

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## MAKE THE APPROPRIATION.

The House did a good thing on Tuesday in passing Dr. Condon's bill for an appropriation in aid of the irrigation Congress to be held in Ogden next September. The raising of the amount from \$6,000 to \$7,500 was also commendable. The expenses of the congress will no doubt be double the larger sum, and this State should appreciate the honor of having the national convention held within its borders and of the choice of a prominent Salt Lake gentleman as its President. The organization is of great importance not only to Utah but to the entire West. The problem of the reclamation of land in the arid regions is one that will require much time, brainwork, labor and money for its solution. The work that has been accomplished is in the right line and its progress should receive encouragement. We hope the bill passed by the House will meet with cordial support in the Senate and we have no doubt it will meet with the approval of the Governor, although we are not in any way authorized to say this in his behalf. The appropriation ought to be made.

## SKETCH OF HON. REED SMOOT.

A very fair sketch with a good portrait of the newly elected United States Senator for Utah, is given in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for February. The compiler is correct as to the main incidents in the life of Reed Smoot, but is a little off in his comments at the beginning and the close of his brief article. In the opening paragraph it is stated that:

"This will be the first time that one of the twelve apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the ruling body of the Mormon Church, has ever been elected to Congress."

The author does not seem to know that the proper name of the religious body commonly called "the Mormon Church" is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, while the popular title is a misnomer. "The ruling body" is the whole Church, in which one of the fundamentals is: "All things shall be done by common consent." If he means that the Twelve Apostles form the "ruling body" he is also mistaken, as the First Presidency stand at the head, and the Council of the Twelve acts under their direction.

It is not true that Mr. Smoot is the first of the Apostles who has "ever been elected to Congress." Hon. George Q. Cannon, one of the Twelve Apostles, was elected for several successive terms, which he served with signal ability and to the public benefit, as was recognized by his associates in the House of Representatives, and particularly by new members to whom he was a source of valuable legislative information. There was never any objection raised against his election or right to a seat in the House, because of his religious status as an Apostle.

At the close of the article "the complete autonomy of the Mormon Church," is spoken of and also "its tenacious grip on a large and fertile area of our national territory," as reasons that should cause consideration of "the effect of a spokesman of this institution sitting in a chair of the United States Senate."

As there is no such "autocracy" as the writer assumes to exist, and the Church has no "grip on a large or fertile area of national territory," there need be no public anxiety on that account. Nor will Senator Smoot be "a spokesman of that institution," but of the State of Utah as a political commonwealth. And we think his position will not be confined to "sitting in a chair," but that he will be heard to the public advantage, both as a valuable working committee man and a speaker when necessary on the floor of the Senate. Apart from these exceptions, the sketch in Leslie's is fair and commendable.

## FOR PURER AMUSEMENTS.

What is known as "the purity bill" has been passed by the Belgian senate, and great interest is shown in the measure in the capitals of Europe. It is aimed at the disreputable practices of many theaters, particularly those visited by foreigners.

It is claimed that the programs at some of the places of amusement had become simply scandalous. The decent part of the press fought the performers, by always ignoring them and the places where they performed, and this had some effect. But there were journals as scandalous as the immoral theater programs, and it therefore was thought necessary to resort to legal restrictions. The bill passed confines the prohibition to "obscene songs and speeches at public gatherings," leaving to the various police prefects and magistrates the decision as to particular cases.

In this country it is generally urged that the people are entitled to the class of "amusement" they are willing to pay for, and that the only remedy against a depraved stage is a more refined pub-

lic taste. The Belgian legislators have taken another view. They hold that the amusement atmosphere can be to some extent purified by law, and that by law public taste can be educated. They charged the management of the objectionable theaters with responsibility for the lowering of the standard. The senator who introduced the bill declared that the taste of the masses under the influence of the theatres of managers in the business of obscenity and lewdness is no longer responsive to the elegant and polite in drama or song, and he called upon the senate to rescue the country from "immorality masquerading as amusement." The outcome of that measure might be watched with interest in this country too, as well as in the European capitals.

