator Burrows in support of the majority report of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, against Senator Reed Smoot. We take the liberty of copying the article in full, for the benefit of our readers. It is as follows:

"The Hon. Julius C. Burrows, of Michigan, delivered a speech in the Senate of the United States, on Tuesday, December 11. The Senate had under consideration the resolution reported from the committee on Privileges and Elections, 'That Reed Smoot is not entitled to a seat in the Senate as a Senator of the United States from the State of Utah.'

"The Senator's speech was mostly, if not entirely, directed against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, its doctrines, and its leading authorities, from the days of Nauvoo to the present time. His only objection to Senator Smoot was that he is one of the authorities of the Church. His speech is a compilation of unfavorable and mostly entirely unjust criticism from sources antagonistic to the Saints, and gathered principally from revamped tales published in our own state—tales promulgated by a combination of ministers, assisted by a local paper whose chief owners and writer are disgruntled politicians. Scraps of sermons, remarks and statements by leading Church authorities, are separated from their context and made to show the position of the Church in a false light. Prejudiced reports of former early government officials, are repeated to prove his false contentions. Much that was said and done in the early 50's, in time of frontier excitement and contention, a great deal of it being irresponsible slander of the Latter-day Saints, is carefully woven into the speech of the Honorable Senator, so as to apply to the Latter-day Saints then and today. Here is an example. Speaking of the Saints he says:

"From the hour they took possession of the Territory in 1847 the domination of this Mormon hierarchy in civil as well as in so-called religious affairs has been absolute and supreme, and there has been inaugurated and carried on for over forty years a carnival of crime in this Territory unexampled in the history of a civilized state."

"Then, passing over the more recent history of the state up to this time, he makes this utterly false charge against the Latter-day Saints:

"An organization that fosters and encourages crime, tramples upon all law, human and divine, practices polygamy and polygamous cohabitation, desecrates the home, debases man, degrades woman, debases public morals, strikes at the Christian civilization of the age, undermines and shakes the foundations of society and government, destroys the sanctity of the marriage relation, defies the authority of the State and National Government, registers an oath of hostility to the American nation, and brings the name and fame of the grand people of Utah into disrepute, and shame and humiliation to the American people—I submit that such an organization is not entitled to have its representative in the Senate of the United States."

"And I will heartily agree as to the last statement. But without attempting in this little space to review or answer the Senator's falsehoods, I do declare, what is well known here, that there is no organization of that kind in Utah nor among the Latter-day Saints, and further, the Church neither has, nor seeks to have, a representative in Congress. If one of its members is in Congress, he is no more a representative of the Church than a Methodist, or a Catholic, or a Presbyterian who may be elected by the people of Utah, and by the political parties that chose them, and the parties are composed of all classes. The Church has positively no voice in the matter, and took no action in their election at all. The Church and state in Utah are separated effectively and completely.

"Again Senator Burrows says in his effort to show the domination of what he terms the hierarchy in political affairs:

"There has been no case in which a candidate for high office in Utah has obtained the consent of the Church to run and has been defeated, and there is no case in which one did not receive such consent and has been elected. The consent of the hierarchy is a command of the Church."

"And yet he declares in the same breath, that in the Legislature of 1899, 'The Mormon Church made a determined effort to elect one McCune, a Gentleman, but failed. The truth of the matter is that the Church neither made a determined effort' in this case, nor failed, for the reason that the Church had no voice in the matter. Neither is there a member of the Church in Utah who believes that the consent of the Church authorities to any of their associates to engage in civil, political, or business affairs, is a command of the Church. What members do in these lines is their own affair, and the Church and its officers do not command, either by consent or otherwise.

"Then, as to the character of the people of the Church, he says:

"I think I am justified in saying in the light of history and the testimony, that the time Brigham Young and his followers entered the Territory of Utah in 1847, until this hour the organization has been a criminal one."

"On the contrary, all who know the truth will deny vigorously that he is justified in any such conclusion. His own words deny his own assertions.

In further reply to such falsehood it is only necessary to point out that a criminal community could not have done what the Saints have accomplished in this State, neither could they have exercised the power for good that they have in the earth. Right conduct does not spring from crime; nor good character from evil teachings. Of Senator Smoot, he says:

"The Senator stands before the Senate in personal character and bearing above criticism and beyond reproach."

