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EXCELLENT PROSPECTS.

The sales of real estate in this city, during the past two or three weeks, are encouraging to the dealers in that kind of property and indicate an upward movement in values which will probably be of great benefit in one direction to this city. It will stimulate business generally, and while it will promote speculation and may result in some investments which will not bring the full realization expected, will no doubt be tempered by the memory of past experiences, and so put a brake on any wild "boom" that might be inaugurated.

This movement may be hindered to an extent by the high prices at which some persons hold their realty. We do not blame men for attaching good values to their property, particularly if they are not anxious to sell it. But speculators should understand the folly of shutting off business by putting balloons upon upon that which they have to dispose of.

On the other hand, people who desire to sell building spots should not be in too great a rush to put them upon the market at prices less than their worth. They should also guard against tying themselves up by giving options to greedy speculators, who will take advantage of their lack of understanding of the situation and make large profits out of their ignorance. By this we do not mean to cast any reflection upon honorable dealers in real estate, who are willing to share with the holders in the profits they derive from favorable sales, and who are contented with a liberal percentage on their business transactions. It is the real estate sharks against whom we warn the unsophisticated.

While we believe that a real estate stimulus may prove of great benefit to commercial affairs generally, we are sure that an explosive and temporary "boom" like that from which we suffered some years ago, would bring more disaster than advancement, and while it might enrich a few, it would be disadvantageous to the many.

The real estate transactions which have occurred recently demonstrate the fact, that business men pay no attention to the slanders and abuses of the "knockers," who endeavor to impress the public mind with the fool notion that affairs here are under ecclesiastical domination, and that it is useless for any one outside of an alleged priestly circle to attempt to establish any industry or engage in any kind of business. It shows that all those shameful misrepresentations have failed to reach their mark. Nobody here cares anything about them, except as they may possibly influence people abroad, and some newcomers for a time, until they become acquainted with the truth of the matter.

There is no freer spot on the globe than one in which there are better opportunities to make homes, pursue a legitimate business and advance in material and intellectual affairs than Utah, our beloved mountain home. Its enemies, who pretend to be its friends, may continue to pursue their course of obstruction, and attack men who never notice them or their malice, and to told up this city and state to the ridicule or aversion of the world, but they will fail in their purpose, and exhibit only their own folly and mendacity and will be despised by every person who has regard for honor, truth and consistency.

Our fellow citizens of every creed and party should unite in their temporal and local affairs, and aid in placing before the country the truth concerning Utah and its people, and thus partake of the benefits that will result from the growth and progress and general welfare of this splendid commonwealth.

HE SHED TEARS.

In the telegraphic account of the Impression in Russia by the news of the total defeat of Rojstevsky, it is especially noticed that the Emperor broke down and cried. No wonder! The ruler of all the Russians is but a weak mortal, and according to some accounts, a very weak mortal. The sinking of the Russian squadron was the "ragin' rock" of Russian despotism. And it was more. It was a shock to the religious faith which is the Russian twin of that despotism. For, it proved to the millions, that neither oceans, nor mountains, nor preventives of disaster to the arms of Russia, The "holy cause of Russia" will never again have the meaning attached to the phrase in former years. And so the emperor wept.

Thousands of soldiers, all the sons, husbands, brothers of loved ones, have found a cruel death in the waves, far from home; thousands have been maimed for life, and other thousands have found rest in death on battlefields, after hours, perhaps days, of suffering untold agonies. But it is

not stated that the Emperor wept for the loss of these lives, or in sympathy with the fathers and mothers who, all over Russia, are weeping and mourning, and perchance cursing the cruel power that severed the ties of love and broke the hearts. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that he would have gladly sacrificed to the scavengers of the deep, as many more of his subjects, or strewn their bones upon the battlefields, could that have secured a single victory.

Millions of dollars' worth of property has been pressed out of the laboring classes who, in Russia, often are starving for want of bread. But the Emperor is not on record as having shed a tear over the destruction of the fruit of the sweat and labor of the millions of toilers. On the contrary, were it possible to squeeze the masses still harder, it would be done. No tears for the laborers! But the humiliation of the government, the certainty of the fall of the tyranny, and the loss of prestige among nations of a government that does not recognize the people except as beasts of burden—draw tears.

And yet, Nicholas is no monster. On the contrary, he is a humane ruler, in his way and according to his opportunities. It is as the representative of a monstrous system that he becomes a monster. He should rejoice at the disasters that threaten to break that system to pieces. For if the people are liberated, he may share in their liberty, if he will. And as the first among a free people, he would be greater than any of his ancestors.

JAPAN'S POLICY.

Further news from the seat of war makes it quite clear that the defeat of Rojstevsky was a disaster. The Admiral proposed to force an entrance to the Japan sea, through the straits of Korea, and lined his ships up in a double column. The Japanese attacked both columns. The two battle ships Borodino and Alexander III, on the starboard column were sunk. Admiral Nakhamoff was the leading armored cruiser in the port column. That was also sunk, as were several vessels of various types in both columns. In all, two battleships, three armored cruisers, one coast defense iron clad, two protected cruisers, one repair ship and one cruiser were sunk, while two battleships and two coast defense ironclads were captured. That is a total loss of fourteen vessels, and of these four captured ships will soon be converted to Japanese ships and strengthen the Japanese navy to that extent. Admiral Rojstevsky may have escaped with a small part of his squadron, but he is no longer a serious factor in the war. Admiral Togo has secured the supremacy of Japan on the Japan sea, and that was his mission.

