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SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 23, 1902.

LET THE APPEAL BE DROPPED.

"State Superintendent Nelson has assumed a very grave responsibility in carrying the school-book case to the Supreme Court." So said a prominent educator today. "If he were to submit his action to the suffrage of the people of Utah, he would not find one out of fifty who would support him in his position."

There is no denying the fact that the convention over which Mr. Nelson presided has made itself very unpopular; not so much perhaps because of the technical irregularities of procedure for which its acts were declared null and void by the lower court, as for deeper and more fundamental reasons.

It acted behind closed doors; it voted by secret ballot; it failed in some instances to select the cheapest and best books; and finally (which in the eyes of the people probably was its gravest offense), it made wholesale changes, amounting according to the evidence brought out before the court to upward of ninety per cent of all the books used in the schools.

It was for these and other reasons that the "News" commended the injunction suit, whereby the acts of the convention were to be submitted to legal scrutiny; and it was gratified when the decision was rendered nullifying its proceedings. So, too, were the people of the State of Utah. They felt like drawing a long breath and congratulating themselves on their escape.

Supt. Nelson, without the authority of the convention of which he was the presiding officer, or of the people of the state, now proceeds to ask the supreme court to overrule the decision of Judge Hall and compel the schools to accept this wholesale change of books. The "News" has repeatedly stated its belief that some of those now in use ought to be changed. It believes that the schools of the State should have the best books consistent with a reasonable degree of economy. But no serious harm can arise from the use of the old books for another year.

On the other hand, great injury to the schools is inevitable from the appeal. If the lower court should be reversed, it would mean that all the decisions of the convention must be carried out through the pockets of the people. Whichever way it may be decided, it means that there will be much confusion and considerable delay in securing books at the beginning of the school year.

Judge Miner is out of the city, and Judge Barch has left or will soon leave it for his vacation. The court could not act until its September term. Assuming that the case were to be taken up immediately after the sitting of the court and decided promptly, the decision would be followed by two or three weeks' delay, in ordering and shipping the books from the East, and to nearly an equal delay in distributing them about the State. This would mean that the schools would have begun more than a month, in many instances, before the children would have books to study from.

As we have said, this will be the result of the appeal whether the old or the new books are to be used for the ensuing year. Do the people wish any such contingency to arise? An abundance of the old books, as we are informed by the wholesalers, will be in Salt Lake within a couple of weeks. Why not let the matter rest upon the decision of the lower court, until the Legislature can take the matter up and untangle the difficulty by appropriate legislation?

This act of appeal is Mr. Nelson's own act. He, and he alone, accepts its responsibilities. Heretofore, he has appeared in the matter only as one out of twenty-nine men, who happened to be chosen as the presiding officer of the convention. By taking the appeal, he makes the collective acts of the convention his own personal act. If the books are changed this fall, it will be because of his appeal; if there is a delay in receiving the books, it will be for the same reason. In conducting the trial and in choosing his advisers, Mr. Nelson, it appears, has not even selected the regularly constituted attorney of the people. He has passed by the attorney-general and chosen other counsel who naturally consider nothing but the legal aspects of the problem.

Primarily, this is not a legal question; it is a question of public policy. We believe Mr. Nelson has determined upon his course of action sincerely, and from what appear to him to be good and sufficient reasons. But we believe him to have been badly advised, and trust he will reconsider his action. Let the appeal be dropped.

found in another part of this paper and attention to which is here directed. Let us have peace. The Legislature can fix this matter without litigation and without the difficulties which will arise if the dispute is carried further in the courts.

CUBAN ANNEXATION.

According to advices from Cuba, a movement is on foot there, the purpose of which is the ultimate annexation of Cuba to the United States. The sugar planters are said to have taken the lead. Their purpose is to educate the "ignorant classes" on the advantages of annexation, and to convince them that that policy is the best for the island. The sugar planters, it appears, have always been in favor of annexation in the hope of obtaining free trade in this country.

It is not impossible that the propaganda in Cuba may result in a great number of converts to the annexation doctrine there, particularly if the financial troubles of the new republic are not settled in due time. General Lee in an interview recently published, stated that if Cuba fails to find a market for her two great products, sugar and tobacco, no remunerative results will ensue from the sale of the sugar on hand, and many persons will not plant another crop for another year. He also claimed that one steamship line had taken out three vessels from the Cuban route, on the ground that there was no freight to carry either to or from the island. If such conditions are to continue, it is very probable that there will in a short time be many Cuban annexationists.

