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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 30, 1906

EFFECTS OF A FALSE RUMOR.

Eastern papers, misled by a press dispatch from this city, are still commenting on the story that "The Mormon Church is going out of business." They are all floundering in the mist raised by the dispatcher who is responsible for sending out fog instead of news. It is the old story repeated. Recently there has been more care and less animus displayed in the press service here than was common of yore. Much of the misunderstanding that prevailed throughout the land and was the means of holding Utah back from statehood for years, was caused by the false reports sent over the wires from this point to the prominent papers of the country. They were often malicious in the extreme. When their untruth was exposed no refutation was sent, and if protests were noticed, they were followed by pretended explanations that were even worse than the original falsehoods, the dispatcher copying the methods of anti-Mormon local publications.

In this instance we do not regard the error as intentional. But it is mischievous and deceptive, and wrong in principle. To telegraph a rumor that might have been perceived to be unreliable, coming from the source from which it was obtained, was not good business nor fair treatment. The truth or falsity of the report could have been readily ascertained. If the authorities of the church were not considered worthy of a voice in the matter, the officers of the firms interested in the alleged transfers or sales were easily come-at-able, and would have answered proper inquiry. Their denial of the story and that by the church authorities was not given the same publicity as the error was accorded, and so many of the most important newspapers in the East have been misled into making comments and speculations of the greatest absurdity. And they are still at it.

The Utah Light and Railway company which was said to have been sold, is described as "a church property." As we have previously explained, it is not "a church property," but a corporation in which the church has but a comparatively small financial interest. The same may be said of other business concerns in which the church has made investments, and which would never have been started without the aid thus afforded. They have been of immense benefit to Utah and have grown to independence and profit, and their commercial and industrial stability is largely due to the start given them and the maintenance of their progress by the influence thus obtained.

The church has not announced any intention on its part to withdraw any support that has helped to strengthen such commercial and industrial enterprises as have furnished employment to many working people, and given this community so high a standing in the business world. The church merely sold out its interest in the Salt Lake Beach company and Railroad, a transaction that has met with approval from all classes here. And that was the only real foundation for the false report telegraphed all over the country. It is true that a promoter who told a number of fairy tales that a little inquiry dissipated into thin air, pretended to have acquired for a big company, the properties of the street railway here and some other similar concerns. But even that bit of boasting made no excuse for the announcement that "the Mormon church was going out of business," or the nonsense uttered by prominent papers about the immense wealth of the church with hoarded millions and other similar fanciful romances.

The continued error about the titling, which is really a voluntary contribution but is said to be a "tax" which every "Mormon" is supposed to be compelled to pay to the church, its volume and its expenditure, is equally unfounded, but is made to do duty in association with the untruthful dispatch. And the notion that the President of the church holds at his personal disposal the exorbitant and magnified accumulations of years from every part and branch of the "Mormon" organization, is as false and silly as the rest of the rubbish that some of the leading journals deal out to their readers as gospel truth. The President of the church does not own or claim to own a dollar or a dime of church property, and there is no "hoarding" of it for any purposes. The fact that the church was under the necessity, a few years ago, to issue bonds (now in large part redeemed) for a million dollars to cover its large debts drawing big interest, ought to arouse to some common sense the individuals and papers that are repeating the stale and stupid yarns about the many millions in the control of the "Mormon" President.

Our contemporaries at a distance may rest assured that there has been no change of policy as to the conduct of the affairs of the "Mormon" church. Its revenues are its own, not the property of any individual, and they are managed with scrupulous care and honesty and economy by the persons entrusted with their custody. The body of the church is satisfied with their "position" and that should be sufficient. Other people ought to "mind their own business." Speaking for our interiorists, we do not interfere with local, state, or national investments or expenditures.

penditures of other churches, nor of the newspapers and other publications that appear to be so eager to pry into "Mormon" interests and enterprises. We are doing very well, thank you, and there need be no apprehension, either that we are going to buy up any of their concerns, or that the funds that belong to the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be devoted to anything that will not be for beneficial purposes of a general character. How ready the public is to swallow any sort of a canard about the "Mormons!"

ROYAL LOVERS.

