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GENERAL PUBLIC APATHY.

During a recent visit to several of the Eastern States, the writer was somewhat surprised to find a general lack of interest concerning Utah, the "Mormons" and the case of Senator Reed Smoot. To listen to the alarms kept up daily in certain quarters at home, one would be led to think that the whole country was in a state of excitement over what is generally called "The Mormon question."

The people who were visited, and who were aware that President Joseph F. Smith and a number of prominent "Mormons" were present, acted in the kindest and most generous and hospitable manner. There was an entire absence of that hostile spirit which some years ago met a "Mormon" Elder at almost every step. In many places where the people were not acquainted with the visitors, or their purpose in traveling in those parts, there appeared to be a lack of understanding concerning the "Mormons" and of anything about them.

Certainly there was no excitement visible in relation to the subject, and when inquiries were made of well-read gentlemen, who were acquainted with public affairs, as to the feelings of the people generally, the answer was, "The rumorm is raised in order to influence United States Senators is chiefly, if not entirely, among religious women and preachers." It is sure that the masses of the populace know little if anything about the matter, and that they care still less.

The press was not noting the question, and the Chicago Record-Herald, discussing the petitions to Congress, which, it deemed, were of the only real importance to come before the present session, and which it said were pouring in in large volume, specified but two that were of "special interest to the public," namely, "the restriction of immigration and the regulation of railroad freight rates."

In reference to the case of the Senator from Utah, the Cleveland Plain Dealer of January 2 takes occasion to refer to other Senators whose standing it points out is far more necessary to be investigated than that of Reed Smoot. The Plain Dealer remarks editorially:

"The months during which the Smoot case dragged its slow length along at the last session of Congress held out little prospect that it would be concluded even at the session which has just begun. Much light was thrown on the inner workings of the Mormon hierarchy, and Smoot's connection with it was not left a matter of doubt; but it was not shown, and from the evidence disclosed, is not likely to be shown affirmatively, that Smoot owes or ever did owe any allegiance to the Mormon Church, that would be inconsistent with the performance of his duties as a senator in Congress.

"The hint comes from Washington that the senate, or a number of influential senators, has decided that a stern sense of duty will compel it to resume consideration of the Smoot case, even though this may necessitate postponement of railway rate legislation so dear to the senatorial heart.

We do not intend by the foregoing opening remarks to detract in the least from the importance of the investigation that appears about to be reopened, but to show the present condition of the public mind concerning it, and in relation to the Church of which Senator Smoot is a member and which appears to be the real object of attack on the part of his opponents.

There is a general lack of interest in the subject among the masses of the population in the East, and the bitter, rancorous, venomous spirit manifested in a certain little circle here at home, finds no sympathy or correspondence among the people of our country except that which agitates the very pious people, few of whom know anything about the real merits or demerits of the matter about which the preachers fulminate and which their lady followers attack by petition.

NO "RUSH" TO MEXICO.

The excursion to Old Mexico, which has been advertised in the local papers for some time, under the auspices of the Utah-Mexican Sugar and Livestock Company, has created some misunderstanding as to the purpose of the promoters of the expedition and of the travelers who have arranged to take the trip. The object is simply one of investigation. The prospects of the company we have named are considered so bright, that a number of enterprising people desire to view them for themselves, and the railway companies whose lines reach to the point of destination have placed the fare for the round trip at a very reasonable figure.

The fact that the journey contemplates the return of the travelers, ought to have been sufficient to save some of our outside contemporaries from falling into the annual error, in relation to an alleged "great exodus of Mormons to Mexico." Whenever some speculator purchases a tract of land in

Mexico, which he holds out as suitable for colonization, and a few individuals from Utah either go there to inspect it or talk of doing so, the word at once goes out over the wires that the "Mormons" are flocking in large numbers into that Republic. Reasons are given for the "rush" which are simply absurd, but are in accord with popular ideas concerning "Mormonism."

