

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 12, 1909.

## THE ACTION OF PROVO.

A thrill of gratification surely must have communicated itself to every branch of the temperance cause in Utah last week, by the action of the Utah County authorities in Provo. That city, destined to be one of the centers of religious education in the State, was expected to take leading ground in the great conflict for which the forces are now lining up, and it is most reassuring to all workers on the side of right to know that their expectations have not been disappointed. One thousand five hundred and twenty-seven in favor of no licenses after December 31st, and one hundred and fifty against it. Surely no county officer who respects the authority which created him, will fail to give prompt response to such a mandate from the people.

Equally pleasant is it to know that in Logan, and throughout Cache county, there exists the same overwhelming sentiment against the saloon curse. Logan is a city which even more than Provo, should lead out in vigorous fashion in the prohibition cause. She is not less important as an educational center, for she has both a great state institution, the Agricultural College, and the Brigham Young college, which draws hundreds of young people from all parts of the state, but she is also the seat of one of the great Temples of the Church, and surely if there is any community from which the saloons and all their attendant evils should be banished, it is such a one as this.

Let Utah and Cache counties stand together at the head of the great temperance movement, and the size of the procession that will fall in behind will astonish them.

## FORESTS, FLOODS, HOMES.

"To save the forests, to store the floods, to reclaim the deserts, and to make homes in the land"—these are the objects, according to Gov. Spry's omniscient statement, of the seventeenth National Irrigation congress, to be held at Spokane, Wash., August 9 to 14, 1909. These are aims worthy of statesmen of unusual caliber. Such objects are wholly beneficial. Altogether unpatriotic, the avowed purposes of the Irrigation Congress should appeal to the patriotism of every citizen.

It may be true, as some have claimed, that the patriotism of the average man consists in a willingness to defend his country against foreign aggression; but the most useful type of patriotic endeavor is that by means of which a man improves the country here at home.

As a nation we are in no danger of foreign conquest and subjugation; America can defend herself if defense ever becomes necessary; and no enemy from without is likely ever to assail this country with any probability of success as long as the vast resources of this land are being put to a proper use.

It is our own wasteful and extravagant tendencies that are to be feared and guarded against, and the destruction of the national resources is the most flagrant illustration of these tendencies.

Probably no other people ever possessed such resources as have been given, by a divine providence, to the American people; and perhaps no other people ever used their resources more wastefully or less thoughtfully than have the people of the great Republic.

The effects of waste, of extravagance, of wanton destruction of the national resources, are now making themselves felt. The problem of making a living in this rich country is rapidly becoming more serious. The era of plenty must soon come to an end if the present pace of destruction of nature's gifts is not radically modified.

Gov. Spry's statement that "the wanton waste of nature's most generous gifts is being noted the country over with regret and condemnation," and that "an effort toward the checking of this waste is being put forth in the national 'conservation of resources' movement—a remedial campaign along scientific lines for the preservation of our forests and the reclamation of our lands," is a very moderate characterization of the present problem that confronts the nation.

"Regret and condemnation" represent merely negative ideas; while strong, positive and long continued action will be essential if it is really proposed that future America shall maintain her present standing among the nations. And the people are not ready to take any such action.

"Conservation" is still mainly a matter of words. The people are not aroused; they have not been educated to perceive the value of the resources now so rapidly disappearing. The schools have not trained up a generation that admires even the forest trees. The average adult scarcely knows the names of the shade trees along his sidewalk; and many lots and city blocks are actually destitute of trees despite the vigorous efforts of educational leaders.

Public education continues to consist largely of words, syllables, dates, figures, and fables. Despite the activity of reform movements, public policies consist principally of a scramble for office. Few of the elective officers know anything about the conservation of a

nation's resources. Is it any wonder that the people are apathetic?

As to irrigation, the Governor remarks that Utah has always taken an active and prominent part in the deliberations of these (irrigation) congresses. This is true, but scarcely vital. If Utah's contribution to the solution of the problem of irrigation, had consisted merely of participation in the talk of conventions, modestly would parade up to refrain from calling attention to it. But Utah has done more than talk about irrigation; she has irrigated; she has pioneered the way to one enormous highway of national growth. Utah has not only talked about reclamation of the deserts; she has reclaimed them, and has shown what can be done with the vast wilderness that was always considered worthless or worthless—a menace and a danger to mankind.

We endorse the Governor's call to attend or to encourage the irrigation Congress. We trust that the official delegation to that notable gathering will represent the brains, the knowledge, and the progressive spirit of this commonwealth. Let those be sent who know something about "the forests," "the floods," "the deserts," and "the homes," to which the Governor refers.

## THE HARMFUL RODENTS.

The department of Agriculture has issued an interesting and useful pamphlet, Farmers' Bulletin 353, entitled "Harmful and Beneficial Mammals of the Arid Interior."

