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SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 26, 1906.

THE COAL SITUATION.

Commissioner E. E. Clark, who is here to conduct an investigation of the coal carrying roads, is reported as having expressed the opinion that the practice in vogue in the anthracite regions, would, if adopted by the public here, obviate the difficulty in obtaining fuel when it is needed. In these regions, it seems, the price of coal is agreed upon the first day of April. Then it advances ten cents a ton per month, making it an object for the consumers to lay in a big supply early in the year.

A great many consumers could do that, but the majority of wage earners would find it difficult to buy a year's supply of fuel in advance. Would they not consider the discrimination in price unjust? Would they not argue that it is the duty of the coal dealers to lay in a supply large enough for the needs of the consumers, and provide facilities for distribution as the coal is called for, since that is the very reason why they charge the public a substantial profit. The grocers do not expect their patrons to lay in a year's supply in advance. They regard it as their business to keep the stock up for the public, and deliver goods whenever ordered, for the profit of it. Why should a different principle obtain in the coal trade? But, possibly there is no other solution. It means, however, that those unable to buy coal in large quantities when least needed, must pay considerably more when winter sets in, than those better able to pay a high price.

The coal situation must be studied and the causes of shortage removed. We are all working for the growth of Salt Lake, and lauding its future possibilities. Strangers who pass through here are pleased with the city and its people, even if they deplore the war that is being waged by the tools of plutocracy. But the City will not grow as it should do, until people can feel reasonably sure that they will not be confronted by coal famine in the winter and water famine in the summer. The latter eventually, thanks to the early snow storms, need not be contemplated for next year. Providence is storing up an abundance of moisture in the mountain reservoirs. There should be no danger of shortage of fuel for the winter. The supply is abundant, and the public are willing to pay for its distribution.

WRITE HOME.

An Elder writing from a foreign mission field, asks us to remind Saints in Utah of obligations many of them have entered into to write to friends and relatives in the Old country. If, he says, the Saints at home would faithfully keep their promises in this regard, their letters would be the means of removing many of the existing prejudices.

This is a subject that has often been referred to, both in the pulpit and the press. A great many are neglectful in this respect. They have promised friends from whom they have parted, to write often and let them know how they are getting along, undoubtedly intending to keep this promise faithfully. But they come to a new country, where everything is strange to them. They have to commence from the very beginning, building up a home for themselves and those depending upon them. They must learn a new language and become accustomed to new methods of business. Often they are discouraged and feel anxiety for the future. They are passing through a serious experience, until they have become established in their new homes. It is perhaps no wonder that they do not feel inclined to literary efforts, but they should, nevertheless, endeavor to keep their promises. Letters to friends who are eagerly waiting for them, accomplish a great deal of good. Besides, a promise is sacred and should be redeemed. If we are not true to our friends, we cannot expect the Lord to trust us.

To those who may not find time to write as often as they would like to, especially if their circle of acquaintances in the Old country was very extensive, we would suggest the propriety of substituting some of the Latter-day Saints' publications for a letter. The Deseret News is very suitable to send to those who understand English. It is eagerly read wherever it goes. And to those who do not understand English, the foreign publications, German, Swedish, Danish, etc., would be welcome messengers. Do not neglect your friends. Send them a word of cheer, a card, a greeting, and fulfill a promise.

GROWTH OF A BAD HABIT.

A contributor to the current number of Moody's Magazine shows the immense growth of the tobacco industries of this country during the last thirteen years. In 1893, he says, the investor who paid \$2,150 for 100 shares of stock of the American Tobacco company, was ridiculed. But the person who did this and kept his investment, has received to date \$9,880 in cash dividends and interest, and holds securities yielding him \$1,200 per year, having a par value of \$24,000 and a market value of \$21,600. That indicates the enormous growth of the business of that company. Good management accounts for this growth only

sumption of its products is another factor.

