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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 4, 1907.

A FALSEHOOD REFUTED.

We take the liberty of copying the following article by President Joseph F. Smith, published in the current number of the Improvement Era:

"Writing in a local print of the review in the February Era of the statement of Senator Burrows that 'there has been no case in which a candidate for high office in Utah has obtained the consent of the Church to run, and has been defeated, and there is no case in which one did not receive such consent, and has been elected,' the salacious again falsifies, and attempts to mislead his readers. He says:

"Mr. Smith attempts to deceive when he challenges and disputes with Senator Burrows in this matter. It is a fact that Apostle Heber J. Grant, speaking for the president of the Church and by the authorization of the president of the Church, has given the consent of the Church to Mr. McCune to run for the office of Senator. Mr. Smith knows all these things to be true; he knows that Mr. McCune was selected by the president of the Church, and that Apostle Grant was authorized to conduct for Mr. McCune, his campaign. Mr. Smith knows that the exposure of the Grant methods delayed the deciding vote in the Legislature; and that during the delay the authorities of the Church concluded to change candidates, selecting as a substitute for Mr. McCune, who was a Democrat, a prominent churchman, who was a Republican, and demanding of the Democratic legislature that it elect this prominent churchman. Mr. Smith knows that many Democrats were called from the legislature before the authorities of the Church, and were compelled to yield their personal and partisan views, and that they agreed to vote for a Republican at the behest of the Church. Mr. Smith knows that in the confusion thus created, and which was increased by the exposure of the Grant methods, he showed, by an adroit political move on the part of leading Democrats in procuring a recess in order to prevent balloting, the hour of adjournment was reached; and only for that reason the purpose of the Church was defeated."

"It is only necessary to state that Joseph F. Smith has no personal knowledge of any such alleged facts. Joseph F. Smith was not in the state at that time, as he left on the 7th day of January, 1899, for the Pacific Islands, and did not return until the 6th day of March, following. He could not be, and was not, therefore, in possession of such information; but he does know that at the behest of the Church no man has ever been compelled to yield his personal or partisan views, or to vote for any party or person. The presumption is that if the defamer desired to tell the whole truth, he could name the prominent Republican referred to, and the presumption is, further, that he might also truthfully say it was neither the Church that selected him nor its president."

VALE DUBOIS!

The senatorial career of Fred T. Dubois of Idaho went into eclipse today, and from this time forth he is an "ex," and in the shadows, so far as membership and mischief in the halls of national legislation is concerned. Idaho, Utah, the country, will be the better off through the transfer of his toga to an abler and more high-minded man. Dubois' activities should have been devoted to nobler purposes. It is not so many years ago that he was on the opposite side of the question against which he latterly arrayed himself with so much vigor and hatred. But Fred Dubois is what is known in political parlance, as a "trimmer," and hoping to profit by the changing winds he turned his sails accordingly, and with the result that his bark was driven upon the rocks. It is to be hoped that he will be able to gather his wits, make a new craft and set out to sea, again under more favorable conditions. But it is not likely that he will do so. Already the announcement is made with red fire accompaniment, that he has sold his services to a lecture bureau and that he is to shortly take to the platform to continue his vilification of the people of Utah. A leopard cannot change its spots; and no more can he. Revenge for fancied wrong, and bigotry and loquacity instead of statesmanship will continue to be his stock in trade, till the end comes, and until that day he will be one of the chiefs of the slanderband.

SONG OF THE GRAFTERS.

It pays to be a grafter  
And with the grafters stand,  
I'd rather be a grafter  
Than king of Zulu land.

If you don't hear this refrain among the job holders and get-rich-quick crowd of the "American" party, in direct words, you can catch the sentiment any way; for it rings more or less through every department of the municipality. The coppers on the police force can make it resound from the Black Cat saloon, to the rooming house where the amorphous and unsuspecting McWhirter brothers were robbed by an organized band of protected toughs, of ten thousand dollars, the most of it being taken in the name of the law. It's a song with which they are more thoroughly familiar than any other. "Graft" is not a musical word, but it is wonderfully expressive, and emphasizes a wrong, not to say crime, in public life, that is possessed by no other articulate or inarticulate sign or combination. As an epithetical designation that goes to the very root of a great evil, it is probably without an equal in the English language. As a name to protect and shield the grafters, it is a masterpiece of art.

