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### A Bit of History

**A** LITTLE recent history at this time ought to be profitable for Utah readers, even if it is not of absorbing interest. Because of the broken covenants of the chiefs of the Mormon church, including the first presidency and the apostles; because of their practically restoring polygamy in Utah and their persistent domination of politics, the American party was organized four and a half years ago. Three years ago it won control of this city. That victory was not half as much to the party as to the city. So soon as it was announced, the city took on a new life and the progress since made has been an astonishment alike to the friends and enemies of the new party. Last summer a county election was coming on, and every indication pointed to an American victory in the county. In this extremity the chiefs of the church, at least the controlling ones, sanctioned an agreement between the managers of the so-called Republican party here, through which the brewers and whiskey men contributed a fund, understood to be \$46,000; \$35,000 from Salt Lake and \$11,000 from Ogden, and bent all their influence, voting their employees and all others whom they could influence, to defeat the American party in the county, and the combine won. But no sooner was this consummated than another effort was made to give a black eye to the American party. We say another, for the first effort was through a combine with hold-ups, cheek guerrillas, confessed thieves, bunko steers and prostitutes, to down the reputation of the man who was then the American party's chief of police. In this part the Deseret News, the organ of the priesthood of the Mormon church, played the leading role. No one can forget how, day after day, on no evidence more reliable than bunko-steers and hold-ups, it tried and convicted the chief. In the dividing of the laurels, however, County Attorney Hansen and ex-Sheriff Emery are entitled to their full share. They held, boarded and clothed at the county expense all the outlaws they had gathered in for the business, coached them to get their testimony in a form which would not conflict, one with the other; but it all finally failed.

Last autumn a new device was necessary. This was to so attack the interests of the city itself that strangers would no more come here and invest their money; that contemplated improvements would stop; that the city might again fall into the sere and yellow leaf under which it had half withered for the best part of three-score years.

The device decided upon was a bogus cry for prohibition, which was never intended to prohibit. It was started by Apostle Heber J. Grant and immediately, of course, seconded and sounded by the Deseret News; the News that for nearly three-score years has been misguiding the Mormon people and has made them more sorrow, more trouble and has done more to hold the clamps upon the brains of the Mormon people than any other one agency.

It is the same News that watched complacently when the leader who brought the first Mormons here, built distilleries, which had noth-

ing but approval when the slave council gave that same leader a monopoly of the liquor traffic here; which later saw hundreds of saloons established without a word of protest, and who for all the years the chiefs of the church had control of the city, approved all that was done, condoned every crime of the city government or its officers, which fought every proposed improvement, either for the progress of the city or the health of the city, and was all the time but the voice of the despotism that ruled this people. It took up the cry for bogus reform sounded by Apostle Grant, and daily since has shed crocodile tears that the will of the people is not potential with the legislature.

And what about Apostle Grant? He grew up here; for many years he has been an apostle. As such he approved of all that was done in the old days; he saw the first houses of ill repute established in the heart of the city without protest; indeed, he sanctioned the establishment of some such houses, if he did not contribute toward their establishment; he saw men acquire property and establish saloons, and it was all right so long as 10 per cent of the city's revenues went into the tithing fund.

But he has seen the city's advancement during the past three years; he realized that it was only through a sinister trade that the county was saved to the church last autumn, and to arrest the forward march of the city, he all at once became a noisy reformer. He knew the obedience of the church followers; he knew how easy it would be to deluge the legislature with petitions, and all at once he grew to have a profound respect for the wishes of the people whom he has helped to mercilessly rule for a full score of years.

The result was the demoralization of the legislature, the crippling of their best efforts, the rekindling of the old fires of hate, suspicion and unrest, and if he has accomplished nothing else, he has shown anew that he is the determined foe of progress, and the champion of the slavery that has held the Mormon people in its shackles for three-score years in Utah.

