

DESERT EVENING NEWS.

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CHARLES W. FLETCHER, EDITOR.
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A STARTLING CONSPIRACY.

One of the principal subjects of public interest today, is the alleged discovery of a plot to betray the Chamber of Commerce, in its suit before the Interstate Commerce Commission against the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The facts are simple, the inference sought to be drawn from them is of a rather serious nature.

The facts are these: Much to the surprise of people interested in the case, an effort was made to have the examination removed from this city to Washington, D. C. This was accomplished by a number of business houses to this city. It was not surprising that the railroad company desired this, but it was that from here should want the investigation conducted there. This movement, however, seemed to be on the point of failure, when another application was made, asking for a postponement of the investigation and signed by the principal shippers in this city. The Chamber of Commerce consented to delay for sixty days. This also seemed surprising, and many queries as to the cause. It was ascertained that these shippers considered they might be able to adjust their difficulty with the railroad company and avoid litigation, and also that the suit was not in proper hands for presentation.

The cause for reaching the latter conclusion was some information placed before them by the railroad company. In the shape of correspondence between Mr. R. W. Edwards, general freight agent, and R. W. Sears, Jr., son of the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. In connection with this was a mysterious person named as "E. E. Edwards," who figured as the chief actor in the affair.

On the 20th of July a letter was sent to Mr. Edwards, signed by E. E. Edwards, late 234, city, containing a proposition to turn over to the railroad company, for a consideration, a copy of the speech which Secretary Sears was to make before the Commission, sundry affidavits bearing on the case and other documents, which would put the company in possession of the points which the Chamber of Commerce expected to make in the suit against the company. He claimed to have worked through Mr. Sears' clerk and to have a key to his office.

Mr. Edwards, however, conferred with Mr. P. L. Williams, the attorney for the company and by his advice answered the letter. The correspondence continued and Mr. Edwards endeavored to obtain an interview with Mr. Edwards, but he interpreted R. W. Sears, Jr., as a letter person in fact, claiming that they would be together out West, that Edwards had held up young Sears through some indiscretion that the latter desired to keep from his mother, and that it was to the great advantage of the railroad to enter into this negotiation.

An intimation from Mr. Edwards that he would prefer to see Edwards was followed by another communication, enclosing certain young Sears' bills, advising his willingness to engage in the affair, followed by others from R. W. Sears, Jr., to Mr. Edwards, the last named gentleman having kept up the correspondence by advice of the General Freight Agent at Omaha and the general attorney for the company. After several ineffectual efforts to get hold of Edwards, an appointment was made for R. W. Sears, Jr. and he and Mr. Edwards met at the Knauths Pharmacy and went to Mr. Edwards' office. The proposition was to turn over, for a sum that does not yet appear in figures, the following documents:

Speech, eighteen pages, type-written. Two affidavits certified by Secretary of Interstate. List of names to be subpoenaed. Men who have agreed to testify. Statement showing discrimination against the Territory. Statement showing cost of movement of freight on various lines. Proof that salaries have been given.

At another interview, Edwards was represented by young Sears as having left him and two letters purporting to have been received from him were produced. But meanwhile special agents of the railroad company were at work as detectives and they claim to have obtained from a waste paper basket, in the office of Secretary Sears, the pencil originals of which these letters from Edwards are copies with but trifling verbal alterations.

The detectives also learned that he had been met by R. W. Sears, Jr. that he received letters for himself and E. E. Edwards; that he had taken at least two letters addressed to Edwards and placed them, unopened, on a desk in one of the rooms in the office of his father, the Secretary; that the purported Edwards letters had been written on the same kind of paper as that issued in the Chamber of Commerce name; and that these letters had been dictated by some one to young Sears. Several conferences were had with the young man which Mr. Edwards contrived to be overheard by the detectives. A letter addressed to Edwards, from a person named Childers at St. George, was taken out of the post-office on August 22 by

young Sears and found mutilated in Mr. Sears' office on August 23.

