

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 23, 1909.

UTAH SCHOOLS.

We have already paid our respects, in these columns to a Tribune writer who finds fault with the law exempting buildings used exclusively for religious worship from taxation.

The same scribe is out with a lying statement to the effect that the Church leaders have always been opposed to the education of the children, and that the public school system of Utah is due entirely to the Gentile element.

We have no fault to find with the position of our friends outside the Church on the school question. They have done their full share toward the development of our schools. But, is it necessary, or is it even expedient to belittle the magnificent efforts of the Latter-day Saints in behalf of education, during the formative period of the Territory? Can the spokesmen of the so-called "American" party hope to gain any advantage for the party by lying about the Latter-day Saints?

The Constitution of Utah, which was the work of an assembly largely "Mormon," (Art. X.) makes it the duty of the Legislature to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a uniform system of public schools, which shall be open to all children of the State, and be free from sectarian control.

The Public School system shall include kindergarten schools, common schools, consisting of primary and grammar grades, high schools, agricultural colleges, a University, and such other schools as the Legislature may establish. The common schools shall be FREE. The other departments of the system shall be supported as provided by law.

Here is the Constitution adopted in 1895, by an assembly largely "Mormon," that is to say, composed of citizens a majority of whom were Church members, and presided over by Hon. John Henry Smith, a prominent Church leader, providing for free common schools and free high schools, and yet the veracious Tribune scribe says "the public school system of Utah, of Salt Lake, is due entirely to the Gentile element!"

As far back as in 1870, Utah's educational record was one of the very best, as it is now and has always been. This was long before so-called "liberal" misrule had cursed this City. The United States census for that year gave the following figures:

Utah had 85 per cent average attendance at schools of children between 5 to 18 years; while the average for the United States was 31; for Pennsylvania, 30; New York, 21; Massachusetts, 25; District of Columbia, 27; and California 24. The figures on illiteracy were: Utah, 11; United States, 25; Pennsylvania, 10; New York, 9; Massachusetts, 12; District of Columbia, 40; and California, 10. The figures on convicts were: Utah, 3; United States, 9; Pennsylvania, 9; New York, 12; Massachusetts, 11; District of Columbia, 9; and California, 19.

That, it seems to us, is a record to be proud of. Utah does not suffer by the comparison. The literacy of the State was a shade higher than that of Pennsylvania, New York, and California, but very much lower than that of any of the other states mentioned and was way above the general average of the country.

In 1870 there were 225 students in attendance at the Deseret University, to which was attached a primary department with 355 students, or a total of 580 enrolled. And one of the principal objects of this institution was to qualify the students to become teachers of the children. There were at that time 268 common schools in Utah, with 197 male and 181 female teachers, and a total enrollment of 16,992 children, and an average daily attendance of 12,819. The amount of building funds raised was \$2,907.70.

The Latter-day Saints have always done all in their power to further education. They know that intelligence is the glory of God and that no one can be saved in ignorance. They know that the Gospel appeals to the minds of the enlightened, and not to the ignorant. The Prophet Joseph and the Patriarch Hyrum, were ardent promoters of education. President Young did more for the cause of education than any of his detractors, or any of the detractors of Utah now living will ever do. And today, under the wise policy of President Joseph F. Smith and those associated with him, the Church is spending large sums annually of the general funds for the maintenance of excellent Church schools. Speak about "Mormon" opposition to education! You might as well speak about the opposition of the sun to being a light bearer in the

midst of the heavens. It is the very function of the Church to disseminate truth and intelligence.

IT DOES NOT PAY.

We hope the statement made that the season of horse race gambling in this City will end on Friday, is true. It should never have been permitted here. We hope the authorities of Davis county will keep the business out of that part of Utah and that every other county in the State will do the same. We have no objection to legitimate and clean sport, but gambling is not sport and too often the races run in connection with betting are fakes.

It was thought that New York's anti-betting law would kill horse racing in New York. But it did not. There are many who like to see a horse race without the antics of the tip seller, the bookmaker, and the fool betting against a sure thing. And the result is that there is now a scramble to return by horse owners the races they shipped to Europe under the impression that horse racing could not go on without gambling.

The plea that the horse race gamblers put a lot of money in circulation does not deserve any consideration. The gamblers withdraw from circulation in the legitimate trades much more than they cause to be put into it. The plea of the saloon, too, is that it puts money into circulation. But the liquor traffic costs the state about 20 times as much as it ever benefited it. That is the case with horse race gambling and every form of vice. It does not pay.

It may be of interest to note in this connection that it was confidently predicted that Gov. Hughes made himself unpopular by his anti-betting campaign. The opposite is true. It has made him more popular than he was before. Florida has just enacted a law prohibiting race-track gambling. In Louisiana, the track bill went through. A Senator so ill that he was hardly able to stand, turned the tide in favor of the measure. In California and Washington the racetrack interests have had to yield to popular pressure. Texas fell in line soon after. Governor Hughes has had the satisfaction of seeing five states copying his anti-betting measure. Utah should not provide a refuge for the gamblers that are not wanted in other states.

