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The Governor

GOVERNOR SPRY was quietly inaugurated on Monday. His inauguration speech was a plea for unity, for the forgetting of differences and a united effort for the progress of Utah. That was altogether praiseworthy, and we are sure there is no disposition anywhere to raise a discordant note. But there is no safe basis or which to found order, security, progress, or even good will in a state, save upon the people accepting and obeying the righteous laws of the state. Had this been done from the time the state was admitted, there would have been no differences here to mention; to accept and obey those laws would cause all present difficulties to vanish in a month.

Does Governor Spry believe that the re-election of Reed Smoot to the Senate because he is the Apostle of the dominant church here, who has been set aside for that place, will tend to allay "differences"?

If the president of the dominant church again, next autumn advises a great host of devout followers to toss their political principles to the dogs and vote a particular ticket, does Governor Spry believe that will allay "differences"?

Does Governor Spry believe that the Constitution should be obeyed wherein it forbids any union of church and state and specially forbids any church from usurping any functions of the state?

If there is any attempt to set that aside, will he use his executive power to stop the wrong?

That is the only cloud on the sky of Utah, the only menace to her peace and progress.

Were these the "differences" which Governor Spry referred to in his inaugural, and thought it was time they should be obliterated, and was the elimination of them one of the thoughts in his mind when he took the oath to maintain and execute the laws of this state?

If they were and he is strong enough to place himself upon the laws and insist upon their execution, then he can make a great name for himself and insure for himself a lasting fame in Utah.

The Prohibition Furore

THE dominant church of Utah has declared for absolute prohibition. Presumably most of the other churches will follow suit. If that is the best thing for the state it should prevail.

What assurances are there that it can be made a success? Utah, as distinctly as any other state, has demonstrated that a law cannot be enforced against public opinion. In one or two respects, at least, it has been, and is being daily, shown that some laws cannot be enforced even when backed by public opinion, if certain favored ones please to break them. Public prosecutors do not respect their official oaths enough to prosecute, and juries do not respect their official oaths sufficiently to convict under all the binding force of direct and unchallenged testimony. Is there the weight of public opinion in favor of prohibition? The legislature, no doubt, will be flooded with petitions, but every member will know that the signatures were obtained just as an affirmative vote is obtained in the the Tabernacle. Such petitions should be estimated at exactly their intrinsic value.

Legislators will have to deal with the question from the standpoint of their official obligations to the people and the best interests of the state, which means the best interest of all the people.

The first question is will prohibition prohibit? It has been tried with great energy in many states. The results has been discouraging to the friends of total abstainers. We were assured last spring that the lid was on in Georgia and Alabama. We suggest to the legislature that it send to that state for the leading daily papers and learn the real status of the matter. They are agreeing that this second state of the drinkers is worse than the first. It required a little time after the lid was put on to drill holes in it, but according to present accounts it is but a seive.

The result in all states where the law prevails is to remove all responsibility from those who engage in the business; they know they are pursuing an illegal calling and every other consideration is swallowed up in a desire to make the most of it.

Of course the legislature will consider the matter from all points. The revenues to the state and cities are very great from licenses; the business of the state would be greatly reduced under the law, for nine out of every ten business men will not engage in business in a so-called prohibition state. A great many cities, north, south, east and west, have had great booms in the last twenty-five years. Can any one point to such an experience in any city in any so-called prohibition state? In our judgment, were a prohibition law to be passed by the Utah legislature this winter, it would cost Salt Lake City, within a year, more than all the present revenues of the state amount to. It would cost it in the falling-off in business, in the depreciation of property, and in checking the city's onward march.

And it would not prohibit. Then facts are so manifest that it is never tried in any first-class city.

Rather, the reasoning is that the way to deal with the question is to place the business under municipal control, with such restrictions around it as will insure order and so far as possible remove temptation from minors, but not try to make men angels by statute.

This is what enlightened cities do all this world around, and it is after a thousand years of trial, experiment and practice.

According to the old legend, when Sisyphus had bound Death "in his nefarious chair," Jove turned his ear toward earth and not one prayer was being offered, and when Hermes explained that Death was a captive and no longer feared, hence men no longer prayed, Jove mused for a while and ordered the swift-winged to go down and release Death, saying: "If there were no gods men would make them."

That has an application here to this situation, and our advice to the legislature is to deal with this liquor question in accordance with the best judgment of those who have thought most deeply on the subject.

The Republic at Its Best

WHILE by executive order the American soldiers in Cuba are folding their ensigns, embarking for home and turning the fairest and richest island in the world back to the rule

of its own people, the Congress of the United States is voting \$800,000 to the unfortunates of Sicily and Italy, two ships are detached from the great fleet with rush orders to reach the scene of the cataclysm with their supplies, and the tender is that, if desired, the whole battleship fleet will be turned into hospital ships to help succor the maimed and the starving. In the meantime the American Red Cross Society is upon the ground at work, while every city and hamlet of the Great Republic are collecting and hurrying forward their contributions. The world, it seems to us, ought to have a pretty good opinion of the United States, and beyond our country and people a rather high opinion of the efficacy of free institutions in moulding the character of a people.

Scylla and Charybdis

NOT many people stop to think that the Strait of Messina is the most famous one in history, that the rocks which so long guarded its Ionian Sea entrance are the famous Scylla and Charybdis of Greek mythology, and whose sirens were the destruction of ancient mariners. It is said that the earthquakes have shattered some of the rocks and have changed the location of the Charybdis whirlpool, out of which doubtless the siren legend originated, because it miraculously drew unsuspecting mariners to destruction.

The place has been a noted one for more than 3,000 years. Indeed, it is longer than that since the story of Ulysses' voyage through that strait was first told, and that was but picking up and putting in form, legends that were then hoary with age.

It seems that there are places which are always more or less the concernment of history.

There has always been a glamor over the valley of the Euphrates; the valley of the Nile has been the world's concernment since ages before the world had any written history; while perhaps more of interest to the world clings around the Hellespont, than any other spot on the map, save only the Holy Land. That has been the dividing line between Asiatic and European power since the days of Darius; there modern enlightenment had its first mighty clash with the immovable Asiatic stolidity. But perhaps this strait of Messina has had more of romance woven around it than any other spot. It was from there that Syracuse was taken. There, and in the Adriatic, assembled the fleets that went across to Actium, and for Octavius wrested the world's control from Antony and Cleopatra; it was to Rome what the straits of Dover and St. George's Channel have been for a thousand years to England, and has perhaps drawn the world's attention to it more than any other spot in which ships can rendezvous. Now the whole world's attention is centered there, as to a mighty sepulchre.

Earthquakes are liable to come anywhere at any time, but especially liable along coasts where the seas are forever beating and especially where volcanoes—those vents for the inner world's pent-up fires, are stationed. The region about southern Italy has been especially susceptible to them always, very likely the path for the water through the strait of Messina was first hewed out by an earthquake.