The following figures indicate the growth of the tobacco habit. In 1892 the enormous total of 4,674,798,260 cigars were manufactured in this country. Ten years later the production had risen to 6,914,639,000 cigars. In 1892 we manufactured 3,282,060,999 cigarettes. In 1902 the total was somewhat lower, being 2,728,155,637, but in the year ending June 30, 1905, the Commissioner of Internal revenue reported the manufacture of 10,411,909,000 cigarettes, and besides, 163,379,270 pounds of "plug;" 8,783,211 pounds of "twist;" 12,157,003 pounds of fine cut chewing, and 149,151,699 pounds of smoking tobacco. From these statistics some idea may be formed of the enormous business controlled by the Tobacco combine.

Whether they are a source of congratulation or not, is another question. The first governor of Virginia, Ralph Lane, and Sir Francis Drake, are said to have carried to England the first implements and material for tobacco smoking, and many took kindly to it and the vice spread notwithstanding the opposition of sages, theologians, and statesmen. When the English began to plant colonies in America the settlers brought a taste for tobacco with them. They found the weed in abundance here and they used it freely. In every spot on the globe where the white man has penetrated he has carried the tobacco habit with him. Every nation has yielded to the seduction of the weed. Peer and peasant, millionaire and pauper, sage and ignoramus, theologian and infidel, all have proved their weakness. And the habit is growing, notwithstanding the warning voice of both scientists and moralists.

SPELLING TESTS.

An interesting test of so-called simplified spelling has been made by a New York school teacher, and his conclusion is that reforms advocated by the Board which Mr. Carnegie so generously supports, are natural, because they commend themselves readily to the judgment of the children whose taste has not been corrupted.

The school teacher referred to says he gave a spelling test to all pupils in the last five years in the course in one of the public schools. To these children he gave from the Simplified Spelling Board's list the following ten words:

Drest, dropt, flit, lookt, mist, kist, lapt, nipt, stept, stoit.

An examination of the papers, we are told, showed that the tendency of the children to end the words in the above group in "t" was 62.7 per cent. This tendency varied in the different grades. In the lower grades the tendency to end these words in "t" was much stronger than in the 7th and 8th years where there was no tendency to this form, as the children had learned to use the "ed" ending. In the 4th year an Italian boy was found who spelled 90 per cent of these words with the "t" ending. No less than 21.7 per cent of these words, or nearly 1-4, were missed on account of the failure of the children to double the consonants in spelling them with the "ed" ending.

Another test was made on the following ten words:

Ax, bark, cock, draft, center, gipsy, mama, mold, pigmy, omelet.

The examination proved that 84.7 per cent of all the pupils used these simplified spellings. The tendency to use the more anomalous spellings was most marked in the 7th and 8th years, a fact which seems to indicate that constant training has overcome the natural tendency of the children to spell simply and to avoid the superfluous letters.

The tests are taken to prove that the simplified spelling is natural, while the common orthography is artificial and abnormal.

MARRIAGE ON TRIAL.

Mrs. Elsie Clews Parsons, in her new book, *The Family*, ventures, if correctly reported, the revolting suggestion that marriages be made probationary before they are pronounced permanent. She is quoted as follows:

"It would therefore seem well, from this point of view, to encourage early trial marriage, the relation to be entered into with a view to permanency, but with the privilege of breaking it if proved unsuccessful, and, in the absence of offspring, without suffering any great degree of public condemnation. The dogma that marriage is an unquestionable sacrament and the dictum that it is merely a survival of a past form of property-holding are both dams to a proper solution of the social question."

This suggestion comes rather malapropos at a time when the sentiment of the country is crystallizing against the facility with which divorce is obtained, which almost deprives the marriage relation of its character of permanence. It is significant that women thinkers and authors so often give voice to discontent with prevailing conditions. To judge from the clamor of unthinking crowds one would suppose that no reform is possible in the laws and regulations pertaining to marriage. But that is not the view of those best qualified to express opinions on that subject. But there will be no "probationary" marriages, with the sanction of law. That is not the solution of the problems relating to sex associations. What is needed is a better understanding of the mission of man and woman on earth, and the sacredness of the institution we call home, and then willingness to comply with the laws of God given for the preservation of purity and morality. That is the only solution possible of the marriage question.