THE FIVE-FOOT LIBRARY.

The selection of books for a five-foot shelf, by Dr. Eliot, ex-president of Harvard, is a proceeding of more than common interest, as, naturally, his opinion on that subject has the weight of authority. Probably no two authorities would agree on the choice of books. Individual opinions and tastes being after all the deciding factors, but, at the same time, the opinion of few men on the subject of reading is of more interest than that of Dr. Eliot.

The selection has not yet been completed, but among the books so far chosen are "Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin," "The Journal of John Woolman," "The Fruits of Solitude," and "William Penn, Bacon's 'Essays' and 'New Atlantis,' 'Milton's Poems,' and 'New Atlantis,' 'Tractate on Education,' 'Thomas Browne's 'Religio Medici,' 'Plato's 'Apology,' 'Phaedo,' and 'Crito,' the 'Golden Sayings' of Epictetus; 'Plutarch's 'Lives,' and 'The Meditations' of Marcus Aurelius; and Emerson's 'Essays' and 'English Traits.' Ben Johnson is represented by 'Volpone,' Webster's 'Duchess of Malby,' and Middleton's 'Change of Mind,' Dryden is represented by 'All for Love,' and Shelley by 'The Cenci.' Goethe is represented by 'Faust.' With the choice of Marlowe's 'Dr. Faustus' and 'The Wealth of Nations' by Adam Smith, there can be no fault found. Cicero is represented by his letters rather than his orations, by 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and 'The Canterbury Tales,' and Harvard sports are represented by 'The Complete Angler.' Burns is found with 'Tan O'Shanter.' 'The Autobiography of St. Augustine' is not overlooked, as are Horace and Homer, Dante is in the list with the 'Divine Comedy,' while old Thomas a Kempis is honored by the selection of 'Imitations of Christ.' Darwin's 'Origin of Species' and the 'Arabian Nights' close the list as announced to date.

So far neither the Bible nor Shakespeare is in the collection, though an eminent scholar at one time said: "If I were limited to two books, and could select them, my choice would be first the Bible, and then Shakespeare."

FOR SUNDAY REST.

The people of Utah have twice in vain asked the Legislatures for a law against Sunday amusements. Both times the popular request has been ignored, and even ridiculed. Through the manipulation of unscrupulous representatives of special interests the proposed Sunday legislation has been jugged to the waste basket.

But the necessity of rest one day in the week, to all who work, is being recognized by employers in this country. They do not find anything ridiculous, or absurd, in a Sunday law, as some of our legislators did.

That giant industry, the United States Steel corporation, is now trying to remember the Sabbath. This new departure is not the result of any ethical reasoning, but because the heads of the corporation believe that it will be money and time saved in the year's run. They have come to the conclusion that a man can turn out as much work in six full week days, getting his Sunday's rest, as has been done in seven days.

The first order to this effect was recently enforced in the company's galvanizing department, and will be gradually extended over the entire works of the corporation. Police were ordered to arrest those who insisted on working on that day.

The consciously heroic life is only mock heroic.

Ah Sin was his name; now Chung Sin is his name.

Eventually it is the silent, earnest

SOCIETY VS. SO-CALLED SOCIETY

What is society? Webster defines society: "Union of persons in one interest; companionship; an association; company." But the common expression, such and such a person belongs to "society" or the "upper ten," or to the "higher classes," certainly leaves a broad margin for criticism.

There is no such thing as society as is generally meant by those expressions. What is meant to be conveyed is the idea that those people we call society, are wealthy, educated, refined, and respectable. Wealth is not always associated with education, refinement, or respectability; education is not always allied to wealth. Respectability is shown in department of manner and pleasing address. Respectability is often, quite often, clothed in the garb of poverty, extreme poverty. "Thin, where can the line be drawn to designate people into classes, as 'society,' the 'middle classes,' and the 'lower classes'?" It can be said in two short sentences: "Respectable and honest people," or, "not respectable nor honest people."

So-called society is not in union, because of one interest; neither do the people composing it enter into fellowship for the good of one another. Too often there is but very little companionship in the outside world of people we meet. It may be company, but not companionship.

An abundance of wealth makes no man superior to his fellow man, morally or intellectually. There are many accidentally-made millionaires, men that are neither moral nor intellectual. Such men certainly are not entitled to be justly classed as belonging to "society."

Belonging to a church does not draw the line, either, by leaving a person on the side of so-called "society." Too often the cloak of an assumed religion covers a multitude of sins. I might exclaim: "Oh, churches, what sins and crimes are committed beneath thy sacred portals!" But there is a class of people that I would define as the "best class," or "society people," though I like the term "class" better, and that is the laboring, or the producing, classes. The producing class makes the millionaire. If

there were no production there would be no wealth. It is the producing class that makes it possible for the poorer class to live.

