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A GREAT ANNIVERSARY.

Sunday, Dec. 23, is the 101st anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph. Bishops of wards are reminded of the custom that has been established, of holding anniversary services, with appropriate exercises. The remarkable incidents in the life of the Prophet Joseph are well worth recounting to the present generation, for no man in this age has accomplished a greater work, or performed a more important mission than he did, during the few years that were allotted to him in this sphere of action. The anniversary comes so near the great anniversary of the Christian world, that the significance of the two may be appropriately dwelt upon in the assembly of the Latter-day Saints next Sunday.

RAILROAD CAR SHORTAGE.

It is probably true that the investigation into the causes of shortage of railroad freight cars has proved that the situation is serious, the fact being that business interests all over the country are suffering from lack of transportation facilities.

One reason of this is, that the business of the country has developed faster than the roads themselves. Construction has not kept pace with the growth of the country, and as a result there is a lack of sidings, switches, terminal facilities, etc., necessary to handle the enormously expanded freight and passenger business. President Hill, in his Chicago speech, some time ago, made this clear. It should be noted, though, that the railroads are not alone in this predicament. Nearly every other large industry is similarly crippled, because of inability to supply the increasing demand for its products.

Another cause has been pointed out, and it remains with the business men of the country themselves to remove this. A prominent railway official is quoted as having said that freight cars in normal seasons earn money only one hour in twenty-four. That is to say, most of the time they are used for storage purposes instead of for transportation. Patrons of the road, it is said, leave the loaded cars for days, or longer, without unloading them, preferring to pay demurrage charges instead of storage, thus preventing the roads from using the rolling stock in actual transportation the greater part of the time. The remedy for this is the prompt release of loaded cars, as soon as they arrive at their destination. If business men generally were more economic with the time, the carrying capacity of the roads would be greatly increased.

SECRETARY ROOT'S ADDRESS.

The address of Secretary of State Elihu Root, at the annual dinner of the Pennsylvania Society in the Waldorf-Astoria, on Wednesday, Dec. 12, has been subjected to the most severe criticism. It has been construed as an assault upon the prerogatives of the sovereign states, and even upon the Constitution. A Washington paper asks: "Are the states so feeble, so lax in meeting emergencies, so powerless when confronted with important problems, that the time is come when the nation must acquiesce in a new order of things? Is the system under which we have waxed great and strong, after all, a failure? Have we really outgrown the Constitution?"

"Secretary Root," that paper continues, "has forced home to the people a startling situation. The drift of things has long been all too apparent to observing men. It is no longer a drift. The time for theorizing has passed. Are the people ready for a change in our form of government? Are the sovereign states ready for it? What will sober-minded Americans say in the final analysis?"

What Secretary Root said on the occasion referred to, as reported by the Associated Press, was this:

"I submit to your judgment and desire to press upon you with all the earnestness I possess, that there is but one way in which the states of the Union can maintain their power and authority under the conditions which are now before us, and that way is by an awakening on the part of the states to a realization of their own duties to the country at large. Under the conditions which now exist no state can live into itself alone and regulate its affairs with sole reference to its own special interests. Every state is bound to frame its legislation, and its administration with reference, not only to its own special interests, but with reference to the effect upon all its sister states. Every individual is bound to regulate his conduct with some reference to its effect upon his neighbors, and the more populous the community and the closer individuals are brought together, the more imperative becomes the necessity which constrains and limits individual conduct. If any state is maintaining laws which afford opportunity and authority for practices condemned by the public sense of the whole country or laws which, through the operation of our modern system of communication and business, are injurious to the interests of the whole country, that state is violating the conditions upon which alone can its power be preserved."

The purpose of the distinguished speaker was, as is readily seen by this, to point out that interstate commerce and travel had extended to such proportions that no state can any longer make laws, or manage its affairs without reference to the sister states. "Under the conditions which now exist no state can live into itself

alone and regulate its affairs with sole reference to its treasury, its own convenience, its own special interests." That was the burden of the address. And who can say that it is not in perfect harmony with facts?

Secretary Root has taken occasion to explain, through the columns of the Chicago Record-Herald, what he actually did say on the occasion of the banquet. In view of the storm of criticism the address provoked, the explanation of the speaker is of general interest. We quote:

"The changed conditions in the sentiments and business and social habits of the country, I said, could not fail to produce corresponding changes in our politics and system of government, and those changes are plainly to be seen. 'The people of the United States are tending steadily to do through rational agencies many things which were formerly done through state agencies, and to do for the entire country what the states formerly did for separate communities. I illustrated this tendency by referring to the anti-trust act, the railroad act, the anti-rebate law, the oleomargarine law, the law for meat inspection, the pure food act and other legislation. All such safeguards and legal protection for the rights of the people, the public health and the public welfare generally, were formerly provided by the state legislatures, but they are now provided by Congress, sometimes under the commerce power, the police power, or the taxing power granted to the national government by the Constitution. And, I said, that we had not reached the end. We are urging Congress to enact other legislation which involves local interests into the national life. We propose many other projects—a national divorce law, a law forbidding child labor and national supervision of insurance. I did not say whether this was for or against. I did not advocate the policy; I only referred to what had been done, and declared that the tendency was all that way. I described the situation and the reason for it, and put the question, 'What is to be the end of all this?'