But the sugar planters of Cuba will meet determined opposition among the sugar planters of this country. These have endeavored to demonstrate that even a 20 per cent reduction in the present tariff would ruin American sugar growers and makers. The tobacco planters take the same view relative to the product in which they are interested. Under the circumstances, it is not conceivable that Cuban annexationists would find a smooth road in this country for their project. It is probably true that this country, in insisting upon the adoption of the Platt amendment, placed itself under moral obligations to the Cubans in their efforts to re-establish their industries, but at present the propaganda for annexation does not appear to have much chance of success in this country.

What Cuba first of all needs, is that confidence in the stability of its government be firmly established. Without that there will be no advance of loans except at ruinous rates. And presumably the government cannot be carried on without incurring some indebtedness. There must be no danger of revolutions and anarchy, for even though the United States has guaranteed to maintain the government against insurgents and other enemies, the outbreak of new disorders would be disastrous. The propaganda in Cuba for a radical change, so soon after the inauguration of independence cannot be welcome to the Cuban government, nor to any friends of the young republic. The Cubans ought to have a fair chance of testing their ability to govern themselves. If, after a fair trial, the experiment fails, annexation is properly the next number on the program.

CHINA'S APPEAL.

The Chinese minister in Washington, Wu Ting Fang, when calling on Secretary Hay for the purpose of notifying him of his recall, took occasion to present a full statement of China's financial situation, and what may be considered an appeal to the western governments to assist the country out of its financial straits. The appeal was in the form of a telegram from the viceroys who after the death of Li Hung Chang have charge of the negotiations with foreign powers.

In the document it is stated that the United States and Great Britain are willing to accept payments on the indemnity in silver, while Russia and France suggest that import duties be collected in gold, and Japan has not taken any decided position. China's revenues, it is further stated, amount annually to \$9,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 are set apart for the payment of the debt. The remaining \$4,000,000 are not sufficient for the administrative purposes of 22 provinces.

Then it is explained that attempts to raise revenues from new sources have in many cases created disturbances, and if higher taxes are imposed, an uprising will be the result. The foreign powers, it is pointed out, know the financial status of the country and appreciate the fact that to make payments in gold is a burden too heavy for China to bear.

The document concludes by stating that "since it is the purpose of the foreign governments to increase trade, with their knowledge of commercial needs they cannot help knowing that the banking of indemnity payments in silver according to the plan of amortization will be the means not only of saving China from heavy losses, but also of protecting commercial interests. This matter is worthy of the serious consideration of the national legislatures and commercial bodies of different countries."

It is a clear and logical document. It forces upon one the conclusion that the very existence of China is involved in the correct dealing with this question. But it has been demonstrated that, by Chinese question is a world question, and the great powers are consequently interested. The United States has taken the lead in the correct policy in the far east. The other powers would do well to follow.

RUSSIA AND TRUSTS.

The Czar of Russia is about to make another proposition for an international move, this time against trusts. The proposition is for a conference of nations to consider means to protect international commerce against artificial depression of prices.

ments can hardly refuse to accept the invitation coming from the Russian government. An international movement against so-called trusts, would, however, appear more hopeless than concerted efforts at disarmament, for the simple reason that while the evils of militarism are "universally" recognized, the evils of "trusts" are by no means admitted to be evil.

The idea of international conferences on world questions is good, though. Why should not the civilized nations have a world parliament, meeting at regular intervals, to agree on the proper means of adjusting all matters of world interest, just as the states of the American Union have a congress? It will come to that finally. The dispensation of gathering has commenced. Nations are coming closer together, in the interest of commerce, science and arts, or by means of these. There will be unity some day, without the sacrifice of individuality.

The remarkable fact is that Russia should take so prominent a part in the movement for international rapprochement. But it is well that she does so, for Russia has more influence than a smaller power would have.

THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE.

One of the principles declared by the educators gathered recently in Minneapolis, was in favor of the adoption of the Bible as a book of study in the schools, not as a religious work but as a literary work of the very greatest merit. The resolution adopted was:

"It is apparent that familiarity with the English Bible as a masterpiece of literature is rapidly decreasing among the pupils in our schools. This is the direct result of a conception which regards the Bible as a theological book merely, and thereby leads to its exclusion from the schools of some states as a subject of reading and study. We hope and ask for such a change of public sentiment in this regard as will permit and encourage the English Bible, now honored by name in many school laws and state constitutions, to be read and studied as a literary work of the highest and purest type."

