

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 22, 1909.

## EXEMPT FROM TAXES.

The Tribune has worried a great deal lately about the exemption of the Temple from the taxable property. It has a writer who has asserted repeatedly that that sacred building ought to be taxed, because "the Mormon temple is neither a church, nor a public place of worship." The writer in question believes he has made out a case by quoting a recent pamphlet issued by the Bureau of Information for the benefit of tourists, in which it is stated that "the Temple is not a church or public place of worship." But the paper, as usual, is entirely off.

In the first place, the lines quoted from the pamphlet are not intended as an authoritative definition of what the Temple is. They are part of a conversation between a visiting clergyman, another traveler who had joined one of the numerous tourist parties, and a guide. The clergyman thought it strange that the Temple was not open to visitors, and expressed himself to that effect, whereupon the other tourist remarked: "I have traveled around the world and have entered the churches everywhere." To which the guide replied:

"Grant that you may find many peculiar things about us; but the Temple is not a church or a public place of worship. It is to us what Solomon's Temple was to sincere Jews, a holy place, devoted to sacred ordinances. We perform here marriage and baptismal ceremonies and other sacred rites, some of which are for the dead."

It will be seen from this that there is no reasonable excuse for quoting the pamphlet as authority for the assertion that the Temple is not a place of worship. The author of the little book—when, by the way, is a very excellent publication—merely quotes what the guide told the tourist party. And he did not say the Temple is not a place of worship. On the contrary, he said it is to us what the Temple of Solomon was to the people that built that magnificent edifice.

In another pamphlet, by D. M. McAllister, also published by the Bureau, a similar idea is expressed thus:

"Unlike synagogues, churches, cathedrals, and other places of worship, the temples herein referred to, [the Temple of Solomon and later structures] were not designed, and not used, as places of public assembly for the people in general. These temples were reserved for special, holy purposes, in which only a limited number of the priests and people could participate."

So it is evident that the alleged quotation, by eliminating the explanatory context, is misleading and therefore false.

In the second place, the law does not say that a building must be a "church," or a public place of worship, to be exempt from taxation. The law expressly says that "lots with the buildings thereon used exclusively for either religious worship or charitable purposes" are exempt. It does not specify "churches," nor "public places of worship." The only specification is "buildings used exclusively for religious purposes." And that is overlooked by the Tribune. In its hunger for taxes, the Temple is a sacred building used exclusively for religious worship, and for that reason it is by the law exempt from taxation. But we presume the Tribune would gladly see that law broken if thereby more money could be secured for the "American" administration to control, especially at election time.

## CELEBRATION AT BLACKFOOT.

The Blackfoot, Idaho, Commercial club is sending out invitations to representative citizens to attend the Diamond Jubilee at that city, which will be held on July 3 and 4, next, in commemoration of the first raising of the American flag, west of the Rocky Mountains, by Captain Wyeth, at Ft. Hall, July 13, 1834; also the preaching of the first Protestant sermon west of the Rockies, by Rev. Jason Lee, on July 27th, 1834.

Gov. Brady and his staff and many other prominent men are expected to be present, and the Governor will unfurl a new flag. A number of appropriate features emblematic of early life in this region form part of the program. They include a grand parade, displays of commercial clubs and commercial bodies, fraternal orders, mounted Indians, an Indian Sun Dance and a Snake Dance.

There will, undoubtedly, be a very large attendance during this jubilee, and the club, and other citizens of Blackfoot, deserve credit for their enterprising spirit. The jubilee will be a good advertisement for the City.

## OUR FOREIGN SERVICE.

Invitations are being sent out from New York to those interested to become members of the American Embassy association. This society was formed in April this year, and the object of it is to promote and encourage the acquisition by the United States of permanent homes for our ambassadors abroad.

It is pointed out that we pay our representatives in foreign countries a very small salary, and expect them to provide out of this for an establishment which will do credit to our country. The result is that only wealthy

men can afford to enter the diplomatic service.

A case in point, it is said, was the recent offer of the embassy to the court of St. James to Dr. Charles W. Eliot, the retiring president of Harvard university. No diplomatic appointment ever met with such instant and widespread approval. But Dr. Eliot did not accept it, and it is an open secret that his reason was the fact that he did not feel that his private income would enable him to support an establishment in London and to entertain upon a scale that has come to be associated with the London embassy. All this may be perfectly true, and yet it appears to us that Congress is the only American Embassy association that ought to exist. The needs of our diplomatic service ought to be looked after by Congress. No private organization should be needed to secure for the embassies abroad permanent homes. The expenditures of the government are lavish enough to cover all actual needs, without drawing on private funds for public purposes.

## WAR FOR SUFFRAGE.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont is quoted in a New York dispatch as having advocated violence in the warfare for woman suffrage. Her impression is that it will come to actual hostilities between men and women in England. "Why not?" she asks. "Would you be afraid of a man if you had a rifle in your hands?"