About a hundred years ago the battle of Trafalgar was fought, and since then, there has been no naval engagement of such importance as this. At Trafalgar Lord Nelson had twenty-seven ships against the allies' thirty-three. Togo had, perhaps, forty vessels against Rojstevsky's. Lord Nelson's fleet was manned with experienced sailors, and his vessels were fit and ready for action. Admiral Villeneuve, commanding the allies, went into action with officers and men under him downhearted and with many of his ships in bad condition. At stake then was the command of the sea. France lost it and never recovered it, though Napoleon passed off for the moment as insignificant "the loss of a few ships at sea." At stake now is also the command of the sea. Russia has made her last throw. She has lost the war.

In view of the position of leadership among nations in eastern Asia which Japan now has acquired, the question of what use she is likely to make of her power, is of paramount interest. Japanese statesmen seem anxious to ally any fear that may have been excited by pictures of a possible "yellow peril." Only a few days ago the first secretary of the Japanese legation at Washington, in an after dinner speech, took occasion to make a statement concerning the Japanese policy, and the causes that led to this war. He explained that Japan's policy is precisely identical with that defined by Secretary Hay: "The political integrity of the open door for trade with China."

If Secretary Hay, he said, had been able to secure the enforcement of the policy of the United States, the war in the far east would not have taken place. There would, under such circumstances, have been no need of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, because in its main features this was proposed and put through in order to give positive support to the policy which Secretary Hay had formulated. The necessities of Japan were found, he further explained, in the fact that an absorption of China by Russia, or the dismemberment of the Chinese empire and its division among the great military powers of Europe, would of necessity foreshadow the eventual loss by the Japanese of their political independence. The policy of Secretary Hay to safeguard China was a bulwark of defense to Japan; but as there were no warships and hundreds of thousands of armed men behind Secretary Hay's policy to act in its enforcement, it was ignored by Russia, and for this reason the Japanese were compelled to act, simply assuring themselves by means of their alliance with the English that they should not have to fight two enemies single-handed. In other words, Japan is, if we accept this statement, fighting for the maintenance of a policy which the United States was not in a position to maintain, though committed to it. And this, the secretary thought was proof positive of the practical improbability of any serious divergence of interests between the Japanese and the Americans.

We need not doubt the sincerity of this argument, but it is too early to discuss the future course of Japan. It will be dictated by her own interests, and the military strength she will be able to maintain. Japan has now avenged the humiliation to which she was submitted when, after the war with China, European powers, led by Russia, deprived her of the fruits of victory. But Russia was only one, though the chief, offender in that matter. The question is, who comes next?

HIGHER CRITICISM.

The convention of the American Bible League considered several practical subjects. One of these was, "Effects of the Higher Criticism on the Ministry," which was the subject of a discourse by Dr. E. Fitch Burr, of Lynne, Conn.

The speaker warned his hearers against "higher criticism," as against a disease, which, he said, like consumption, runs through various phases till it brings the destruction of all distinctively Christian dogma.

He then pointed out some of the effects. Higher criticism, he argued, will lessen the number of ministers. The adherents of that system have made the authority of the New Testament grow dim, and thus they have lost the greatest evangelizing motive, and this loss has decreased the number of ministers by one-half in one decade. And further, it has impaired the quality of those who have remained in the pulpit. Young men, he said, who go into the work now under the influence of the higher criticism have no higher motives for the work, for they no longer believe that souls need to be saved from perishing. The profession has the lower inducements of being safe and honorable, and of offering a livelihood. But these lower inducements will only dominate a lower quality of men, who will lack the earnestness and sincerity that ought to characterize the ministry. As a result, men of higher grade of intelligence will withdraw from a profession that has so little to offer, and leave the field to the mediocre.

Furthermore, the speaker maintained that higher criticism has enfeebled the instruments with which the ministers should labor for the conversion of the world. It has also dwarfed the message. This message, Dr. Burr argued, is contained in the Bible. It is not the message of our civilization, but a message of religion as represented in the book, especially in the New Testament. We hold that this book was originally given by God, free from all error, and kept so down to the present time. It only needs interpretation. We only need to find its real meaning. But such views fail to satisfy the higher critics. They hold that not even the original document was free from error, and that errors have increased in it since. The best they can say of the Bible is that it is more or less the record of the revelation of God, rather than the revelation itself. Some higher critics admit only that the main teaching of the Bible is true; others that only the religious teaching is true, differing as to what the main or the religious teaching is. They say that the Bible contains some divine things, among others that are not divine. Thus they cut out whole sections of fundamental Christian doctrine. Summing up, he said:

"Preaching such views will not only mean professional suicide, but will cut the preachers off from Christian salvation. There will be a gulf between salvation and them which they cannot cross."