"What may be thus truly said of Senator Smoot, may be said with equal truthfulness of the great majority of the Latter-day Saints. Their conduct is admirable; in virtue, truthfulness, reliability, and in every good thing that makes noble men and women, this people compare favorably with the people of any other state in this Union. They respect womanhood, they love home and family, provide for and educate their children, are patriotic and loyal to our nation; and are trained to, and do respect law and order. They are reliable and conservative. Such fruits, such results, do not ripen or spring from an organization teaching crime and lawlessness. And yet, for political purposes the Senator has denounced this people and its organization with every anathema of detestation, and attaches to them every evil motive calculated to make men shudder with disgust. A man who bears such false witness should hide his head for very shame.

"Never was there a falsifier, nor more unjustifiable denunciation of this people than is contained in the Senator's closing sentences. Surely it is time the people at home—business men, the press, and all who regard our state with favor—make vigorous protest against such slanders. At home here we have come to regard them as an evil joke, and many so treat them. But it is otherwise in the East. There they are believed. It is our duty to deny them, and by our protest brand them what they are—slanders. They can be easily refuted—the daily lives and actions of our people are in themselves refutations, and our history bears record of this truth."

## OPEN THE WATERWAYS.

It takes no great amount of foresight to see that the streets and irrigation departments of the municipal government will have to bestir themselves if the present precipitation shall continue for any length of time. Great quantities of snow have fallen in the mountains, and the last few days much rain has soaked the soil of the valleys. The absence of frost and the gradual and steady downpour has moistened the ground to unusual depth, and to the point where it will now exude rather than absorb. With that condition obtaining, and with clogged canals, obstructed ditches and drains, it means that the lower levels of the city will be in danger of being flooded. The time to avert that danger is now. When, along in the springtime, the snow begins to melt, and the mountains to disgorge their swollen streams, it will be too late.

February rainstorms, such as we have had the past few days, are rare in this part of the Rocky Mountain country. Coming in the middle of winter and on the top of already heavy deposits of snow they simply signify one thing, and that is water, and plenty of it. This being true, preparations should be made accordingly. A hint to the authorities should, in this case, be sufficient.

## THE JAPANESE QUESTION.

We hope there is no reason for alarm, notwithstanding the sensational Washington dispatches concerning difficulties with Japan on account of the school question. The clause in the treaty with Japan, which the Japanese regard as violated by the San Francisco school board, is as follows:

"In whatever relates to rights of residence and travel; to the possession of goods and effects of any kind; to the succession of personal estate by will or otherwise; and the disposal of property of any sort and in any manner whatsoever, which they may lawfully acquire, the citizens or subjects of each contracting party shall enjoy in the territories of the other the same privileges, liberties and rights and shall be subject to no higher imports or charges in these respects than native citizens or subjects, or citizens or subjects of the most favored nation."

There is in this no reference to rights of education, except what may possibly be implied in rights of residence; or rights and privileges of subjects or citizens of the most favored nation. The Japanese may argue that, unless the children of other foreigners are discriminated against, discrimination against the Japanese is violation of the treaty. But we cannot believe that the question is serious enough to warrant any government in assuming the responsibility for a terrible war as a solution of it. If Japan insists upon the privilege of American education for some of her children, she must ask for it, and give measure for measure. Japan has no guns big enough, nor ships formidable enough to break open a single American schoolhouse.

The school question, however, is not the only one that suggests serious reflections. A bill is pending before the California legislature, the purport of which is to prohibit aliens from buying or leasing land in that state. The measure would certainly affect Asiatic residents of California. And now, twenty-three chapters of the Japanese Association of America are framing an emphatic protest to the bill. If the measure is enacted, the Japanese intimate there will be another crisis more serious than that created by the San Francisco school row.

The Los Angeles Express says the Japanese Association is very active just now, though its doings are surrounded by secrecy. All the national officers are in Los Angeles, and their meetings are held behind closed doors. Gorku Ikeda, a Columbia university graduate, who is secretary of the association, gives out only what he cares to make public. He is quoted as follows:

"We don't want to be misunderstood," he said. "We are formed only to promote Japanese welfare. That law against holding property would be unjust to thousands of hard-working Japanese residents of California. If it comes up for a vote we will have our arguments ready to present to President Roosevelt or the Japanese minister. We voice the wishes of practically the entire Japanese population and act as collectors of evidence, too."

