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THE WITNESSES WANTED.

A dispatch from Washington, to be found on another page, intimates that President Joseph F. Smith stated during the recent investigation there, "that he would endeavor to have all witnesses summoned or wanted to appear," and upon that alleged statement he was to be informed that "the witnesses named were wanted." The "witnesses named" in the dispatch are "John W. Taylor, J. M. Tanner, Heber J. Grant, Matthias F. Cowley and Lillian M. Cannon."

In order that the facts may be understood, we will quote verbatim from the official record of the proceedings. Mr. Hyrum M. Smith having given his testimony, he was excused both by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Van Cott and was discharged from further appearance. The printed record says on page 514, 15:

Mr. Van Cott. How is it, Mr. Chairman, in regard to Mr. Joseph F. Smith? The Chairman. I understand from counsel, Mr. Smith, that your presence will not be required further.

Mr. Joseph F. Smith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask Mr. Joseph F. Smith a question, as to whether he could get into communication with any of these Apostles who have been subpoenaed and have not been reached, and whether any instruction from him would facilitate their coming here?

Mr. Joseph F. Smith. I presume I could find them in time, Mr. Taylor. I do not know how soon I could find them.

Mr. Taylor. I would be obliged if you would give them such instruction as you can then we want them as soon as we can get them.

Mr. Van Cott. Which ones, Mr. Taylor?

Mr. Taylor. John W. Taylor, George Teasdale, M. F. Cowley, John Henry Smith.

Mr. Van Cott. You know he is very ill, and that Teasdale is very ill?

Mr. Worthington. They have been subpoenaed, and are not here simply because they are not well.

Mr. Joseph F. Smith. Mr. Merrill has also been subpoenaed.

Mr. Taylor. I understand Mr. Merrill was quite ill. Of course a man who is physically incapable of coming or whose health would be affected by coming ought not to be required to come.

It will be seen that President Smith was spoken to about only two of the persons named in the dispatch, and what he said concerning them was not in the nature of a pledge for their appearance. We are able to state, positively, that he has done much more than that which was asked of him concerning them, and that John W. Taylor and Matthias F. Cowley have each declined to voluntarily go to Washington in response to ministerial interference, as they view it, with political affairs in the case of Senator Smoot, and with their personal affairs as the proceedings disclose as to other witnesses. They do not propose to have their family relations proclaimed throughout the land through their own act, unless under compulsion. President Smith has not as yet been able to locate Dr. J. M. Tanner, and is not under any obligation to procure witnesses in the case before the committee.

The gentlemen named use their own free agency in this matter, and it is a mistake to suppose that President Smith has any power to compel them to take any other course, although he has urged them to comply with the request for their presence. The witnesses wanted who are sick and have been subpoenaed will have to be excused until they are able to attend.

THE LEASING OF SALT LAKE.

The leasing of Salt Lake beach and pavilion and the railroad leading thereto for the year 1904, we believe to be a wise step on the part of the two companies financially interested in the bathing resort. Since the recession of the lake water, the reduction of the former excursion rate, and the establishment of rigid rules as to the management of the beach, it is evident that a big load has had to be carried by the stockholders, and relief from the burden was a problem that required speedy solution.

To sell out the property would probably mean the establishment of a place of entertainment that might prove very undesirable to the order-loving, temperate and respectable people of this city, and to others who desire peaceable pleasure and innocent enjoyment for themselves and their children. There would be danger of evil if the place was turned over to mere speculation and money-making without regard for higher considerations. But in leasing the beach and the railroad to responsible, reputable and capable control, the proper conduct of the resort is secured, while the wishes of the public may be met, in reason, and the lessee will bear the consequences whatever they may be.

There is no doubt that every careful precaution will be taken to maintain that decorum which should prevail at the pavilion, and that at the same time there will be such freedom as is compatible with law and order and propriety.

All needful watchcare, restrictions and regulations will be established, to render Salt Lake a place where families may obtain recreation and pleasure to which no one can reasonably object. We believe the season of 1904 will prove to be exceptionally good, both for bathing and for other amusements, and at the same time financially profitable to the management. We hope for its full success.

A GOOD SELECTION.

