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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 3, 1908.

THE SCHOOL ELECTION.

By the result of the school election on Wednesday, the citizens of this City declared that they are not willing to turn the schools over to the political machine with which the Tribune is connected. The vote was, in fact, a protest against any kind of machine politics in the school board, since every one of the candidates of the non-partisan conventions, including the "American," was elected with a large majority. The community is to be congratulated on the prevalence of that sentiment. It augurs well for the schools. It means that the school funds will be honestly spent and that the schools will develop with the City.

The vote proved that the people here no longer accept the charges and accusations of the strife-breeding newspapers as true. These papers sought to make it appear that the members of the old school board were but the tools of a church; that the schools under that board were under Church control; that discrimination had been shown in the appointment of teachers, and so forth. One paper went so far as to descend to personalities and accuse one of the most able and experienced members, of being a grafter. Such were the grounds on which the voters were appealed to by the advocates of a so-called "American" board. Such were the arguments used. If the people of this City had given any credence to the charges made they would have come out in force on Wednesday, and elected the opposition candidates by overwhelming majorities. "Mormons" and non-"Mormons" alike would have united in the defense of the schools. If the voters who in the past elections have voted "American" tickets had believed the charges made by their papers, they would have rallied to the rescue of the schools and the majorities of the non-partisan nominees would have been considerably smaller. But neither the "American" voters generally, nor anybody else, believed one word of the newspaper charges. And so the opposition candidates lost. This should be a notice to those papers that the people of this City—people of all classes—are getting tired of the falsehoods they are offered daily. It should be a notice that the reign of false pretenses is over, and that the voters are no more to be swayed by such means, in the interest of unscrupulous politicians.

We take the school election this time to mean that there is a closer approach between enlightened citizens of various classes, in the interest of the restoration of normal, peaceful conditions in the affairs of this community. If this is correct, the result should be satisfactory to all. For the restoration of peace means so much to every interest, both material and spiritual. When the energy of one part of the citizens is spent on incessant, bitter attacks upon another part, and this part, consequently, is under the necessity of exerting itself for defense, all must suffer. You cannot carry on factional war without injuring the country that is the scene of it. No one can tell how much Utah has lost by the anti-"Mormon" crusades of which it has been the victim ever since office-seekers discovered the value of anti-"Mormon" bigotry as a political asset. When these conditions are changed and the way is prepared for all loyal citizens to pull together for the material development of the City, its progress will be as marvelous as it was before the crusades were entered upon, and on a scale as much grander and more magnificent, as the resources at hand now are more plentiful than they were then. Let us all, then, do what we can to bury the dead past, and unite to make the living present a monument to enterprise, patriotism, and universal good will. With anti-"Mormonism" out of the way, the people here can be united effort easily build up a truly American city.

THE DIVORCE EVIL.

A few years ago it was estimated that the divorces for the twenty-year period 1887-1906 would reach a total of one million. The actual count shows 245,625 cases of dissolution of marriages. In the 20-year period ending with the year 1888 there were only 23,716. Divorces are, therefore, increasing about three times as fast as the population. At present there is one divorce for about every twelve marriages. It has been predicted that the time will come when half of the marriages entered into in this country will be annulled. The divorce statistics are enough to shock any citizen who has the welfare of the country at heart. They indicate a growing disregard for the sacred nature of the marriage covenant, and also for the duties of life. Where will it end? In dissolution of home ties and the practice of free love? There may be good reasons for many divorces, but there is no reason why this country should lead the world in the number of marriage failures. American men have the reputation of treating women with more chivalry than any other men. American women justly boast of their emancipation, their freedom. If this is true, there is no known reason why divorces should be more frequent in

this country than in Canada, for instance.

Several causes have been mentioned as responsible for our flourishing divorce industry. Lax laws have something to do with it. When people fancy somebody else's wife, or husband, as the case may be, is their true "affinity," and they find that the legal barriers to a change of partners are not very serious, they are apt to rush forward toward the goal of their desires instead of fighting against them as against a foul temptation. That is the evil of easy divorce laws.

Then, the almost insane craving for pleasure and amusements must come in for its share of condemnation. Where people give way to that craving, the home has no attraction; home duties become a burden.

