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SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 15, 1901.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The message of Governor Heber M. Wells to the Legislature of Utah at its Fourth regular session, is published in full in the "News" today. The length of the address forbids a full review of its suggestions and recommendations. It should be carefully considered by the Legislature and pondered upon by the thinking people of Utah. We believe the Governor has given the various interests of the State honest, patient and patriotic attention, with a view to the benefit and advancement of all its people and its institutions.

We are pleased to note that he favors the movement for the election of United States Senators by a direct vote of the citizens of the country. Also that he announces there can be no increase in the State rate of taxation, although the demands upon the treasury are likely to be in excess of the probable revenue. But he advises greater diligence in the assessment of property that manages to hide itself from view, and a juster assessment of other kinds that escape fair taxation. Other reforms are recommended which will help to relieve the State financial situation.

Much space is occupied in a presentation of the State lands question, which is justifiable perhaps by the importance of the subject and the necessity of some changes in the land laws. Education is rightly given a prominent place in the message, and the suggestions about the consolidation of school districts in the various counties is worthy the close attention of our legislators. The need of better facilities for obtaining statistical information is set forth pointedly and calls for action. Irrigation, too, is a subject which demands further consideration, and changes are required in the statutes now in force which are, in some instances, behind the requirements of the present, and not up to the standpoint of the latest methods.

On the question of the public health, the Governor makes some good suggestions, but in our opinion fails to meet the most important issue before the Legislature in that connection. He gives it as his opinion that the State board of health "has in no manner transcended its bounds." That may be literally true. For it is popularly understood that it has not performed its duties and filled its bounds. Nobody knows whether the State board holds the meetings peremptorily required by law. All that is known is that one member of the board, who is its secretary and executive officer, acts for the entire machine and is popularly regarded as it. He issues "orders" which he assumes have the quality and authority of "law," and that without action by the State board, and with the expectation that what he does will afterwards be "ratified" when the board chooses to hold a meeting. The Governor bases his endorsement of the State board's course on the decision of the Supreme Court of the State. But if he will take the trouble to read that decision he will find no reference in it whatever to the State board or its secretary.

The law requires a number of duties of the State board, besides its meetings at least four times a year, the discharge of which is not known to the public, and does not appear from any report that has been published. If the Governor has received an official report of its acts and doings, as required by section 1099 of the Revised Statutes, the public would like to know something about it. He makes no mention of it in his message endorsing that board.

The public would like to know why the lectures on "Sanitary Science," "Hygiene" and "Nursing," which the secretary, who appears to be the board, is required by law (Sec. 1102) to have delivered in this city by competent persons, every year, have not been heard. The Legislature may demand a full report of the State board and its work, and this should be required without delay. If the State board is of any earthly use, nobody but the Governor appears to be aware of it. Perhaps if the public can learn of anything it has done, a different opinion may be reached.

What ought to have been recommended is an entire revision of the laws on health boards, which are now in such a condition that doubt is cast on the powers of these bodies. It is only by implication, and that of the most doubtful quality, that vaccination may be enforced by any health board or officer. It is being thrust upon thousands of unwilling victims, to the great indignation of many of the most intelligent people of the State. And while it is true that the majority of regular medical men in this State, and the same may be said of other States, insist on vaccination and its "efficiency," there are few who will openly advocate its compulsion, and that is what is now being accomplished by indirect legislation, by some of the medical fraternity.

As to the merits or demerits of the practice we desire to say nothing now. Argument, opinion and advice are to

tally different to compulsion, to force the invasion of the liberty of the citizen. If that question is to be opened, the Legislature can have an abundance of evidence to show that compulsion is being rapidly abolished in the leading nations, and is doomed at no distant date to be regarded with an great aversion as some other medical practices, long since cast into the limbo of fads and nostrums and defunct means of oppression.

As to the figures given of the so-called "epidemic" we may be pardoned if we express a serious doubt. We have no confidence in the statements which put the number of cases at 2,300, and we deny that there have been twenty-six deaths from them. These may have been "reported," but by whom? Every death so "reported" that has been investigated has proven to be from some other cause. We would suggest that a thorough inquiry be made, and the whole question be subjected to critical and rigid examination, and that a law be formulated in which there will be no conflict, and if the State is to be dominated by one person impressed with any kind of a mania, the people may understand it and know what course to pursue. At present, what with diverse statutes, contrary legal views and conflicting judicial opinions the whole State is at sea.

