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A SPLENDID ENTERPRISE.

The completion of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad for an event that has been long looked for by the people of the States of Utah and California. It is understood, of course, that the line, though finished so far as the grading and track-laying are concerned, is not yet in condition for regular traffic. Much work will doubtless have to be done to put it into thorough working order. This will be attended to as rapidly as possible. All that is necessary to perfect the road will be accomplished in a short time, and the two splendid cities, Salt Lake and Los Angeles, will be within easy distance of each other, and the time of travel to the coast will be materially shortened.

There will not only be great advantages to the two cities principally interested in this grand project, but to the country lying between them. The mineral, agricultural and stock-raising interests of that region will be greatly enhanced, and there will be feeders to the railroad much more important than those that are at present anticipated.

The enterprise, energy and skill that have been displayed in this magnificent undertaking are worthy of all praise. The original designers of the road may not have been able to fully carry out their first intentions as to building a line strictly independent of all others, but the scheme in the main has proved entirely successful, and the connections that have been established give it access to all the great railways of the East, so that the way is open, from the shores of the Pacific in Southern California direct across the whole country, to the coast of the Atlantic.

We confess to some pride in the fact that while other Salt Lake papers, and a great many wise business men, made light of the scheme for building this road when it was first agitated, the "News" perceived at once that it was a legitimate and practical enterprise, and encouraged it at every step from the beginning. We did not join in the idea that it was a "hot air" proposition, but treated it with the gravity it deserved, and expressed faith in its practicability and in the good heart of its promoters. We congratulate them on the completion of the road, and hope and believe that it will prove an successful financially as it has been in the work of its construction. Hail to the bond of union between the beautiful cities of Salt Lake and Los Angeles!

"THE STATUS OF MORMONS"

The Toronto, Canada, Globe has an article on "The Status of Mormons," in which it speaks of the testimony by Ex-Governor McConnell, of Idaho, before the committee on privileges and elections of the United States Senate, to the effect that he had found the morals of the "Mormons" to be of a high and praiseworthy character. The Globe endorses this, and also considers the gentleman's testimony as "trustworthy." It says further: "Such testimony has always been obtainable in abundance, and it has always been given in good faith and been based on personal observation."

The Globe then touches on the question of Senator Smoot's position and its relation to polygamy, which that paper considers to be entirely impersonal and says that, "No suspicion of unfitness for senatorial status attaches to him personally." It is only his connection with a community which tolerates that practice that is in question. Getting down to the local importance of the subject, the Globe has this to say:

"The question is not without practical interest for the people of Canada. There is a Mormon settlement in the Northwest Territory. So far nothing can be urged against either the community or its individual members. Polygamy is not promoted by it or practiced by them. The question can never come up for controversy in the form in which it has assumed in the United States, for in this country the matter is settled uniformly for the whole of Canada by the Dominion Parliament, while in the United States each State makes its own laws for the regulation of marriage and the definition of 'crime.' It is worthy of note that 'Latter-day Saints' missionaries are at work in the older provinces, and that they occasionally make converts. These should know, however, that a plurality of wives in any part of Canada would be a crime to be visited with a heavy penalty."

The comments that have been made on a part of the testimony of Ex-Governor McConnell have in many respects been quite unfair to that gentleman. The Idaho Legislature took umbrage at his alleged allusion to members of that body, and without waiting to learn more than the mere telegraphic account of his testimony, passed resolutions expressing indignation against the charge that the "Gentile" members were addicted to poker playing and other diversions that shall be nameless.

while the "Mormon" members were free from that kind of pastime. The truth is that the witness made no reference to the present Legislature or any members of it, but merely spoke of his experience of many years ago, and the contrast between the "Mormon" and non-"Mormon" legislators whom he met at that remote period. He stated emphatically that he was speaking of the Territorial Legislature, which convened in 1831 and terminated in 1832. He said:

"I found that the Mormon members who were there were a different type of men from the average Gentile. A great many of the Gentiles were practicing the science of what we call poker out in that country, during the night and sometimes day time. I found the Mormons abstinent. They seemed to stay by themselves, and my business as a lobbyist took me around wherever I could find the members. I never found any of the Mormons either drunk or gambling."

