

legally require local freight business to be conducted even at an actual loss, if the company earned on its interstate business enough to give it just compensation in respect of its entire line and all its business, interstate and domestic. We cannot concur in this view. In our judgment, it must be held that the reasonableness or unreasonableness of rates prescribed by a state for the transportation of persons and property wholly within its limits must be determined without reference to the interstate business done by the carrier, or the profits derived from it. The state cannot justify unreasonably low rates for domestic transportation, considered alone, upon the ground that the carrier is earning large profits on its interstate business, over which, so far as rates are concerned, the state has no control. Nor can the carrier justify unreasonably high rates on domestic business upon the ground that it will be able only in that way to meet losses on its interstate business. So far as rates of transportation are concerned, domestic business should not be made to bear the losses on interstate business, nor the latter the losses on domestic business. It is only rates for the transportation of persons and property between points within the state that the state can prescribe. And when it undertakes to prescribe rates not to be exceeded by the carrier, it must do so with reference exclusively to what is just and reasonable, as between the carrier and the public, in respect of domestic business. The argument that a railroad line is an entirety; that its income goes into and its expenses are provided for out of a common fund, and that its capitalization is on its entire line, within and without the state, can have no application where the state is without authority over rates on the entire line, and can only deal with local rates and make such regulations as are necessary to give just compensation on local business."

The practical bearing of this, says the Chicago News, is that in most western states local business, considered alone, does not pay large profits. A road that may be making excessive profits upon its entire business within a state may yet be able to show that a reduction of rates for traffic beginning and ending in the state, considered by itself, is unreasonable. This decision is highly advantageous to railroads, and will no doubt be used as an argument in favor of anti-railroad legislation by Congress.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

The New York Independent devotes some space to the "Mormon Question," evidently with a view of creating the impression that the opponents of Mormonism have every reason to fear the results of statehood. Prof. Marcus E. Jones of Salt Lake City is quoted as authority for the statement that "polygamy" is still being preached, and that the only remedy is the disfranchising of all Mormons, without regard to their family relations. Rev. Dr. Illiff and Rev. W. S. Hawkes are also quoted to prove that "there has been a general return to polygamous relations," and Rev. R. G. McNiece is made to vouch for the alleged fact that the Church is directly interfering with the Legislature and executive officials.

It should not be necessary to remind the Independent of the fact that if a person, or a cause, is by prearrangement to be condemned, it always is an easy matter to find willing witnesses on whose testimony the verdict can be based. There always will be an Anna and a Caiaphas, reverend enough in their day and generation, to urge the crowd

on towards Calvary, whenever the profitable trade within the sacred precincts is interfered with. And this is very nearly applicable to the present case. Mormonism always has found its most bitter opponents among the religious leaders. Fearlessly it has pointed out their errors; with the power of truth it has appealed to their followers to turn and follow the Master; like the message of the great Apostle of the Gentiles to the inhabitants of Ephesus it has had the effect of endangering the trade of the silversmiths of Diana. This was the secret of the opposition from many quarters, from the first time of the proclamation of the Gospel. It is the key to whatever opposition remains, particularly that manifest in certain clerical circles.

It is easily understood why statehood for Utah was a disappointment to some. They had entertained a hope to "down" the religion of the Mormons by the aid of the mighty arm of the law, seeing that their intellectual resources were inadequate. The submission of the Mormon people to the law and the consequent disruption of the entente between the political forces and the various denominations was a great inconvenience to the latter. They knew deep down in their hearts that Mormon promises have been kept under most trying circumstances, and that they are being kept now. They have no excuse for political agitation, no pretext for persecution. The sporadic efforts of making it appear that statehood is dangerous is more than offset by the numerous testimonies of the great and good men of the nation, of all political and religious shades, who now and then visit Utah and proclaim to the world what they see and hear; they are rendered ineffective by the power of truth and spirit of honesty that accompany the humble messengers of peace who go out from these valleys and find friends everywhere. Christian ministers make a great mistake when by misrepresentations or statements that are only half truths and therefore falsehoods, they seek to conjure up again from the abyss of the past the evil spirit of hatred and persecution. The only course consistent with their calling and their profession would be to perform the spiritual labor they believe they have been called to do, and then leave the results with a higher Power, whose judgment is as just and impartial as it is irrevocable.