The National guard, the Volunteer batteries, the Scolded-damster and horticulture are treated upon at length. Then comes the State institutions and State offices, all of which are handled carefully. The necessity of legislation on the amendments to the constitution adopted by the people, is pointed out, the reapportionment for senators and representatives receives attention, the fish and game laws, State fairs, outlaws, the silk industry and other public matters are touched on, and the Governor concludes with an appeal to the wisdom and forethought of the legislators, and we commend his message to the general public as worthy of their careful study and attention.

THAT RUMORED CUT-OFF.

The story told over the wires a short time ago, that a contract had been let by the Union Pacific company, for the construction of a cut-off which would greatly shorten the route to Salt Lake, and would make connection with the proposed line to Los Angeles, was subsequently denied, but is now positively refuted by the statement of the alleged contractors, Kilpatrick Bros. and Collins of Nebraska.

One of the firms in the city, and has stated that the contract was not let, but intimated that such a cut-off might yet be built, as the railroad directors had been reported as considering the matter. There is nothing definite in it, however, at present, and the story sent over the wires was at least premature.

When the Salt Lake papers published the report as to the letting of the contract, the Ogden Standard was greatly exercised, and when the denial was given as conspicuous a place in those papers as the original story, our Ogden contemporary was very jubilant and charged a "fake" up to the Salt Lake press. That was to say the least very ungenerous because there was no truth in the notion, and no reason why the papers here should manufacture such an announcement.

The news came in regular course over the wires and was evidently mistaken. The matter had been talked over by Union Pacific engineers, and the letting of a contract had no doubt been considered, but the error was in the assertion that the contract had been let. The movements of railroad directors are sometimes very mysterious, and often when a discovery is made of their intentions it is peremptorily denied. We do not say it is in this case, but the public may nevertheless be on the look-out for later developments.

THE CATTLE BUSINESS.

It is well known that the growing of cattle, hogs and sheep is one of the greatest and most profitable industries of the country, but it is not so generally understood that the manipulating of that business has, of late, been reduced to almost scientific exactitude. A great many of us can remember the time when the shipment of meat to the market place had to be done in the shape of live animals, and when the village butcher had no use for any but the edible parts. All the rest was thrown away. Now facilities for comminution combined with refrigeration have made it possible to supply distant markets from great centers of distribution, and one consequence is that what was formerly waste matter, is now utilized as a source of much profit to the trader.

Horns and hoofs are made into "artificial" shell combs, buttons and various ornaments. Hair and bristles are worked up into upholstery materials. Cartilaginous substances are made into gelatin. The bones furnish glue and meal for chicken feed. Blood is made valuable on account of its albumen. Every particle that has no special classification is rathered up and strained for the extraction of the fat, the glycerine and the ammonia. Thus every part of the animal is made useful. From the breeding of the cattle, the sheeps, of the hog, to the final disposition of the animal, the business is conducted on strictly scientific principles, though those engaged in it do not lay claim to the title of scientists. But for this fact there would be but little profit in it.

We understand that at the pan-American exposition at Buffalo, which commences on the 1st of May, this year, one of the features will be an exhibition of the manner in which many of the various by-products of the cattle and sheep industry are produced, and this should not be the least interesting attraction of the show. The intention is to arrange these exhibits historically so as to illustrate the progress of the business through its successive stages, from the primitive beginning to the present state of development. That will be a striking illustration of our industrial progress during the last century—a progress that is general along the entire line of industry.

A GOOD WORD FOR ELDERS.

The Reading, Pa., Herald, though not disposed to take the work of the "Mormon" Elders in that city seriously, pays a high and well-deserved compliment to the zeal and disinterested spirit of self-sacrifice by which they are prompted to travel thousands of miles at their own expense, in order to place their testimony before the people. The Herald calls attention to the fact that these Elders are about to make two calls upon every household in the city, and urge the people to "welcome like themselves." And then the paper philosophizes in this way:

"We have never heard of any other religious denomination making a similar tour of Reading. This house, to houses canvassed of the whole town by two church members, inviting everybody to come and join them, is unique and unprecedented. There are 60 or more churches in Reading, representing a dozen different denominations. Should any one of these churches or any one of the denominations propose canvassing the whole town once on behalf of converts, or with an invitation to attend service, the likelihood would be considered preposterous and its achievement almost impossible. It would be exceedingly difficult to get volunteers for the work, and the pastor who should try to induce such a scheme would probably give up discouraged before he had half begun. Yet here are young men, without purse or scrip, or prospective salary or promise of office, doing what Reading churches have not the grit or energy of ambition to do. The Herald has not a particle of sympathy with the tenets of Mormonism. It regards the whole system as a monstrous falsehood. But it has unbounded and unhesitating admiration for the studious zeal of these young Mormons who will compass land and sea to make one proselyte. Their zeal is worthy of a far higher and better cause. And it might well suffice to make some adherents of a nobler faith ashamed of themselves."