## GOOD WORDS FROM A FRIEND.

It is refreshing to hear of good reports concerning Utah affairs from friends visiting other parts of the country. Allowances must be made, of course, for exaggerations and mistakes by reporters, but it is easy to distinguish the difference in what is published between the statements of persons who fall in with popular notions, and the utterances of gentlemen courageous enough to tell the truth in spite of public prejudice. The Houston, Texas, Chronicle of Jan. 22 has the following under a double-head, which we take pleasure in reproducing:

"Mr. Charles K. Rowland of Salt Lake City, Utah, is one of the prominent visitors to the city today. Mr. Rowland is a cousin of Attorney General C. K. Bell.

"Discussing the subject of polygamy, Mr. Rowland said: 'If you want to hear anything about polygamous marriages in Utah it is necessary to go to Houston or somewhere in that region. In Utah the subject is never mentioned, and no such practice exists there. I saw a statement in a Houston paper the other day to the effect that Utah had elected Reed Smoot, a polygamist. Mormon, to the senate of the United States. I know Mr. Smoot well. He is one of the greatest and purest men in Utah, or in the entire United States for that matter. He has a lovely family, is the husband of one wife, and neither advocates nor practices polygamy in any shape, form or fashion. The Mormon as they exist today, are a thrifty and hospitable class, and as a thing as a polygamist marriage is never mentioned.'

"Mr. Rowland has returned from a sojourn in Houston, and is on route home. This is his first visit to Texas for eight years. Having acquired extensive mining interests in Utah and Colorado, he is devoting all of his time to those sections of the great west."

## A HEBREW CONGRESS.

An important meeting of Hebrews has just been brought to a close at St. Louis. No less than 125 delegates, representing 75 congregations, were present. The gathering was in the interest of the Union of American Hebrews, an organization representing the reform wing of American Judaism.

Among the matters of great importance that came up before the assembly was the question of holding a congress of Jewish organizations of a national character, religious, charitable and philanthropic, on the lines of the Presbyterian assembly, to meet once in five years to consider all questions of Jewish interest in their broadest aspect. Ultimately it is intended that this shall lead to a pan-Jewish congress touching upon matters concerning the Jews the world over with representatives from all countries.

A suggestion was made to hold such a congress at St. Louis in 1904, but that was not agreed to, either New York or Washington being thought the better place.

The "reform" Jews, as is well known, do not regard Dr. Herzl's Zionism as practical. They think Judaism should be dispersed still more, rather than gathered around a center. It is therefore remarkable that they meet and plan for a world's congress of Hebrews, at which the common interests of all the people shall be discussed. That, too, is a "gathering." It is a good preliminary to the establishment of a center, for a congress means ultimately a capital. The spirit of gathering is at work, both among the orthodox Jews that believe in the prophecies of their ancient leaders, and among the "reformers."

## THE WIDE SPREAD OPINION.

Among other papers that believe the newly elected Senator from Utah will obtain his seat in spite of the absurd but vigorous sectarian fight against him the Los Angeles Express makes the following editorial remarks to that effect:

"Elected by the Mormon Republicans Reed Smoot a progress to a seat in the senate will be contested at every step by his Gentile opponents, but at this distance the Express fails to see specific reasons why the senate committee should report adversely upon his admission to that body. Unlike Roberts he is not a practicing polygamist, which was the chief offense charged against that much-married individual.

"Smoot is an Apostle of the Church. It is true and as such is supposed to uphold the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints, a prominent tenet being polygamy. Hence the main hope of defeating his admission lies in the fact that while not a personal violator of the United States statutes he is secretly opposed to the law as an Elder in the Church. Whether this will prove a sufficient barrier to his hopes is doubtful."