UTAH TO THE FRONT.

Recently Senator Cannon of Utah made a trip to the orient to ascertain the financial and industrial situation there from actual observation, the benefits of which were to go impartially to the people of the whole United States. Then Congressman King made a tour across the depths to Cuba to enable him to enlighten the citizens of the United States beyond peradventure as to the situation in the island. And now in the Senate chamber today, Senator Rawlins introduced a measure declaring war with Spain and recognizing the independence of Cuba!

It is very questionable if the public mind hereabout is gauged to the degree of belligerency implied by Mr. Rawlins's procedure, however much local sentiment may be in readiness to obey when an order commanding troops to take the field in defense of the flag comes along. But the feature of interest in connection with this incident and the others referred to is the suggestion that it is but a very short time since this State was only accorded a single Delegate in Congress, who, having no vote, was almost considered in bad taste if he ventured to speak or act in any matter not directly connected

with his constituents and his Territory. The times have changed, and we have most truly changed with them.

ALL ONE.

London papers today, March 29, give prominent place to a poem by Alfred Austin, the poet laureate. The piece reflects the sentiment of the English people as to an Anglo-American entente. It is cabled to this country by the Associated Press and is as follows:

What is the voice I hear
On the winds of the Western Sea?
Sentinel, listen from out Cape Clear
And say what the voice may be.

'Tis a proud, free people calling loud to a
people proud and free
And it says to them: Kinsmen, hail,
We severed have been too long.
Now let us have done with a worn out tale—
The tale of ancient wrong—
And our friendship last long as love doth
last,
And be stronger than death is strong.

Answer them, sons of the self-same race
And blood of the self-same clan
Let us speak with each other face to face
And answer as man to man;
And loyally love and trust each other as
none but freemen can.
Now fling them out to the breeze
Shamrock, thistle and rose;
And the Star Spangled Banner unfurl with
these—

A message to friends and foes
Wherever the sails of peace are seen, and
wherever the war wind blows—

A message to bond and thrall to wake
For wherever we come, we twain
The throne of the tyrant shall rock and
quake;
And his menace be void and vain.
For you are lords of a strong, young land
and we are lords of the main.

Yes this is the voice of the bluff March gale:
We severed have been too long,
But now we have done with a worn out tale—
The tale of an ancient wrong;
And our friendship last long as love doth
last and stronger than death is strong.

SNOWFLAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The regular quarterly conference of the Snowflake Stake of Zion was held in the town of Snowflake, Navajo county, Arizona, February 20th and 21st, 1898. The weather was beautiful. The conference was held in the Stake house, which had lately been repainted and fitted up for the occasion in a very neat and pleasing style.

Elders John Henry Smith and John W. Taylor of the quorum of Apostles, were in attendance, as were all three of the Stake presidency, most of the High Council and other leading brethren, and a good representation of the Saints of the neighboring settlements.

The best of feelings prevailed and the reports of the president of the Stake and bishops of wards were all very encouraging, as showing a very good condition of the people, both spiritually and temporally.

Four regular day meetings were held and one Priesthood meeting on the evening of Sunday the 20th of February.

In the afternoon of the 20th our Stake house was dedicated, Elder John Henry Smith offering the dedicatory prayer. The Apostles seemed to enjoy very great freedom, and strongly urged the people to live their religion and work righteousness—especially to watch carefully over the youth. Their instructions were emphatic and pronounced against sending our daughters away from home to work for outsiders in hotels, railroad towns and mining camps. Everybody seemed highly pleased with the Apostles and their visit, and this conference will long be remembered by the Saints of Snowflake Stake.

L. M. SAVAGE,
Clerk of Conference.