The pamphlet is written by Vernon Bailey of the Biological survey, and is especially intended to aid farmers in the great arid valley surrounding the sinks of the Carson and Humboldt rivers. This part of western Nevada is being reclaimed and converted into a rich agricultural area, and its population is rapidly increasing. The settlers who are bringing these lands under cultivation are confronted with various problems connected with the present and prospective relations of the native mammals to agriculture. Farm crops, trees, live stock, poultry, and ditch banks suffer from the depredations of certain species, and in the indiscriminate retaliation that follows the beneficial animals often suffer equally with the injurious.

It is only the animals that are common in the Carson sink and Humboldt valleys that are treated in this issue, yet the same species inhabit the valleys of Utah, and especially the entire area of the Great Basin.

The damage from ground squirrels alone, of which a dozen species occur in the United States and of which the semi-arid region has several, is estimated to reach \$10,000,000 annually.

It is important to distinguish between the animals that are mainly beneficial and those that are detrimental. A third class, comprising the coyotes, foxes, and bobcats, are sometimes very destructive to poultry and small stock and are at other times very beneficial from the numbers of ground squirrels and other harmful burrowers destroyed by them.

The principal harmful mammals of the Arid Interior are pocket gophers, meadow mice, ground squirrels, chipmunks, muskrats, kangaroo rats, white-footed mice, harvest mice, house mice, pocket mice, and several species of rabbits. The mainly beneficial mammals are badgers, weasels, common skunks, little spotted skunks, grasshopper mice and several species of bats.

When any of the harmful rodents are present in only small numbers or occur only in uncultivated lands they usually do little damage; but in irrigated fields they become a great nuisance.

The rainfall of the western half of the Great Basin is extremely limited, but an abundance of pure water is brought from the mountains through great canals, which feed thousands of smaller canals and ditches, extending in an elaborate network among the farms. Many of the ditches are above the general level, and when they are tapped by the burrows of small rodents the water escapes and quickly cuts out the banks. At first the breaks along the canals and ditches were so frequent and serious that a daily patrol was required to avoid expensive repairs. Moreover, as farms are opened up and fields planted, many of the crops and trees are injured by rodents, while poultry, if unprotected, is in danger from nocturnal prowlers. On the other hand, a number of birds and mammals prey almost exclusively on some of the most injurious rodents and insects.

Wherever it becomes necessary to exterminate the ground squirrels, gophers, mice, or rabbits, the bulletin recommends the following poison:

"Dissolve 1 ounce of strychnia sulphate and 2 ounces of barium 2 quarts of hot water in a closed vessel, stirring occasionally for twenty minutes, or until completely dissolved. Then add 6 quarts of warm water, and sprinkle this poisoned solution over 20 pounds of rolled or crushed wheat, stirring and mixing thoroughly until it is all absorbed. Place a quarter of a teaspoonful of the poisoned grain near the entrance of each occupied burrow, or in each runway. For mice half an ounce of strychnine is sufficient."

Some of the rodents, however, as the Piute ground squirrel, do not care for dry grain when green vegetation is abundant, and may then be destroyed by means of poisoned alfalfa, melon rinds, turnips, or green corn.

But a better way, in general, of dealing with all such pests is to protect the hawks and owls. These birds are so indiscriminately shot by gunners ignorant of the species, that it would be best to protect them all and to require every person killing a hawk to prove that the bird is one of the few harmful kinds.

There is, in particular, the common Marsh hawk, which is immensely valuable to the farmer in destroying rodents. Poisons cost the farmer money, besides labor in distributing, and then do good only if the rodent eats the bait. On the other hand, the Marsh hawk is always hungry, and during the long hours of daylight is incessantly coursing back and forth hunting for food. It works continuously without pay, and deserves legal protection as well as the care of every person who tills the soil. The contents of 124 stomachs examined by the Biological Survey, United States

Department of Agriculture, shows that 45 per cent had been feeding on mice, 18 per cent on other small mammals, 18 per cent on reptiles, frogs and insects, and a low percentage on poultry and small birds.

The economic value of the Marsh hawk as a destroyer of mammal pests is so great that its slight irregularity should be pardoned. Farmers and sportsmen shoot it down at sight, regardless or ignorant of the fact that it preserves an immense quantity of grain, thousands of fruit trees and innumerable nests of game-birds by destroying the vermin which eat the grain, girdle the trees, and devour the eggs and the young of the birds. The Marsh hawk is unquestionably one of the most beneficial as it is one of our most abundant hawks, though it does occasionally carry off a chicken. Its presence and increase should be encouraged in every way possible, not only by protecting it by law, but by disseminating a knowledge of the benefits it confers. It is probably the most active and determined foe of gophers, meadow mice, and ground squirrels.

Dr. Fisher's pamphlet, "Hawks and Owls from the Standpoint of the Farmer," is issued for free distribution by the Department of Agriculture, and should be in the hands of every farmer and of every teacher in the public schools.

