

TRUTH

Issued Weekly by
Truth Publishing Company.
Western Newspaper Union Building, 241
South West Temple Street,
Salt Lake City.

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Entered June 19, 1903, at Salt Lake City, Utah
as second-class matter under act of Congress
of March 3, 1879.

Terms of Subscription.
ONE YEAR (In advance) \$2.00
SIX MONTHS (In advance) 1.00
THREE MONTHS (In advance)75

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The character of the witnesses who will testify for the defense in the Smoot investigation is a hard blow to Senator Kearns. From the tone of Kearns' papers during the time the hireling, Charles Mostyn Owen and his underlings were raking up—falsifying and distorting all the ancient history they could find, it appeared that these organs believed that no Gentile of good standing could be found to say a word for one of the Mormon people.

It is a well-known fact that the star witnesses of the protestants are men and women who are apostates from the Mormon church. While no one questions the right of any one to change his religious belief as often as he sees fit, it is a matter of common knowledge that an apostate from any church or creed, is, in 99 cases out of 100, bitterly prejudiced against those with whom he formerly worshipped, and hence is not capable of giving fair testimony. The character of most of the witnesses for the prosecution is shady and in a good many instances utterly bad—some with a police record whose word would go for nothing in an ordinary, every-day business transaction.

Most of the men who have been named as witnesses for the defense are well known in Utah. They are not Mormons, as a rule, nor have they ever bowed servile heads unto the very dust, beseeching political favors from the leaders of the church, as Tom Kearns has often done, nor have they ever by the lavish use of gold secured a senatorship, as Tom Kearns did, and hoped to do again.

These witnesses have dwelt long enough in Utah, have been prominent enough in state politics to furnish testimony that will make mighty interesting reading and give the senior Senator some uncomfortable sensations unless his sense of shame is altogether deadened by his wounded vanity.

In the theatrical world there is much controversy over the ultimate fate of the so-called legitimate productions. Nearly every theatre in the United States is under the control of a syndicate or trust, with its headquarters in New York City. Only those plays are sent forward that the syndicate selects. A galaxy of managers sit in solemn judgment on the qualifications of every dramatic production. They act from a commercial inspiration entirely and not from any desire to advance the histrionic art or elevate the stage. To them Shakespeare was but a poor incompetent, who could not write plays that would draw in the twentieth century. Much more praiseworthy is the hodge-podge of some tinker who can invent a cheap and tawdry stage setting that will amaze those who have forgotten to learn to read. The advent of the vaudeville theatre is only an outlet for the disapproval of the people, who rebel against the syndicate. And the vaudeville theatre is sounding the death knell of the theatrical trust. In nearly every portion of the United States the public is staying away from the trust performances. It will not take many months to dissolve the pool, and then each manager will be acting independently. This movement may, in turn, work the dissolution of the present popularity of vaudeville. Whatever may be said of vaudeville it is strictly on its merits, which comment is sadly out of place when applied to syndicate productions.

If modern civilization means finished fraud, artistic deception and polished trickery, then the state of Colorado should not go without its full credit. Colorado is the most highly civilized community in America when judged on modern lines of progress. Among the Indian tribes the one who laid claim to perferment must carry at his belt many scalps taken from the heads of his adversaries in battle. In Colorado no man may announce himself as a candidate for office until he can show that he is without moral principle and thoroughly devoid of conscience. He is then voted for by the people, and, when elected, he must sustain his reputation by stealing everything in sight. Should he prove to be a more dextrous robber than his previous record would indicate he is then promoted. Having been faithful in small things he is made ruler over many. Thus is his career crowned with a fruitful reward and his children rise up to call him blessed.

The regular annual meeting of the State Bar association will be held next Monday evening in the Federal court room, Dooly block. An interesting programme has been prepared consisting of an address by the president, Judge Howat, a paper on the Philippine code by Major R. W. Young, and a paper entitled "Some Needed Legislative Corrections," by George H. Smith. The election of officers for the current year will take place. Members of the association, judges and members of the bar are expected to be present. The bar is a

most important branch of the public service and more interest in the association should be taken by the members of the profession than has been made manifest in recent years. The subjects to be discussed at the approaching meeting are of great interest and should compel a large attendance.