But the chief cause of the divorce evil is the lack of appreciation of the sacred nature of marriage covenants. People marry, very often, without due consideration of the important step they are taking. Young people too often neglect to seek counsel of parents in regard to a matter that affects their whole life. The result is seen in unhappy family life and the divorce courts.

There is only one really effective remedy. Legislation may do its part toward the restoration of better conditions, but the true remedy is a better understanding of the nature of the marriage covenants. And for this we must go back to the Scriptures. We must take the Word of God for our duties as husbands, wives, parents, children, as well as citizens. Unless this is done, we are in grave danger of seeing our civilization deteriorating. Let us learn from the Source of all truth that the home is a divine institution designed for the development of the children of the Eternal Father—a school in which to learn unselfish love, patience, endurance, self-sacrifice, humility, honor, and every other duty that fits the individual for eternal exaltation. With a more correct and more serious view of life, there would be fewer divorces.

COUNTRY LIFE.

We are in receipt of a communication inviting a representative of the "News" to the session of the Commission of Country Life at the Governor's office. In the letter, the writer, Dr. John A. Whitson, president of the Agricultural College, Logan, says, in part:

"Dear Sir: The Commission on Country Life appointed by President Roosevelt, have signified their intention of being in Salt Lake City on Thursday, Dec. 3rd. They will hold three sessions on Thursday, the session in the afternoon being devoted to a hearing from the professional and business men of our state. This committee consists of eminent citizens of the Nation, including Dean Bailey, who has a national reputation as a writer on agricultural subjects; Henry Wallace, editor of Wallace's Farmer; Kenyon L. Butterfield, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College; Gifford Pinchot, of the U. S. Forest Service; Walter H. Page, of New York; and E. W. Allen. The investigation, I am informed, is for the purpose of getting the views of the citizens of our state on subjects pertaining to the welfare of our country people, and will embrace topics of sanitation on the farm, better roads for the farmer, the parcel post, rural free delivery, telephone, markets, the hired help problem, transportation facilities, and other problems of interest to the farmers.

The session to which you are cordially invited, will be held at 2 o'clock in the Governor's office, and I am sure that it will be appreciated by the Commission if you can arrange to be present on that occasion and give the Commission the benefit of your observations and experience along these lines."

The Commission on Country Life was organized on the suggestion of President Roosevelt, who also suggested that the country people of the United States come together in their district school houses on or before Dec. 5th to discuss matters under consideration by the Commission, as these matters found application in the several districts.

The members of the Commission on Country Life are serving voluntarily and without pay. They are giving their time and efforts simply to act as the medium through which the country people of the United States may give expression to the conditions and needs of country life. Investigations are not being made, except insofar as the reception of opinion and suggestion from country people may be termed investigation.

Country life in the United States is, probably on a much higher plane than that of most countries. At least, farmers all over the world are coming to the United States and seem to be well content with the change. Still, there is room for improvement. And the most effective way of bringing about needed reforms is to come together and discuss matters. The country people themselves are the ones to make their wants known and to suggest remedies.

In a statement issued by the Commission, from Ithaca, N. Y., it is said: "So far in the Commission's inquiry the demand most insistently made is for extended educational facilities fitting people to live in the country. We can think of no better opening movement in the campaign to better educational facilities than these meetings of the country people in their district school houses which represent to them to a very large extent the only available agency for a carefully prepared basic education. In these meetings the country people may determine exactly what are their educational needs. They may then inquire what their district schools are doing to meet these needs. They may then inquire to what extent they themselves can improve the district school, and to what extent they must depend upon governmental agencies to help them out.

There are other needs of which the farmers are aware, and these should be stated for the information of the Commission.

Even down in Hayti revolutions never go backward.

Some of these new hats look exactly like jealousy.

China's position in oriental politics is simply status quo.

"I don't know where I'm going but I'm on my way," sings Castro.

Can an Indian Longboat beat on Italian gondola in a Marathon race?

Members of the butter combine are living on the fat of the land these days.

Every time the anti-noise advocates score a point they make a great hurrah.

Mark Twain is three score ten and three. He has always been able to score.

Somehow or other the tariff hearings remind one of a bargain counter sale.