quiltion of ill-gotten gains, it is lightly and lovingly referred to and cultivated by bootleggers and other recipients of its benefits. In that class are the officials, gamblers and bunco sharps who participated in the "profits" of the "game" in which the two Scotchmen were defeated. And of this kind of bunco, it is the duty of Salt Lake to free itself without unnecessary delay. Whitewash won't kill it. That has been tried. It thrives under a kalsomine coating as disease bacteria in filth. A more drastic remedy must be applied. The time to apply it is now. The future is too far away. Protected knavery must be given to understand that it has had its day in this city. If it continues to live it must be elsewhere. The newspapers that mourn the outcome of the Smoot case, and are trying to put the lid on the Sheets case, are among those who are profiting by the graft system in this city which permeates the entire administration. The extent to which it has obtained in the police department, no one but the coppers know, and they won't tell. How much money it has swallowed up in contract work and other jobs can't even be approximated. But that the sum is very great there is no doubt. Everywhere in the service the idea is rampant that it pays to be a grafter and with the grafters stand. The vital question now is, how long will the public "stand" it?

A DAMNING DEFENSE.

If the Salt Lake Apologist for Chief Sheets had a grudge against that widely known official, and had decided to undo him, it could have devised no worse defense for him, than that which it has offered since the last arrest was made. If there is such a thing as a damning apology, Chief Sheets is the victim of it. He has caused to pray to be saved from his friends, first.

In the first place it was bad policy to try Sheets in the columns of a newspaper, before the evidence was all properly sifted. An innocent man can afford to await the result of an impartial hearing. When the defense takes the form of an effort to influence public opinion beforehand, and to obtain a verdict accordingly, no matter what the facts may be, the suspicion will be confirmed that the accused is guilty and must rely on tricks for an acquittal.

In the second place, the defense offered is so absurd as to amount to an accusation itself. The Apologist charges that the "hierarchy"—a creation of its own delirious imagination—has concocted the whole case in order to get rid of Sheets. Is there no further defense for Sheets? Is the entire imagination of the friends of that official unable to invent anything better calculated to furnish him a much needed shield? If so, his case must be hopeless indeed. Why not say that the charges against Sheets are due to sun spots, or to the evaporation from the Salt Lake sea? That would be idiotic. Certainly. But not more so, than the allegation that the bunco players and gamblers have conspired with a "hierarchy" that does not exist, for the undoing of Sheets, because of his zeal in the suppression of crime. Silence would have been more serviceable to the Chief than such idiotic attempts at lying.

When the McWhirter case first came up, we expressed the hope, for the reputation of this city, that Mr. Sheets would be able to prove that he had no connection with it. This was not proved. But an "honest judge," to quote the Apologist, declared that the said connection had not been shown. We accepted that verdict and refrained from further comment. We hoped the Chief had learned a lesson for the benefit of public morality. And that was very much needed. It is a notorious fact that under the administration of Sheets, the city has filled up with dens of iniquity of various descriptions, while Sunday saloons and Sunday theaters flourish in spite of law. It is a fact that report has it that policemen hardly know which offender to arrest, and which to let alone, owing to the system of protection of law-breaking that prevails. In view of known facts, no one will be surprised to learn of more law-breaking, especially when the Apologist of the law-breaking element undertakes the defense.

NO PROOFS OFFERED.

Dr. Paden and others of a similar caliber are busy in the East, telling the people all about the terrible "menace of Mormonism," and incidentally rapping Senator Knox and the heroic men who dared to stand up to the "menace." It is to be hoped that he will be able to gather his wits, make a new craft and set out to sea, again under more favorable conditions. But it is not likely that he will do so. Already the announcement is made with red fire accompaniment, that he has sold his services to a lecture bureau and that he is to shortly take to the platform to continue his vilification of the people of Utah. A leopard cannot change its spots; and no more can he. Revenge for fancied wrong, and bigotry and loquacity instead of statesmanship will continue to be his stock in trade, till the end comes, and until that day he will be one of the chiefs of the slanderband.

"It was Doctor Paden and the Rev. John L. Leitch who started the Smoot investigation, to create a sentiment against Senator Smoot and to get names on petitions to unseat him. Doctor Paden, in November, 1903, stated in the Philadelphia and other large Eastern papers that Senator Smoot was an enemy to the government, that he had taken an oath to avenger the blood of Joseph and Hyrum Smith on the gentiles of this nation, and had taught his children a similar oath. Doctor Paden was offered \$5,000 guaranteed reward by a Gentile citizen of Salt Lake City if he could make good the above statements. "Doctor Paden also stated in Washington, D. C., February 17, 1907, published in the Washington Post, that polygamy has been practised more by Mormons in the last five years than in the 25 previous years." If Doctor Paden or the Rev. John L. Leitch had gone on the road and sworn to the above statements, Senator Knox's vote would have been different and Smoot would have been sent back to Utah long ago.