For more than two years the Department of the Interior at Washington has been engaged in attempting to discover the identity of those who were stealing the public lands in Idaho and Oregon. That the task was difficult is shown by the length of time it took to get at enough of the facts to warrant the calling of a Federal grand jury. A striking feature of it all is the continuous theft that has been carried on simultaneous with the inquiry. There seemed to be no fear on the part of the culprits that they would be punished. There are intimations that the drag-net will catch many prominent citizens. If there are enough prominent citizens involved, there will be no person of lesser importance than the President himself who will have the temerity to cast the net. There is reason to believe that the President is closely associated with the investigation, as was evidenced by the instant removal of United States District Attorney Hall at Portland. The complaint against Hall was made by telegraph directly to the President, and answered within an hour.

New penitentiaries will have to be built to accommodate the timber thieves if even one-half of them are convicted. President Roosevelt has tackled the biggest job in his strenuous career. He will probably have to imprison a dozen United States senators, one of whom is a frequent visitor to Salt Lake, and is well known here. The list will include distinguished officials and ex-officials of the Northern Pacific Railroad company, New York capitalists and many who pass the plate in church on Sundays. The fraud has a wider horizon than anything that has ever agitated the government in many years. The postal scandal will be like the theft of a peanut compared with it.

Some of the attempts of Kearns to get the church leaders into the senatorial fight this year should have been embalmed and offered as evidence. Preserving fluid would be necessary, as the efforts were too raw to keep long in their natural state. If the committee on privileges and elections could understand the real condition of affairs in Utah, not the distorted view that is reflected by the Tribune and its little brother, the next thing in order would be an investigation to determine what right Tom Kearns has to claim a place in the Republican party.

And it is such men as Hipple, alias Mitchell of Oregon who have to pass on the qualifications of Senator Smoot, to say nothing of those lofty gladiators, Kearns of Utah and Clark of Montana.

One point that the Tribune constantly comments upon is that the sentiment against the seating of Senator Smoot is generally strong throughout the United States. This is, in a degree, true, but that such sentiment is founded upon any knowledge of the real facts is not true in substance or effect.

And why? Simply because nearly every line that has been published in the effort to arouse this public sentiment has been either maliciously false or wilfully perverted. No one knows this any better than the men who, under the direction of the Kearns' editors "cook up" the stuff that is sent to eastern papers. The motto of these writers is, "Make your story red-hot. The people back there don't know the truth, and they won't question what we send."

And so, with this purpose in view every wild and foolish tale that could be revived or imagined has been scattered broadcast, until the uninformed eastern reader has come to swallow with gusto anything bad he reads about Utah.

Thus it appears that no matter what may be the result of the Smoot investigation, much good will be accomplished by having a few broad-minded, sterling men go down to Washington and tell the sober truth about present-day conditions in Utah.

Colorado is the most up-to-date state in the Union, because it is the crookedest. All hail to this South American republics.

Frank J. Cannon's politics may well cause conjecture. The dear boy resembles the convert who goes forward for prayers at every revival.

Mark the injured innocence of the statesmen who have been indicted for fraud in Oregon. This is always the way to act when you are real guilty.

CAMPAIGN OF SLANDER CONTINUES.

Editor Truth:
I see that the Baptists, or at least some of the members or writers for the Baptist church, have joined in the crusade of slander against Utah. In the January number of the Baptist Home Mission Monthly, is the following comment or deduction from the testimony in the Smoot investigation:
"From the evidence given, it would appear that such little things as falsehood and perjury are not even venial sins, if done for the church, and that murder itself is not a crime, if committed at the behest of the hierarchy. There is nothing that such a religion cannot be made to justify and approve; going so far as to promise eternal rewards for doing that which is illegal and criminal."

The most rabid Mormon hater at the Smoot trial, even E. B. Critchlow, would not endorse the above quotation, but would brand it as a falsehood. This article also exhibits the well worn Devil Fish map that the Rev. Richard Wake is distributing for the Ministerial association. It also exhibits another map of the United States, with Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and a small portion of Canada and Mexico, painted black, which it denominates as the "Mormon Monarchy." The Baptists as a usual thing do not have time to slander people who do not agree with them and