

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED)

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

One Year	in advance	\$6.00
Six Months	"	4.00
Three Months	"	2.25
One Month	"	.75
One Week	"	.25
Sunday edition, per year	"	2.00
Single Copies	"	.10

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In charge of F. J. Cooper, 36 Geary St.
Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.Address all business communications to:
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 25, 1902.

THE MINISTERS' RESOLUTION

Readers of the Deseret News have been informed concerning the renewed attempt of the Ministerial Association, in this city, to agitate the public mind in the East, and also to bring a pressure to bear upon Congress in reference to polygamy in Utah. The latest effort of that kind is a raking up of dead ashes. Statements made by the Utah Commission of the work they claimed to have performed nearly twenty years ago, have been culled over in order to glean some figures which could be, by deft manipulation, made to bear out the assertion of that body, that at the time of the passage of the Edmunds Act about one-third of the "Mormons" voice, which these reverend gentlemen place at 40,000, were disfranchised, and this they bring forward in opposition to the evidence which has been frequently adduced, that comparatively few of the "Mormon" people live in the practice of polygamy.

Observe the craft displayed in this ministerial effort. The small proportion which has been so frequently mentioned, as is well known, was placed in comparison with the POPULATION. These gentlemen, as they may think ingeniously, but certainly not ingeniously, compare the computed figures of the Utah Commission, notoriously exaggerated, with the number of VOTERS, a very different proposition.

The report of the Utah Commission from which they pretend to quote, states: "The total number of registered voters is 33,566, of whom 18,772 are males, and 14,494 are females; and the Commission simply argued that 'it appears that about 12,000 men and women were excluded from registration by reason of polygamy.' The Commission admitted that many 'Gentiles' as well as 'Mormons' refrained from registration under the new law, and placed the population of the Territory at 'about 150,000, about 40,000 being non-Mormons.'

The commission furnished the figures showing the result of the first election for Delegate to Congress under the Edmunds Act and their new registration oath. From these we can see what was the real 'Mormon vote.' Their report states that John T. Calne, 'Mormon,' received 23,095 votes, and Philip T. Van Zile, 'Gentile,' 4,334. These figures are not quite accurate, a defect to be found in many statements made by that body in official reports to Congress. The returns of the November election of November 7, 1892, as may be seen in the office of the Secretary of State, show a total of votes cast November 7, 1892, as 28,125. The total vote cast in November 7, 1890, was 29,823. Thus there was a considerable gain instead of a loss at the polls, after the passage of the Edmunds Act and the enforcement of the test oath formulated by the Utah Commission.

The gentlemen complaining that body never furnished any definite data on which they based their opinion, that they had succeeded in disfranchising about 12,000 men and women because of polygamy. There were a number of persons prevented from voting who were not at the time of the election living in polygamy. The theory of the Commission was: "Once a polygamist always a polygamist." A majority of that body decided that any person who, at any time since July 1, 1892, had lived in polygamous relations, was not entitled to vote. Thus men who were in 1892 without a wife and women who were widows, were prevented from voting and were included in the guessed-at 12,000. Everybody who for any cause refrained from registering for the election of 1892 was counted in the number said to be disfranchised because of polygamy. The Supreme Court of the United States subsequently rectified that wrong.

Judge A. B. Carlton, a member of the Utah Commission for many years, in his book giving an account of the doings of that body, with many interesting bits of information obtained during a long residence in Utah, states: "Of the whole Mormon population in Utah only a very small per cent are in polygamy, and of the adult males in a polygamous relation." The Utah Commission, in its report of October 26, 1893, argued this way: "Every married Mormon who takes but one plural wife loses three votes for his party, his own and those of his two wives, woman suffrage being established by law in Utah." It was on this basis that the calculation was made, establishing the small percentage of polygamists to the population at that time. The term polygamist was defined by law to mean, a "person having a husband or wife living who shall marry any other person, whether married or single, in a Territory of the United States, etc." The law applied in Utah to men who had married plural wives; women did not marry plural husbands. The percentage

of polygamists to the population was computed on that basis, and, as has been repeatedly shown in Congress and in the public prints, was very small.