Shoot might have been sent back to Utah long ago. "And let it be remembered that not one of the anti-Smoot agitators who went through the country telling the misleading stories they did to get signatures on their petitions to unseat Senator Smoot went on the stand to sustain one of the charges they had made. "I would suggest to the people of Philadelphia that before they allow any one from Utah to slander Senator Knox for making one of the most manlike speeches to uphold the Constitution ever delivered in the United States Senate they had better ask the agitators why they did not put their statements before the Smoot investigation committee."

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.

Reports from China continue to tell about the horrors of famine in that country. Around the city of Tangany, for instance, there are fifty camps, outside the city walls, each containing 10,000 souls. In the whole city, containing 95,000 inhabitants, there is hardly one who is not dependent upon charity. It is claimed that in many of the smaller and more remote settlements the only thing the authorities have been able to do for the sufferers is to designate for their use "a place to die in."

A reporter who has recently traveled through the stricken districts reports that in Antung alone there were 800,000 destitute, all threatened with death. The Chinese officials, confronted by this heartrending state of things, acknowledged their helplessness and said that the only feasible course was to let 400,000 starve and endeavor to get seed and scanty food for the 400,000 remaining.

A great deal of relief work must be done, but it is comforting to contemplate how much can be accomplished even with a very small contribution. A correspondent of the Christian Herald says that, according to a Chinese estimate a cent and a half a day is all it takes to bridge a sufferer over until the next harvest. That is to say \$150 a day will keep the people in a district containing 10,000 souls alive during the famine. That means \$4,500 per month, and since the famine will continue for five months more, until the spring wheat can be harvested (less than half the normal crop is expected) this one district will require help amounting to only \$22,500. But there are four million sufferers, and the generosity of the world will be taxed to its utmost, even if a very modest contribution will go a long way toward relief.

The testimony is unanimous as to the fearless, efficient, painstaking work done in distributing outside relief by the committees that have the matter in charge. If you decide that you will save a life by contributing a little of your abundance, you may rest morally certain that that life will be saved and that no one but a famine sufferer will profit by your gift.

Walker seems to have outrun the sleuths. Are "barnstormers" also subject to "brain storms?" Salt Lake has another rural route. Now we are seven. Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy lives in Concord and dwells in discord. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw is a woman with a past, a present and possibly a future. Those Paris Apaches seem to be much worse than the London Mohawks ever were.

The Chicago sub-treasury officials are very anxious to find out who's who in that \$175,000 robbery. Mr. Harriman makes it plain that he thinks he could give the President pointers on building the Panama canal.

"Senator Smoot, who stays, can give the laugh to Senator Dubois, who goes," says the Oregonian. And he who goes, goes never to return.

This suit against the trustees of the Christian Science church most likely will be more Eddyfying than enlightening.

Thaw has been taking "setting up" exercises. When Jerome makes his address to the jury he will get such a "setting up" as few men have ever experienced.

So ex-Senator Dubois is going to lecture and tell the people what he knows about the "Mormons," or rather what he thinks he knows about them, which is an entirely different thing.

It is rather odd that Thaw's astute attorneys and his medical experts have not introduced on the subject of insanity the famous illustration in Don Quixote of the man who was sound on all subjects save that of his own identity, he claiming to be Neptune.

Senator Morgan's solicitude for the "exiled" negroes who were formerly slaves in the United States and the safeguarding of their right to return to their "native land," is very amusing. It is doubtful if there is in the country a negro whose "native land" is Africa.

Rochester medical authorities and hospital boards are wondering if there is not some mysterious but yet unfathomed infectious sympathy which produces appendicitis through over-contact with those suffering from the disease. If so it must come from a contact vein. But isn't this carrying sympathy too far?

Those who wear Uncle Sam's uniform should be most solicitous of all to respect it, and most of those who wear it are, but when some of them turn highwaymen and hold up citizens they do that which tends to bring it into general disrepute. Self respect is the basis of all respect.