The union in marriage of King Alfonso of Spain and the British Princess Ena should bring happiness to both. They are young, and full of life and vigor. And, if rumor is true, their match is a true love match—rather an exception in the very highest strata of society. In fact, gossip had it that the two young people, when they met in the stately and absolutely correct company that graces palaces, made themselves almost ridiculous by the attention they paid to each other. It was, for instance, whispered about that on one occasion, during a banquet, they had actually "held hands" under the table. Undoubtedly some were horrified at the discovery, but the world at large is on the side of lovers, every time, particularly royal lovers, and earnestly hopes that no clouds may ever come between them. The princess is a sweet English girl, and the king has grown up to be a fine young man, thanks to the loving care of his mother.

The royal marriage should be a happy event to all Spain. That country needs some strong influence, such as that which always emanates from the courts in monarchial countries, in favor of humane ethics. Spain needs the infusion into her public life of the spirit that dominates the Anglo-Saxon race. A nation that tolerates bull-fights as amusement is still far behind in the general progress of the civilized world. And we believe the new Queen will exercise that influence. The love of her royal lord and master will be her ally in the fulfillment of the great mission Providence evidently has assigned to her. She will have boundless opportunities of doing good in her adopted country, for she has already won the love of the people.

It may be true that few queens have been really happy on the throne of Spain. There is an air of tragedy over the royal palaces. Even the beautiful place where the royal couple are to spend the honeymoon is said to be haunted by sad memories. For it was there that the most serious quarrels between Queen Christina and her royal husband took place. It was in the garden of that retreat that the Queen slapped the face of a duke who endeavored to prevent her from entering a kiosk in which the king gave audience to a beautiful duchess, and from there she fled to Austria, but was induced to return, by Francis Joseph. But the past is past, and forever devoted to his religion. It is to be hoped that the shadows of the past may forever have fled before the sunlight of the present.

THE RUSSIAN WOMAN.

One of the demands of the Russian people at present is for universal suffrage, including the suffrage of women. And this, even the government seems to be inclined to grant.

It sounds strange to hear of woman suffrage in Russia, but those who are best acquainted with Russian conditions claim that the women in that country are freer than any women in Europe, and that they are in many respects as far advanced as their American sisters. And because the agitation for their complete emancipation has not taken the unnatural direction of revolt against the other sex, the men are generally in hearty sympathy with it. The Russians, we are told, have from time immemorial recognized the political equality of the sexes.

In ancient Russia, according to one writer, women soldiers were numerous. Men and women measured strength with each other in wrestling matches. Women were judges, and commanders of regiments. This ancient spirit still survives. It is not uncommon for Russian women to live alone, or travel alone. And far from incurring ridicule by this spirit of emancipation, only the woman who is afraid to travel unattended is considered ridiculous. The Russian woman today is considered one of the freest and happiest of women in the civilized world, as far as freedom can be enjoyed in a country with autocratic rulers. That is the reason why universal suffrage in Russia necessarily includes woman suffrage. It would be remarkable should the Russian women obtain full and unlimited civil rights before their sisters in some of the American States, where the question has been under discussion for so many years.

INDEPENDENT POLAND.

The Literary Digest reproduces extracts from European newspaper articles advocating the independence of Poland. Of these one is by a professor, a member of the St. Petersburg Academy, and appears in the influential Russian paper, the Vedomosti. The writer says the time has come for a rearrangement of matters in a way that will not be derogatory, nor detrimental to Russia. He points out that commerce and manufacture are suffering from the existing bad feelings between Poles and Russians. The only remedy, he says, is to offer the Poles complete independence. Then, he argues, we could sell to the new state our fortresses in the Kingdom of Poland, the government railways, and the edifices belonging to the government in Warsaw and other cities, and transfer the customs houses to White Russia, to the new Russo-Polish frontier. Then, he adds, with suitable customs, that will stop the entire movement of Polish products to Russia, the Central Russian provinces will thrive; all the grain from those provinces will not be exported abroad at low prices; the Russian workingman will find work in factories that will be built in Russia; and products now bought from Poland will be manufactured in Russia.

Equally noteworthy articles have appeared in German publications, showing that Polish independence would be hostile to Germany. In a contri-

bution to Der Tag, the writer expresses the opinion that Germany will never assimilate the Poles, and that it would be better, therefore, to restore Poland, and in that way to weaken the Slavonic element in Austria. Germany, he thinks, will then have on her eastern frontier, instead of one strong neighbor, two weaker ones, and that would be a manifest advantage. Another writer of high standing points out that Germany must, sooner or later, annex in one form or another, the German part of Austria. Then German colonization must take the direction of southern Russia, where there are boundless tracts of land as yet almost unoccupied. But between Germany and this land of promise there are parts of Galicia, Hungary, and Transylvania. The Poles alone, this writer says, stand in the way of German expansion. And he suggests the following:

"There is only one avenue of escape from this situation. Poland must again become an independent State. I understand perfectly that such an idea will rouse wrath and hatred. I see, however, that Charles Peters regards such a solution of the Polish question as feasible. Why should we not exchange our old and torn breeches [the learned doctor's graceful figure for Germany's Polish provinces] for new ones [South Russia with its fertile soil]? By that means we would intensify the antagonism between the Poles and the Russians, and gain at a blow the friendship of the Poles."