Mr. McConnell gave further testimony of the virtues of the "Mormon" people in Idaho, having visited their settlements delivering lectures in all their prominent towns and wards, on the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship. Thus his testimony is in accord with that of the Toronto Globe in regard to the kind of people the "Mormons" are. The New York Mail, which is usually a rabid anti-"Mormon" publication, also endorses the testimony of Gov. McConnell concerning "Mormon" colonists, and says:

"The average Mormon is a better man than the average Gentile, and a better legislator," said the same witness. This is unfortunately too true, in the whole region where the Mormons abound. To go from any Western mining town or large commercial settlement, non-Mormon, to a Mormon agricultural community is like going from a "red light" section in this city to a New England village where public sentiment takes its moral key from a theological seminary.

Social vice, intemperance, gambling, speculation and extravagance are the ordinary failings of our new communities. But the newest Mormon colony is a model of industry, of frugality, of mutual helpfulness, and, barring the one monstrous institution of polygamy, of virtue.

Gov. McConnell seems to think that the Idaho people have been ashamed into hard work and ordinary good conduct by the Mormons. This negative Mormon evangelism we could stand something of, even in the East. Let us imitate the Mormon virtues for very shame's sake, and at the same time guard ourselves against any tenderness toward their twin relic of barbarism."

Of course, it would be a terrible thing if "Mormon" ideas on marriage as an eternal covenant were to be adopted in the pretentiously monogamous city of New York, where there is more actual polygamy in a single district than in the entire State of Utah. It is pleasant, however, to get a good word concerning the "Mormons" from the New York Mail, even though they are but the echo of the testimony of Governor McConnell.

The fuss that was made over the gentleman's remarks illustrates the unreliability of one-sided dispatches and misleading reports that have been common during the investigation, purporting to be an inquiry into the fitness of Reed Smoot to occupy the position of a United States Senator, but in reality an inquisition as to the doctrines and tenets of the "Mormon" Church, and the conduct of individuals belonging thereto. Ex-Governor McConnell, however, has not been more misrepresented than have many other witnesses in the famous case which is soon to be decided by the United States Senate.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLT.

A story comes from London to the effect that the present trouble in Russia is due to the ambition of Grand Duke Vladimir, who hopes to be able, with the aid of the army, to seize, at the psychological moment, the reins of government. It was Vladimir, the report says, who permitted the strike to grow. It was Vladimir who prevented the czar from receiving the strikers, and who ordered the recent massacre. His object, assisted by the other grand dukes, is, it is said, to foment discord between the people and the czar, and when the time is ripe, if it ever becomes ripe, he will turn to the army and say to it: "See what a weakling occupies the Russian throne. See how he trembles before the voice of the people. Depose him and place me in his stead and you and I will save Russia."

Grand Duke Vladimir, it is pointed out, who before the birth of the czar-witch was second in succession to the throne, now sees his dreams of legitimately obtaining power dispelled by a baby. He has been driven to desperation, and he is now seizing his opportunity to endeavor to make himself czar.

It is further claimed that the Russian revolutionary organization has active agencies in London and Paris, arranging to collect funds and material for a general provincial revolt.

If this report is true, the czar should be all the more anxious to listen to the people, and place himself at the head of the movement for liberty and progress, that was started by the zemstvo presidents. He would find in the people a far stronger support of the throne than any oligarchy can offer. Despotism at one time thought it necessary to place between itself and the people a small privileged class of nobility, as a wall of defense. But this arrangement belongs to a past age. The people everywhere are trying to break down that Chinese wall—not for the purpose of destroying government, but to be in closer contact with the heads of government, in order that these may better understand their needs. If the czar is wise, he will help the people demolish the separating oligarchy, and build his safety, instead, upon the love and loyalty of the masses. But will he see his grand opportunity?