In 1893 the Commission, evidently made an error in their calculations, placing the number disfranchised at nearly or quite fifteen thousand persons." But in 1894 their report states on page 2, "We have estimated the number of voters, male and female, who have been disfranchised by reason of polygamy at 12,000 and there is not now a polygamist in office in Utah." They also used the words nearly or quite 12,000. Yet on page 3 of the same report they assert: "Among the orthodox Mormons of Utah polygamy is a part of their religious faith, and while but a small percentage of the whole adult Mormon population have actually entered into polygamous relation, yet all the faithful believe in it as a divine revelation." The Ministerial Association in adopting its misleading resolution did not quote that paragraph from the report of the Utah Commission. What they did attempt to cite is not in the report of 1894, notwithstanding they pretend to cite the pages on which they found their assertions.

But the question which is asked on every hand among people who have paid any attention to the latest effort of the ministers is, what has their retrospective exaggeration to do with the present status of Utah affairs? What reply is their resolution to the figures given by Congressman Sutherland, as to the rapid decline in the number of polygamists in the State and its present insignificance compared with the population? We will state for the benefit of our readers that his figures were obtained after the most rigid investigation, instituted for the purpose of learning accurately the condition of affairs and securing information positively reliable.

The Congressman's statement can be depended upon, whereas the resolution adopted by the Ministerial Association was based upon a crafty and deceptive computation by an ex-preacher, who many years ago was convicted by the Deseret News of wilfully lying about the "Mormons" in a prominent magazine. He accused the "Mormons" of setting fire to a Presbyterian chapel, when the fact was proved beyond successful contradiction by members of that denomination, that the "Mormons" were instrumental in saving the building from destruction and had nothing to do with causing the conflagration. We never learned that he ever attempted to retract his falsehood as to that matter or to others of a similar character of which he was guilty.

If it were worth while, we could adduce plenty of evidence in support of the statement of the Utah Commission, which the ministers have ignored, that "but a small percentage of the whole adult 'Mormon' population actually entered into the polygamous relation." But that is really a dead issue, and we now touch upon it simply because it has been brought out of its grave by a body of professed Christian ministers, for the very "Christian" purpose of arousing prejudice and inciting hostility, against a Church and a people who differ from them in matters of faith, but who are yet sincere believers in Jesus Christ as the Savior of mankind and laboring for the redemption of the whole human race.

If the Ministerial Association of this city cannot find a sufficient field for their pious exertions in the promulgation of their own doctrines, we advise them to be a little more careful when dabbling in the murky pool, in which figures float that have been prepared by so unreliable and tricky a hand as the author of their latest resolution.

"THE WELCOME TO HENRY."

The welcome accorded to Prince Henry on his arrival in this country is all that could be desired, and, naturally, in Germany the people and the court are highly gratified. German newspapers have expressed the opinion that the publication in England of certain diplomatic proceedings in connection with the Spanish-American war, was prompted by a desire to spoil the royal visit. It is true, the reception proves that the object has not been attained. The prince has been received with the most enthusiastic cordiality everywhere, and it is safe to say that his journey to the various parts of the country will be a triumphal procession.

Prince Henry comes, not only as the brother and personal representative of a potentate for whom the American people entertain a great deal of respect but also as the representative of a great nation with which we are at peace, and with which we desire to establish, if possible, still more friendly relations. It is well known that Germany entertains similar sentiments, and that the prince comes as the bearer of cordial greetings from his own nation. Under the circumstances, whatever courtesy is extended to him, is an expression of friendship from one great nation to another.