We pass by the confession by the writer that he regards "the whole system as a monstrous falsehood," with the remark that he thereby merely admits that he knows very little, if anything, about that system. Thousands who now are willing to give their lives, if it should be necessary, as a testimony to the truth of "Mormonism," at one time viewed it in just that light. Saul, too, before his eyes were opened, saw in Christianity only a "monstrous falsehood." But we notice the rebuke to the churches for not doing their duty. That is a point well taken. The very fact, however, that representatives of religious denominations are derelict in the performance of what they claim to be their duty, should be a justification for the "Mormon" Elders to do just what they are doing to bring the message of salvation to every household. The Herald should sustain them. If they, too, were silent, the very stones would be given voice to proclaim the advent of the King.

THE WORLD ADVANCES.

Charles Eliot Norton, Harvard's distinguished professor of the fine arts, is becoming quite pessimistic; it may be due to his advancing years. In a recent lecture he said:

"It is a matter of regret that our standards are lower than they were 50 years ago and so few young men are coming forward to take the places of those vanishing. When I remember how many young men took so active an interest in the Civil war, offering themselves freely, I cannot but contrast them with the present time. Governor Roosevelt, in them was found no boastfulness, none of the 'rough-rider' spirit. They were young patriots ready to give themselves for their country. They were not brutal. They did not find themselves 'alone in Virginia.'"

The standards of today are quite as high if not higher than they were fifty years ago. And the young men who offered their services to their country in the Spanish war were as patriotic as were those who died for their country and whose names are preserved in hallowed remembrance in Memorial Hall. All of them had not the same high intellectual attainments that Harvard's sons had, though many did, but they had the same great heart in them and it beat as strong for country and liberty as ever heart throbbed. The world is ever better throbbed. It is a matter of better today than it was fifty years ago, and this could not be, had not the standard of the individual been raised instead of being lowered. But it is the privilege of age to glorify and exult in the past, and this privilege comes to all the past, and this privilege comes to each generation in its turn. Therefore let no one complain when it is exercised.

Pan Crowe may yet decide to demand a vindication and run for the Nebraska Legislature.

The country is hearing less of New York's "four hundred" and more of its fifteen-cent committee these days.

Among the other attractions that have been provided for the entertainment of the visiting stockmen is a wild horse show by the City Council.

It is noticeable that the debate, whether in Congress or elsewhere, on the elimination bill brings forth many more or less highly colored statements.

The reception at the Beehive house tendered by President and Mrs. Snow, will be one of the affairs of the season. The preparations are on the most elaborate and appropriate style and will no doubt be thoroughly appreciated by our visitors.

S. A. Kenner's hat, if not "a thing of beauty," will be referred to "Joy for beauty," as it constituted the ballot box ever, as it constituted for McKinley and in which the vote for McKinley for President was cast in this State for President and Vice President of the United States.

It is a matter of great regret that the labor of Scolded have gone out on a miners at Scolded cannot afford to run the mines at a loss, and when the action taken on the occasion of the great strike there is considered, the great reason will be on the side of public sentiment will be on the side of public sentiment. Of course there are two sides to every controversy but we cannot help the conviction that in this case the workers are making a great mistake.

H. H. Smith, of "Col Carter of Cartersville" fame, has been criticized for "Uncle Tom's Cabin." He is citing "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as a most unfortunate in his choice of a work to assault. As well might he throw javelins against a modern fort as

to hurl his dart of criticism against that book. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is an American monument that is destined to endure as long as these United States shall last.

A Harvard student has been living near-juggally that he may make his way through college. He has reduced the cost of living to a dollar and five cents a week. His bill of fare consists of bread and potatoes, twenty-one orders, two of each kind to the order, the week. This is a plain enough living to insure the very highest thinking.

Clubs of various kinds and for all sorts of purposes have become a great deal. Some are very good while others merely serve to add to the gaudy of nations. But it remained for an eastern woman's club to rise to the height of absurdity and silliness in evolving questions to be answered on the all important topic of "parent study." Here are some of them:

"If you have been given the choice, would you have chosen your present parents?"
"If not, would you have chosen one of them?"
"Which parent do you find is the easiest to manage?"
"Did you control them more easily in your infancy or adult years?"