We have to inform the public press, once more, that the reported influx of "Mormons" to Old Mexico has no foundation in fact, except the slender one furnished by the excursion which we now mention, and the occasional trips of individuals into that Republic on business bent, or with the desire to avail themselves of the many offers of land, and other facilities for making fortunes that are held out to attract capital and settlers into that country. There is not any reason that we are aware of why any great numbers of the people of Utah should move to Mexico.

The Church is not engaged in any of those projects that are from time to time discussed in the public prints. There are some colonies of our people in Mexico, chiefly in the State of Chihuahua, but there is no particular effort being made to increase the population there by companies of individuals from this State. Nor is the Church engaged in those speculative undertakings that are under the direction of companies and corporations engaged in various enterprises in that interesting region. They are under the direction and control of practical men, and some of them, no doubt, are solid, substantial undertakings, organized on a sound basis and likely to prove exceedingly profitable to the stockholders.

The travelers who will take advantage of the present excursion rates will, no doubt, give reports of the result of their visit, which will prove interesting to those who have invested their money in them and also to the general public. But the story about a great rush of "Mormons" to Mexico is only a repetition or echo of the canard that is published pretty regularly every year.

ABOUT THAT BOYCOTT.

Dr. W. A. P. Martin, who has spent 35 years in China, and who therefore may be supposed to understand Chinese affairs thoroughly, is of the opinion that the Chinese boycott of American goods is a very serious matter, which may become still more serious. He does not think the Japanese have investigated it, but that they will take advantage of it, to their own benefit. Dr. Martin, in an article in the World's Work, gives a translation of a poem the Chinese are now learning to recite by instructions of the great viceroy Chang. It is as follows:

"We pride ourselves on our antiquity
"But foreign nations ridicule our weakness."
"Knowledge is power."
"What but their newly acquired knowledge
"Enabled the Japanese to gain the victory over us
"And win for themselves a place
"Among the great powers of the earth?
"Over against their three small islands
"Have we not a vast territory with four hundred millions?
"If we of the yellow race learn to stand together
"Where is the nation that will dare to molest us?"

John W. Foster, the eminent American authority on Asiatic questions, is also of the opinion that the boycott will continue, and that the anti-American policy will be extended to missionary enterprises and all commercial interests, unless there is some change in our own policy. He says the United States has repeatedly broken its word to China, and that Chinese citizens have been maltreated here, at our custom houses, and in our cities and states. He relates two incidents illustrating his statement. One is the treatment of Tom King Yung in San Francisco, which was so outrageous that the poor fellow committed suicide; another is the lawless raid upon the Chinamen in Boston in 1902, on which occasion merchants and laborers were thrown into wagons; 250 were crowded into two small rooms, where there was only standing space, and compelled to remain there in some cases for twenty hours—guilty of no crime or wrongdoing, merely that the authorities might run down a few who had sneaked in from Canada.

The more recent outrage upon Ju Toy will be remembered, in this connection. He asserted that he was an American citizen, because born in this country, but he was refused landing, after a short absence abroad, and when he asked for a judicial investigation of his claims to American citizenship, even that reasonable demand was turned down.

There is but one means of obviating the difficulties of the Chinese situation, and that is fair and equitable treatment, and the acknowledgment of such rights as the existing treaties secure to the Chinese. It should not take a boycott to teach our people to do to others as they wish to be done by.

DANGEROUS AND IMPRACTICAL.

Dr. Charles Elliot Morton of Cambridge recently came out in favor of putting hopelessly diseased and insane persons to death. In this he agrees with Miss Anna Hall of Cincinnati, and some other ladies with pronounced views on sociological questions. But one Miss Crozier goes farther and proposes to legalize the killing of the children of the poor, to save them from the pangs of hunger. According to a report in the Chicago Record-Herald, the lady said she would rather personally administer chloroform to the poor, starving children than see them living in squalor and misery. She protested that she did not say that in order to gain notoriety. She said it, because she had talked herself thin trying to interest municipal officers and philanthropic individuals in the poverty and frightful conditions prevailing in New York.