As much for the facts, now for the inference. It is deduced from the foregoing that Edwards is a myth; that young Sears wrote the letters, but that some one else dictated them; that these papers were worth a large sum to the railroad company, and that some one was figuring through young Sears to get the money; that this was a betrayal of the Chamber of Commerce; and that R. W. Sears, the Secretary, might be ruse and expedite. The chief inference evidently sought to be made is that this gentleman has something to do with the money involved in the transaction.

We have minutely examined all that has been brought forward by way of facts, and we cannot see that there is at present any ground for the insinuation—that there has been an direct charge against Mr. Secretary Sears. The Director of the Chamber of Commerce has taken the matter in hand, and will thoroughly investigate it before he will permit any statement from the Secretary. We learn, however, that as soon as Mr. Sears saw the morning paper which contained the first news to him, of this affair, he called his son into his office, handed him the paper and told him to read it but not to leave the office. At once he summoned the Directors who could be reached, and they heard what young Sears had to say. He declared that his father knew nothing about the matter but that there was another person engaged in the transaction, that this person had a hold upon him and it was through that at first that he took up the matter, but that afterwards he determined to pursue it for all there was in it.

It is well known by the friends of Secretary Sears that he has not his heart upon making a career of this suit against the railroad company, and that he has turned the full force of his mind upon it. He gained an important case against it in California, and considered he had much more important work for Utah. The company was aware of these facts and knew that it involved a great deal of money, which if it went to the people of this Territory would be a big loss to the company. Therefore, it is not surprising that every effort possible has been made to postpone and if possible to defeat the suit.

But we are of the opinion that, notwithstanding the sensation which has been sprung up, the company the case will go on and that while Mr. Sears has received a severe blow in the conduct of his son, it will be shown that his own course has been and is incompatible with the idea that he would betray the Chamber of Commerce, or do anything to damage the cause to which he has devoted his energies and experience.

We lay the facts summarized, before the public as a matter of news and of common comment, and advise a suspension of judgment until the mystery surrounding the case has been dispelled and both sides of it have been fully and fairly brought to light.

THE REFORM OF HUMANITY.

A GREAT many well-meaning thoughtful people are mentally disturbed over the increasing criminality shown by current publications. They are seeking about for remedies, but are unable to fix upon anything feasible, except it be to recommend, under the mistaken idea that it is new, some plan that has been tried times without number.

We have received a circular from the World's Advanced Thought, of Portland, Oregon, which proposes to deal with the question of the reformation of humanity—a wide as well as important subject. The introductory portion of the leaflet is devoted to a statement of belief that this reform must be brought about largely by individual self-reform. It seems to be unnecessary to lay down such a proposition as this, because its correctness is self-evident. Apart from individual efforts there is no rapidity. To reason otherwise would amount to an assumption that man is a mere machine which can be changed and operated by outward operations exclusively. In the work of improvement external influences are unavailing unless they meet with a response from within.

After the preamble part of the circular comes the following set of resolutions:

"Resolved, That we, the undersigned, maintain ourselves in a fitness for self-reform, to try to live in harmony with all life."

"Resolved, That we shall endeavor to guard our thoughts, that we shall only receive good news, that we will neither think nor speak ill of anybody, nor matter how great the provocation, and that we will strive persistently to be the embodiment of love and good will."

"Resolved, That so far as lies within our power we will not leave any selfish motive, but we will opportunity pass to help our fellow beings."

It will be observed that although individual effort is insisted upon, the chief factor in human reform, external assistance is recognized as a necessary part of the process, this latter being aimed at by the formation of societies the members of which have a mutual object. By association they are placed in a position to aid each other to attain the end in view.

We hope the propounders of this movement do not claim that their proposition has any novel feature connected with it. Christianity is neither more nor less than a system which brings into play internal individual forces and external influences to produce human reformation. And beside it

the scheme of the World's Advanced Thought takes into consideration. The method instituted by Jesus to achieve the application of divine as well as external individual assistance in the work of personal reform. This higher method is the basis of the plan emanated by our Oregon friends.

When speaking of Christianity we mean the genuine article, containing the principles of personal self-reform, which had its perfect embodiment in Christ; and the organization was a divine authority necessary to carry on the work of rendering external assistance to the individual. No system is entitled to be called Christian in the full sense unless it possesses divine authority and is organized officially, with the functions of each officer clearly defined; it must also be characterized by the possession of spiritual power. These were features which distinguished the Church established under the personal supervision of Christ and His chosen representatives selected by Himself.

