

the former depend entirely on a misunderstanding of the very principles of Mormonism. One of these is submission to the laws of the land. As early as in 1831, the Saints received as the word of the Lord a revelation in which it is plainly taught:

Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land; wherefore, be subject to the powers that be, until He reigns whose right it is to reign. Doc. and Cov., Sec. 58, 21, 22.

To this principle the Latter-day Saints have always been true both in this country and in foreign lands, and they will remain so, as long as they believe in the Gospel of Christ, of which it is an indispensable precept.

During the long controversy concerning plural marriage, the duty of all good citizens to conform to the constitutional laws of the country was never questioned. That was always admitted, as it always will be, by the Saints. But the point at issue was whether the prohibition of what the Saints considered a purely religious ordinance was constitutional. To ascertain this the matter was carried into the courts and finally to the highest judicial tribunal. That authority having decided the question, the famous manifesto of the President of the Church was the logical outcome of the teachings of the Gospel regarding the duty of the Saints to obey the laws of the land.

When these facts are considered it will become plain that the fears of some of our contemporaries are without foundation. The members of the Mormon Church, while they remain true to the Gospel, can no more violate the laws against contracting plural marriages than any other law. They would be liable not only to the punishment prescribed by the law, but also to the censure of the people to which they belong. The whole history of the Church proves this statement to be true. Mormonism has been preached extensively in various countries, but never have the missionaries urged or taught converts to break the laws of the countries to whose rulers they owed allegiance. On the contrary, they have preached loyalty, whatever was the form of government established. The Mormons can follow no other course in this country, blessed above all others in so many respects. The position of the Mormon Church is not that of defeat and humiliation; it is that of a people enthusiastic in its mission to set to the world a glorious example of loyalty, of patriotism, of justice. Have, therefore, no fear for the Mormons!

PRACTICALLY UNANIMOUS.

It isn't often that the newspapers of Salt Lake City see eye to eye on any political proposition, but the fact that they do so in the matter of the fire and police commission bill ought to be an effective reminder to the Legislature as to the latter's duty in the case. This city and Ogden are the two Utah towns where the effects of the present law have been tried; and in this city particularly it has had full and intelligent experiment. Every opportunity has been had for detecting its weaknesses and enjoying its benefits; and with the experience thus gained, there

should be little trouble in making such changes in the statute, while retaining all its approved features, as have been found to be necessary. As to the opposition that may be encountered to retaining and amending the law, we trust the lawmakers, while impugning no man's motive nor criticizing any one's course in advance, will consider well the source. Ultra partisanship in these departments, and office-grabbing in municipal affairs generally, are evils which the Legislature cannot demolish too often or stifle too completely for the welfare of those most concerned.

THE UTAH FORESTS.

On Saturday the News gave to the public information regarding the efforts of the Forestry association to establish three vast forest reservations in the State. The proposition is a grand scheme if carried out under proper restrictions. Two of the chief reliances of the State for prosperity are the purity of its water supply and the preservation and extension of its timber area. To accomplish this is worth a considerable outlay both for the institution and maintenance of a procedure that will achieve the desired result. Hence we hope that the reservation of the great forest area will become an established fact, and that when the mountain tops are thus reserved steps will be taken whenever favorable opportunity offers to increase, by planting and cultivation, both the number and quality of forest trees.

Of course a vast project like this must be worked out with care, that no unnecessary burden be imposed by undue restriction on any of the State's material interests. For this reason the scheme as now presented seems to need some modification, or at least the addition of some regulations, that will make provision for one or more important industries in the State. For instance, as it now appears, the sheep industry will be materially affected, and possibly to a great extent destroyed in some localities, by such reservation, unless a wholesome exception be made in its behalf. It is pretty generally known that at certain seasons the mountain tops with their growth of timber and herbage afford the only available range that gives protection and sustenance to sheep from the surrounding country. If there be a complete exclusion of flocks from all the mountain ranges in the area named for forests, the third great industry of the State will be greatly crippled without accomplishing any commensurate good.

It will hardly do to take the extreme position that it would be better to destroy the sheep industry here than ruin health by foul water or cripple agriculture by reducing the irrigation supply. A chief reason why such position is untenable is because it is wholly unnecessary. It is true that the befouling of water by sheep is so objectionable as not to be consented to; it is also true that if the timber disappears from the hills the water supply will be diminished; but it is a fact just as well authenticated that the enhancement of the sheep industry in Utah does not require that either of the disasters named should be en-

tailed. And if the sheep interest is eliminated from the State, the health of the people is liable to suffer from imported meats, as has been proved in the case of imported hog flesh; while the agricultural and manufacturing industries also would be heavy sufferers. This fact will be readily recognized by those acquainted with the sheep business and its intimate relation to the other industries named.

There is, however, no occasion for a clash of interests. The sheep do not destroy the timber, and need not be allowed to be foul sources of water supply. All that is required to make the welfare of this industry perfectly harmonious with the forest-reservation scheme is the making of wholesome regulations by which the sheep are admitted to certain areas within the reservations. There are great numbers of mountain tops where flocks now feed and from which not a drop of water reaches the valley below in surface channels; for sheep do not require much water, and often subsist for months on the frequent rainfalls and the moisture of green food in high altitudes, far from any stream. Befouling water is utterly impossible in such places. This is an illustration which serves to show that the forest reservations can be made for preservation and increase of timber, and such regulations be applied thereto as will protect sources of water supply and allow the vast flocks of sheep in the State ample room to survive and prosper. The sheep industry does not need "the whole earth," and should not be allowed more than a reasonable share; nor should the forest reservation require an exclusiveness that is unreasonable. Let us have the forest reservations by all means; and by proper restrictions let us foster the sheep industry too. They can get along well together.

IMPOSING ON WORKMEN.

There has grown up of recent years in this city a practice of most reprehensible character, because of its direct injury to workmen. This is the custom that many contractors have of paying off their employes in saloons. Whatever respectability may attach to a saloon under some conditions, it is a disreputable place for this special purpose. Under the custom referred to, the paydays of certain contractors are made training periods to lead men to vice, and a means of robbing the workman of his hard earned wages. Men who otherwise would seldom if ever enter a drinking den are thereby compelled to go to such places to get paid for their labor, become familiar with conditions there, and gradually fall into the way of regular habits; while the occasion is one where the workman who has received his pay must order the drinks for the crowd, and especially for the boss; and thus he is deprived, frequently against his will, of money that should go toward the support of wife and children not too well provided for at best.

It may be suggested that a man does not have to order drinks unless he wishes to; but this is not the case. Many workingmen are