By actual tests it has been proved that Biblical knowledge is extremely small among the students in American schools, of both sexes. And that this is a deplorable fact, few will deny. But how can it be remedied? The mere reading of the Bible in the schools without any explanatory comments, would in many cases prove unsatisfactory. And an intelligent child would necessarily ask numerous questions on many passages. The desire to know would not be satisfied with the mere reading. And there is where the mischief would be done. Teachers committed to creeds and confessions would naturally instill into the minds of the pupils their own peculiar beliefs, no matter what the beliefs of the parents of the children might be. The children would hear one interpretation at school and another at home. It is, we presume, the almost imperative necessity of commenting upon the Bible when reading it, and the impracticability of doing so impartially, that has created the American sentiment in favor of its exclusion from the schools, not because of infidel sympathies, but because of a desire for fairness to all parties interested in the schools.

There is no doubt that the English translation of the Bible is a literary gem of the highest merit. The English-speaking world cannot afford to lose it in the literary rubbish that becomes more and more abundant. The Bible could profitably be read more in the pulpits, and especially in the family circle. Portions of it could profitably be memorized in the Sunday schools. The literary merits of the volume, the grand word-paintings of the authors, their poetry, their history, their laws, their visions—all make it the most profitable reading extant. But it remains to be said that only when it is read as a divine work, an inspired record, will it be read as it should be. Only he who sees on its pages "the mystery of mysteries," and consequently reads to find the solution, can derive true benefit from it. The reader who opens the book to criticize, to doubt and to scorn, will find few beauties in it, and but little truth, because he is incapable of comprehending such things, by reason of his disposition. And the same can be said of all inspired records given to man.

The discussion of this topic has forcibly brought to mind the fact that the Bible no longer holds the position it used to occupy in public esteem. Will it ever be restored to that position? It is evident that we are living in a time when, but for the communication of the Almighty to man through other channels, the human family would be in danger of losing what knowledge of God it once eagerly drew from the pages of the ancient records, for the simple reason that the reading of these records has become more and more unfashionable and obsolete.

CONNECT WITH SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Chronicle has this to say about a prospective railroad to the coast: "Next September construction work on the Denver, Northwestern and Pacific railroad will begin. This is the link which will unite the San Francisco-Gould transcontinental system and the Salt Lake line, now being built by Senator W. A. Clark of Montana. The latter fact is set forth in the articles of incorporation which were filed this week at Denver. While the present western terminus of the Salt Lake railroad is San Pedro, the purpose of the incorporation of the Denver link is plainly stated to be to reach San Francisco. What route this will be accomplished is not stated. If it has been selected it is not yet announced. The President's administration is well known. He has made himself its special champion, defending it vigorously from the assaults lately made upon his good name. The fact that the President has taken this attitude emphasizes the significance of the rebuke to Gen. Smith. The latter's retirement undoubtedly carries far more significance to army men than will be found in it by civilians.

ACTION AGAINST GENERAL SMITH.

Chicago News. President Roosevelt's action in re-appointing General Jacob H. Smith, the author of the famous "kill and burn" order, will be generally regarded with satisfaction. The President's administration for the army is well known. He has made himself its special champion, defending it vigorously from the assaults lately made upon his good name. The fact that the President has taken this attitude emphasizes the significance of the rebuke to Gen. Smith. The latter's retirement undoubtedly carries far more significance to army men than will be found in it by civilians.

Los Angeles Express.

General Smith's career previous to this occurrence was one of which any soldier might be proud and the record of it deserves to live in the hearts of his countrymen. And from the same source there is likely to come sympathy that that punishment has been meted out for this one error which has swept away the great reward of the soldier's retirement with honor. This punishment is perhaps as mild as could be

street, promises to become the important railroad center. However, the important point in connection with the new Denver incorporation is that the destination of the line is no longer in doubt. The declaration is openly made that San Francisco is the objective point to be reached. That fact is settled."

The hunt for Tracy proved one thing at least—an alibi.

One way to suppress crime is to sit down on hoodlumism.

Boys who admit burglary may expect the reform school to admit them.

Strange as it may seem men often grope in the dark in broad daylight.

When a man lowers a world's record he raises himself in people's estimation.

When the Elks come they will be in clover but still one of their greatest wants will be fodder.

When it comes to crushing the life out of men the automobile laughs the car of Juggernaut to scorn.

General Jake Smith was taken down a notch and Colonel Ward, who took his place, went up a notch.

An Indianapolis trainer has taught a herd of seals to play ping pong. This should seal ping pong's doom.

The Pope has presented Governor Taft with a souvenir. He will remember his visit to Rome without any reminder.

What could be expected of ladrones, who would steal anything, but that they would steal through a constabulary cordon?

It appears that Filibuster Wilson is not to be allowed to suffer the same fate in Nicaragua that Filibuster Walker did.

