DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 4, 1899.

A LIVING ISSUE.

The labor question is one of the most important problems that confront the civilized world. Salt Lake City is in the face of this very difficulty. How to find work for the unemployed, so that they may be self-sustaining and be a benefit instead of a burden, is a very serious question. Every avenue that can be opened to relieve the congested labor market should be utilized.

One means by which a class of our population may be delivered from the hand-to-mouth kind of living that prevails in most cities is the removal of such persons to agricultural districts. There are many now willing to work who cannot obtain the means to effect this desirable change. They are not included in the class here referred to. The people possessed of a little means or who are in the way of prosperity if for a time, would find it to their permanent interest to break the bonds that tie them up to city life and its penury, and make a strike for liberty and independence.

There is no particular need for them to go outside this State, or to place themselves beyond the influence and benefits of school and Church associations. There are opportunities enough within the borders of Utah to invite their presence and give them promise of a future competence.

One of these exists in Millard County, a hundred and fifty miles south of Salt Lake City, in a fertile valley sixty miles wide at a given point, which is but nine miles from the Oregon Short Line railroad. The place is called Abraham. It has numerous advantages. The soil is a sandy loam, easily worked, and is so situated favorably for irrigation. It commands a permanent water supply from the Sevier River and a reservoir has been completed there sufficient to irrigate ten thousand acres. Canals and ditches convey water to the lands, which yields well in small grains, corn, grasses and the usual staple products. Ownership of the use of water goes with the title to the land.

In the vicinity thousands of acres covered with greasewood afford pasturage for stock, and in the adjacent mountains timber, fuel and building rock are abundant.

Markets for agricultural supplies are found in the mining districts of Horn Silver, Oversio, Fish Springs, Deep Creek, Detroit, and even in Tintic and Mercur, all being accessible for the purpose.

The climate is temperate, the place being not too far north nor too far south, and thus extremes of temperature are not felt.

Home-seekers of the class we have mentioned will find at Abraham facilities for their purpose of unusual value, and can learn further particulars by application to L. J. Nuttall, Box B, Salt Lake City, or to C. H. Wicken, Hinckley, Millard county.

A number of our fellow-present citizens are interested in this enterprise, among whom may be mentioned Hiss, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith, A. O. Woodruff, John Nicholson, Alfred Solomon and many others.

There are fine exercises also in Wayne county, where settlers will be made welcome, and where good land can be had for a small figure, with improvements that are of the best kind.

As to poor people who are unable to move from this city without help, we can only offer a suggestion or two. If loading men in the various country districts would report early Utah history, and send boxes for workers to get upon vacant lands that might be profitably tilled, or furnish information to the Industrial Bureau concerning opportunities for the employment of labor, many persons who now linger in a condition approaching poverty, might be sent away from the centers of population, and making help instead of a burden to the upbuilding of the State.

In a community like ours there should be no idle hands, but necessity might not to show its honorable face. To find work for those who are willing to labor is one of the duties and every lover of the Kingdom should strive to promote industrial enterprise.

A NOBLE CAUSE.

The Old Folks' entertainments, which have recently gladdened the souls of so many of our aged brethren and sisters, have become an institution of Utah life. They commend themselves to every human being susceptible of good feeling. It is desired that they should become general. Neighboring with a few large-hearted men in this city, they have been initiated in a number of Utah settlements, and it is now considered advisable that organizations for the purpose of entertaining the aged of all classes and creeds shall be formed in every stake and every ward in Zion.

The leaders of the Church have approved the action taken by the Old Folks' General Committee looking to this end. The "Deseret News" also takes pleasure in recommending to its friends—the leading men in every part of the State and in the settlements adjoining—that they carry out the suggestion of the General Committee, and form local committees in every place, so that aged people, also widows and orphans, shall have a free entertainment at least twice in each year, once in the winter and one in the summer.

The purpose in view is to encourage the old, comfort the distressed, cheer the desponding and thus increase the work of humane purposes in the spirit of true charity, without regard to sect or party, color or sex, language or nationality. A general response to the appeal is confidently expected.

WAR CLOUDS AND PEACE.

Notwithstanding the arrangements made for negotiations of peace among the various the dispute spots of the earth, the opening of the new year are quite unpeaceful. France has no sooner stirred clear of the Fashoda question than it finds itself threatened by a Newfoundland difficulty. The former was in the French people entirely a matter of sentiment, while the latter involves some very material interests and is consequently more serious. Newfoundland, it seems, is contemplating legislation closed to the French fishing industry. This occasions a demand for concessions in Africa, such as control of the right bank of the river Niger and other territory, as a compensation for any claims of which Frenchmen may claim to have been deprived in Newfoundland.