"I have," she exclaimed, "talked myself hoarse; I have lectured, I have written many letters to authorities without effect, and if no other remedy

is at hand I will, if endowed with proper authority, put an end to miserable children to whom living is only prolonged misery."

That is awful! Is it possible that in this country of millions and of prosperity there is not bread enough for some of the children? We have been horrified at the stories of missionaries in Asia, who have told of the poverty of many parents, and the sufferings that drove them to selling their children, or drowning them, in order to save them from hunger. Have we arrived at similar conditions in this country?

Miss Hall does not advocate the murder of poor children, but the "painless death" of persons helpless in the grasp of extreme age and those suffering agonies from an incurable disease or injuries that mean death after a period of excruciating pain. She advocates the plan of having a board of physicians of not less than fifteen years' experience act as the intermediaries between life and death. One of her beliefs, she says, is that people should have the right to specify in writing in the form of a will, signed by two witnesses, that they wish to be aided into eternity when the end shall be approaching and the agony of death comes upon them. And this is the view endorsed by Dr. Norton.

The question whether mercy, or common sense, does not require medical attendants to put to death persons suffering from incurable, painful diseases, or incurable insanity, is raised again and again. It is one of the topics that will not down. Many reasons are advanced why this should be done, in the case of human beings, as well as in the case of animals, but the advocates of euthanasia, as that doctrine is called, forget the important fact that no human beings are infallible. What terrible mistakes one licensed to put fellow-beings "out of their misery" might commit! What terrible temptations such a one would be subjected to, if property interests, or other considerations, called for the death of a sick person! In a community of perfect beings, the "easy-death" theory would work all right, but the powers it implies can hardly be entrusted to the hands of imperfect, frail mortals, liable to error of judgment and impurity of motive.

The midwinter fair—a girl on skates. All the talented money seems to have gone out with the old year.

San Domingo continues to hold first place as a terrible example.

Sultry summer will be here before some of the coal orders are filled.

The Union Pacific is going to get up and make tracks—double tracks.

Evidently Senator Rayner does not believe in a pan-American protectorate.

The appointed ones file their bonds and the disappointed ones gnaw the file.

Seats on the stock exchange at \$53,000 apiece are as dear as reserved seats in a trust theater.

Chicago is to have a skyscraper church. It is very proper for a church to be in touch with heaven.

Ida Tarbell wouldn't refuse to answer Attorney-General Hadley's questions, no matter what counsel might advise her.

Gertrude Atherton says she has been unable to find a place in America quiet enough for literary work. Has she tried Omaha?

That which he greatly wished has come upon him. Thomas W. Lawson has been requested to testify in the Standard Oil investigation.

And now the Panama canal and the government of the canal zone are to be investigated. The investigation business is booming these days.

Why not change the popular cries of the day from an elastic currency and a universal language to an elastic language and a universal currency?

Mr. Arthur Shepherd's prize musical composition is to be presented by the Boston symphony orchestra. Music lovers will flock to hear Shepherd's piece.

H. H. Rogers having shown his obstinacy in refusing to answer must now show cause for so doing. He seems determined to make a show of himself.

Dr. Douglas Hyde, president of the Gaelic league, wants to intensify the national feeling of the Irish people. Already it is about the most intense thing known to mankind.

Dr. Minor Morris says that a great outrage was committed when his wife was ejected from the White House. This is a case where the more the doctor talks the less sympathy he will get. Most ladies, when requested to leave a place generally comply, and do not make a scene.

"The press agent of the Panama canal need not be put out of business until he explains why the man who purchases supplies for the 20,000 men on the isthmus, should get twice the pay of the man who performs the same service for the 60,000 men of the army," says the Washington Post. That is a very unpatriotic insinuation expressed in a very hasty spirit. He gets twice as much because of the climate and danger to health.

A VAST UNDERTAKING.