Another mode of attack is also suggested. Mrs. Belmont believes if every woman would take an oath not to marry until woman suffrage was granted, the entire business would be settled in eighteen months. But she does not entertain any illusions as to the practicability of that plan. She says the women do not have the courage to attempt it. They would be too much afraid of losing their chances of that precious thing, a husband, which, unfortunately, they have been taught to prize.

Asked whether, in her opinion, women as a rule care for the men, she replied:

"I think that if most women over eighteen told the truth they would say that they hate men. But, of course, under the present unjust and unequal conditions, they conceal their feelings. How many wives would dare to tell their husbands what they really think of them. How long would the husbands live with them if they did?"

We would think that if the equal suffrage cause is ever to become popular, it must be championed by different methods, at least in this country, where the influence of women upon private and public affairs, suffrage or no suffrage, is so great. There is, possibly, no state in the Union in which the women would not be given suffrage, if they really wanted it. To talk about coercion and a war upon the men to force woman suffrage, is, therefore, mere rot. Educate the women to see the need of it, and when they put forth their demand, it will be heeded. But let there be no strife, no clash in the home.

## NEEDLESSLY BLIND.

The Massachusetts commission for the blind has just issued a bulletin, which is of general interest, especially to young parents. The aim of this publication is to convince the public that many persons are permanently blind because of lack of care when the blindness could have been prevented.

The bulletin says that "babies' sore eyes," or ophthalmia neonatorum, is an infectious germ disease, easily cured when taken in time, but through this has been known for thirty years, "it is probable that nearly one-half the blind children of the present day have become blind in this manner, and heaven only knows how many more have had their lives circumscribed and their possibilities limited by corneal scars (leaving defective vision) which can never be cleared away. This is not only an inexcusable injustice to the children, but a wrong to the public, which is obliged to bear the cost of maintaining so many individuals who can be only in a small measure self-supporting." A number of cases are related of children who lost their eyesight because of the ignorance, or neglect, of those in charge. It is pitiful reading.

Massachusetts has a law providing that:

"Should one or both eyes of an infant become inflamed, swollen and red, and show an unnatural discharge at any time within two weeks after its birth, it shall be the duty of the nurse, relative or other attendant having charge of such infant to report in writing within six hours thereafter, to the board of health of the city or town in which the parents of the infant reside, the fact that such inflammation, swelling and redness of the eyes and unnatural discharge exist. On receipt of such report, or of notice of the same symptomatic given by a physician as provided by the following section, the board of health shall take such immediate action as it may deem necessary in order that blindness may be prevented. Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars."

This seems to be a good provision. And the law properly takes cognizance of this matter, because, aside from all humanitarian considerations which the law cannot ignore, blindness calls for large expenditures out of the public funds. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are expended annually for the education and maintenance of persons who need never have lost their sight.

In New York society all is not Gould that glitters.

An optimist is one who has never met with adversity.

Some of those Hawaiian Japanese are veritable Tom Torches.

Not one of the "six best sellers" in the five-foot shelf library!

A rumor that Mr. Harriman is ill makes the stock market sick.

No rented automobile was ever known to exceed the speed limit.

There is more truth in a daily paper than can be put in a nutshell.

It has been asked what the beef

trust feeds on. On the people, of course.

A man who has hay fever can see nothing beautiful in a field of waving timothy.

Neither California nor Calhoun is any better off for that long-drawn-out trial.

Reform does not always mean improvement. For example, the reform of the tariff.

The price of radium has been fixed at \$5,000,000 a pound, troy. Have you got the price?

Elsie Sigel's friendship for Chu Gain is said to have been more than platonic. It was Celestial.

It seems that Palm Beach society takes the palm for foolish demands as to good form in dressing.

An automobile will not give a carriage any of the road, but it even matters up by giving it all the dust.

Through tickets to destruction are always to be had, and very cheap. But rarely is there any return coupon attached.

Colonel Roosevelt sent those baby antelopes to Mrs. Longworth for the purpose of encouraging an infant industry.

"The highest culture is to speak no ill," says Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Then the dumb must be the most highly cultured.

In the nineteenth century Carnegie gave away 1,800 libraries. In the twentieth century he should give away 1,900 libraries.

Have you observed that the days are growing shorter? If you have your powers of observation must be very keen.

"The Turkish parliament has voted confidence in the government. Sublime faith!" says the Baltimore News. Sublime Porte, rather.

The price of liberty is either your own recognition or the per cent a surety company charges on the amount of the bond furnished.

President Taft is going to give a hearing to those who are interested in the question, What is whisky? Thus far only the method of exclusion has been employed in an effort to solve it.

The Tribune, the organ of the "American" party, in its issue this morning editorially calls President Joseph F. Smith an "old reprobate," and yet the Tribune wonders why the people of Utah do not flock to its standard.

