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## UTAH'S YOUNG MORMONS.

A reeent dispatch from Salt Lake says that the young Mormons throughout the state of Utah have taken preliminary measures to unite in an organization which shall have for its object the strict enforcement of the pledges given to the government when Utah was admitted as a state, says the Call. They have announced a determination to bring matters to a head at the April conference of the church by declaring before that body a resolve to leave the religion of the saints unless the practices of plural marriages on the part of the heads of the Mormon hierarchy, revealed in so cold-blooded a manner by Joseph Smith at the Smoot inquiry, are done away with immediately.
This stand taken by the younger element in the Mormon church is a worthy one, for it is indicative of the spirit which should permeate the whole body of the sect in Utah. It is the elevation of citizenship in the United States over membership in the chureh of Latter Day Saints. From the time when Joseph Smith, the first prophet, shut himself up in his farmhouse in New York and read the mystical tablets down to the present day the exercise of the Mormon faith has been inimical to the exercise of good citizenship among the most ardent in the creed of Mormon, for the primal doctrine of the church, as confessed by President Smith himself, is obedience to the revelation of God throngh the appointed elders, all civil law to the contrary
withstanding.
It was this conviction that led to the armed clash with the militia of Missouri during the Mormon settlement there during the Tate thirties. Again if was disregardod be tho Laws Illinois which moved the Mormons to intrene themselves in their sacred city of Nauvoo and withstand siege for several days. After their hegira to Salt Lak the presence of a body of federal troops was felt necessary for the preservation of the sovereign laws of the United States. But with the lapse of years and the growth of younger generation, not so fanatical as their forebears, nor driven to a desperation by persecution, there was developed a seeming amenity to the laws of the land on the part of the saints which permitted of the admission of the territory to stateflood.
The Smoot inquiry at Washington developed the fact that among the very heads of the church themselves all pledges regarding polygamy have been utterly disregarded and the natural inference might be made and would be made that such was the practice from the highest to the lowest had not this body of young Mormons voiced their denunciation of the bad faith of fthe members of the hierarchy as promptly and with as much vigor as they have. The movement of the young Mormons is a long step in the right direction and must be productive of great service to the honor of Utah.

## A SENATOR'S DISGRACE

The conviction of Senator Burton, of Kansas, of a crime under the federal statutes in representing professionally before the postoffice department a concern against which fraud order had been issued is the first instance on record of a conviction of a United States senator for such an af fense, says the Ledger. There is something pitiable in Senator Buton's statement on the witness stand that "he needed the nugey." That serious doubts arose in his mind at the time as to the propriety of his acceptance of the retain er-is evident from his testimony detailing the engagement of his services. That he should have felt compelled to accept professional employment as to the propriety of which there was the slightest question is most unfortunate. It is about as strong an argument as could be offered in favor of sending rich men to the senate or to congress, men who are
beyond the reach of that necessity which "knows no law," beyond the reach of that neecessity which "knows no law,"
and which sometimes tempts a good man to do wrong. Senator Burton needed money and the St. Louis concern want ed a senator's influence. The result is Senator Burton' disgrace.
It is worth noting that the retainer of $\$ 500$ a month paid to Senator Burton is more that the salary the United States pays its senators and congressmen. The question fairly arises whether it is right to expect men to live as United States senators and representatives are compelled to on such a paltry allowance as $\$ 5,000$ a year. If men of mod-

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erate means are to enter congress at all, they should be paid enough to enable them to support themselves and their families without seeking doubtful and unprofessional and perhaps criminal retainers. The Burton case also offers an argument in favor of the bill increasing the salaries of members of congress.
It is impossible not to feel keen disappointment and humiliation that a United States senator should be found 50 guilty of any serious crime. The conviction of Burton should serve as a solemn warning to every other member of congress.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION
One of the most mischievous bills now before congress is the one known as the Foss bill, authorizing the creation of a national arbitration tribunal to be composed of six members, at a salary of 88,000 a year each, to investigate all disputed questions between capital and labor at the request of either party to the controversy, says the New York Commercial.
The distinct effect of such an enactment would be to encourage strikes rather than to settle them. It would act as an incentive for trade unionists to precipitate disputes with employers on the flimsiest pretexes by giving to such disputes a dignity and standing to which they are not entitled. There is nothing that labor leaders and walking delegates so much desire as government recognition of tradeunionism, for such recognition would enable them to bring powerful pressure to bear on employers and thus afford them a stronger motive for creating labor troubles. The Foss bill is precisely of this character.
Furthermore, it would be a physical impossibility for the proposed arbitration commission to investigate even one twentieth of the strikes that occur in the United States in the course of a year. Strikers would invariably appeal to this body to make inquiry into their contentions and the 'esult would be that either a vast multitude of disputes would go unsettled or be acted on in a hurried and cursory nanner. The law would simply serve to harrass employers. The Foss bill has the earmarks of a scheme to provide six ablebodied men with fat jobs. Its place is at the bottom of the congressional waste basket.

A TROPIC YARN.
A weird tale comes from the West Indies to the effect that Germany has its "evil ayo" Alxed on Sauto Domingo Is the story goes Germany is secretly trying to purchase rom Spai na debt o fabout $\$ 21,000,000$ that Spain hold against the republic of Santo Domingo and, should Ger nany succeed in this scheme, she will at once proceed ake possession of the Dominican territory and utter "defi" to Uncle Sam and the Monroe doctrine.
The yarn is absurd on its face. It belongs in the catagory with the fables about Germany's designs on Brazil rgentina and other South American states. Germany has requently declared her intention to respect the Monroe doctrine, and there is no reason whatever to doubt her enire sincerity in the matter. Certainly, if she had any in-
ention to seize Latin-American territory, she would hardy be liable to pick out the brawling and bankrupt republic of Santo Domingo. With the experience that she is having t present with insurgent Hereros in her South African colony, Germany is not likely to be insane enough to covet another colony of much the same order.
This West Indies story reads very much as if it were the output of the tropic imagination of somebody who has inerests in Santo Domingo and who is impatient to have Uncle Sam rush to his aid. Perhaps the latter may eventually be forced to intervene in that squabbling little republic, but he will not do so until the time is ripe for him to

Who owns the interstate rivers-the state or the nation ? The future of vast plans for the irregation and reclamation of arid lands seems to depend largely upon the decision of this new question which has been brought before the supreme court of the United States in a suit between the state of Kansas and the state of Colorado. The Arkansas river, rising in Colorado,flows for 280 miles in that state and then for 310 miles in Kansas, until it enters Oklahoma. Each state claims ownership of the waters, and the government denies the claims of both. The irrigation of $10,000,000$ acres of lands that have been reclaimed and of some $60,000,000$ acres which the government plans to reclaim, depends upon establishing the contention that the rights of the national government to appropriate the waters of interstate streams is superior to the rights of the states through which they flow, and the fate of the irrigation laws awaits the decision of this case. In Texas the allied question of the power of irrigating companies to condemn land for right of way, without obtaining the privilege of occupation from individual owners, is now in court. There can be little doubt that both the states and the nation will find or make legal provision for the vast and incalculably beneficial work of irrigation and reclamation which is now in sight.

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