Visitors to this city should be on the look-out for crooks. The influx of delegates to the convention has attracted thieves from several points who have already commenced operations. Residents as well as strangers should take precautions against burglars, hold-ups and sneak thieves, male and female, and aid should be given to the police in the detection and apprehension of the marauders. Chief Hilton and his men, we are sure, will do their duty.

The decision in the Neely case will prove popular. The crime charged against him (and of his guilt there is no question) was a most scandalous one—that of robbing the Cuban postoffice of more than a hundred thousand dollars—for it involved the good name and integrity of the government. That such a criminal could return to this country and have impunity from his misdeeds would have been an insult to decency everywhere. Being subject to extradition, it is to be hoped he will be extradited forthwith, that his trial will be speedy and his conviction certain.

All the people are quite familiar with the growth of the country in population but comparatively few realize its enormous growth in wealth. The United States commissioner of labor, Mr. Carroll D. Wright, has compiled some most interesting figures regarding the nation's wealth and the cost of government per capita. In 1791 the expenditure of the government was 40¢ per capita of population. In 1850 it had risen to \$1.50. The private wealth of the nation in the last named year was \$1,150,750,228, and its products were worth \$1,029,106,758. In 1890 the per capita expenditure rose to \$6.39, but the wealth of the nation had increased to \$4,000,000,000, and its products were worth \$18,227,570,935. Thus the expenditure per capita has quadrupled since 1791, while the wealth of the Nation has increased fifteen times.

LEPROSY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Baltimore Sun.

The official admission that "no less than 30,000" cases of leprosy are on record in the Philippine islands will be, as the war department anticipated, a startling piece of information to the people of the United States. It is doubtless the most pitiable and most loathsome affliction that is visited upon the human race, and still worse is the fact that to date medical science has discovered no remedy either to alleviate materially its accompanying distress or to actually prevent its spread. The situation, therefore, is much graver than that which the Americans were forced to face in Cuba when yellow fever made its appearance in the ranks of the army. Dread as is this scourge, it is still subject to cure and ultimate control. But the curse of leprosy remains an unrelenting agency of death by slow but sure stages.

ALBANY TIMES UNION.

How small a part of the actual number of leprosy has been discovered can be conjectured, but it is probable that a systematic search will reveal a most serious condition of affairs. The leprosy epidemic of an island colony for the afflicted is the most natural, and indeed, the only course open. But that will not be the light and simple expedient that it seems to be. A colony of 20,000 victims in varying stages of disfigurement will present a tremendous problem to the government. The cure of these people will call for nurses who practically surrender their lives when they devote themselves to this work.

TACOMA LEDGER.

Thirty thousand is not such a frightful total as it seems, and is a matter not to be taken into consideration in the question of the utility of the islands or the wisdom of retaining them. It is a disease due to the filth that results from ignorance. The victims of the malady have no knowledge or proper belief of sanitation is a problem the existence of which would be a revelation to them. To teach them how to live physically would be the first step toward curing them. To teach them the above the degradation that is then common lot.

THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

Philadelphia Ledger.

More than thirty years ago the Senate rejected a treaty providing for the transfer of the islands because the inhabitants did not unanimously consent. Whether the "consent of the governed" is to be asked again, if the present reported negotiations for the transfer of the islands are completed, remains to be seen. No reference to this matter has yet appeared in the foreign press. The subject touches the revival of the old disputes. It is singular that while Mr. Seward's bargain was unceremoniously rejected by the foreign relations committee just after the war in which the necessity of our possession of the islands would have been demonstrated. If at all, its purchase at the time would have been a matter of course by many newspapers. The fact is that the statesmanship of the new "world power" looks upon the purchase of another group of islands at \$7,000,000 as a mere bagatelle.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

Denmark would be wise to end the dickerings by making terms with the United States. This country could not permit their sale to any other foreign power. In the hands of the Danes it would become an immense naval station, a menace to us. We want them as a protection to our interests in the Caribbean sea and in the Gulf of Mexico. We have done everything possible

to secure them, save pay an extortionate price, and in all honesty Denmark should seriously consider the last offer of this country. If the islands are sold they must be sold to the United States.

Chicago Times-Herald.

If any one in or out of Washington can furnish a plausible reason why the United States should pay 12,000,000 kroner (\$3,140,000) or a red cent for the Danish West India, now is the time for him to speak up. Instead of offering \$3,000,000 for the job lot our government should gently, but firmly inform his excellency the King of Denmark that the United States would not take these three jewels of his crown for a gift. We have some 1,000 islands of our own many of which we would gladly dispose of at a bargain.

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