The British government does not seem to be willing to do much in that direction, and the purpose of England, warning to the victory of the Nubbs may not be polecing living Salisbury.

Another storm center is the Spanish peninsula. There a further revolution is said to be imminent, although it may possibly be delayed, if not entirely averted, by the Pope's action, in forbidding the clergyman from encouraging the movement in favor of the pretender. General Weyler has publicly declared in favor of the present government, but his influence will hardly count much to the balance on either side. Don Carlos, it is believed, is only waiting for funds, and if they are forthcoming, open rebellion may break out all over Spain.

Nor is the horizon over the Philippine Islands entirely clear. Those well informed of the situation believe that organized resistance to the United States government is probable, some of the native so fully realizing the nature of the change brought about by the war. Such resistance might become serious, if encouraged by representatives of Germany. It would be impossible for the American commanders to close their eyes to acts of unfriendliness towards them, even if committed indirectly. American sovereignty must be established unquestionably before American civilization and American liberty can hope to take deep root among the people.

The political sky is very seldom, if ever, entirely clear; there always seems to be some necessity for keeping the steel polished and the gunpowder dry. But nevertheless the general tendency now is in the direction of peace, and the congress to be held in its interest is sure to mark a new era in the history of international relations.

PROSPECTIVE COAL MINERS' STRIKE.

There is a cloud on the industrial horizon for 100, and bearing over the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. It is the strike of coal miners that promises to be inaugurated on April 1, when more than a hundred thousand men will go out. The situation briefly is this: In the four states named, the operators declare that at the existing prices of coal they cannot maintain the present operating expenses, therefore they will make a reduction in wages on the first of April. The miners insist that wages are too low now, and it is anticipated that at their annual convention on January 12 they will demand an increase. There is therefore every probability of a struggle that cannot be otherwise than unfortunate. The miners generally paid because they are working on short time, the operators cannot increase the output because the field is run close by competition, which also keeps prices down. In this dilemma there appears little prospect of an amicable agreement without the interposition of some outside agency.

As there is plenty of time for opportunity is offered for an exercise of the principle of arbitration, in a way where there could be careful and deliberate action. The date of the probable strike is nearly two months distant; its magnitude is such that it is of national importance, and money in the interest of good order in four great states, and of the welfare of the parties directly involved, and the hundreds of thousands that rely on them for support, are of national importance enough to take the matter up with a view of averting some plan to prevent the strike. Both parties admit that to go on as at present indicated means disaster; both profess a willingness to compromise. But they need some disinterested leader to get them together on a basis that both can assent to. There should be sufficient humanitarianism in the nation's leading statesmen to supply the necessity that already is nearly felt in the impending conflict and action should be taken in time to avoid actual trouble.

GRIP, OR WHAT?

The kind of "grip" which is prevalent in Salt Lake City may not be the genuine Russian article, but it is sufficiently severe and general to occasion comment and warrant the statements concerning it made by the "Deseret News" on Monday evening. The name of the thing does not matter so much as the disorder and its symptoms. Call it "la grip" if you will, it has defined a grip on as many people that it is classed by physicians in another category and has become a public calamity. We are perfectly willing that our morning contemporary which claims to character should take hold of it, and cause as many others to do so as it can—the faster the better. Put the laws of heavy effects are so numerous and protracting that the prescription given by them by the "News" was in proper order and without exception this. While it is true that cases of pneumonia in grippe may be rare in this city, it is just as certain that the disease which common folks call grip has laid hold of a host of our citizens and that the doctors are kept busy in waiting upon them. The source it pleases to call the latter it will be for us all, call it what you will.

COMMENTS ON ROBERTS.

The Sacramento Bee is not satisfied about the recent Utah election. It says:

"The Bee disagrees with a great many of its editorial contemporaries concerning the case of Brigham H. Roberts, the Mormon member of the House of Representatives. It may be that a man having a plurality of wives should not be permitted to represent any American constituency in the halls of congress. At the same time, neither should anybody else, having only one wife, be possessed of a large flock of female relations. And of such is the assemblage of a lot of the Senators and Representatives of the United States.