No apology is needed for politeness. In this country kings and magistrates are not worshipped as special favorites of Deity. They are not shown deference on any such grounds. But they are honored as the trusted servants of the people and as representatives of the majesty of the people. It is entirely consistent that one free people should meet another with courtesy and good will, and show this in the manner that prevalent customs demand.

We trust that the visit of the emperor's brother may give him all the pleasure he has anticipated from it, and that, as a reward for it, the relations between the fatherland and the American Republic will be still more cordial than they are. Both have much to learn from one another. Mutual, thorough acquaintance will result in mutual benefit. America extends a friendly hand to all the world, and whatever country will honor us with an official visit, will receive an equally cordial welcome.

AN ANARCHIST PARADISE.

Senator Hoar, and others, have proposed, more or less seriously, that Anarchists be given a chance to test their ideas in some secluded spot, preferably an island, where they could burn no one but themselves. It has been quite

generally supposed, though, that the main objection to that arrangement would emanate from the Anarchists themselves. That appears to be a mistake, however. For now comes an Anarchist paper and declares that such a settlement of the Anarchist problem would be highly satisfactory. Only, the suggestion is made that a portion of the United States instead of an island, be set apart for the experiment. The paper referred to says:

"Such an experiment, inaugurated and carried out in good faith, would settle the Anarchist question and settle it right. If Anarchy proved a flat failure in practice, the community would ultimately be broken up; the former Anarchists, recognized from their delusion, would become loyal and useful citizens; and the Anarchist propaganda, being thoroughly discredited, would fall into ignominious desuetude. If it is proved able to hold together, but not to thrive, it would lapse into obscurity, being abandoned by all save a few irreconcilable malcontents, and the idea which could show no better results, when placed on trial, would speedily atrophy and die in the world at large. If it proved a success, the Anarchists would be contented, the community would grow, and preserve friendly relations with all the nations. Nobody could possibly be injured by it, and valuable lessons might be learned by the rest of the world."

"Why should not this plan be tried? It can be so carried out as to be fair to the Anarchists, and fair to the government. It would be far more economical than any other proposed plan, and would require no curtailment of the existing liberties of the American people. It would be attended by little friction, and provocative of no ill will. It would have no unpleasant after-effects, and would require no supplementary legislation to render it effective. As it would come in the shape of invitation, and not that of compulsion, the Anarchists themselves would cooperate in carrying it out. It would free Anarchists and governmentists alike from a juxtaposition of which both complain. It would allow the Anarchist experiment to be fairly tried, without injury to the law-abiding citizens of any nation, and results to be obtained which would be conclusive to the Anarchists themselves, as well as to the rest of the world. It would solve the vexed enigma, peacefully, harmoniously, permanently. It is the only proposition which would bring instant and lasting relief to all concerned without inflicting hardship or injustice on any. Why not consider it?"

One objection to the plan that contemplates the establishment of an Anarchist reservation within the limits of the United States is, that such an impertinent inhumanity would be desirable in any country. To it the discontented of all the world would flock, and no country can offer an asylum to that element. If the Anarchists are sincere in the suggestion that the reservation plan be tried, they should, themselves, take the initiative, and an isolated island would be the proper place of experiment. There they would have no enemies to fight. They would have to work for a living and their ingenuity would be tested. Their good qualities would be developed. Who knows? They might even learn by experience that some sort of a government is indispensable in this imperfect state of human conditions. Let the Anarchists of all the world go together and plan for an exodus to an Eden of their own. There would be no objection to their emigration, and the government might find them a suitable island. There would be no harm in the experiment.

LEO'S YEAR OF JUBILEE.

The pope has entered upon the 25th year of his pontificate, and the anniversary of his election was duly celebrated in Rome, on the 20th of this month, by the singing of Te Deum and other ceremonies. Three hundred representatives of Catholic organizations attended the services, and the pope appeared at a window of the Vatican and watched the crowd disperse. During the day he received many congratulations, and gave an audience in the throne room to a committee which presented him a commemorative medal. The main celebration will take place on the 2nd day of March, the day after the 92nd anniversary of his birth.

