

## DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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RELIABLE INFORMATION  
ABOUT UTAH.

The Chamber of Commerce in this city intends to issue a report at the close of its first year. This is to contain reliable data and information on the various industries of Utah, the condition of its trade, commerce, railroad facilities, and everything attainable that relates to the prosperity and growth of the Territory.

Such a report, if it eschews all reference to local disputes, religious and political, will be of great benefit. Reliable information concerning this mountain region is needed all over the world. Utah is everywhere considered chiefly as the noisy scene of a perpetual struggle with "Mormonism," and its people are supposed to be in a condition similar to that of the famed Kilkenny cats. The bad impression abroad has been produced by the falsehoods of a few wretched scamps, who live by libel and fatten on defamation of "Mormon" character and principles. Capital has been frightened away, manufacturing and other industrial enterprise has been retarded, and every material interest has been hindered by the continual and wholesale slander, indulged in by a baker's dozen of tough but tonguey citizens, who should have been tabooed by every decent man identified with the progress of the Territory.

If the Chamber of Commerce will present to the country the facts concerning our status, resources, possibilities and prospects, and either ignore the issues raised by obstructionists to prejudice the public, or put its foot upon the falsehoods that have been so industriously circulated, it will do a good work, enlighten people at a distance, and gain support from live business men at home.

The contemplated report should be thoroughly reliable and very comprehensive. There are details important to be published which cannot be collected without the co-operation of all classes of the community. A full description of the mining industry alone would be only a partial representation of Utah's condition and capabilities. So with a mere report of its agriculture. Every branch of trade, labor and enterprise should receive due attention and its statistics be embodied in the general account.

Why cannot the people generally aid in rendering this report complete and of great value to us all? A concerted effort would render the thing comparatively easy. Let farmers send to the proper officer of the institution a statement of the number of acres under cultivation, the annual average yield per acre of the various crops raised, the miles of irrigating canals and ditches in each district, and the nature and character of the soil and surroundings. This could be done by a little organization in each county extending into every precinct. It could be made thorough and complete. Manufacturers of any article produced in the Territory could give figures and facts that would be invaluable. Sheep owners, stockbreeders, horse ranchers, wool dealers, hide merchants, iron and coal miners, as well as miners of the precious metals, and owners of quarries and other valuable deposits, could all contribute to the general mass of information and thus benefit themselves and the public at the same time.

To facilitate this, why cannot the Chamber of Commerce prepare printed forms to be sent to reliable men in different parts of the Territory to fill up and return? We believe that by such means the desired data could be best obtained. We are in favor of every genuine effort to disseminate the truth. Utah needs a full and fair compilation of local statistics. We supported the legislative movements that were made some time ago for a Bureau of Statistics. We think the proposed movement of the Chamber of Commerce a step in the right direction. We are opposed to the slander and misrepresentation which have disgraced much of the non-"Mormon" literature sent forth from this Territory, but are not against the publication or reception of facts of any kind in relation to our Territory.

We do not believe in wild-cat excitement or speculative "booms." But we do believe in the great future of Utah, and will be pleased to aid any sincere and honest movement to further her material interests of every kind and in any direction. We understand that the proper person to receive data of various kinds for the purpose here outlined, is M. J. Forhan, Manager Bureau of Correspondence, Chamber of Commerce, Salt Lake City, to whom communications on these matters should be addressed.

## DEATH OF EX-SENATOR SARGENT.

The death of ex-Congressman and ex-Senator Aaron A. Sargent at San Francisco, which was briefly reported in our dispatches, removes from this stage of action a very effective and not a little famous worker in political and legal circles. He was a "49-er," one of the many Argonauts who sought the golden sands of California shortly after it was known that the golden pebbles, if not the golden fleece were to be had for the mere picking of them up, and his fortunes have been wrought out in the California school, for he never left the State except while on duty at Washington afterward.

Senator Sargent was one of the founders of the Republican party on the Pacific slope. He and some others held meetings, put nominees in the field, took the stump and voted with as much unanimity and enthusiasm as though they expected to win, when in reality they knew that the thing was entirely out of the question. But he looked further and not in vain; the war, which turned politics and politicians topsy-turvy, made California a Republican State and Mr. Sargent a Representative in Congress from the Sacramento district. If we remember correctly he served five consecutive terms, and before the last one had half expired was chosen United States Senator, his term as such to commence at the end of the other, thus giving him one of the longest congressional terms on record—over seven years. He was an able lawyer and was engaged, at the time of his death, in the practice of his profession in San Francisco.