Springfield Republican.
The towing of the Dewey across the Atlantic, through the Suez canal, and thence to Manila bay, is an operation that must interest almost everybody. The Dewey is the big floating dry dock recently built in Chesapeake bay for the United States navy, and according to the pictures of it, the structure looks very like a huge barn without a roof. Three tugboats going tandem are tugging the big awkward mass half around the world at a maximum speed, in good weather, of about 14

miles an hour. Storms or high seas may play great pranks with the dock; indeed, the government rather expects the huge thing to break away once or twice before the long journey is over, but the tugs are believed to be able to pick up their tow after the tempest dies away. One of the life-preserving qualities of the Dewey is that it can be partly submerged, and doing it in storms might prove the dock's salvation.

QUAINT HOLLAND NECKLACE.

New York Press.
One of the quaintest necklaces seen in a decade was that worn by Miss Christine Roosevelt at a Dutch luncheon given for her in the holidays. It consisted of small pieces of delft about the size of a dime, every one containing a miniature scene—a windmill, a ship, a group of wooden shod boys and girls or an old fisherman mending his nets. The disks were held to one another with links of silver. With a gown of blue, this necklace looked the perfect of good taste, but at odds to a Dutch luncheon it might be a trifle too clumsy. The ornament came from Holland.

ANNAPOLIS HAZING.

Pueblo Chieftain.
The investigation at Annapolis has at least established one thing. Hazing as a custom has existed in the naval academy up to a very recent date, and the kind of hazing practiced in this national school was of a particularly obnoxious character. No American could submit to the indignities that have been described without some loss of self respect, and such a practice was in opposition to the purpose for which the school was established. The custom of hazing could hardly have gone to such lengths without the knowledge of the school authorities, who are thus convicted either of gross incompetency in not knowing about the hazing or of gross dereliction of duty in not putting a stop to it.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The January number of the American Boy is filled with interesting reading for boys. The Editor's story in this number, entitled "Won by a Cheat," tells of the temptation and fall of a boy, who stood at the North Branch Port, is a story of the bravery of two boys who, at the risk of their lives, brought relief to a fort besieged by Indians; and "The Joy Claim" is a given, which ends that story. Among the many articles are, "How America Came by Its Name," "Prospect Hill," "American Boy Day in 1906," "Through Cattle Spices," "The Language of the Ship," etc. All the various departments of Amateur Journalism: Stamps, Coins and Curios, The Boy Photographer, The Boy Mechanic and Electrician, Boys' Brain Sharpeners, Tangies, Boys' Books Reviewed and the Order of the American Boy, are simply filled with information. There are over 72 illustrations.—The Sprague Publishing Co., Detroit, Mich.

Among the many excellent features of Recreation for January are the following: "Sport on Long Island," Chas. A. Bramble; "Her First Moons," Mrs. John F. Van Saun; "When the Indian Passes," Anna C. Ruddy; "Quail," verses, Hammond K. Schofield; "The Mystery of the Blue Goose," Dan Beard; "Picture Making by a Parlor Window," Felix Raymer; "To Present Lake Without Guides," C. G. Willoughby; and "A Leaf From My Sketch Book," Dan Beard. The illustrations are very fine.—23 West, 24th St., New York.

The January number of Four-Track News has many excellent features, these among others: "Native Bride and Groom, Tahiti," "In Lazy Man's Land," Gertrude V. Gibbs; "Where the Horse is King," Fred Hutton; "The Home of Grand Opera in America," Isabe R. Wallach; "A Star Gazer," G. P. Blackiston; "Interrogations in Stone," Frank Vrah; "Pastimes at Sea," William G. Fitzgerald; "Zoological Jokes," "What Everybody Does at Niagara," Bertha Smith; "In the Glare of the Lighthouse," "Autumn Camping," Dr. Edward N. Lelli; "The Song of Calvary," poem, Ada Stewart Shelton; "Interesting Cuba," Frederick A. Ober; "Where the Canyon Dweller Dwelt," Carl H. Padcock; "Country Life for City Children," E. H. Barto; "By the Shores of Lake Champlain," poem, Thomas C. Harbaugh, and The World's Progress—Editorials upon the drift and development of the times.—57 East 42nd St., New York.

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