The appointment of Benner X. Smith to succeed the lamented Dennis C. Eichenor as district attorney for the Third Judicial district of Utah, is looked upon by the general public with much favor. Members of the bar, too, speak highly of the appointee as a good lawyer, a bright, able attorney, a clean, respectable citizen and a fair-minded, honorable man. The same might be truthfully said of other candidates for the position, but whose claims it is now useless to urge. Only one could obtain the place, and the others will have to wait their opportunity. We think the Governor has made a good choice, and it appears to be satisfactory to the majority of the public as well as to the numerous friends of Mr. Smith. We congratulate him on his appointment, and hope and believe that the anticipations of his supporters will be fully realized. The office is one of great importance and requires not only legal acumen and acquaintance with legal procedure, but sound judgment, patience, discretion and careful persistence in the public interest. To the gentlemen whose qualifications for the position were urged by their respective advocates we wish "better luck another time."

THE PLAIN TRUTH.

The St. Paul Globe of recent date has a long and well written special from this city, from which we make below a brief extract. There are many interesting paragraphs in it that we do not care to copy, as they are quite personal and their repetition in this paper might be misconstrued. The statement in it concerning the general "tacit understanding," as expressed by President Smith, which certain individuals here pretended to be angry at, will be recognized as a well known fact, and the hypocrisy of its denial will be patent to every well-informed resident of Utah. The Globe correspondent says:

"Salt Lake City, Utah, March 26.—To the rank and file of the Mormon Church and a goodly number of the Gentiles of Utah the Smoot investigation by the senate committee to date has been a disappointment. Since it early became demonstrated that it was the Mormon Church and not Reed Smoot that was on trial, a sigh of relief went up from Cache to Washington counties, from Colorado to the Nevada state lines. Young Utah said in so many words, 'Now we shall have this purported unlawful cohabitation between Church and state sifted to the bottom.'"

"President Joseph F. Smith, however, was excused from further examination and is now back in Salt Lake, with headquarters at the Beehive house, as of yore. Not a question was put to him relative to the alleged interference of the Mormon Church in politics. To put it mildly, Utah, irrespective of party or the majority of creeds, refuses to be comforted. Utah is inclined to brand the proceedings as a ghastly farce."

"True, the testimony of the venerable head of the Mormon Church provided mighty interesting reading, but there was nothing new in it, nothing that had not been more or less generally known here for the past fourteen years. While Mr. Smith and associates have not paraded their marital relations behind a brass band before the general public here, it was generally understood that these polygamists who were superlatively married prior to the manifesto of 1890 were still living with their plural wives and would continue to do so until the Grim Reaper came along and ultimately wiped off the record of the state with the last of the present generation."

"Such was the condition here. Under the existing laws, the popular verdict with but few exceptions, was that it would be inhuman to prosecute, stir up bitterness among the rising generation, give the state a black eye and generally set the hands back on the dial of progress, when time would adjust matters."

"The only dubious consolation the Mormons are getting out of the investigation is that an alleged prophecy of Brigham Young, made a few months prior to his demise, has been fulfilled—Mormonism has been 'preached' to the members of Congress at the capitol. On the other hand the storm starters are looking for a place to light. They made the bluff and the bluff was called, the lines have been jerked out of their hands, and there is now no stopping until the grand smashup occurs."

MR. BOOTH-TUCKER'S PLAN.

We have previously referred, in these columns, to the colonization scheme of Mr. Booth-Tucker, who will be heard in this city on Sunday night. His idea is that Congress should create a colonization bureau with authority to advance loans to bona fide settlers. He firmly believes, that the remedy for many social evils is a removal of the surplus population of great cities to the land. Many others have expressed similar views.

According to the bill which Mr. Tucker has caused to be drafted, and which Senator Hoar has introduced, the Bureau of Colonization is to provide for the selection, organization and preparation of duly qualified persons to settle upon and enter under the homestead laws such lands as may be reserved, in appropriate quantity, by order of the Secretary of the Interior for colonization purposes; and to designate, in such reserved lands, farm units which shall be of sufficient area for the support of a family, in tracts conforming to the public land subdivisions of not less than ten nor more than forty acres of irrigable land, and not more than eighty acres of non-irrigable land in the same vicinity, to be entered by each settler under the provisions of the act; and to furnish from funds provided to each settler assistance in money or material as may be necessary for establishing a home and farm. It is argued that it would be better for the government to superintend, in this way, the settlement of the vast tracts that are to be reclaimed under the national irrigation law, than to leave that for speculators and land grabbers.