Conflicting rumors as to the physical condition of the Roman pontiff have often been circulated, but it seems that he is now about as well as he was when elected pope, with the exception of the weakness of old age.

To his temperate mode of living and the holy calm that seems to fill his soul, no matter what transpires around him, his friends attribute the fact that he is still alive and able to perform his duties. There have been several old popes. Gregory IX is said to have been 100 years old when he died. He was elected at the age of 84. Celestine III was 85 years when elected and reigned seven years.

The pope's receptions have been described by newspaper correspondents. Admittance is obtained through the ambassadors, and when the tickets have been examined and everything found correct, the party is conducted into a splendid audience chamber, entirely without furniture, except the papal throne, and arranged in a circle around the wall by nationalities. Formerly the holy father was seated upon the throne and the visitors passed in procession before him, kissing his hand, and some of them his slipper, and exchanging a few words with him. Last Sunday, says one correspondent, he did not leave the sedan chair in which he is carried, and the visitors were not allowed to approach him. Leaning forward, he extended his almost transparent hands toward them in the attitude of blessing, and made a brief address in French, congratulating them upon the New Year, expressing a hope that they might enjoy happiness and prosperity and admonishing them to observe their religious duties and their obligations to God and man. Then, raising his hands again, he pronounced a benediction upon "you and all that belongs to you, your families, your kindred and your possessions, and may the God of Mercy and the Holy Mother give you your blessing and preserve you from sorrow and sin."

"The beautiful old man," the writer continues, "then sank back into his chair, as if exhausted by the effort. He closed his eyes and his saintly face was illumined with a smile. The stalwart Swiss guards lifted the chair gently and bore him slowly through the open doors to his own apartments, where his devout physician and attendants were awaiting him. He was lifted from his chair to a couch, and, as usual, lay

for an hour or more with his eyes closed, half asleep, recovering from the exertion."

A patrol has just been added to the White House staff. There are others. Wireless telegraphy came before smokeless fires. How many years before no one can tell.

Those who attend the launching of the Kaiser's yacht will henceforth be strictly in the swim.

Built in the United States, fitted up in England, the Kaiser's yacht will be an international affair.

Presidential meat tickets have a string to them, as the senator from South Carolina found out.

Very little will be heard about the decline and degeneration of the house for some days to come.

Crazy Snake's hand has broken out again and made a raid on an Oklahoma town. That is the kind of a snake that should be killed and not merely scotched.

There is scarcely a doubt that the Tillman-McLaurin scrimmage was the thing uppermost in Prince Henry's mind when he visited the senate yesterday.

The forests and jungles of the Philippines are said to be a very paradise for sportsmen. Then they are the only ones for whom the Philippines are a paradise.

Chicago boasts of a boy, only seventeen years old, who has saved twenty-one lives. Tennessee boasts of a boy who is only sixteen and has killed three men.

In these days of fights and rumors of senatorial fights people should remember that there is a Senator McLaurin from South Carolina and a Senator McLaurin from Mississippi.

There is danger that there will be an invasion of America by representatives of European royalty, the people of the country having so enthusiastically received Germany's prince.

Yesterday's eulgs and receptions show that Prince Henry has quite as much energy as his imperial brother. Such a day would have completely fagged the most devoted society leader.

What the junior senator from South Carolina said to the senior senator from South Carolina will yet become as famous as what the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina.

Senator Mason is a statement of great foresight. This is evidenced by his introduction, before the occurrence of Saturday last, of a bill to establish a "Department of Physical Culture" and creating a new cabinet officer to be known as the "Secretary of Physical Culture."

When a judge says that boycotters have a right to stand in front of a place of business for the purpose of boycotting it, and in dismissing them says, "I am in sympathy with the working men and I only advise that they employ sober men to do the business they have to be done," he simply demonstrates his inability to adjudicate cases of that character.

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