"In reference to the Roberts case, Roberts was married under Mormon laws and in polygamy, before the Edmunds law was passed. The Edmunds law was never intended to be a retroactive act. It provided that from and after the date of its passage, no polygamous marriages should be made anywhere within the confines of the United States, under certain penalties. It took, however, full cognizance of facts as they were at that time, and it neither attempted to shame women who had followed the old Judean principle, because they had been taught it as a part of their religion, nor did it put the brand of shame upon their offspring.

"In this Roberts case, it seems that the people who are hurt are the women and children, and not Roberts.

"The Edmunds law is acting well. It is acting its good work. It is cutting up potatoes, root and branch, but it is not acting cruelly. In twenty years from now, at the very furthest, there may not be one case of polygamy within the United States. Such things cannot be exterminated at once. And when the good women of this nation rose a-hoot against the wives and children of Brigham H. Roberts, who were such wives and children before the passage of the Edmunds act, they are not addling to the moral forces against polygamy, but are rather creating a sympathy for those poor women in polygamy.

"Another thing that should be considered in the Roberts case. Ex-Senator Edmunds, the author of the anti-polygamy law, says: 'Congress cannot constitutionally refuse to seat a regularly elected polygamist from any state.'"

TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS.

One of the persons who, it is believed, placed himself between the convicted Mrs. Botkin and an ignominious death, says he did so, not because of the sex of the prisoner but because the evidence was purely circumstantial and that if it should be proved later that a mistake had been made the injury would not be entirely irreparable, if the prisoner were still alive. That argument, we believe, is the strongest ever advanced in favor of life imprisonment as against capital punishment when conviction is based on indirect evidence.

Another argument is found in what now is believed to be an established fact, that executions, even when made public, do not, as a rule, deter criminals from following their tendencies. Out of four hundred criminals convicted of murder and submitted to careful examination, only three exhibited any remorse, and it is extremely doubtful whether that was genuine. But where there is no regret, no repentance for a crime committed, it is believed the criminal tendency is incurable. Such, at least, is the view of prominent criminologists who take into account of the regenerating power of religion.

The entire question of the proper treatment of criminals is receiving a great deal of attention at the present time, and it is not improbable that out of the conflict of opinions new methods will be evolved in accordance with the increased knowledge obtained through careful study and research.

Now it is said that the army officers who condemned canned and refrigerated beef are vegetarians.

Gen. Otis says that Gen. Miller, who was sent to Iloilo, has matters well in hand. But he hasn't Iloilo in hand yet.

Kansas proposes to hold up the railroads to a certain standard; but the railroads say they are able to hold up the law.

Prince Victor Napoleon is credited with planning a visit to Paris. The prince may find himself cooped in jail if he is not very careful.

Ohio's attorney general seems to be in earnest in enforcing anti-trust legislation in that state. His example is good.

It must be a little galling to American pride to have leering members of the national Congress leader that the United States is incapable of governing colonial possessions.

Judging by remarks made in the Washington chronicles, promotion for meritorious service in the late war will include pretty nearly everybody that held a commission in the army.

Prince Bismarck is being credited with having devised the early defenses of the Austro-Hungarian empire. The precedent is not original with the prince himself.

A Canadian paper naively remarks that when the Filipino soldiers learned that Lieut. Hobson was assigned to duty at Manila they contained cheers for practicing the American line.

If the doctor in the Barnet case is right, that his patient was not fatally "poisoned by teeth," it has shown at least that great danger attends the taking of powders put up as patent medicines.

If the Cubans believe themselves ever now enjoy indefinitely the hospitality of Uncle Sam in the house from which Spanish rule has just been swept out.

Ninety-seven miles an hour, the speed which the fast mail train is said to have reached several times in the run from Chicago to Omaha, is rushing things pretty fast even in this age of "go."

Ian Maclaren (Dr. John M. Watson) the noted Scotch writer and lecturer known all over the world, intends to visit Salt Lake in the spring. This will be good news to all Utah people from "the land o' cakes."

It is passing strange that members of Congress are being urged to political action through petitions which begin, instead of the usual form, "We, your fellow citizens," in this way: "We, the members of such-and-such a Preachers' association."

Great Britain has an eye to the "expansion" business on her own account. She is scooting from Gibraltar across the straits to Ceuta, as it appears to think it would suit her for another fort. To capture two strong strongholds is the great force of it, it.