One would think that under the lights of this twentieth century, in the midst of this great, free republic, a people that have so long been badgered and bullied and tyrannized over, would finally break away and claim their full right to be American citizens, would have the strength to say to these merciless rulers:

"Henceforth we will give to the church what is due the church, but we will reserve what is our birthright on this soil, for ourselves and our children, and will insist that the constitution and the laws which forbid any church to usurp the functions of the state, shall be obeyed."

### British Obliviousness

**O**N LINCOLN'S one hundredth anniversary in many places in the Republic pronounced honors were paid to his great memory. This seems to have stirred some English and some Canadian journals into something like retaliation. The London Spectator assumes that "the simplicity, uprightness and hopefulness of the President who chose Grant as his sword of battle, and emancipated the slaves, have perished with him." That provokes the question, when did the Spectator first appreciate the great traits of Lincoln? Did it cry out that a mighty soul was at the helm in America and beg the British government to hold the Alabama in port? Did it ever discover one exalted virtue in the great emancipator until he was dead? When Lord Wolseley in England could see no ability in Grant, but held that Lee was the greatest man and greatest general in the world, did not the Spectator approve his words?

And is British history so pure that English newspapers can afford to be harsh over the rec-

ords of any other country? How about Warren Hastings and his seven years' trial? Has England ever made good to India his spoiliations? Did not England deride America for the slavery that was forced upon her by England, and did she not when the crisis came side with the slave power in America? We mean did not her nobility, her rich commoners, her statesmen, her press, all jeer at us? All but her Queen of blessed memory, John Bright, and one or two more of her men in power.

How was our evangel, Henry Ward Beecher, received in England when he lifted up his voice to plead the cause of freedom when our great war was raging? Did he receive the warm endorsement of the Spectator?

Speaking of England's record, how about the killing of manufacturers in Ireland? How about forcing the opium trade on China? How about closing the mints of India and starving 1,000,000 poor wretches to death? Coming down to the present, would England in our place ever have surrendered back Cuba to her own people?

In the same strain the Toronto Mail is sure that the work of Lincoln was but just begun, "that the terrible blot is still there," and cites the manifestations which come of great wealth in the United States, the trusts, the shoddy, the financiering of Harriman, Rockefeller, and the discredit cast upon Roosevelt because "he had the courage to see the wrongs, to name them, to strike at them and try to cure them, but now has to make his salutation, about to die or go out of the ring so damaged and discredited that the people will hardly summon him again."

And yet the Mail will back every British poacher who tries to steal American seals in Behring sea, and justify every effort to keep American fishermen from obtaining bait on the Atlantic side. Does the Mail know of any Canadian or Canadian syndicate who would not emulate Rockefeller and Harriman if they could gain the same wealth and ability? And has the Mail overlooked the fact that Mr. Roosevelt's retirement was but the fulfillment of his own promises, oft repeated, and that the American people elected a man to take his place whose slogan in the campaign was that if elected he would pursue the policies of his predecessor. There are many wrongs in this country, but they come chiefly from England precedents and practice, but we will work out of them after a while.

### The Governor's Special Message

**O**N TUESDAY last, Governor Spry sent a special message to the Legislature advocating local option and strict regulation of the liquor traffic. We wish he had done it a month earlier. The session has been hampered from the first and its usefulness half destroyed by the springing of a demand for bogus prohibition by Apostle Heber J. Grant. His work made clear anew how misguided it is for the very high officers of the dominant church to interfere with legislation, for as society is constituted in Utah, the word of an apostle is law to a host of the people, and it was fondly hoped when the Constitution was framed that the high priests would respect it and keep their priestly hands out of politics. As it is the work of one apostle has handicapped the best efforts of the legislature for two months past. The message of the Governor was excellent. At this writing no estimate can be made on what the legislature will do, but the very sensible thing would be to accede to the Governor's wishes. It would take away the apprehension which is now perplexing business men and permit matters to once more assume their normal condition. Moreover it would be exact justice to the people and that is supposed to be the aim of all legislation.