"I asserted that one of the most important questions before the American people today is, 'How can the power of the states be preserved?' I did not even intimate that anyone desired them to be crippled or curbed. There was not the slightest suggestion of any such thought in my speech. I assumed that everybody understood the attitude of our people toward that question, and I went on to describe how I believe the rights of the states should be protected."

It is strange how false impressions sometimes are created. They cannot be accounted for. It is evident, however, that no good purpose can be served by misrepresentations. Elihu Root is too great a statesman and too good an American to assail the Constitution under the provisions of which this country has developed until its influence and its principles, like the little stone in the ancient vision, are about to fill the whole earth.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

The total number of aliens applying for admission during the last fiscal year, was 1,173,785. When from this are deducted 12,452 who were refused entrance and 65,412 who returned after a temporary absence, we still have a total of new arrivals of over 1,100,000. This is about 40,000 more than the preceding year.

As for the nationalities that contributed to this addition to our population, Italy and Austria-Hungary each gave nearly a quarter. The German record of 1882 gave to 250,000. That record was first broken in the fiscal year 1904-5, when Austria-Hungary sent 275,693 emigrants to the United States. This remains the highest figure for any one country, but the Italian total for the last fiscal year was 273,120 and Austria-Hungary's 265,138.

The Russian record for the last three years is: 1904, 145,141; 1905, 144,597; 1906, 215,665. The three countries together contributed about 69 per cent of all the immigration. They forged to the front as far back as 1894 and have continued ever since to furnish a very large percentage of the whole. The Italians admitted for eleven years, including the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, number about 1,600,000.

The principal reasons for the exclusion of would-be immigrants are as follows: "Paupers, 7,609; contract laborers, 2,314; diseased aliens, 2,773; insane persons and idiots, 321; convicts, 205; and the remaining 340, including 122 Chinese, were rejected for minor causes." It is tolerably clear that if the laws were conscientiously enforced, there would be very few cases of illegal entrance into this country. The undesirable classes are now effectively barred, when the immigration laws are observed. For the purpose of preventing the violation especially of the clauses of the law excluding diseased persons, the suggestion is made that health officers be stationed at points of embarkation, responsible for the health inspection. The report of the immigration commissioner says: "It is not inconsistent with a measure of good faith on the part of such carriers that in the enormous number of those seeking transportation to the United States some who are obviously of the excluded classes should succeed in escaping observation. The more efficacious means of preventing violations of the law, especially with reference to the diseased classes, would be the location of medical officers at foreign ports for the purpose of making examinations in advance of the purchase by aliens of their transportation, as recommended a year ago."

GOLD FROM NEVADA.

According to the director of the mint, Nevada will produce \$11,000,000 worth of gold this year and \$20,000,000 next year.

"This statement," says the Omaha World-Herald, "means far more than the mere addition of that much wealth to the aggregate store of the country. It means another great addition to the money supply of the country from that single small state alone. Such an addition to the money supply, together with the other golden streams from Alaska, California, South Dakota, Colorado and Montana, means more stimulation of business and higher prices. Six years ago Nevada produced only one-tenth as much gold as it will produce next year. It is such events as this Nevada development that are filling the channels of commerce with a flood of gold and stimulating the business world to unheard-of activity."

Our Omaha contemporary omits Utah from its list of wealth-producing states, and yet the signs indicate that some of the mining camps here will come to

the front, in a near future, with developments as sensational as those produced by Nevada.

All railroads lead to Washington.

The trade in coal just now is "slack."

The car shortage investigation grows longer and longer.

How pleasant to think that tomorrow will be longer than today!

All recipients of fine seeds realize that as they sow so shall they reap.

Certainly, public servants should have adequate salaries.

Is there a rigger in the wood pile in all this hubbub about the Congo Free State?

It would be a good thing to separate church and state in France, they are always quarreling so.

At this season children's eyes and hearing are wonderfully sharpened, and it isn't done by the grinding at school.

There is quite as much reason as rhyme in what Representative Lacey says about adjourning Congress over the holidays.

"Why," asks the Baltimore Sun, "should grafters seek office?" That they may have a wider field for their profession.

Printing twenty thousand copies of the President's Panama message in "normal spelling," sounds the death "neil" of reformed spelling.

Albert T. Patrick's Christmas gift is a commutation of his death sentence to life imprisonment. Among Christmas gifts that of life is the best.

That valuable government work, Mineral Resources of the United States for 1906, will not be published until 1907. Very much better late than never.

Dr. Algernon Czapay announces that he has decided to make a lecturing tour of the principal cities of the country, to begin in Rochester in January. This is much worse than heresy.

Secretaries Hitchcock and Wilson in withdrawing some four million acres of land in Indian Territory, proceeded on the theory of pro bono publico. Pro lego publico is a better one to follow.

In connection with the school question the question has risen in Washington whether the Filipinos are black or white. To judge by appearance they seem to be dark rich browns.