Mr. Bryan seems to be making converts to his government ownership of railroads theory. Senator Patterson of Colorado is pronouncedly in favor of it, while Henry M. Whitney of Boston is not greatly averse to it, if it does not mean confiscation. The theory is certain to have its run if not its triumph.

ROCKEFELLER'S MILLIONS. Springfield Republican. What is said to be an authoritative statement of John D. Rockefeller's

wealth, coming from Frederick T. Gates, a business representative, credits him with the possession of not over \$300,000,000. Instead of owning 40 per cent of the Standard Oil company stock, Mr. Gates says he owns only 20 per cent, or \$20,000,000 par value and a present market value of something over \$100,000,000. According to this, about two-thirds of his possessions are outside of the company with which he is conspicuously identified. His annual income, it is stated, never amounts to more than \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Instead of the \$100,000,000 more or less with which he has been popularly credited, the revised estimate makes him fairly imposing—though isn't it too bad to rob the country of a billionaire when we thought we had him?

ADMISSIONS OF THUNDERER.

London Times. Two things seemed to have most impressed Mr. Mosely in his study of America—the higher value put by Americans than by us on education, and the desire of children as well as adults to get full use of the system of free education which practically exists from the kindergarten to the university. As to the latter point, Mr. Mosely writes with something like enthusiasm. That the community should be able to avail itself of all the best intellects, in whatever social station they may be, that the capable lad born of poor parents should have his foot on the first rung of a ladder by which he may climb to the highest place in the community, that poverty should not be permitted to nip budding merit, is important. It is one of the virtues of the American educational system with its rich endowments, that this promotion is facilitated.

WOULD HIT ABOUT EVERYBODY

Chicago Chronicle. What is described as a bill to drive get-rich-quick men out of Illinois has been introduced in the legislature at Springfield. A bill of that kind will have to be very carefully framed in order to avoid hamstringing a great many highly respectable citizens. When the whole motive of the age is the desire to get rich quick it will be hard to avoid provisions that might perhaps limit the operation of the proposed statute to vendors of gold bricks and mining stock. The bill, however, is an enterprise to take care of themselves.

FLESH EATING ANIMALS.

Scribner's Magazine. What percentage of people, even of those who feel an interest in wild animal life, really know that the largest flesh eating animals in the world are found in America? People generally believe, and have believed for ages, that the African lion is the king of beasts. But he is not nearly as large or as powerful as an animal as the large brown bear of subarctic America. The bears are not as ferocious or combative as the lions, nor are they nearly as vicious when they are given credit for being; but the largest of them are much larger and more powerful than any of the lions. It is safe to say that the largest of the brown bears of the north would weigh three times as much as the largest specimen of lion, and is beyond all question greatly superior in strength.

JUST FOR FUN.

Taking a Mean Advantage. Somehow (perhaps because she was so pretty) he took a fiendish delight in making her blush. "What kind of table is the most suitable for a married couple?" "I can't imagine," she replied unsuspiciously. "A multiplication-table, of course!" And his undeserved reward was the furious red that mantled to her cheeks.—Young's Magazine for March.

Mr. Hoopah—Dis hat's too large. Whafah yo' tink it am becomin'?" Mrs. Hoopah—It kivers up mos' of your face.—Puck.

"Don't you think that grafting can be stopped?" "Certainly," answered Senator Sorghum. "The only difficulty is to stop one kind without opening up the way for another."—Washington Star.

"Of course I know," said the young lover, "that I am totally unworthy of you." "Ah!" she answered, "how happy we should be if you and papa agreed on all points as you do on this one!"—Cleveland Leader.

The Young One—The old man said he wanted to go her of his hands, and yet he wouldn't listen to me when I spoke of marrying her. The Wise One—Probably that's the reason he wouldn't listen to you.—Judge.

Maude—I thought you had made Jack swear off smoking cigarettes. Ethel—I did. But I had to let him begin again. I couldn't think of a thing to give him for Christmas that didn't have something or other to do with tobacco.—Life.

"These bridge disasters are terrible," remarked the man who was reading of bridges being swept away by the river. "I should say so," replied his friend. "My wife lost all of her year's pin money in a game of 'bridge' last night."—Chicago Daily News.

"Mrs. Gaddie says she's quite disgusted with those new people who moved in last week. There's some scandal in their family." "What is it?" asked Mrs. Naybor. "They wouldn't tell Primrose, and she's why she's so disgusted with them."—Philadelphia Press.

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