These characteristics also belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When the members of that association fail to exhibit a high degree of moral reform, such a situation is the result of a failure to apply the principles which are embraced by the system. The forces are within it, and one of its requirements is individual reform, which is simply another way of defining personal reformation of wrong doing of every kind.

We are in sympathy with all people who are exercised in relation to the growing necessity of the times for individual and general reform. We see no other means of avoiding a perilous future situation for the race. We expect the day to come when the world will recognize the fact that the Latter-day Saints have a great mission to accomplish in the work of regenerating the human race. The elements of success for the attainment of this result are within their grasp.

THE IDAHO TEST CASE.

THE Idaho politicians seem to be in a great deal of a hurry to break down the barrier which is in the way of the "Mormon" citizens of that State to the polls. First, the Republican State Convention resolved to move for the repeal of the obnoxious test oath at the next session of the Legislature. Then the Democratic Convention adopted a similar resolution and, further, pronounced the test oath unconstitutional and declared in favor of testing the matter in the courts. On Saturday Republicans at Paris, near Lake County, took the initiative by making a test case with a view to the immediate determination of the issue.

A "Mormon" citizen applied for registration, was tendered the test oath, and refused to take so much of it as was added to the provision of the Idaho Constitution. The registrar declined to register him, whereupon suit was at once entered, we suppose by application for a mandamus to compel the officer to register the applicant. This will bring the case before the District Court and the question at issue will be the validity of the oath.

If the Court decides against the oath, in all probability the "Mormon" voters will register and vote, as it is not likely that the registrar will carry the case farther. If it is decided in favor of the oath, an appeal will doubtless be taken to the higher courts until the question is finally settled.

As both political parties are desirous that "Mormon" citizens shall exercise the suffrage, it is reasonable to suppose that the matter will be immediately adjudicated. Neither party will care to figure as an obstruction. The "Mormon" vote is wanted by both, and the party leaders who are bidding for it will surely risk their chances by appearing as a candidate in "Mormon" political competition.

However, it will be found that the nearly solid vote of the Idaho "Mormons" is a thing of the past, no matter how much some of them may be influenced by party action in reference to the test now being made. If the case is carried up by either party to the suit, from the Court case has it on file, the "Mormon" citizens of Idaho will not be likely to cast their votes in November, and will most likely take due notice of the power that prevents them from exercising that privilege.

THE DESERTIAN PHILOSOPHY.

The Desertian wave has struck Utah. Mr. Edmund Russell, known as "Friend of Deseret," is a prominent figure in this city. He has already delivered two lectures, and he is preparing a third, "Jahs," and will, during the current week, deliver a series of three others. Besides Mr. Russell there are two or three others in Salt Lake who profess themselves followers of the famous Frenchman's philosophy, and we are informed that a body from the East, who is also an enthusiastic disciple of Deseretism, contemplates a visit here in the near future.

Deseret was born in 1811 in the city of France. His early life was one of misery and suffering. He was brought to Paris when a child, and it is said that a ragpicker noticed him and carried him to a home of rag-peddling from a street boy in one of the Paris parais, tucked him in the bundle and carried him to a human being. It was young Deseret. The ragpicker about the empyrean philosopher.

Deseret had a special taste for music, and passed his cultivation un-

der great difficulties. He departed from his adopted country the musical maestro in time. He succeeded, after a hard struggle with acute managers and theatre directors, to obtain a place before the footlights, and in his first effort it made a name. In time he became the idol of Paris, where he died during the Franco-German war in 1871.

Many years of Deseret's life were devoted to investigating the principles underlying all art and expression. He introduced a system of philosophy for the guidance of those who would make the body, voice and gesture render the highest service to the soul and mind. It is expressed in his book, "The Art of the Body, Gesture and Expression," and that these are the external evidences of internal conditions. He did not believe in leaving the art with the hands, he was leaving a position to latter with the tongue. His definition of art is as follows:

"Art is at once the knowledge, the possession and the free direction of the senses, by which of which are revealed the life, the mind and the soul. Art is not an imitation of nature. It is a revelation of that which is nature."