Mr. Booth-Tucker, as will be seen, firmly believes in the "Mormon" principle of gathering, the practicability

of which has been so amply demonstrated by the Saints themselves. And he is nearly succeeding in converting other prominent men to the same view. It only proves that some folks prefer to take their ideas second-hand.

As for the success of government colonization, northern India furnishes a brilliant ocular demonstration.

The desert of Rechna Doab, for instance, ten years ago, it is said, did not have a single inhabitant. Today 500,000 persons are living in comfortable homes upon what was a desolate region. Enormous crops of sugar cane, rice, cotton, tobacco are produced. Famine has given place to plenty; people who were crowded into unhealthy quarters in cities have been placed in pleasant surroundings.

The reclamation of this tract of land, says the Portland Oregonian, was undertaken by the government of India primarily as a means of furnishing employment to thousands of starving men and women during a season of famine. The government set them at work on the canals and ditches of a great irrigation system, and paid them wages. The result surpassed the most sanguine hopes of the engineers, for 2,000,000 acres have already been productive and 3,000,000 acres more will be added to this area of fertile land in the next few years. According to statistics presented by William E. Curtis, the special correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, the value of the crop produced in 1902 was \$16,845,000 upon land which it cost only half that sum to reclaim. The net profit of the government for that year upon its investment was 14 per cent, and this upon an enterprise which was undertaken for the purpose of keeping the people from starving.

IF PORT ARTHUR FALLS.

As near as can be made out from the scanty war news, the Japanese are persistently directing their efforts against Port Arthur. In all probability, success there would mean a speedy end of the war. The fall of that Russian stronghold would be almost a blow to Russian prestige in eastern Asia. That is the view expressed by E. J. Dillon in Contemporary Review. He argues that, although Port Arthur does not mean much to Russia, territorially considered, yet the effect of its fall would be what the fall of Sebastopol was to the Crimean war. It ended that conflict. When Sebastopol was taken, although the allies could neither invade the country nor inflict any serious injury upon it, a peace was concluded the terms of which humiliated every patriotic Russian. It would be the same, he thinks, with Port Arthur. A defeat at that point would incline the Russian government to peace.

SUICIDE STATISTICS.

Mr. Upton, of the Chicago Tribune, is keeping the police posted on statistics relating to suicides, homicides, and lynchings. It is a gruesome subject, and some people would probably prefer not to even think of it; but sickness in the family is not cured by ignoring it; nor are moral defects in the social body remedied that way. If cures are to be effected, symptoms and causes must be closely studied.

According to the statistics of Mr. Upton, there have been in the United States during the last thirteen years, not less than 77,517 cases of suicides. This does not include cases that have not been reported in the newspapers. There has been a gradual increase from 2,531 in 1891 to 8,509 in 1903. Fall River has the credit of the lowest rate.

This condition is not different from that prevalent in other countries. According to the authority quoted, the rate of suicide has increased in France and Germany and most European countries excepting Russia. In Dresden the rate per one hundred thousand is 51; Paris, 42; Berlin, 36; London, 23. Of the 77,517 suicides in this country 51,217 were men and 26,300 were women. The suicides of women are increasing faster than those of men.

The causes of suicides the author gives as—Insane, 5,748; ill health, 4,266; domestic infelicity, 4,365; liquor, 3,442; disappointment in love, 3,908; business losses, 1,339.

If this is correct, the greatest number of tragedies of this kind must be traced to insanity, domestic infelicity, and liquor. Only a little over 5,200 are said to be caused by ill health and business reverses. The fact justifies the statement that the chief trouble is in the condition of the modern home. Boys and girls grow up without proper discipline. They enter the world at large without fear of God, without respect for law and government. It is the age of infidelity and lawlessness. Suicide is the logical consequence, and the remedy must be directed toward the establishment of the authority of the Almighty in the home. There is no other.

Oray for both parties!

Stand pat—for patronage.

Logan wants to light our city. North-east lights.

The McCall report calls down the Bristow report.

The band wagons are being run out, touched up and well greased.

Judge Theron Stevens and General Sherman Bell have the profoundest contempt for each other.

The writ of habeas corpus runs in Colorado provided the military do not stop it.

Don't forget the Thirteenth Ward concert for the benefit of the choir, tonight.