Yale likes the new football rules 6 to 0.

Cook-book learning is the hardest to digest.

To Caruso the monkey house is no longer the house of mirth.

According to New York papers, the horse show was really a hat show.

Genuine political economy—to elect a non-partisan Board of Education.

Golden Gate Park is called San Francisco's non-partisan Board of Education.

shows that where there's a will there's a way.

Samuel Gompers is the Patria Diaz of the American Federation of Labor.

One of the hardest problems of the day to solve is how to give and take rebates and not be caught.

Doubtless currency reform would be a good thing but speculation and business reform would be better.

Is E. H. Harriman trying to pluck the laurel wreath for public speaking from James J. Hill's brow?

Harry Thaw anticipates a merry Christmas. He has seen many merrier ones than he will see this year.

And now Governor-elect Hughes announces that he will speak for himself. Don't all speak at once, gentlemen.

These ten per cent raises in wages will give tens of thousands of employees additional cause for thanksgiving.

Count Boni de Castellane threatens to engage in some kind of "mental" work. Any kind of work is better than vicious idleness.

Will Mayor Schmitz throw the limelight on the Searchlight contribution and its wanderings, when he reaches San Francisco?

Astronomers say that Mars is again trying to signal us. Then why doesn't the signal corps get out and take the message?

The way to keep the schools non-partisan is to elect as members of the Board of Education those who believe in non-partisan schools.

Santos Dumont has made another failure with his airship, this time the rudder having broke. As a maker of failures he is a great success.

The local weather bureau has been ordered to use the simplified spelling. Now let's have some simplified forecasts that people can understand.

In about a decade those dishonorably discharged colored soldiers will be petitioning Congress for pensions, probably with good prospects of getting them.

The news from Cuba is anything but reassuring. One wonders if things there must become worse before they become better. At times it looks that way.

A GUARANTY OF PEACE.

From Collier's Weekly.
Japan's want of funds and not our strength is the present guarantee of peace. However, it is not wise to count too much on wealth and numbers. This would be a naval campaign pure and simple, and naval warfare is cheap beside land warfare. The main extra expenses of a force always on war footing are ammunition and coal. Out of the vast sum we have spent in the Philippines only \$20,000,000 is charged to the navy. Any policy of Japan's or ours which tends to make us unpopular in the far east endures our position as her commercial competitor. That sentiment on the Pacific coast which would break our treaty obligations with a friendly nation can only be logical by advocating half a dozen new battleships at the next session of Congress and a provision for the speedy manning and the rapid construction of our Asiatic coast defenses.

THE REAL VICTIMS.

Portland Oregonian.
The three sons of the Count and Countess de Castellane are the real sufferers from the mercenary marriage of which they are the least. While the mother is given the custody of the children—all of whom are of tender years—they are to be given over to their father, a man of vile habits, two days in the week, one week each at New Year and Easter, and a month in summer of each year. During these times they will be with their grandmother, who is a bitter enemy of their mother and under the influence of their father. If the countess succeeds in making even decent Frenchmen out of her boys under these conditions, both she and they will be exceptionally fortunate. A mother must indeed be of strong character and determined will to counteract the influences that will be set at work against her personality and teachings in such a case. And the boys—in a perplexing strait between the two—will early learn to go their own way, unimpaired of admiration from either source, since each will discredit the other. The case we have here is one of many in which the parents having eaten sour grapes, the children's teeth will be set on edge.

PLAN TO HARNESS MISSISSIPPI.