## A NEW ERA IN SOUTH AMERICA

Omaha, Bee.

The death of President Penna of Brazil and the peaceful and orderly succession of the vice president bears evidence of a new era in South America. A few years ago the death of the executive in any of the South American countries would have been the signal for an armed conflict for control. Brazil was among the most turbulent of the southern nations and even under the empire was constantly disturbed by rebellions and petty internal wars. The influence of the United States has done much to produce the new order, but the people of those countries deserve much credit for abandoning their old habits. Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia are still occasionally turbulent and a survey of the progress of their neighbors under orderly conditions should be an incentive to strive harder to follow the example. Brazil, Argentina and Chile, particularly, have advanced marvelously under the new regime and are rapidly taking their places with the important nations of the world. Their natural resources are no greater than their neighbors' and in the case of Chile not so great, yet with stable governments they have far outstripped the more "unsettled" countries. The enforcement of the Monroe doctrine protects them from European aggression and they have every opportunity for development. The success of some lends hope that one day all will follow the good advice of the United States.

## AERIAL FLEETS ON COASTS.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Congress will be asked, in the regular session next winter, to make an appropriation for the establishment of a fleet of war balloons for the Atlantic coast, to be used for purposes of defense. Balloon houses about 250 miles apart are to be built along the coast, and the balloons which are stationed at each of these posts will traverse the coast 125 miles north and the same distance south of these points. Thus the whole sea line from Maine to Florida will be patrolled. Each balloon will be able to communicate readily by wireless with its post, and a flotilla of aeroplanes will act as couriers between the various stations. Obviously under this plan it would be impossible for any hostile fleet to get within a dozen miles of the coast without being seen, and its number and movements communicated to the various stations and ports. In this way the work of defense would be made easier. By railway along the coast, it will be practicable to concentrate forces at any threatened point promptly. All of this machinery of defense is based upon the certainty that the air currents along the coast will be mapped out beforehand, so that the movement of the balloons can be determined with a fair degree of accuracy. "Well, not exactly," replied the passenger conductor, "yet some queer things come to pass on railroads."—Chicago News.

The Client—How much will your opinion be worth in this case?  
The Lawyer—I'm too modest to say. But I can tell you what I'm going to charge for it.—Cleveland Leader.

"I notice you are very cautious in what you say about people?"  
"Yes."  
"Why is this?"

## JUST FOR FUN

"I fear you are a victim of the drink habit."  
"You misjudge me. Lack of the price cured me of the drink habit long ago. It's merely the thirst that bothers me now."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Do you believe in miracles?" asked the telegraph operator.  
"Well, not exactly," replied the passenger conductor, "yet some queer things come to pass on railroads."—Chicago News.

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"Yes."  
"Why is this?"

"Well, I ain't prominent enough to claim I was misquoted."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Caller—This may be a little out of your line, but I've noticed that a man with a big nose is more likely to catch a cold in the head than other men are. Why is it?  
Information Editor—I suppose it is on account of the greater size of his intake. Don't stumble over that pile of books as you go out.—Chicago Tribune.

"In novels, the father is always wanting the son to carry on the old family business."  
"What of that?"  
"In real life when the boy wants to learn his father's business, the old gentleman usually threatens to break his neck."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"My dear woman," said the literary visitor, seeking local color in the slums, "do you ever castigate your offspring?"  
"Woe'er mean?" asked the lady of the tenement, with a scowl at the fancy talk.

"She means," translated the accompanying settlement worker, "do you ever wallop your kids?"—Baltimore American.

"What was that wheat speculator's profit?"  
"I don't know," answered the proverbialist, "but whatever it was, it was a profit without honor in its own country."—Washington Star.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"A Little Bird Told Me," by Walt Kuhn, is a reproduction in book form of the laughable pictures of talking birds and their conversations, which have been such a popular feature in recent issues of Life.—Life Publishing Co., New York.

The June issue of The Survey contains the first public announcement in detail about the new Boston 1915 movement—a plan for a "bigger, better and more beautiful Boston" in six years from now. Paul U. Kellogg, Director of The Pittsburg Survey is the author. George A. Soper, of the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, New York, writes on the danger to health that the citizens of Manhattan Island and surrounding country undergo, due to the emptying of the sewage of the city into the harbor. The article is fully illustrated. Lewis E. Palmer, in an illustrated article entitled, "The World in Motion," tells of the hold that moving pictures have on the country and of the recently established New York Board of Censorship. The Playground Congress, recently held in Pittsburg, is described by G. R. Taylor of Chicago and Prof. Graham Taylor writes on the part that industry is playing in coming world-wide peace. Edward T. Devlin, the editor in his department, "Social Forces," discusses, under the title "Education," the practical and theoretical values of schools of philosophy.

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