It is absolutely certain that Europe cannot see, without alarm, the signs of trouble now apparent on all sides in Russia. Should anarchy be prevalent there, the effects would be felt throughout all Europe. France has considered the alliance with Russia as a safeguard against invasion. A disorganized Russia would not be such a safeguard. Germany would become the most influential power in continental Europe, and the dictator of European politics. But still more important would the

effect be in Turkey. The Sultan has been held back from fear of Russian interference. With this fear removed the old policy of blood would again be adopted. The Turkish ministers have already appointed to high command in Macedonia officers whose one idea of order is to keep down recalcitrant subjects by massacres. That is ominous.

The czar, it seems, has commenced to draw near to the people and manifested some desire to listen to their grievances. If he continues in this popular direction, he can yet become the savior of his country.

SPEAKING OF SENATOR SMOOT.

The Kansas City Times of Jan. 30 makes these poignant comments on the closing argument of Judge Taylor against Senator Smoot:

"In conducting the case against Senator Smoot before a Senate committee Judge Taylor asserted that one great reason for exclusion was the fact that the Utah Senator believed in revelations from heaven. This immediate contact with God through personal revelations," said the judge, "should disqualify any person for the position of Senatorship, no matter what his creed." "The country had long ago begun to suspect that most Senators were exceedingly particular not to receive any revelations from heaven. Apparently the members of the Upper House have realized perfectly the odium which they would incur among their colleagues were there to be any hint that their conduct was influenced by considerations from on high."

"The Senatorial objection, mind you, is to revelations from the Almighty—not to revelations in themselves. Provided these come from great corporate interests they are regarded as quite legitimate. If the Sugar trust, or the protected industries, or the great transportation companies choose to reveal their will, that is a different proposition. It would be a gross breach of the proprieties amounting to a sin to disregard this sort of revelation."

"The judge is delighted to see the Senate's theory of its obligations so clearly stated by an attorney who is depending on it to win his case. Of course, the Upper House will rally to the defense of its principles and will exclude the member who is suspected of consulting the will of heaven."

The following logical and truly philosophical remarks by the New York Independent is quoted in Eastern papers:

"It would be the easiest thing in the world to collect a catena of claims by distinguished Catholic theologians, and even from the last papal syllabus, asserting the authority of the church over the state, and its right to impose its laws on the state; and these utterances accepted by Catholics in this country. But for this reason do we refuse to allow a Catholic to be senator? Not at all. Accordingly then, all this argument does not touch the question whether Mr. Smoot should be admitted to a seat. If Utah a valid state in the Union? Has Mr. Smoot been validly elected? Is he a reputable man, fit to associate with senators? That is all."

These are among the straws indicating the direction of the wind of thought.

If the territories don't get statehood they will get hoodwinked.

It was a keen eyed ground hog that saw its shadow yesterday.

Snow would have been preferable but rain is the next best thing.

The grand dukes are to Russia what the grand viziers are to Turkey.

News from Warsaw indicates that the czar is about to dance a polonaise.

Senator-elect Flint went to California for the asthma and caught a senatorship.

What the people demand of the railroads is that everybody shall fare and fare alike.

It seems that Maxim Gorky's real name is Pleschkoff. At first glance it looks like Pecksniff.

Maxim Gorky has been released. If he is wise he will lose no time in recouping out of Russia.

The fighting along the Hun resulting in no advantage to either party, is a mere waste of ammunition.

Senator Cockrell lacks but two votes of being re-elected. Truly a case of thou art so near and yet so far.

A Cleveland man has married a totally blind girl. Happy man! Whatever his faults she will never see them.

A telephone trust with a capital of a quarter of a billion dollars is to be formed. This shows that the line is busy.

San Domingo's territorial integrity may be guaranteed but its great need is to have its moral integrity guaranteed.