It will be an easy matter to reply to the President's special message on the discharge of three companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry (colored), but it will be very hard to answer it. His characterization of the ruffians who "shot up" Brownsville while very severe, is exactly right. Much maudlin sympathy is being bestowed on them, but they do not deserve a bit.

THE PERSIANS.

From Gen. Gordon's "A Varied Life." Socially I found the Persian people a great improvement on the other Orientals of the Further East whom I had met. They are of a happy disposition and bright imagination, doubtless produced by the dry, clear air of their high table-lands, which relieves from dulness and depression. They enjoy a joke and laugh heartily, and they are able to see that most things have their amusing side. I was struck with much among all classes which showed that their manners and ways had been favorably touched and turned by a softening civilization of ancient date.

MODERN LUXURIOUS LIVING.

Syracuse Journal.
The fact is the laborer of today has luxuries that neither Queen Elizabeth nor King George of our great-grandfathers time ever dreamed of—daily mail, telephone, street cars, electricity for domestic purposes, homes well lighted, well plumbed and well heated, to say nothing of the thousand and one articles that we daily use and do not regard as luxuries—for example, matches, Nevada's contagious diseases do not devastate our cities, because state and municipal laws unite to enforce protective sanitation. Never were homes so clean and well cared for as by the housekeepers of today.

CONGO AND CARDINAL GIBBONS.

Portland Oregonian.
A surprising feature of a late news report is the statement of Cardinal Gibbons upholding the methods of government employed by the unrepentable King Leopold of Belgium in the Congo country, and incidentally eulogizing this monarch as a wise ruler. It is strange, perhaps, that Cardinal Gibbons' advice in regard to the treatment of the natives by the soldiers of King Leopold, and with his sanction, should differ so much from those that have been received in Washington, by the British government and by and through reputable journalists, journalists and periodicals throughout this country and England. We recall a picture—veritable since it was from a photograph, taken by missionaries upon the ground, and printed in a standard magazine—in which hapless natives were shown in various conditions of mutilation, how a hand gone, then an arm to the elbow, again with ears, fingers, feet or feet severed from the body, the work of the soldiers, who were permitted, if not commissioned, to commit these barbarities as a penalty for not bringing in rubber to meet the insatiable demand of the King's rubber company, and see a warning of what others might expect who failed to render the required tribute to this most atrocious of rulers.

IDEAS ABOUT MARRIAGE.

Kansas City Star.
Of late many men in the seats of the mighty and learned in worldly lore, have been giving gratuitous advice about how to select a wife. Alas, one fears that while they are well meaning in their friendly efforts to save humanity from continuing to tumble headlong in the abyss of wedded misfortune their efforts will be without avail. Many of the reasons advanced, it must be confessed, point to sensible methods of selection. The German Emperor, for instance, advises a good cook. To him this is the vital test, and in his enthusiasm he indulges in rhapsodies over the future uplifting and great contentment of the race when his theory shall come into practice for of course William has but to will a reform and it is done.

JUST FOR FUN.

Injured Innocence.
"Tis because you insulted me, ma'am," said Della, indignantly. "That's why I'm going to 'ave 'Tis a slur on me

fur ye to be coverin' the kayhole, as if I'd be peepin' in."

"But Della," replied Mrs. Swellman, "are you sure I did that?"

"I am, Shure, I discovered it wasn't when I looked through the kayhole jist be accident."—Philadelphia Press.

Foresight.
"He is entertained constantly."

"I suppose he has a host of friends."

"Not that so much, but he's careful to be a friend of hosts."—New York Times.

Swore Truly.
She—You've been out every night since I married you, and you swore you would be as true as the stars above.

He—Well, ain't the stars above out every night, too?

Of Course Not.
De Style—I know one thing doesn't run in their family.

Gumbusta—What's that?

De Style—Their son—he's a messenger boy.—New York Press.

"Ah, what a beautiful country? What lovely landscape!"

"But what's that? Why, there hasn't been a good road house in the last 20 miles!"—Exchange.

"Why do girls and brilliant balls seem alike to you?"

"Well, they kiss each other with about the same amount of emotion."—New York Telegram.

Choinalism.
Yellow Reporter—We haven't a scrap of news for our first page scare head.

Yellow Editor—Well, use this one about feeding the chickens, and have the head read, "1500 Kernels Swallowed Up."

Yellow Reporter—Perhaps this story would be better. It is about a case of shoe soles that slipped overboard. We could use the head, "1,000 Soles Lost at Sea."—Exchange.

The Widow's Way.
Newitt—They say that after a man and his wife have lived together for a time they grow to resemble each other.

Olddows—I guess there's something in that. At any rate my wife reminds me of her first husband—every chance she gets.—Philadelphia Press.

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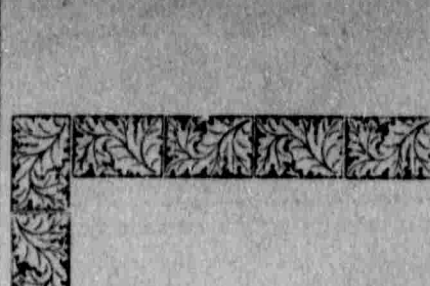
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