

grant passengers insure their lives for at least a year after the date of landing, and immediately make the companies the beneficiaries under the policy thus secured. The climate of the United States is generally most salubrious and healthful; but people do die here sometimes, and some who are apparently quite sound even get sick and poor within a year after reaching our shores.

THE "MUDDLE."

Twenty-five days since the opening of the Legislature, five-twelfths of the time of its entire session, have elapsed—and only now has the august body made choice of its public printer and awarded the contract for its public printing. The gentlemen composing the minority who favored the acceptance of the lowest responsible bid have made a gallant fight, and the News commends their stand for principle, without caring anything about the personality of the respective bidders. We shall certainly not hoist in double-leaded editorial cap-trap the personal qualifications of any employe of this establishment. We are gratified to believe that it is not needed.

As to what the reporters have chosen to designate the "printing muddle," it began in an unwillingness to meet a plain business proposition in a plain business way. In order to complicate the question and befog those who were expected to vote on it, every conceivable trick has been resorted to, and all manner of side lights and confusing explanations have been thrown upon and injected into it. The great and only linotype machine has played a dumb but dramatic part, the labor-union has figured as a feature, the plea of an advocate, warped and twisted as to facts in a way that some advocates have a reputation for, has been hurled uncalled-for against reputable men and institutions, and a week later apologized for by the ranting declaimer. And through all this the simple legislators have evidently been unable to see that, whether or not through the magnanimity of their expectant public printer, public work was being put into the office that pays him his salary, without any contract price whatever, and that public business was being hampered and injured pending a conclusion that a fair business man could reach in five minutes.

The question was, merely this: Which responsible establishment will do certain work at the lowest figure? Whether the bidder had this, that or the other machine, or employed union or non-union labor either in his editorial or mechanical departments, was no part of the original question. Neither was it required that the work must be done in colors, on vellum, or in gilt binding. A great deal that the Legislature does is not worth printing at all; and the representatives of the people could not properly go into any extravagance or consider any extraneous arguments in favor of unions or anything else. Yet, as we understand it, the lowest bid has not been accepted, and after nearly all the juice has been sucked out of the job by the temporary contractor, the husk for the remaining half of the session

has been cavalierly tossed over to some one else.

It has been a ridiculous farce all through, and not very creditable to the performers. Although the minority have exhibited their figures—their case having been stated with mathematical accuracy—they were met with airy perforations and much flow of words—which, strange to say, have prevailed with the majority. We have no doubt that the latter have been sincere and honest in following such leadership as they have had, but they have surely looked crosswise at a simple matter of figures and of duty, and have shown a guilelessness that would hardly be deemed a virtue in a kindergarten. The News salutes them!

CALLOWNESS EXTRAORDINARY.

The simplicity of some of the Eastern papers [which venture] to expatiate learnedly on matters political, social and religious in the Territory of Utah still remains a source of profound wonder. Of gullibility well-nigh monumental is the esteemed *Mail and Express*, New York, which admits to its pious columns the most improbable sort of stories, from the most irresponsible of writers, and from the most out-of-the-way places—the only requirement being that the word "Mormon" shall appear in as many of the sentences as possible and that the whole communication be generously interlarded with "polygamy."

In its issue of Tuesday, the 23rd of January, the *M. and E.* gives place to a typical production of this kind. Its writer modestly omits his name, initials or even pseudonym, but the paper dubs him a "special correspondent." He dates his letter from Deseret (!), Utah, (this gives the clue that he is perhaps a woeful Deep Creek miner stranded at that pleasant little town of Millard county); and his observations of Utah sentiment are centered upon the conversation of a woman who had been her husband's fourth wife, and a young man, "a progressive Mormon, who has allied himself with the Republican party." On the words of these two Deseret people, altogether mythical personages we think, but called by the correspondent himself "enthusiasts," he grinds out a dreary column of precious rubbish as to the impropriety of listening to Utah's appeal for statehood. Flaming headlines warn the nation of the abyss over which it hovers, and "spook" predictions of Mormon treachery and lawlessness grin and gibber from every paragraph. The whole thing is amusing yet pitiful. The good gray matter under the skull of the *M. and E.* editor must have suddenly become very mushy or very badly addled.

"ABOLISH THE ENGROSSING OFFICE."

The following assault upon an institution founded upon red tape solely, is made by the *New York World*:

It would be difficult to give any good reason why the fashion of engrossing laws, that is writing them with a pen on parchment or some imitation of it, should survive in this practical land. It has no

reason in convenience, in accuracy or in permanence. It is simply a fashion persisted in for sentimental reasons.

It is proposed to do away with the system in this state for a reason that should be controlling if there were no others. It has been notorious for years that laws are not engrossed as they were passed by the legislature. The engrossed copy which is signed by the governor and becomes the law is not infrequently characterized by omissions or additions or punctuation which substantially change its language and effect.

This has become so common that it is already scandalous, and the tendency is to a worse condition instead of a better one. There is a sure cure for the evil. Abolish the engrossing office. Let the bills be printed as passed for the information of legislators, and let a copy of the printed bill be signed by the governor. The possibility of making changes in a law, either by mistake or fraud, without timely detection, would thus be reduced to a minimum.

There was a time when all books were manuscripts, but this is the age of the printing press, not of the penman. The reform is a good one and tends to safety.

The ridiculous addendum of errata appended to the Compiled Laws of Utah, 1888, and the plentiful sprinkling of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc., with which the pages of the session laws of 1890 and 1892 are bespangled, are striking object lessons illustrative of the soundness of the *World's* ideas upon the subject of engrossing bills passed by a legislative body, instead of using, as the original, a printed copy. The printer who prints the laws in book form is required by law, and by his oath and bond, to "follow copy" in every particular. This copy is either the original bill as signed by the presiding officers of the two houses of the legislature, and by the governor, or it is, presumably at least, an exact transcript of it; and as the original bill is often engrossed by a clerk who is not expert in orthography, punctuation, etc., or who is careless in regard to such details, it frequently happens that an exact reproduction of his work in type calls for severe criticism on account of the errors it contains, for which, however, the printer is generally blamed.

The Utah Legislature of 1894 made the innovation suggested by the *World*, by using as the originals printed copies of several long bills. The reason why this was done, however, was that the bills were not passed until near the close of the session, and it would have been a physical impossibility to engross them in time to have them signed before adjournment, on account of their great length. Hence printed copies were taken, and necessary corrections made in them, when they were adopted as originals. As a precaution against interpolations, a red line was drawn between the printed lines.

The present Legislature has made one innovation in the direction advocated by the *World*. Early in the session, by concurrent resolution, it directed the chief clerks to use a printed copy of the bill instead of the original manuscript, while the measure should be under consideration. Only one more improvement remains to be made: Let the bill as finally passed be put in type, carefully proof-read by competent persons, and a