"Are blondes to disappear?" asks a writer in a current magazine. That depends largely upon the supply of sulphur.

The noxious fumes are to be taken from the smelter smoke, but what will remove the poison from the breath of scandal?

Mr. J. P. Morgan is said to have a lock of Milton's hair. If he has a real friendship for Mr. John Rockefeller he will send it to him.

The evidence in the North Sea incident case proves that the Russians, like the village school master, even though vanquished, can argue still.

Of the claims of Emery and Utah counties to the proposed new land office this may be said: The former has its price while the latter is without price.

The world do move, Grand Duke Sergius, the power behind the throne of the Autocrat of all the Russias, calls in a press agent, explains the events before the Winter palace, and in explaining apologizes for them. Yes, there is progress even in Russia.

"I predict that ten years from tonight the steam locomotive will be in the museums, while we will be carried along, clipping the seconds off seventy-five miles an hour, by electric locomotives," says Senator Depew. It will be much safer for him to stick to the revamping of ancient jokes and leave predictions alone.

VALENTINE STOCKINGS.

Philadelphia Record.
Effort toward new ideas in valentines has this year taken a peculiar turn. Stockings bearing love tokens and messages are shortly to be offered to the seekers of the latest novelties. Some of this hosiery, indeed, is already on view, although it takes some little time to regard it as being made especially for the festival. It is gaudy enough, with embroidered openwork in colors, and even with occasional hearts and darts in the design, but the thought of its being a valentine offering does not occur to the average person until it is suggested. It is said, however, that more explicit decoration is coming and that some of the stockings will have incorporated in the embroidery such sentiments as "To my own true love," "To my valentine," and the like. Even the comic touch is to be found in some, which will have such phrases as "Don't be a kisser," "Love is the foundation," "True Love endures through all changes."

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

Rev. Mitchell in San Francisco Examiner.
Put me down for that "bill to teach the Bible in public schools." The Bible never yet did harm to any student, young or old, in school or out, in the home or in the state. The good it has done can never be fully estimated, therefore teach it. For where the Bible is best known and followed we have the best citizens and most peaceful and prosperous communities. Today there is a woeful ignorance of the Bible among the youth of our country, and ignorance of any good thing never helped any one. Youth is the time to learn. Let the Bible be taught as we teach history in our schools. It is and cannot be otherwise than helpful to every one. Without the Bible California would not even cast a shadow.

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

Pueblo Chieftain.
It is really surprising that the British people have kept its temper so well, and nothing but the knowledge of the world wide interests involved has prevented a clash. But it hardly seems possible that Russia can keep on creating incidents, and that Great Britain can keep on demanding apologies, indefinitely. The world need not be surprised any day to learn that some reckless subordinate on land or sea has gone beyond the point to which peace-diplomacy may extend, and a single incident of this kind would be the flash of a world wide war.

OUR HEROES.

Kansas City World.
More than 20,000 applications have been made to the Carnegie hero fund commission. The fund, started by Carnegie to provide rewards of money and medals for acts of heroism, was created less than a year ago. It is stated that the cases of heroic deeds are so numerous and so well authenticated that the commission is unable to reward a tithe of them. And it may safely be stated that for one instance that comes before the commission there are at least four or five that are not reported. It is not out of reason to conclude that in the United States in the last year there have been an hundred thousand distinct acts of heroism. This is cheering.

AUTONOMY FOR TRANSVAAL.

Chicago Record-Herald.
It is apparently settled in principle that the Transvaal is to have representative government this year. The Boer leaders want full self-government, and an association has been organized to agitate the question. A distinction is drawn between mere representative government, with an appointed executive, and "responsible government" in the British sense of the term—that is, a government dependent wholly upon the popular will. The Balfour ministry, however, believes that the Boer colony is not ready for the latter kind of government, though it is acknowledged that a representative legislative body will pave the way for full autonomy.

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