The man in overalls and with a sun-tanned face is more often the peer of the silk-clad, soft-hand, so-called "society" dandy. So, after all, it is the honest farmer, the steady, sober miner, the machinist, the mechanic and the honest laboring persons that are the real "society people."

People cannot rightly, nor honestly, be classed, nor judged, respectable, by wealth or appearances. No character can be defined by wealth or luxury. It is not always those who have lived in wealth, idleness and luxury, with every wish gratified that can truly be said to be respectable.

It is those who have drained to the bitter dregs the cup of sorrow suffered the hardships of extreme poverty, who have been put to the crucial test, and when the honest heart and the tortured brain had to decide the contest of right and wrong, where weakness proved but dross, and the character stands out pure as gold, untarnished by the bitter struggle, triumphant in the fight.

Those with honest hearts, with purpose true, generous to a fault, with charity for all; those who have a broader humanity for humanity, those who respect the rights of every man, and who are nearer the line of usefulness, nearer the line drawn by the Creator—the line of grander impulses, purer inspirations, kinder deeds, and loving companionship—would make a "society" that would be worthy the name, and the nearest we come to this class of people the nearer we draw the line between the frivolous fashion of designating society by wealth, fashionable dress and foolish display, and misconstruing appearances, and give the true basis and justly merited term—respectability.

Among the purchases made, of which the wife in the case had a very indistinct recollection, were a diamond chain for \$24,000, a diamond pendant for \$13,000, a rope of pearls for \$7,000 and a sapphire ring for \$5,000. In the way of wearing apparel, she ordered fifty-four gowns, ten coats and fifteen hats, at a cost of \$20,000. Her bill for tailor-made suits amounted to \$5,307. She did not recall such a thing as a bill of \$500 for shoes and could not tell within \$10,000 what she had paid for some of the jewelry. From one tailor there were \$20,000 worth of gowns and hats bought within a period of four months. It would be a waste of time to follow the details of the trial except that it throws light that is worth having on how some of the idle rich spend their time and their money.

MRS. LOUISE COULSON.

worker who makes the great noise in the world.

In the next war it will be found pretty hard to cut the wireless.

How would it do to close the race track after the horses are gone?

A tax on the net income of corporations would be a sort of dramat.

Advice to aeronauts—do what is Wright, let the consequences follow.

At the great universities the "fast set" do not furnish the fast men for track and crew.

A woman who could not possibly live on \$25,000 a year could not possibly earn her own living.

Leon Ling seems to be as numerous and ubiquitous as Old Man Bender was thirty years ago.

Colonel Roosevelt has killed another lion. Soon the lions will be saying, "There are few of us left."

"Uncle Joe" Cannon says he does not care for baseball. Such being the case, he cannot be uncle to Young America.

At Castle Gould the literature of the servants seems to have been confined to Swift's "Instructions to Servants."

Taft's policy thus far has been 'the Constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof. A very good one, but how very old fashioned.

Naturally Senator Lodge's series of "The Best of the World's Classics," will include Lodge's edition of A. Hamilton's Works.

The Chicago Baptist Ministers' association has sent Dr. George B. Foster to Gloucester in a shower of rain. When he gets there will he come back again?

It goes against the grain to read about ladies in swell society taking a cocktail before luncheon or dinner. Somehow it suggests the idea of a bar room and rowdiness.

"John L. Sullivan still in vigorous health and his early backers and trainers passing away. What's the moral?" asks the Boston Herald. That John has a wonderful constitution.

The infamous "stockade" is not only a disgrace to Salt Lake City, but it is a disgrace to the whole State; and it should be abolished if it takes the whole power of the State to do it. And there should be no dilly-dallying about starting to suppress it.

Many attacks are being made on the Carnegie foundation for its course in withdrawing support from the George Washington university. Its action seems to have been in the true interest of higher education and it can scarcely fail to strengthen standards in all educational institutions in the land. It is really an effort to give them backbone.

NEBRASKA'S VANISHING DEBT. Springfield Republican.

The people of Nebraska are rejoicing that the state faces the near wiping out of its debt. Only \$100,000 or so is left, and the next pay day will witness the extinction of that amount. In explaining the happy financial situation of that state, the State Journal of Lincoln says: "The history of Nebraska's practical emergence from debt contains a possible explanation of the opposite tendency of other states. It was at the cost of a governorship, let it be remembered, that this bit of sane finance was achieved. It was taxes levied to clear up this debt which his opponents used against Governor Sheldon in his unsuccessful campaign for re-election. Not all states are blessed with political leaders willing to accept defeat as the reward of a proper management of its finances. Is that why they stay in debt?"

MAKING THE MONEY FLY. Baltimore News.

People who live awake of nights worrying over the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the "predatory rich" ought to hearten up a bit when they read accounts of a trial like that now in progress in New York, where one of the "400" is being sued for alimony by his wife. There is an illustration of

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