North American.
Hugh L. Cooper, the Wall street engineer who solved the problem of how to harness the waters of Niagara and who drew the plans which make it possible to accomplish that greatest of all feats in the line of electrical development, proposes to build a dam 6,000 feet long across the Mississippi river at Keokuk at the foot of what is known as the Des Moines Rapids. The great Niagara Falls proposition was so enormous that for a time the country laughed at it and that it was not possible to control the mighty forces there so as to get 200,000 horsepower for commercial purposes. But when the world's greatest dam here is completed, an immense powerhouse, 1,863 feet long will contain 47 immense generators, with a capacity of 4,500 horsepower each, or a maximum capacity of 21,500, to be utilized in operating the industrial wheels in many cities.

JUST FOR FUN.

Bible Reading in Missouri.
Colonel John Cosgrove, afterward Congressman from the Booneville district, was especially distinguished as an advocate before a jury. Defending a client accused of some crime, Colonel Cosgrove in an eloquent climax shouted:

"What does the state's attorney expect? Does he expect my client, like Daniel, to command the sun to stand still, and have it obey?"

Judge James W. Draffen, lawyer for the opposition, interrupted. "May it please your Honor," he said, addressing June E. Hazell, who was on the bench. "I object to Colonel Cosgrove's misquoting Scripture. 'I beg pardon,' he blurted out, 'Colonel Cosgrove, I forgot for the moment that it was not Daniel, but Solomon, who commanded the sun to stand still.' And that statement went unchallenged.—Kansas City Star.

Juvenile Curiosity.
"Say, mamma."
"What is it, Ethel?"
"Do onions cause the howling gale?"—Montgomery Advertiser.

To be it on Faith.
When a navigator tells us that he has reached a certain latitude in a search for the north pole, we must

easier than to go and see for ourselves.—Toledo Blade.

Feminine Exercise.
Most of a woman's exercise consists in jumping at conclusions.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Invincible.
It is a cheering thought that when the question is one of character the verdict of the American people never varies.—New York Mail.

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An Empathic Hit.

LOUIS JAMES
As Falstaff

THE MERRY WIVES
OF WINDSOR.

Nellie McHenry, Norman Hackett, Apple James.
MAGNIFICENT PRODUCTION.
Great Cast. Marvellous Effects.

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Price, 10c to \$1.50. Matinee—2c to \$1.00. Sale Tuesday.

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And The
LA SCALA ORCHESTRA

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Matinee, Nov. 29.

"ZAZA!"

Evening, Nov. 29.

"PAGLIACCI!"

FARRARINI—Mezzo Soprano.

RAZZINI—Soprano.

MARINA CALVI—Dramatic Soprano.

BARBARI—Tenor.

PERA—Tenor.

BELLOTTI—Baritone.

Prices—Main floor, \$1.50 and \$2.00. East gallery, 3 rows, \$1.00; balcony, \$2.00. North and south galleries, \$1.00. All seats reserved. Take no chance on general admission.

Auspicious Tabernacle Choir, E. Stephens, Director, George D. Fyler, Local Manager.

DAILY MATINEES
Will be Instituted Commencing Week of Dec. 3.

Grand Theatre

TONIGHT!

Matinee, Wednesday, 3 P. M.

Rowland & Co. Offer Their Brilliant Success.

DORA THORNE!

The Sweetest Character the Stage Has Ever Known.

Evenings—2c, 5c, 10c, 15c; Matinee—10c and 25c.

Starting Thanksgiving Matinee, November 29.

The Big Comic Production.

The Midnight Flyer!

Special Matinee Thanksgiving Day.

LYRIC THEATRE

Salt Lake's Only Family Theatre

Week Commencing Nov. 25,

The Sensational Comedy Drama.

"NOT GUILTY!"

See the Darling Leap for Life.

Prices always the same—Matinee, 10c and 25c; night, 10c, 25c, 50c; ladies' souvenir matinee, Wednesday, children's candy matinee, Saturday.

SPECIAL MATINEE THANKSGIVING DAY.

THANKSGIVING—Fancy Dress Carnival and Character Sketch.

Twenty Minutes of Moonlight.

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Ten Minute Car Service.

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