China wisely decides to exclude dynamite from the country. Since the explosion at Hankow, by which 1,000 men were killed and many homes ruined, there has been new distrust of the "foreign demons" and their inventions.

It is predicted that the fight against the so-called "expansion" policy of the government will commence in Congress as soon as the army reorganization bill comes up, also that the country will be astonished at the slight opposition to that policy. Congress is composed of intelligent men. Intelligence cannot prevail against Providence.

The announcement that a scientist has discovered that certain diseases can be cured by the connection of the patient in an atmosphere 100 degrees below zero is said to have been received with some incredulity among medical men. Common people have long ago discovered that best intensified to 212 degrees above the boiling point, will relieve sufferers from all physical pain. Why should not excessive cold be as effective?

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE BOTKIN CASE VERDICT.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The conviction of Mrs. Botkin will remove the doubt in Delaware, which has become common, since the failure to identify the woman was to lower by the manner of the lower trial, that there is no justice in the California jury-box. * * * Yet, Mrs. Botkin will not be hanged, but that might have been the case anywhere, even in the right course where Mrs. Maybrick was tried. * * * So far as Mrs. Botkin is concerned, there will be more a day as the years drag on in the gloomy crypts of San Quentin, when she will wish that she had gone to the gibbet instead.

A DESIGNING MAN.

Baltimore American.

Emperor William designed the genius worn by the empress on their trip to Jerusalem. What else he designed on that historic trip is as yet a mystery to contemporary history.

TRU-PARTY.

Detroit News.

Persons who prophesied that we would reap no commercial advantages from the war will please note that 4-cent American flags are selling for 3½ apiece in Havana.

RELIGION REVIVING.

Chicago Chronicle.

The inexplicable confidence which John W. Keely was able to inspire during his life appears to extend to his representative after his death. The Keely Motor Co. is going ahead with its operations upon the strength of a "secret communication" made by Mrs. Keely after her husband's death to the directors. The lawyer simply took the director aside, whispered a few words to him, and thus inspired the wavering men with fresh confidence in the eventual success of the motor. They don't know what the lawyer said to the director, and that gentleman is properly vague in his utterances, but upon the strength of these few whispered words the whole crowd are enthusiastic again, and the motor will probably begin "moving" at the old stand.

SICKENING BEEF ODOR.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The more the "fresh beef" business in the Porto Rican campaign is stirred the worse it smells. There is no longer any question but that Gen. Miles was justified in insisting that there was something "moving" in the "experiment" of sending alleged fresh beef to the tropics.

EVERYONE POTENTIAL.

Boston Journal.

That bill for the restoration of the American merchant marine is delightfully an administration measure—and then for administration measures have been uniformly successful. It is no wonder that the foreign competitions which have monopolized the bulk of our overseas carrying trade are disposed at the prospect that American ships will soon have a fair chance in competition with them.

HOBSON'S KISSING.

Victor Smith in the New York Press.

Hobson has lost the river kind of remarks for kissing. It takes a girl. He is an expert on parting the lip, and has kissed more women to broaden them in so remarking May Irwin, nearly, but a one-time, comma, comma, Mr. Hobson, perhaps. * * * He was familiar with kissing the gospel, a custom which begins with Adrian I. or Leo III. about the year 800. We know all about the holy kiss, the kiss of peace, the false kiss, the kiss of charity, the kiss of salutation among the Jews, the cross before Christ. We have seen Dr. Nathanson kiss the Lehmann kiss, the Dumas-father kiss, and we have heard that a young man kissed Anna Held 1,000 times at a setting. But we do not know if he did it. It must be because he is a celebrated young American is sinking a reputation.

Boston Globe.

The latest from Hobson (indorsed in transmission): "I didn't smack! no! (smack!) The reporters (smack!) have sent (smack!) represented me (smack!) as (smack!) saying (smack!) I had kissed (smack!) the Spanish girls (smack!), a story which I deny (smack!) emphatically (smack!) and (smack!) I (smack!) am as far (smack!) as I am from (smack!) any of these Spanish (smack!) girls (smack!) the wicked newspapers (smack!) are (smack!) truly (smack!) shocked. (Smack!)"

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

Frank Leslie's.

To the Russian woman politics is a pleasure; to the French woman, an intrigue; but to the American woman it is here now, than an obnoxious something that creeps for path indefinitely and is presently dismissed. Never thinking of her as who is a factor in our politics yet, and we have only to go to the national capital to see her in all her glory.

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