

as a joke at the alleged expense of the honorable Delegate from Utah. Dubois of Idaho, who was championing the bill, was asked whether he would favor the disfranchisement of the "Mormons" of Utah—the overwhelming majority of that people—who had never broken any law. For instance, would he disfranchise Mr. Caine, who had never been a polygamist and had no intention of becoming one.

The answer was, in substance, "Yes, I would disfranchise every man who believes in polygamy, and I challenge Mr. Caine to state that he does not believe in it."

This is, as stated, treated by the anti-"Mormons" and some of the narrow-gauge journals as getting Mr. Caine in a corner and perpetrating a joke on him. The belief of Mr. Caine, or that of any other man is his own individual business, and he who seeks to interfere with it is a tyrant or a fool, or both. The person who is found advocating the passage of laws to govern belief perpetrates a grim political and philosophical joke on himself, as that mental condition is outside the domain of legislation. Yet that is what is attempted by the measure referred to and which the *Record-Union* imagined could not possibly be favorably reported by a committee.

If there was any joke in the incident said to have occurred in the discussion before the Committee on Territories its weight did not fall upon Mr. Caine, but upon Mr. Dubois, who—when he was U. S. Marshal for Idaho and pursuing the "Mormons" with all the bitterness of which he is capable—was credited with saying, after completing a packing process: "Now I have got a jury that would convict Jesus Christ if he were placed on trial."

### THE CITY CENSUS.

A RESIDENT of this city sends us the following:

"Can you inform me what object a city census taker has in view who, having received a courteous answer to all his queries, will at the next house inquire if those in the house just visited are 'Mormons' or not—and then make a record of the answer in his book?"

"Are our city fathers compiling a religious census or is that portion of their employes' work supererogatory?"

We are credibly informed that other irrelevant questions besides that named by the correspondent are occasionally asked by the city census takers. Among the other

alleged interrogatories are such as are intended to elicit information as to whether the person inquired of is a citizen. If the reply be affirmative and if it appears that the person has been naturalized, the next query is in regard to when and where the naturalization was effected. Some, we are informed, are even asked whether they are registered electors.

The city census takers receive their authority from the City Council, and the latter obtain theirs from a Territorial statute, which simply authorizes the making of a count. The officers engaged in the duty can only properly obtain information in reference to names and ages, in order that the census report may exhibit the number of majors and minors comparatively. Any other questions are surplusage, and by their nature may show that they are asked for an ulterior purpose. Not only are the people to whom they are addressed under no obligation to answer them, but should they do so they will thus aid the officer to exceed his duties.

Why should such interrogatories be put to the people as those referred to above? That is the gist of the question of our correspondent. A logical inference can be deduced from their character:

Is the individual a "Mormon?" Is he a citizen? Has he been naturalized, and if so, when and where? Is he a registered voter?

Under existing circumstances these are all, including the first, political queries, and of a piece with a secret circular sent out over the signature of H. S. McCallum, informing persons where, how and by whom they can be registered.

Indeed on the face of the census operation inaugurated by the City Council, there is an appearance of it being purely political from another standpoint. The census by the city officials and that which will be in operation in a few days under the auspices of the General Government are almost simultaneous. Consequently the city enumeration seems to be entirely a work of supererogation, except for partisan purposes. It is to be presumed that the census marshals of the government will properly execute their work. If so, the exhibit of their labors in reference to this city will be all sufficient for purposes of information. Hence, as stated, the city official census is superfluous.

This justifies the inference that

there is a political purpose behind it. But it has another partisan appearance besides the information in that line sought to be elicited by means of it. The policy of partisan rewards for campaign work presented by the party now holding the municipal reins has been and is notorious. It is constantly urged, and instances of the most glaring character have occurred. Is it not consistent to deduce from the premises of the situation that there is something of this character connected with the city census? The Council resolution authorizing it empowered the Mayor to appoint such census officers, and as many, as he might see fit or deem necessary, giving him plenty of scope. Putting the whole business in a lump, being careful not to omit the unnecessary character of the work so far as the general public is concerned, the giving of employment to clamorers may have cut no small figure in the transaction.

### WAR DEBATE IN THE REICHSTAG.

ON Wednesday a significant debate occurred in the German Reichstag on a military bill introduced by the government. For some time past the press dispatches from Germany have been unusually free from war-like intimations, and the absence of matter of that kind from the news telegraphed from Berlin has been a surface indication that, since the retirement of Blumack, political matters on the continent have assumed a more pacific condition.

But the debate referred to is calculated to dispel any belief that a prolonged continuation of peace can be relied upon. Old and sagacious Von Moltke, the greatest living exponent of the science of war, in an argument supporting the bill said:

"The European situation is always growing more difficult and it is imperative that Germany should have a strong military system. A strong government alone will be able to maintain peace, as there is no one who does not hesitate to throw the match into the powder barrel. I believe all the powers are peacefully disposed but security can only be attained by Germany's own efforts. Of course the maintenance of the army on a war footing demands the expenditure of large amounts of money, but the point to be considered is this: If we economize in our war expenditures the most brilliant financial sensation war may be able to create will not insure the exclusion of our enemies from the Fatherland."

On another phase of the subject he said:

"The days of war waged by cabinets are past. The elements that now threaten peace are found among the people of the classes less favored by fortune. Abroad, these dangerous