He says again:

"To each spiritual function responds a function of the body. To each grand function of the body corresponds a spiritual act."

The Deseretian philosophy embraces the whole of human life, the moral, physical, mental, intellectual, spiritual and ethical. It aims at perfection in physical structure as well as excellence in art, oratory and science.

A SUPERBIOUS WORK.

MANCHESTER, England, is about thirty-two miles inland from the port of Liverpool. For some time a canal has been in progress of construction, through which, when completed, the largest ocean vessels and steamships could enter Manchester. The original projectors of this formed themselves into a company, and in this manner commenced operations. Though several millions were at the command of the construction company, yet about eighteen months ago the funds became exhausted.

It was estimated that it would take fifteen millions of dollars more to complete it. The City of Manchester obtained from Parliament the right to subscribe for canal stock, and it did so to the extent estimated. It is now found that eight millions more will be required to complete the canal, and Manchester is again asked to subscribe. It is supposed that the city will complete the work, but subject to the condition of ownership and control. The city of Liverpool has expended \$20,000,000 on the docks of that city, but it was then, and controls them, and they prove a paying investment. It is said that the Manchester ship canal will also prove remunerative in the end, but if the city controls it the original promoters will lose heavily.

A PRESIDENT WHO OPENLY VIOLATED THE LAW.

THE Indianapolis News gives a sample of some queer laws still existing on the statute books of this country. It appears that tobacco according to law is still a legal tender in the District of Columbia; and that if members of Congress were tendered their salaries in Virginia but they should accept of no gift, of course this is an old colonial law, enacted long ago in Virginia, and carried into practice for some time. Tobacco was then made a legal tender for debts of all kinds. The District of Columbia was at that time part of Virginia, and when ceded subsequently to the Federal government retained the old Virginia laws, none of which have been repealed.

Another law which it is said would make quite a stir in our time is that relating to religious belief. It is a crime, according to this law, to deny belief in the Holy Trinity, and severe punishment, involving imprisonment, is provided for this offence. Under it no Unitarian minister could preach in Washington. It was on the statute books when John Quincy Adams was President. He used to attend Unitarian services every Sunday, but he was never interfered with, the law being treated as a dead letter.

THE PROFIT-SHARING PLAN.

PRESIDENT M. E. INGALLS of the "Big Four" and Chesapeake and Ohio railroads, in his annual report advises the shareholders to adopt the following plan as a settlement of labor troubles:

"A large portion of the loss of your affairs and mismanagement is taken up meeting and negotiating with the employees. It is the policy of the company to meet the question of wages, etc. Your directors would recommend to the stockholders to consider the plan of establishing a company of interest with the employees. If the company is organized as a financial position, your directors think it has, which it can only be expected to earn its fixed charges and a surplus, they would recommend that the surplus be equally divided with the employees. For instance, if your capital is \$100,000,000 and the wages of the employees in a year amount to \$10,000,000, but that the rate of dividend is 5 per cent, it would be \$5,000,000. If your surplus earnings are \$5,000,000, it would be 1 per cent for the employees. As the earnings of the company far exceed the per centage will be still larger. In any event, the employees would still receive regular compensation and would also share \$5,000,000 in whatever property the company had."

Mr. Ingalls says the plan has been introduced recently on one of the French railroads.

Then officials of the city cemetery in Toronto, Canada, have been detected in one of the most fraudulent and modern stratagems. The clothing and bedding of fever patients brought to the cemetery to be destroyed, have been preserved and sold to clothes dealers and peddlers.

The Chicago Mail has the following statement: All, one of the howling scoundrels, says he came to this country to introduce Mohamudanism, but that the people here look on him as a freak. Mr. Ali should not despair; if he be a genuine freak, and can prove it, he ought to get an editorial position on the Mail and Express.

PRESIDENT HARRISON in his presidential address to Canadian envoys referred to the violation of one of the articles of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, regarding commerce between Canada and this country. The Canadian Conservatives are now clamoring for the abrogation of this treaty, on the ground that its provisions are of no earthly value to the Dominion. What England will say in the matter is awaited with interest.

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