It was Mr. Ikeda, the Express says,

who made the first protest against the exclusion of the Japanese from the San Francisco schools. His cable to the Japanese news, was the first news the empire had of the order which has caused such an uproar. Official news from the Japanese consul to the Mikado's foreign department did not arrive until two days later. All this is interesting, though we cannot believe it is a prelude to actual hostilities.

The policy of some western powers in Asia has been to force the governments there to give concessions, and make decrees in furtherance of Occidental interests. To threaten violence has been part of European diplomacy in Asia. Is it possible that the time has come for an Asiatic power to experiment with similar tactics here? Have we arrived at the point in the world's history where the subjects of an Asiatic potentate are commencing to watch the legislature of an American state, with a view of influencing its actions? That is a question which naturally arises as a consequence of the dispute with the Japanese on the coast. In fact, that is the only Japanese question of importance.

## SNOWSLIDE WARNINGS.

The season for snowslides has arrived and danger to the lives of the dwellers of the mountains is now imminent and constant. Yesterday, the town of Monarch, a small mining camp in Colorado, was wrecked by a terrific avalanche. The snow broke loose from its altitudinous moorings and swept down the face of the range with the velocity of a thunderbolt. At least a dozen persons are said to have perished. The wonder is that the number was not greater.

Only the brave and hardy miner, or other courageous mountaineer who has heard the roar and seen the havoc of these awful slides is able to realize how terrifying and devastating they are. Men of stout hearts who have witnessed them and who have also faced the cannon's mouth amid the tumult and onslaught of battle, declare that it requires less of the heroic to be a participant in the former than to brave the latter. There is a chance for life in grim-visaged war, but none whatever in the pathway of the dreaded slide. That sweeps all before it with a crash that is over in a twinkling, leaving only ruin and desolation behind. How many of these winter tragedies there have been in the mountains of the west, or Utah, even, no man knows. Collectively they have claimed the lives of thousands. Many of these dreadful scenes have been enacted in the Cottonwoods, almost at our very doors. And of conditions in that section right now it will be well to take cognizance. Reports from there indicate that the danger is very great. The recent rains have packed the snow down to a hard surface on which new fallen flakes can find no anchorage, and down which slides may shoot without warning, at any moment. Accordingly, for the next few weeks, every precaution the mountaineer is aware of should be taken in the interest of life and property, not only at Alta, but wherever similar conditions are to be found. The most effective method of averting this very grave danger right now, is to remain away from the places from where it is known to exist. Better suffer a little loss and inconvenience now than to become a victim of a peril against which nothing or no one can stand, or hazard the life of a dear one who may have a task in the line of possible slides.

An ounce of stay-away now may avoid tons of what threatens to come in the wake thereof. By all means, keep out of the slide territory for the present unless the most urgent duty calls you into it.

Of all the smart Alecks, Aleck Swetnam is the smartest.

The case of the prosecution in the Thaw trial was short if not sweet.

The best evidence that Thaw is insane is that he married Evelyn Nesbit.

If an Oliver for a Roland, why not an Oliver for the Panama Canal contract?

The divorce question seems to have settled into this, How long will it take me to get it?

It looks as though Juvenile Court Judge Brown would soon assume the role of busted Brown.

The condition of the treasury statement shows that this is a government of checks and balances.

Just now the cry seems to be, "Rally 'round the cañon, boys," instead of "Rally 'round the flag, boys."

Everybody knew that Thaw inherited great wealth but they didn't know that he inherited constitutional insanity.

If Thaw were not a man of immense wealth no defense founded on the plea of insanity would avail him. It may not anyhow.

Walter Wellman says he can fly his airship to the pole from Spitzbergen in thirty-six hours. His expedition is still in the says stage.

A million dollars are to be expended on the modernization of the Oregon. Yet where is the modern battleship whose record can compare with hers?

If Mr. Carnegie is still minded to ease himself of the burden of his wealth, he might have ten 20,000-ton battleships built and present them to the government. They would only cost about a hundred million dollars.

"The public is in for a great endurance test. Bryan and Beveridge are to debate for a whole year in one of the magazines," says an exchange. No trouble over that. Debate can be shut off at any time by shutting the magazines.

And should the federal courts decide that California is strictly within her constitutional rights in the case of the Japanese school children, does Japan propose to "make" the United States amend the Constitution in accordance with her ideas?