If these views become popular in Germany and Russia, the prospects of a restoration of Polish independence are excellent. The writer quoted, however, also suggests that Germany reach out for the Baltic provinces, thus excluding independent Poland from any seaport. This, we fancy, would be a cause for quarrel and war from the outset, and would be dangerous to the peace of the neighbors of the regenerated kingdom. It would be bad policy to open the way for trouble at the very beginning.

The poorest excuse in the world for marrying a man is to reform him.

In modern parlance, "Prove all grafts, hold fast that which is good."

It was a glorious day yesterday, but it was of the uncertain glory of an April day kind.

It is right that free alcohol should be denatured. Otherwise it denatures men.

"What has become of the simple life?" asks the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Why not ask Mr. Wagner?

The editor of a magazine called the Raven has been arrested in Pasadena. Quoth the Raven, "evermore."

Wielders of the muck-rake are becoming so numerous that it is rather odd they have not formed a union.

Bomb-throwing goes right on in Russia, just as though there had been no attempt at parliamentary government.

And now it is rumored that Chairman Shonts has resigned. What's the matter with these Panama canal appointees?

Everybody was beginning to think that Vesuvius was "all in," but now news comes that a portion of her crater has just fallen in.

"The laws are made to be obeyed," says a New York judge. It would have been more in harmony with some facts had he simply said, "The laws are made."

Times change. Buck Kilgore kicked in the door of the house because he couldn't get in. Now members kick because they are held into the house on the speaker's order.

The British battleship Montagu has gone on the rocks. This is not a matter for congratulation, but it seems that commanders in other navies sometimes meet with accidents as well as our own.

Insane or not, the sympathy of the country will be with Josephine Terranova, on trial charged with the murder of her uncle. She may be a murderer; he was a beast, if her story is true.

That million and a half dollars appropriated for the construction of a building for the department of agriculture is gone, and the house committee on appropriations is wondering where. It simply took wings.

The High School and All Hallows' cadets made a fine showing in the Memorial day parade. Almost without exception they looked clean-cut and well set up, and they marched with a precision and steadiness that did credit to their instructors and officers.

"Pearl Rambo, is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives on a farm near Council Bluffs, Iowa. Pearl is not five feet tall but she weighs 550 pounds. The fleshy part of her arm measures twenty-four inches in circumference," says the Kansas City Times. Pearl should ask the legislature to change her name to Jumbo.

NOT POWERS ON TRIAL.

Collier's Weekly.

Calph Powers is soon to be tried for the fourth time, in the courts of his own state, for the murder of Governor Geobel. So decides the United States supreme court, and by that decision saves the state of Kentucky from a lasting and national dishonor. For, had the judgment been otherwise, had the federal court assumed jurisdiction, there would have been lost to the Blue Grass commonwealth its saving opportunity of righting a great wrong not only to one of its citizens but to itself, by finally according to a man in jeopardy of his life the fair trial guaranteed to every citizen of the United States. Three times Powers has been before the bar of justice, and each time the court of appeals has reversed his conviction. On the first and third trials—and this in a political case—the jury was drawn from the ranks of the prisoner's party opponents. The second trial was held before a judge who had publicly denounced Powers as guilty, at a political meeting, and whose prejudice during the court session was so obvious that the higher court censured him for not vacating the bench.

AMERICA'S BEAUTIES.

Four-Track News.

Have you any idea of visiting the far-famed lake regions of Italy or Switzerland during the coming summer? Are you aware that among the mountains of

Idaho are lakes that experienced travelers tell us far excel in scenic grandeur and picturesque beauty the lakes of Europe, of whose charming poets have sung for ages? The average American traveler seems blinded by the enchantment of distance, and yearns for the far-away hills and valleys of Europe while passing regions that are their equal, and often their superior, near at home. The Alps, the Rhine and Lucerne seem to ring in our ears with more enticing magnetism than the Rockies, the Hudson and Lake George, the Adirondacks and the Columbia, but those who are equally familiar with all are free to declare their preference for the mountains of Switzerland. There is a greater majesty in the Rockies than in the mountains of Switzerland. The natural beauty of the Hudson far exceeds that of the Rhine. What would you think of the American student who studied Roman history to the neglect of the history of his country or gave his whole attention to the heroes of foreign lands? The best educated man is the man who knows his own country best.

