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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR

Saturday, . . . January 16, 1892.

## THE "MORMON" CASES IN IDAHO.

THROUGH a press dispatch from Boise City, Idaho, we learn that the big batch of indictments found some time ago against "Mormons" for alleged illegal voting in 1888 was, on Saturday, dismissed on motion of the United States District Attorney.

The abandonment of this vexatious prosecution is significant of a better feeling in the new State than has heretofore existed, toward a portion of its people on account of their religious convictions and their political affiliations. It also has a bearing on the application of the notorious test oath. In view of the changed attitude of the Church in reference to the polygamy question, the force of that obnoxious provision of the Idaho constitution is really taken away. It has no virtual application and will very soon become obsolete, if it is allowed to remain as a blot upon the organic law of the State.

We are glad that this cloud that hung over a number of our friends in Idaho is now dissipated. It is not at all likely that any fair jury would have convicted one of the persons indicted. The case tried some months ago was, in effect, a test of the question. It failed, and it became evident, in the course of the trial, that the prosecution had no solid ground to stand upon. Still, the formal dismissal of the indictments is gratifying and makes a final settlement of the trouble.

If the indicted "Mormons" had voted the ticket desired by their opponents, we should in all probability have heard nothing of any legal proceedings in the matter. One lesson, we suppose, has been learned from this unpleasant affair, and that is that cowardice and truckling will be found profitable by any political party. The course pursued by many of the Idaho Democracy toward their "Mormon" supporters has utterly disgusted those who have suffered from it, and the consequence is that the party has lost many votes and the respect of many solid citizens whose influence will yet be felt powerfully in the State.

We do not condemn the great Democratic party for the poltroonery and

truculence of some of its members, but we are sure that its influence in Idaho has been to a large extent destroyed, because of their failure to stand by their principles and their promises.

We believe that the way is being cleared for the "Mormon" citizens of Idaho to that position to which they are entitled under the institutions of our country, and that, before many years have passed, they will be in the free exercise of all the rights and privileges that pertain to American citizenship and that are essential to full political and civil liberty.

## MONEY IN LEGISLATION.

SENATOR CHANDLER, of New Hampshire, is creating quite an excitement in the Eastern States by his attacks on some of the New England corporations. He has filed a letter with the Interstate Commerce Commission in which are embodied charges of a serious character against the directors of the Boston and Maine Railroad, and also against the Portsmouth brewers. He says that if these officials had their just deserts they would be now reclining behind the bars in Rockingham County jail, rather than riding about in drawing-room coaches.

He accuses the Boston and Maine Railroad officials of selling to an English syndicate breweries, costing less than \$1,000,000, and taxed for less than \$500,000, at the price of \$6,300,000. Furthermore, he makes a direct charge against these persons that they carried in the Legislatures of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, by corrupt means, bills for issuing at par \$5,000,000 of new stock. Of this the Springfield *Republican* says:

"We know nothing about any corrupt means, but we called attention last winter to the way the Massachusetts Legislature was selling itself in this matter."

Another charge also made against the directors of the B. and M. railroad is that they wrecked the Maverlok bank by using its funds for the benefit of the road. These are all serious charges, and when made in due form by a United States Senator, and presented for consideration to a semi-judicial body, cannot be ignored or treated with unconcern.

The document as presented by Senator Chandler contains a sensational bit of testimony said to have been given by President Jones of the Boston and Maine railroad before a committee of the New Hampshire legislature. It reads as follows:

"Mr. Jones—I can take 100 republicans and in two years 90 of them will vote the Democratic ticket.

A member—What do you say has been

the result when you have employed Republicans?

A.—I say I could take 100 Republicans tomorrow and in two years 90 of them will vote just as I do. That has been my experience. Men are a good deal like hogs—they don't like to be driven, but you throw them down a little corn and you can call them most anywhere.

Q.—I would like to find out how much corn has been thrown down this season of the Legislature and how many hogs are partaking?

A.—I do not know that any corn has been thrown down, if you mean by that bribery. I said men were like hogs—you can coax them. If I were to undertake to drive a lot of hogs I should take a little corn along."

From this it appears that Mr. Jones is somewhat of a sarcastic philosopher, and believes in a potency of money in legislation. The comparison of New Hampshire legislators to hogs is not at all flattering and the public will be anxious to know how many of them partook of the corn.

## DISTURBANCES ON THE CONTINENT

News from the Latin Americas still continues sensational. A few weeks ago Brazil seemed on the verge of a civil war. In fact the political disturbances there are not yet wholly settled. Now the report comes that yellow fever and small-pox are scourging that ill-fated country. It is easy to imagine the horrors of such dreadful diseases where sanitary science is almost a nullity, as it really is in Brazil. The cities are in a fearful condition of filth. There is absolutely no provision made for outbreaks of diseases of any kind. The reports of deaths are already astonishing. It is said that whole crews of a number of vessels have been taken off by sickness.

Chile is still causing more or less sensational news to be circulated. The turmoil there is far from ended.

The situation in Mexico is assuming a serious aspect. What seemed a few days ago to be merely a little flibustering adventure now turns out to be a formidable revolution. The trouble originated about ten days ago, when several priests were arrested Chohula, one of the States adjoining the Rio Grande river. Though the arrests were quietly made, yet the populace were soon aroused, and an attempt at rescue was made.

A law prevails in Mexico against the organization of certain religious orders. It appears that the priests and students in those regions organized themselves into one of the prohibited societies. The government on being informed of this determined to enforce the old law. Several objectionable religious bodies were suppressed at the time of the Maximilian episode in that country. No attempt has been made to re-establish them until recently.