THE PLEASURE-HUNTING  
WAVE.

NEVER at any time has the competition for the patronage of the people in behalf of the various local pleasure resorts been so active as it has been during the present summer. It is still vigorous and lively, and has been continuously successful, being at this time probably at its zenith.

Every available inducement has been offered by the interested companies to attract the people to their respective resorts and thus draw the dollars out of their pockets, the drain upon which has been enormous. A gentleman in our hearing estimated the popular outlay in this direction as not less than \$2,000 a day, or about \$60,000 a month, from Salt Lake City and Ogden combined.

In a large degree the sum involved in this enormous expenditure might as profitably, so far as the people are concerned, be cast into the deepest part of the Salt Lake, and be there allowed to remain.

This statement may be estimated by some as altogether too sweeping, as the increased health of the crowds who frequent these resorts, ought, in their opinion, to be viewed in the light of an offset, a robust physique being much more valuable than dollars and cents. We are afraid, however, that the health hypothesis would be annihilated by counter-results that could be placed in juxtaposition with it. It is indeed a question whether the sum of effects injurious to health would not nearly equal those that conduce to the increase of its quantity. The night balls and parties, in which excesses and even orgies are occasionally carried far beyond seemingly hours, cannot be claimed to be other than detrimental to the constitutions of those who participate in them. Combine these ill results of a merely physical character with the moral injury that necessarily ensues, and the sum, when pitted against the supposed health-increase, would be sufficient to overwhelm it and leave the monetary expenditure, viewed as a whole, as a useless outlay.

Business men are beginning to feel the tremendous drain from the pockets of the people for indulgence in merely passing pleasures. As a large proportion of them expend their means to produce ephemeral effects, they are unable to purchase those things that are more conducive to permanent comfort. Hence, unless indebtedness is incurred and future perplexity from incumbrance ensues, business at the stores is diminished.

So far as the companies who are conducting the resorts are concerned, no pretensions are made by them as conservators of public morals. If they were to pose in that particular line, the attitudinization would produce a public smile. Their operations are based on cold business, their sole object being to fill their coffers. So far as some of the interested parties are concerned, it is doubtful whether they would be willing that their own wives and daughters should participate in the night festivities, and be brought in contact with the late-hour carousals of the pleasure places they conduct. They are more than willing, however, to keep their resorts in full swing at any time, no matter how unseasonable, for the accommodation of any who desire to indulge in the facilities they afford.

There are people, however, who

have an eye to the public weal and are not swallowed up in the pursuit of wealth, who deplore the tendency to excessive pleasure-seeking that has developed in the community of late. In view of this increasing phase of our social life, it involves a question as to whether a portion of the people professing better things are not traveling gradually toward that condition that will entitle them to be designated as "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." As it is, we are afraid that that class have already to a considerable extent divided their affections between those two opposite objects. To maintain an exact balance in this regard is impossible. The preponderance must fall to one side or the other. Unless a change occurs, it is not unreasonable to anticipate that not a few will go over the dividing line and be lost.

These remarks are not superinduced by a prudish disposition; we believe in recreative pleasures at proper seasons and suitable places, especially for the young. We are, however, unalterably opposed to improper times, among which are the hours of the night and the Sabbath day. The reasons for this opposition need not be adduced here. They have often been enumerated and must be plain to every Latter-day Saint without explanation. Places where intoxicating liquors are dispensed and people of all ages and both sexes are brought into contact with drunkenness, profanity and other evils are entirely unsuitable. To take Sabbath school children to such places is incurring a moral responsibility that we have no desire to participate in. Others appear to take a different view from this, but ours undergoes no change on that account.

## TRIPPINGLY TOUCHED UPON.

It is a common occurrence for the newspapers to berate the Associated Press for the Münchhausen character of many of the statements that are scattered broadcast through that channel. Notwithstanding this, whenever any assertion is made by that medium of news communication about the "Mormons," particularly if it reflect upon them, scarcely a doubt is expressed in relation to its correctness. On the contrary it is swallowed with eagerness and made the basis for moralizing.