General Buller demands to be heard. If his demands are complied with it means the awakening of some disagreeable echoes.

A French physician has shown that tuberculosis can be caught from cattle. It isn't necessary to use a lasso to catch it, either.

Don M. Dickinson can point out a presidential candidate, maybe, which is quite a different thing from pointing out a presidential winner.

"Amiability is our national vice," says a writer in an exchange. A splendid vice, one of which the people may be proud.

They may explain it who can, but it is a rather remarkable coincidence that Denver has a water famine and a rise in the price of milk simultaneously.

The silent class of soldiers now includes General Miles, General Jake Smith, General Briggs and Colonel Grosbeck. They now exchange comments and thoughts through the mind-reading system.

John D. Rockefeller is credited by a friend with having said recently that he could not guess within \$15,000,000 the exact amount of his wealth. If he were a down east Yankee he could do better guessing than that.

The entrance of the American Ice company into London does not mean that it intends to give Englishmen the cold shoulder. On the contrary it intends to make things warm for all competitors.

"We will be prepared to believe after a while that the Philippines are really becoming Americanized. Trades unions are being organized. The Americanization will be greatly facilitated by the inauguration of strikes."

"Why will sensible men take horses that do not belong to them and run the risk of getting longer terms in prison than if they took money enough to buy hundreds of horses?" asks a contemporary. Simply because they are unsophisticated and aren't on to their jobs.

A full-blooded Pawnee Indian has been granted a divorce by the federal court at Guthrie, Oklahoma. One of the grounds assigned was infidelity. Time was when the brave buck would have brained the little maid and nothing would have been thought of it.

William Waldorf Astor and the Duchess of Marlborough are trying to see which can make the bigger (and necessarily more vulgar) display of wealth to astonish aristocratic circles on the Upper Thames. So far the expatriated Astor has won. What a splendid civilizing influence this rivalry will have!

Another good Lincoln story is going the rounds: One day in the summer of 1857 Lincoln was sitting in his office when he was visited by one of his neighbors, an excellent farmer, but one inclined to increase the size of his crops even after harvesting. He had given on this particular morning a skilfully padded account of the hay he had put in. "I've been cutting hay, too," remarked Lincoln. "Why, Abe, are you farming?" "Yes." "What you raise?" "Just hay." "Good crop this year?" "Excellent." "How many tons?" "Well, I don't know just how many tons, Simpson, but my men stacked all they could outdoors, and then stored the rest in the barn."

ADMINISTERED AND THE PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE CASE IS TEMPERED WITH MANY EXTENUATIONS.

Worcester Spy. No one can reasonably find fault with the administration on the ground that it has been lenient with Brigadier-General Jacob Smith. President Roosevelt not only censures General Smith but retires him from the active service. The real sting comes in the last sentence of the President's comment on the case, where he calls attention to the fact that General Smith's long and gallant service, and regrets that General Smith should have so acted as to interfere with his further usefulness in the army. What encourages more bitterly a man who has established a good record than to feel that he has suddenly clouded it by an indiscretion and that his career is ended with the censure of his superiors, rather than with their expressions of approval.

San Francisco Call. There be some who will object to the punishment of General Smith as too severe. These will be the fool friends of the administration, who think that standing by anything and everything, thick and thin, is the proper course. Such may encourage hot-blooded men, and if they do, it is entirely within the possibilities that the opposition, which was prepared to paint the President as an inhuman monster, responsible for the Smith's order, and defending its author, will attack him for disowning and re-buking both.

San Francisco Chronicle. In the light of the calm review of the whole case by the President, his action in the matter will be regarded as precisely right. He has gone far enough and not too far. No harm came from the order, for it was not executed, and yet an example was unquestionably called for as a warning to other high officers to so act as to restrain rather than encourage hot-blooded juniors exasperated by treachery and ambush. It is believed that this act finally clears up the military atmosphere in the Philippines and that the government can now proceed in its duties unhampered by the embarrassment of undecided military questions.

Springfield Republican. Singular has been the fatality attaching to the creation of heroes out of the Spanish war. One only has made it count in the rise to power and place, and the unwritten statute of limitations will soon fall across his way. This latest war is apparently to differ from all others in which the country has been engaged, in falling to consume much of the nation's time in honoring with civil power and otherwise the men who come gloriously out of it. No real glory has been obtainable from it, and hence no lasting heroes. Plenty of good men in the army have done their duty, as always even though the service was not of their choosing or to their liking. But the sum of glory measures far less than in the other armed conflicts in which the United States has engaged.

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