This is a severe indictment, but it comes very near being true. Higher criticism, carried beyond its legitimate boundary, has caused a blight upon faith, more destructive than agnosticism. As far as accepted, it has knocked down the support of Protestantism. For Protestantism justified itself by an appeal from fallible popes and councils to the "infallible word," but higher criticism has reduced that to a myth, and rendered Protestantism almost ridiculous, though some of its exponents fail to realize their position.

There is a higher criticism that is perfectly legitimate. The Bible, as far as it is produced through human instrumentality, is properly scrutinized as to style, age, origin, etc. But this investigation is best carried on in a spirit of reverent faith in God, and not in a spirit of unbelief. The truth is more easily reached in the light of faith, than in the gloom of denial. Every science can be studied from widely different points of view. But it is absolutely certain that an astronomer, a geologist, a biologist, or a historian, who sees and acknowledges the hand of God in everything will advance toward truth faster and surer than the infidel who stumbles along without the guidance of faith in God. It is not, really, the fault of higher criticism, that the condition of the Christian world is as deplorable as depicted by Dr. Burr, but the abuse of it. It may be well to make this distinction.

In its way Weaver's victory is as great as Togo's.

With apologies to Cambronne: "The guard defines; it never parades."

Summer tomorrow. Will a perfect summer follow a perfect spring?

Nikola Tesla talks of talking around the world. Will he do it through his hat?

The Russian fleet must have gone in to battle with the cry, "Sauve qui peut."

Will France be called to time for courtesies extended to the fleet while in transit?

As yet the czar has discovered no use for his advisers, of which he has a large supply.

The Fort Douglas post library has received a ton of books. They must be heavy reading.

The Chicago strike is said to be suffering from ennui. This may yet be followed by laissez faire.

Rojstevsky can hardly say with Francis I, "All is lost save honor." In his case the honor also appears to have been lost.

If a person can learn a language in five weeks there is no reason why he should not be an accomplished linguist in a year.

A hundred million dollars went to the bottom of the sea when the Russian ships were sunk. An item for the great navy advocates to ponder well.

It seems that American steel rails are

quoted cheaper in Europe than in the United States. Now what a rallying will be set up about how the foreigner is favored.

To mark his pre-eminence it is not necessary to call Togo the Nelson or Dewey of Japan. He is their peer, and in naval annals Togo will be a name as well known as theirs.

The Russians do not want to negotiate for peace until Japan has tasted of the cup of bitterness of defeat. It doesn't look as though Japan would receive the cup from the hand of Russia.

Nothing better exemplifies Russian fatuity than the way in which news of the great naval battle was withheld from the people. An ostrich hiding its head in the sand and thinking no one could see it is a symbol of wisdom compared with the censorship exercised over the news from the Far East.

The Northern Pacific engineer and messenger who caught the train robber did their duty and felt that virtue was its own reward. Still they could not fail to appreciate that thousand dollars reward given them by the company in recognition of their faithfulness. And it was well deserved.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"What the Mormons Believe" is a little tract, 16 pages, by Elder Chas. W. Penrose, of the Council of Apostles, published by the Southern States mission. It is a complete synopsis of the Mormon creed, stated clearly and briefly, and should be just the thing to place in the hands of inquirers who desire information on what the Latter-day Saints believe as distinct from other denominations. The tract treats of "First Principles," "The Apostasy," "The Restoration," "Redemption of the Dead," "The Last Dispensation," "The Book of Mormon," "The Latter-day Prophet," "The Saints' Exodus," "Utah and the Nation," "Celestial Marriage," "Church Government," "Auxiliary Societies," and "Divine Authority."

National Magazine for May is a strong number, both in prose, verse, and illustrations. Among the many articles of importance may be noticed: "Affairs at Washington," Joe Mitchell's "Out in the Country," verse, Cora A. Matson Doherty, "Woman in Office," Kate Gannett Wells; "The Paper Doll People," fiction, Ethel Arnes; "The South Sea Islands," Walter M. Pratt; "A Comedy of Masks," fiction, Anna McClure Sholl; "Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth at Prospect Cottage," Charles Warren Stoddard; "Love Blossom Where It Listeth," fiction, C. Van Arman Bunting; "A Page from the Book of War," J. Gordon Smith; and "Beauties of the American Stage," Helen Arthur—Boston, Mass.

The Black Cat for June has the following five stories: "The Red Dwarf," J. O. Fagan; "Sabine's Zion," Mary Stockbridge; "A Promoter of Romance," Edith Richmond Blanchard; "The Heart of Emeline Dale," Addison Clark; and "The Man Who Did Things Twice," Don Mark Lemon—Shortstory Pub. Co., 141 High St., Boston.

Insurance Engineering for May has, as frontispiece, a picture of the Acetylene Gas Explosion at Granger, Utah. The first place is given to a paper on "Motors for Fire Service," by Gorham Dana. "The Emigrant Domain of Private Water Companies" is discussed by Houston Dunn. Articles on "Butler Brothers' Warehouse," "Fire-proof Wood" and "News Comments, Data," etc., complete the list of contents.—120 Liberty St., New York.

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