Every teacher should be a head coach, but unfortunately every teacher is not.

A match between Judge Taft and Mr. Rockefeller would put the whole golf world on the qui vive.

In Hayti "that which hath been is now." Ex-President Legitime is president of the provisional government.

The New York Sun calls Oregon a "hare-brained state." What a funny combination it makes with Webfoot.

Cattle on the Colorado ranges are dying by the thousands, the result of the great prosperity in the hay market.

Some of them lawyers seem to have been even greater believers in phlebotomy than Dr. Sangrado himself.

California always has a welcome for everybody. She has just given a welcome to the rain although it soaked her in great style.

John D. Archbold admits that he is an active official of the Standard Oil trust. He is, no doubt, what in political parlance is called "perniciously active."

Who says Philadelphia is an old fog, sleepy town? Two of her citizens have just indulged in a street duel in which an innocent bystander was fatally shot.

Congratulations to the organ of the Pseudo-American party on the brilliant success of its campaign in favor of an anti-Mormon Board of Education.

Isn't the claim of Professor Castle of Harvard that he has discovered a rule for determining the sex of the higher animals a sort of castle in Spain?

Another big fish concern, this time in Cleveland, has gone under. What more natural than that a fish concern should be engulfed in the waters of oblivion?

The rural parcels post can never entirely supplant sending things by express. For example, hope, fear, joy, all the emotions, can never be sent by parcels post; they will have to be expressed.

Mr. John A. Peterson, state food and dairy commissioner, says that most of the butter being sold in Salt Lake City contains only about 75 per cent pure butter fat. We have always regarded Mr. Peterson as a very conservative man but we are inclined to think he greatly exaggerates in this matter. It is doubtful if most of the butter being sold in Salt Lake City contains over 60 per cent pure butter fat.

The Tribune alleges that the ballots were not secret in the school election. The fact is, of course, that every voter could make them just as secret as he, or she, wanted to. Everyone could vote without let or hindrance and without giving anyone the least intimation as to what name he had in the envelope. It is singular that the paper which now talks about violation of the law, was silent after the bond election, when the irregularities were as plenty as blackberries in their season. But that was all right.

The Tribune in a rambling Jeremiad on the school elections, says the teachers and employees were expected to vote "the board's ticket; which in every case was the bogus 'non-partisan' nominee, the one whom the Church desired to have upon the board." What do the intelligent teachers of our schools think of this insult to them? Were they, or any of them, driven to the polls like cattle to the crib? What does Mr. Obendorfer think of this insult to him? Was he a "bogus" non-partisan nominee whom the Church desired to have upon the board? Is there no limit to the impudence of the "bogus" American sheet?

A KNOWING GIRL.

Buffalo Express. A girl who was guiding a party through the Pennsylvania Mountains lost her way. She came upon some cows and knowing the cows must be somewhere near human habitations she twisted their tails and followed them home safely. Now if these cows had been mules and she had twisted their tails, there would be a very different story to tell.

GERMANY'S GREAT GROWTH.

Boston Transcript. The question of race suicide does not trouble Germany, though there is a steady drain upon her population through emigration. Last year nearly 400,000 left her, and there are now about 3,000,000 Germans in the United States; between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 in Russia, and a large Teutonic representation in Australia and Brazil. Notwithstanding this, the population has almost doubled in fifty years. In the last eighteen it has increased from 49,400,000 to over 61,770,000, and the surplus of births over deaths has risen

from 11.7 per cent in 1890 to 14.5 per cent in 1904. The deposits of these people in the savings banks guaranteed by their various municipalities amount to nearly \$350,000,000. No wonder Europe takes notice when the German emperor speaks.

COALS UNDER ASHES.

Baltimore Sun. The camps of Confederate veterans and the organizations of Sons of Confederate Veterans and Daughters of the Confederacy have no aims inconsistent with the loftiest national patriotism. They represent as fine a type of Americanism as can be found in this republic. But they are loyal also to the traditions of the South and proud of its history and achievements. Their influence will be felt in generations yet to come in the South, and it is an influence which will make for a citizenship, for a patriotism and for a civilization which will be a tower of strength to the nation in time of crisis and need.

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