The late statement sent over the wires to the effect that the "Mormons" had made application to the Dominion Government to allow them homestead privileges over their northwestern frontier has been culped down the throat of the press as being true as Gospel. It is alternately made the subject of grim humor, mock sympathy, and lamentation. The Jacksonville (Florida) Times-Union thinks the alleged scheme a poor one and suggests one of the Pacific Islands as a more proper place of refuge. The St. Paul Globe imagines that it perpetrates a good joke when it intimates that the migration of "Mormons" into Canada would be a noble revenge upon that country for its scurvy conduct toward the United States on the fisheries question and for transforming itself into an elysium for American embezzlers and defaulters. The Chicago Inter-Ocean says the best thing the "Mormons" can do is to stay where they are, as they may easily go farther and fare worse. This advice may be a little premature, as it is given before it has been ascertained that those to whom it is tendered have the remotest intention of going away from the homes they have built up and made pleasant in the midst of what was once a bleak and inhospitable desert. The Baltimore Herald exclaims, in mock consternation, "what is going to become of this country? Canada wants our 'Mormons'."

To the reader in this part of the country these things assume the appearance and consistency of so much fried froth, with the difference that the latter is somewhat ahead in point of substantiality. They give the ordinary mind the impression that if other subjects are treated as trippingly, journalism does not require such ponderous thinking capacity after all.

## EXCHANGE OF TEXT BOOKS.

A NUMBER of correspondents have made inquiry of the News relative to the *modus operandi* by which the changes in text books for the district schools, decided upon by the late school convention, are to be effected. The law prescribes no particular manner of accomplishing these changes, nor does it constitute any particular persons as agents in the matter. There seems to be a defect here in the school law, as considerable dubiety and more or less confusion exists, in connection with these text book changes. In several counties, however, the course taken by county school superintendents has tended to prevent trouble and smooth the way to the new order of things. These officials have given the matter their personal attention and have effected arrangements with stores at which pupils can obtain the new books, using as a purchasing medium, their old ones. It might be held to be the constructive, or at least the moral duty of all county school superintendents to take a similar course, but it is not explicitly required of them by the statute.

The matter stands thus: The publishers of the newly adopted text books are ready to furnish them on the terms of exchange accepted by the convention, but the law has failed to provide machinery for conveying the new books to the pupils, and the old books back to the publishers. The question is, how is this to be accomplished? The lane of disbursing and collecting the books, and such matters as packing, boxing, cartage, freight, etc., are elements of this problem. In some of the counties a considerable outlay of cash will have to be made by some one before the new books are fully introduced.

An unselfish and public-spirited course on the part of county superintendents, trustees and teachers will do much towards helping the pupils of the district schools and their parents out of the existing dilemma, and local merchants can, if they will, render still more effective aid. It is not apparent why the following plan could not be adopted to meet the expenses of hauling and shipping the books, etc.: The county court fixes the compensation of the county school superintendent; let a proper understanding be had between that officer and that court, and then let the former proceed to take such measures and incur such expense as may be necessary to effect the change in text books, the county superintendent to be remunerated for his time and labor, and reimbursed for such expenditures as he may make.

There is no time to be lost in getting the new text books into the hands of the pupils, and so doubt the people will appreciate such manifestations of a public spirit on the part of school officials and teachers, and local merchants especially, as will aid in effecting the exchange of school books.

OFFICIAL AND COMMON  
THIEVES.

ONE of the most forbidding popular symptoms cropping out of the social body in this country is the tendency to condone the crimes of public official thieves. Compared with the number who escape punishment, the instances in which that class of criminals have their noses pressed close to the grindstone of justice are insignificant. A few prominent instances where the culprits meet with the proper award of their misconduct, serve to quiet the minds of that class of citizens who love righteous and honest rule. This partial subjugation of a healthy sentiment is strengthened by the fuss, fury, smoke and sound created over those rather isolated cases in which an application of the law is made. The display tends to make people believe that the statutes provided for the preservation of the people from being preyed upon by the vultures of society are really being enforced. Occasionally when there is a show of attempting to administer the law in such cases it is little more than a mere farce.

The public is more or less familiar with the trials of "boudlers" of Cook County, Illinois, whose depredations upon the public funds were tremendous, their misconduct also including inhuman cruelty upon helpless victims who were wards under their official regime. The most notorious among those thieves escaped to Canada, and some of the others have been sentenced to various degrees of punishment. In some instances the penalty was simply monetary, being a fine of \$1,000. These men were not peculators on a small scale, their pilferings being enormous. This being the case it will be seen that what purports to be a punishment is scarcely a penalty at all. Suppose one of those fined as named de-raided the public of a sum not less than \$20,000—this is speaking moderately—he escaped with a clear profit from his thieving transactions of \$19,000. In fact, instead of inflicting a penalty that would tend to correct official fraud and dishonesty, it appears as if the State merely took from the thief one-twentieth of his booty and let him go. One of the same gang who was sent to the Joliet prison for a term is eliciting an immense amount of sympathy, the ground for which appears to be, pure and simple, that he fought in the Union army during the late war and is a member of the G. A. R. His friends, on this account, look upon him as a species of martyr, yet doubtless they would resent an intimation that they were putting up a fighting record in the army and membership in the G. A. R. as sufficient to cover official dishonesty.