The Chicago Evening Post says:

"The criticisms, threats and opposition which Smoot's candidacy has excited throughout the country seem to have had no effect whatever on the Republican members of the Utah legislature. In this case we cannot pretend to see anything surprising or disquieting. The right of every man, woman and child to offer gratuitous advice to Utah is of course inalienable, but so is Utah's right to ignore such counsel. She is a sovereign state, in full possession of her faculties, and conscious of her power and privileges under the Constitution of the United States.

"As to Mr. Smoot's qualifications, that is a question for the Senate and no other body or person in the United States. The Constitution provides that the House of Congress shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members. If good, valid, constitutional reasons can be adduced against the admission of Mr. Smoot, the senate will doubtless give them careful consideration. It will not be influenced by hysteria and incoherence, by sentimentalism and far-fetched objections. The Senate is jealous of its prerogatives and its independence.

"It is safe to venture the expression of opinion that Reed Smoot will be elected."

loved to take the seat to which he expects to be elected. He is not accused of polygamous relations or any other crime or moral offense. Personally he seems to be unobjectionable. The protests against his candidacy are based on his 'Apostleship' in the Mormon Church, but the Constitution does not recognize religious qualifications or disabilities. Would the Senate exclude Bishop Potter if New York were to elect him to succeed Platt?"

## ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

Cross upon the stories to the effect that a game of chess was played in mid-ocean, by the aid of wireless telegraphy, between teams on vessels fifty miles apart, comes the statement that American navy officers are preparing to establish wireless communication between the California coast and Manila by way of Hawaii. Two stations on which work will shortly be begun will far exceed in power any yet established on the Atlantic coast. The range between Honolulu and Manila is the longest and most difficult in the world, but the navy department promises that wireless communication between this country and our Oriental possessions will be an accomplished fact within eighteen months. The estimated cost, including a station at Hong-Kong, is only \$182,000. It is not long since the first signal "S" was sent across the Atlantic, and the fact was disputed by competent authority. Wireless telegraphy is making gigantic strides, it seems. How long will it take before the earth is a vast wireless telegraph station?

Minister Bowen is having the time of his life.

The citrus belt is California's champion belt.

This is the kind of weather that tries men's souls.

What Venezuela needs most now is a new way to pay old debts.

Castro's offer of a guarantee to the powers looks like thirty per cent.

The sophomores should remember that Fort Douglas is behind the University.

Colonel Arthur Lynch has been placed in the commuter class by the change in his sentence.

A word to the wise is sufficient. The trouble is that very often those who are reputed wise are not so.

The wireless vocabulary will have to contain some substitute for "line's busy."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Gaiety Nationalists are dissatisfied with the commutation of Colonel Lynch's sentence to life imprisonment. Did they want him hanged?

If the University Dramatic club would present "The Amazons" again, with the sophomore attachment, it is believed that the house would be crowded.

Down east the possession of a winter's supply of coal is regarded as evidence of great wealth or of an indifference to distinction between mean and true.

The position of the allies towards the non-blocking countries having claims against Venezuela is that they do not propose to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them.

The State School of Mines should be as near the great mining camps and big smelters as possible. No one can dispute this fact. It is there now and to remove it would be to get it away from the mining center.

With increased pay for supreme court and district judges the field for the selection of judicial candidates should be very much widened, which would mean that about all the legal talent of the State would be made available for the service of the State.

Rev. J. R. Daniels of St. Paul's church at Ocean Grove, N. J., has asked his congregation to pray for people who play checkers. If they cannot play checkers without such aid they should abandon the game. They really seek to take an undue advantage.

The appalling railroad disaster at Graceland, New Jersey, whereby more than a score and a half of people were killed is the worst so far of the year. These accidents are becoming terrifyingly frequent. A most thorough and searching investigation into them should be made. A perfunctory railroad report will not satisfy the exigencies of this case.