ENSILAGE BAD.

Charles Elley Hall in Leslie's Weekly.

The pig will have none of it, and the horse apparently thrives better on unfermented food, as no horse owner of experience would run the risk of feeding ensilage. It thus stands convicted. In this connection I will introduce the further remarks of my expert friend in our conversation previously referred to: "Ensilage adds acidity to the milk and shortens the extent of its keeping capacity, which makes ensilage milk bad, or hazardous for feeding infants. Brewery and distillery refuse lowers the vitality of the animals and also communicates the germs of fermentation." To show the susceptibility of milk and the ease by which the flavor is affected he mentioned the objectionable results, familiar to all, of milk and butter produced from fluid milk, after the cow had partaken of a vegetable diet of "wild onions (garlic), cabbage, or turnips."

MUCK-RAKING PAYS.

From Human Life.

Take it from me, writes Alfred Henry Lewis, that, if the magazines have turned to muck-raking, it is solely, wholly for the sake of private gain. Muck-raking as a spectacle is pleasant to the public. The public will buy the magazine, thereby a profit, both in circulation and in advertising, is assured. Why does the public like muck-raking as a performance? I don't know. If you go and read, and the rest of the world, were all in the garden of Eden, the best of you would rush out to see a dog fight. I don't know why. I don't know why ten thousand people will come to see you throw a building down, while ten won't come to see you build one. In short, for reasons known to Providence but not to me, destruction is popular. Folk will travel weary miles and waste a week, for the grovelling privilege of seeing some one hanged.

JUST FOR FUN.

Liquid Corn.

Atlanta Georgian.

An easterner was prospecting in the north Georgia mountains, when he came on a native apparently clinging to the side of a steep hill tilling corn. The prospector stopped for a chat, and the mountaineer, nothing loath for a rest in the shade from his fatiguing toil, was agreeable.

"Say, friend, how in the world do you get the corn down off that hillside after it is ready for harvest?"

"In jugs," was the laconic and probably truthful reply.

Honors Easy.

Philadelphia Press.

"This silver dollar," began the cashier of the restaurant, as he scrutinized the coin.

"It had, eh?" interrupted the sour looking patron.

"Well, it doesn't look very good."

"That so? Just bite it, and if it's anything like the dinner I had it'll taste even worse than it looks."

The Wrong Thing.

Catholic Standard and Times.

"Professor," said Mrs. Lyon-Hunter, "I want to present Mr. Bull. Professor Dumphreys, Mr. Bull. The professor is the author of that learned treatise upon 'Genius: A Species of Insanity.'"

"Ah!" exclaimed Mr. Bull, "charmed! Always delighted to meet a genius like you, sir."

Cobwebs.

Brooklyn Life.

He—That was splendid old wine the Germans gave us for dinner last night. She—Oh! James, do you think the cobwebs on the bottles were really genuine?

Quickly Atoned.

Judge.

Nippan—He married a divorced woman, didn't he?

Tuck—Yes; but she had only been divorced a few days.

With the Eyes.

Somerville Journal.

The girl with beautiful eyes has mere man at a tremendous disadvantage.

Mature Deliberation.

Punch.

Mistress—You wish me to take your notice, Jane? This is very sudden, isn't it?

John (blushing)—Oh, no, mum; I've known 'im three days!

"What I want," said the young man, "is to get married and have a peaceful, quiet home."

"Well," said Farmer Cornsloss, "sometimes it works that way, and then again sometimes it's like John's a debate society."—Washington Star.

"Yes, I'd be willing to get married if I could only get a wife who was economical and—"

"My dear boy, no woman is ever economical. She's either extravagant or stingy."—Philadelphia Press.

"How are you feeling this spring, Mr. Bear?"

Mr. Bear (in a hollow voice)—Simply awful. I ate a Welsh rabbit last fall and it kept me awake all winter.—Harper's Weekly.

"What, my friends," vociferously demanded the Hon. Thomas Rott, "does the old party stand for?"

"Well, you, for one thing!" replied a pessimistic voice from the back of the hall.—Puck.

Seems as though the weather man was working for all of us. He induces you to burn That Good

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