Uncle Sam's relations with China are said to be strained. Probably through a tea steamer.

Buffalo Bill may yet add a South Dakota divorce court to his Wild West show.

General Pflugly has been heard

from. He says the Japanese have not crossed the Yalu.

Will the day ever come when the bicyclists will be kept off the sidewalks in the restricted districts?

The public will rejoice over the resumption of organ recitals by Prof. J. J. McClellan in the Tabernacle. See notice.

It's a pity the blind leaders of the blind cannot be induced to use the raised letters to aid them in their leading.

The Ministerial Association is going to tight prize-fighting. It will doubtless be a fine display of muscular Christianity.

General Leonard Wood intends that the soldiers in the Philippines shall live laborious days whether or not they scorn delights.

Massachusetts is now hunting a parasite for the gypsy moth. If one is found, then will begin the hunt for a parasite for the parasite.

The Colorado criminal code provides no punishment for crimes against the ballot at special elections. But it is high time that it did, for the crime awaits the punishment.

Prince Hugo Hohenlohe has married Madame Helga, a beautiful circus equestrienne. What more fitting than that a prince should marry the queen of the arena?

The senate committee on elections having called upon the Powers of Utah to testify in the Smoot case, may yet call upon the European powers, for the investigation is taking a wide range.

The United States supreme court says that books issued periodically are not entitled to go through the mails as second class matter. That's right. Too many of them are third class or worse.

Heartily congratulations to our old friend, John McDonald, on reaching his seventy-fourth birthday in the enjoyment of health, peace and plenty, with the prospects of many more years of usefulness and the love and confidence of a host of friends!

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

New York World.

The tremendous majority by which the people of Chicago have endorsed the principle of municipal ownership of street railroads is not a cool verdict upon the comparative merits of public and private enterprise. It is a revolt against intolerable corporate abuses. The street railroad companies of Chicago for years kept the city in a state of siege. The citizens slept with arms in their hands, ready to jump up at the sound of the alarm-bell and hurry to Springfield to head off legislative raids upon their streets, or invade the city Hall with rope halters to scare councilmen out of schemes of robbery. At last they have said: "We will not maintain an enemy within our gates any longer—we will manage our own affairs, and if we manage them badly it will always be open to us to reform." The just complaint of the Chicago people is that all the benefits of corporate management go to the corporations and none to the public.

New York Herald.

The signal success of Glasgow in municipalizing all the public services is continually cited, with resulting more liberal treatment of the employees, aldermen, city council, lower charges and profit to the city government, together with the fact that almost every municipality in Great Britain now operates its street railways or is preparing to do so. There is a great difference between the conditions in these municipalities and those in our great cities. In view of the inefficiency, wastefulness and dishonesty that prevail in city administrations in this country, it is certain that thoughtful persons are averse to introducing them with new functions involving enormous increases in the number of public employees.

Hartford Courant.

There are many to whom the spectacle of a city government taking on 10,000 employees to add to the possibilities of political machinery is a staggerer. That is the chief danger in municipal control. It has been openly asserted by a leading railroad manager of this country that the great combinations of capital mean a drift into a condition where government ownership will have to be the outcome, and, if such ownership does come about, that will mean such an army of political service that the man in power can keep in as long as he wishes. In other words, the final development would be a dictatorship.

Boston Journal.

There have been scandals enough attaching to the street railway service in Chicago under the system of corporate ownership and management, but conservative people will regard with some solicitude the adoption of the new policy. There are plenty of precedents for it in English cities, but the results have not been in the least satisfactory. The public debt has accumulated and operating expenses have increased. Chicago now has an opportunity of working out the experiment upon a large scale, and the practical results will be watched with close interest all over the country.

New York Evening Post.

Ten thousand streetcar employees added to the city's payrolls would, as Chicago newspapers have pointed out, open up a new and rich field for grafting, and what Chicago demands now is a clearing up of the civil service scandals that are causing the city administration to be discredited. Municipal ownership will probably have to wait for its trial, but meanwhile Chicago will use the authority granted as a club to compel better service from the "temporarily licensed" corporations.

Providence Journal.

The chief question will be whether politics can be sufficiently eliminated to allow such a public utility to be managed efficiently and economically.

Indianapolis Journal.

It is doubtful if municipal management of public utilities will succeed in a city offering as large a field for municipal corruption as Chicago does.

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