The celebration of the Chinese new year reminds us that there, according to recent estimation, now are in this country about 100,000 Chinamen, of whom about 20,000 live in San Francisco. New York has quite a Chinatown, and smaller colonies are found in Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston. It is claimed that no more than five per cent of them are illiterate, though nearly all belong to the uneducated classes. That is a showing which some European nations cannot boast of.

Three decades ago the Shah of Persia visited England and dazzled the court of St. James and English society with his array of jewels. After his departure it was learned that they were all false. The other day the Duke of Manchester was sued for a bill of some six hundred dollars for jewelry presented his wife. It seems it was false. And now comes the story that the mysteriously missing jewels of the late Mrs. Charles Fair were false. How much of royalty and society that passes for the genuine is after all only paste.

## FOR HIGH TREASON.

Chicago News.

Col. Arthur Lynch, who was sentenced to death for treason yesterday, insisted during his trial that he took arms against the British only after he had become a legally naturalized citizen and that he acted in good faith as a loyal citizen. The prosecution held that the naturalization was only a "flimsy pretext." The courts of a country when called upon to try a British subject who has borne arms against that country are not likely to lay aside stress upon questions of motive when the facts are proved, and in Lynch's case that point was not in dispute. In his case, too, the offense

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was heightened by the fact that he still considered himself enough of a British subject to demand a seat in parliament. Setting aside the legal questions, it is entirely natural that English sentiment should have called for his punishment and that the English courts should have reflected that sentiment.

## St. Paul Globe.

The conviction of Col. Arthur Lynch on the charge of high treason, and his sentence to death as a consequence, will awaken mingled feelings in this country. As a matter of principle, practically all will agree that a man who takes up arms against his country, not having renounced his allegiance thereto and not having become the naturalized citizen of another country, is entitled to full penalty for treason; there is, however, a claim made that Lynch was a naturalized citizen of the South African republic. Yet sympathy for the Boer cause was so strong in the hearts of a very large proportion of the English people that many will regret the fate apparently in store for Col. Lynch. Having borne arms against his own country he was certainly guilty of great foolhardiness in returning to England, and his execution should be a warning to others.

## Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Col. Lynch is an Irishman and a member of the British parliament. It has been proved at his trial that during the war in South Africa he went over to the Boers and was found fighting in their ranks. Under the British law this is clearly high treason. He has been duly indicted, tried, convicted and sentenced to death, but the opinion is prevalent in England that the ministry will commute the sentence to imprisonment, as his execution at the present time would harrow up old sores to an alarming degree.

## Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Until the law was changed not many years ago the sentence on Lynch would have carried with it more than death. He would have been condemned to be "drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution and there be hanged, drawn and quartered." That barbarous penalty is no longer possible, but the sentence of death in case of conviction of high treason remains. Does not follow that the sentence will be carried into effect. In fact, no one thinks for a moment that it will be. Royal clemency will be exercised, as a matter of course, the only question being the extent to which that will go.

## Dakota Divorces.

Springfield Republican.

Following closely recent judgments of its own the United States Supreme court has again affirmed the right of a state to protect the marriage relations of its citizens regardless of the acts of other states. This decision of the United States Supreme court is of great importance in the way of breaking down the easy divorce machinery of certain of the states. No citizen of any other state, going to South Dakota or elsewhere for a divorce, can be sure that he stands divorced when he returns to the state of his regular domicile with a decree in his pocket. He is likely to find himself as much married as ever, and to find the courts of his own state soiling a blow against legal fraud and putting an end to an abuse that menaced the civic and social stability of American life.

## Louisville Herald and Commercial.

It is a decision which will affect a few marriages that have resulted from quick and easy divorce methods. But it is a step in the right direction, an assertion of state rights and an upholding of the dignity and sacredness of marriage. Every divorce obtained by fraud is an assault upon the home life of the country. It is therefore gratifying to see the highest tribunal in the land striking so telling a blow against legal fraud and putting an end to an abuse that menaced the civic and social stability of American life.

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