Interstate Commerce Commissioner

Clark says that "the railroads are not wholly to blame. In the northwest there was 'the usual cry of desolation' and 'starvation' and 'suffering'—all because the railroads would not furnish cars. The consumers of course did not think of buying fuel until the cold came. The dealer had no stock on hand. He had not filled his bins, but each had a few cars filled with coal on the sidetracks. Then began the demand for more coal—all at once, too. There is much in this view, more perhaps than the public would admit."

Secretary Metcalf will issue this week a most important order, designed to increase the strategic effectiveness of the American navy. He will consolidate the squadrons now on the Pacific coast and in Asiatic waters into one fleet under Admiral Willard H. Brownson. It is stated authoritatively that there is no connection whatever between the reorganization of the navy in the Pacific ocean and the controversy with Japan over the San Francisco school question and the exclusion of the Japanese laborers from the country. Certainly not, but the reorganization comes opportunistically.

## GOD OR MAMMON.

Los Angeles Times.  
The Roman Curia has seldom yielded further or with greater graciousness in any instance than appears to mark its concessions just made to the French government. There is scarcely need to remark that from the American point of view the absolute separation of church and state provides the only way in which these two forces may dwell together in unity. This may seem paradoxical, that in separation there is unity, but when it comes to earthly governments and the kingdom of God there is no doubt that the only way to keep the peace is "hands off" on both sides.

## KISSED BY MISTAKE.

Boston Herald.  
"Probably more young women are kissed by mistake at the arrival of ocean liners than any other sweetener," was the statement of a young woman whose duty it is to be on hand at the arrival of foreign steamships. "This is especially so in the crowded tourist season, when hundreds of passengers are hurrying down the gangplank to fall into the arms of waiting relatives and friends. In the confusion I have not infrequently found myself in the arms of some dotting father, who, in the rush, had just missed his daughter and reached me by mistake."

## JAMAICA AND THE MAP.

The Syracuse Post-Standard.  
Perhaps the Methodist minister, Graham, by name, who defends Swetnam, on the ground that "this is a British colony, not Cuba or a Spanish-American republic," has placed his finger upon the sensitive spot. There have been changes in the Caribbean map since the English assumed charge of affairs in Jamaica in 1655, and for some of the more recent changes the miniature islands of the Lesser Antilles, the Bahamas and Little Cayman and Grand Cayman are hardly more than fly specks as compared with Porto Rico, and Jamaica, lying south of Cuba, just across the channel from Santiago, is very greatly overshadowed in area by that troubled republic. The American interest in Cuba and the Isle of Pines cannot fail to be a matter of concern to those Englishmen, who, like the late Cecil Rhodes, believe in painting as much of the map red as possible. And English map-makers have been since 1898 so doubtful of the Cuban capacity for independence that in 1904 Mr. Baytholomew of the Royal Geographical society in getting up his Handy Atlas of the World labeled Cuba as a part of the United States.

## JUST FOR FUN.

The Block System.

"Do they have the block system on this railroad?"

"Yes, every time a train is wrecked it blocks the line."—Kansas City Times.

## Maritime Neckties.

"Have you got anything quiet in the way of ties?" asked the man in the haberdashery.

"Yes," replied the clerk; "here's something in watered silk; exact shade of the Dead Sea."—Yonkers Statesman.

## A Pathological Anomaly.

Nell—Did you tell her I couldn't cook?

Belle—Yes, and she seemed surprised. Nell—But didn't you explain to her that I've got the chickenpox?

Belle—Yes; that's what surprised her, she said you were no chicken.—Catholic Standard and Times.

## Gorky's Ideal.

Boggar—Kind lady! I was not always like this.

Lady—No; yesterday you had the other arm tied up.—Szutok.

## Willing to Prove It.

Nina—I told you that your old aunt has a will of her own.

Paul (tired of waiting)—I know she has. I wish she would let me prove it.—Strana.

## Free Russia.

"Master at home?"

"No, excellency."

"Nonsense! He was let out of prison an hour ago."

"Yes, but they've arrested him again."—Strana.

## Impartial Criticism.

A well known salesman entered a West End conservatory the other afternoon on business. A girl was playing a piano in an adjoining room. Suddenly she began Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," and the teacher conversing with the salesman paused to listen.

"Can't you stop that noise until I explain this to you?" broke in the man of business, who seemed to be a privileged character.

"That girl will be a great musician some day," replied the untruffled teacher. "She is naturally talented. Just listen."

"I don't agree with you," snapped the salesman. "She plays too fast and too loud. Who is she?"

"Your daughter," returned the teacher.—St. Louis Republic.

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