It often appears as if the comparative sentiment against two classes of thieves—those who are official and those who follow plundering in a more private way—is not proportionate. It seems to favor the public pilferer to the detriment of the commoner kind. In some aspects, the official thief is the more heinous criminal. His dishonesty includes, in every instance, a breach of trust and his acts tend more to debauch public sentiment than do those of the more private depredator. It will be a healthy sign when this view becomes more prevalent and when legal action against different classes of criminals accords with it.

It is extremely important to the moral health and peace of a communi-

ty or nation that the execution and administration of its public affairs should be in the hands of honest and true men. They should be men who pursue the path of honesty as a principle and not as a policy.

## "LIBERAL" GAINS.

ELSEWHERE in this issue appears a list of the members elect of the next Legislative Assembly. It contains the names of five "Liberals," viz., John M. Young and Thomas Marshall, elected to the Council, and D. C. McLaughlin, C. E. Allen and E. D. Hoge, members of the House. Many of the newspapers of the country have expressed sympathy for the "struggling minority" in Utah, and have congratulated it upon its "victory" in electing five out of thirty-six members of the Legislature.

In an open meeting of the Loyal League, held in June last, while registration was in progress, one of the speakers declared the gains which the "Liberals" had made in Utah, in the course of a twenty years' "struggle." They had secured the passage of the Poland law, giving them half the juries, and of the Edmunds law with all the advantages and gratification it afforded them, and finally of the Edmunds-Tucker law, which, as the speaker labored to show, was a great boon to the "Liberals." He reminded his hearers that they had elected one member of the previous Legislature, and had secured such a re-districting of the Territory as gave them a chance to elect several members of the next one. He closed with the assertion that, added to all these gains, the "Liberals" had acquired practical control of the Federal courts of the Territory.

And how have these gains been made? In great part, by means that are infamous. Shameful misrepresentations were made to induce Congress to give half the juries to a minority class, amounting at the time to a mere handful, largely comprised of transients and adventurers. Elaborate arrangements were made and carried into effect for exciting the religious prejudices of the nation to such a degree as to coerce Congress into passing the Edmunds law of 1882. The circulation of sensational anti-"Mormon" falsehoods, floods of which were poured forth throughout the country by agencies having their headquarters in this city, was the principal means of effecting the passage of that law.

A re-districting of the Territory that is bewildering geographically, and avowedly in the interest of the "Liberals," has so grouped together their strong precincts as to give them five members of the Legislature, and the unblushing bias of the Federal judges has furnished whatever of truth is contained in the Loyal Leagues' assertion that the "Liberals" control the Federal courts.

When a minority makes gains by the agitation and force of the truths it advocates, it is worthy of its success; but the advancement of the "Liberals" of Utah has been due, not to the truths they have agitated but to the falsehoods they have promulgated; hence their merit of detestation.

## MOCK MODESTY IN POLITICS.

AT a banquet in London the other day, Chauncey M. Depew, a distinguished millionaire politician of New York, admitted, or rather stated frankly, that he had a little "boop" of his own in hand. There are at present a number of gentlemen across the Atlantic who are supposed to have something of an inclining in the same direction, and knowing this to be the case, the statement of Mr. Depew must be received as a remarkable display of candor at least, for it is not customary for an aspiring politician to admit anything or to fail to deny everything.

The extent to which this false delicacy in presenting one's self may be carried is illustrated in nearly every nominating convention, after which it mysteriously disappears, and the candidate takes the stump, even votes for himself at times, without the least compunction; and the vigor with which he carries on his fight stands out in strong contrast with what he had previously tried, to make the people believe as to himself.

Out of the most conspicuous instances of this species of self-stultification in late years was presented in the case of the late Governor Seymour, of New York. He was a delegate to and presided over the Democratic National Convention which convened in New York City on the Fourth of July, 1868. The politicians on that side the line were then in what might be called desperate straits, for General Grant was already in the field as the Republican nominee and it was generally understood that it would require a phenomenally strong man to make even a respectable race against the General, let alone to win. Pendleton (now minister to Germany), had the most organized strength, but not more than half enough to secure the nomination, the remainder of the votes being divided among half a dozen different candidates. The balloting became numerous to a wearisome extent, and finally when