## WAR OVER CRETE.

The officials of the Cretan government are said to have expressed fear that another war between Turkey and Greece is one of the probabilities of the near future. In fact, they believe it unavoidable, unless the powers decide not to withdraw their forces from the island. When the troops are gone the question of ownership will have to be settled between Turkey and Greece, and then the trouble will come. The war, it is added, will be fought on the mainland, but Crete will be the scene of violent disorders because of the character of its population and medieval type of its civilization.

Crete has been under the rule of Turkey for 240 years, though the people are mostly of Greek origin. Fourteen months ago the powers agreed to withdraw the troops at this time, and it was generally supposed that the Cretans would join Greece. But the overthrow of Abdul Hamid has changed matters. Crete has asked for a union with Greece, but that country was advised to decline the offer. There was trouble, but the European troops maintained order. Now the Young Turks have rejected Greece's offer of a monetary compensation, and an attack of the Turkish office is authority for the statement that if Athens accepts the invitation of the Cretan legislature, the Sultan will invade Greece at once.

The great danger of this is that if war actually breaks out under the present conditions it will be difficult to confine it to a limited area. No one can tell what complications may arise.

An unpopular bill—the tea bill.

A close mouth is a great trouble savor.

A beautiful action is more than skin deep.

If dreams came true, life would be a nightmare.

In the living flag the stars should all be star pupils.

Five-foot-shelf culture will be as broad as it is long.

Contractors and workmen should obey the hire law.

Dyspepsia is the first station on the road to pessimism.

It is the way of the caught transgressor that is hard.

The Payne bill now looks like a thing of shreds and patches.

You can get anything out of a man quicker than his conceit.

Too often the joy rider is seen speeding along the road to ruin.

At seaside resorts beach combers are not used in dressing the hair.

England's alarm clocks seem to have run down for the time being.

The more a man has the more he wants, is not true of the toothache.

See the Wizard of the Wastich if you will, but "See America first."

The duty on hemp has been doubled. Is this for the protection of lynchings?

When an inspector finds bad milk the party responsible for it should be fined.

Love in a Newport cottage is the only kind of love in a cottage that appeals to a girl these days.

People sleeping out of doors should remember that tents need ventilating as well as bedrooms.

Premier Asquith has accepted a petition from the suffragettes. Perseverance conquers all things.

When the officials of any public institution are non competent they should be sent to the State mental hospital.

Mr. Bryan says that a man's services may be worth \$500,000,000. Sure. The trouble is to find an employer to engage them.

On the British roll of fame Mrs. Despard's name will be inscribed next to those of John Wilkes and Charles Bradlaugh.

A Vienna dispatch says that Mr. E. H. Harriman has gone to Salzburg to take the baths. Will he bring them home with him?

Of course contentment is better than great riches, but the great riches help

to bridge over the interim until the contentment is reached.

To nominate Governor Hughes of New York for the United States supreme court would generally be regarded as an attempt to "shelve" him. An attempt was once made to shelve Colonel Roosevelt in the vice presidency. How well it served the purposes of those who engineered the deal, all the world knows.

## DEMAND FOR HARVEST HANDS.

Omaha Bee.  
The perennial cry of a scarcity of harvest hands is again going up all over the grain belt and as usual there is no relief in sight. Small grain farming, like every other industry which demands many laborers for a short time, must always suffer with little possibility of relief when labor is generally employed except by better distribution and greater mobility of the available workmen. Efforts to induce the city laborer to seek the harvest field have always failed because the city laborer will not go to the farm and would be of little use there if he went. The tramp harvest hand who is mobile of his own volition affords the only solution ever offered that farmer, but the tramp follows the trunk railway lines as a rule and the more remote district gets no help. No serious effort has been made to bring this only available source of supply and the need in touch with each other.

## FATE OF THE BOYS.

St. Louis Star.  
There are nearly a million boys each year who terminate their school life and go to work to earn a living. The majority of them are poorly equipped for their life work in what they have learned in school. Their education is along such lines that if they are able to continue it long enough they make fair bank clerks, stenographers, etc., but poor carpenters and plumbers or any other skilled laborer. The question is, shall the effort to give boys a practical industrial education be left to totally inadequate private endeavor, or shall the public educational system be as interested in fitting the youth of the country for skilled mechanical trades as it now is in equipping them for a life behind the counter or an office chair? The establishment of manual training courses in connection with some public school system is evidence that public educators realize that mechanical as well as academic education is a legitimate public effort, but such courses have not yet been placed on a practical basis.

## JUST FOR FUN.

"Father," said little Rollo, "what is an egotist?"  
"An egotist, my son, is a burnt match that thinks it was the whole fireworks."  
—Chicago Record-Herald.

"The first day out was perfectly lovely," said the young lady just back from abroad. "The water was as smooth as glass and it was simply gorgeous. But the second day was rough—and—decidedly disagreeable."  
—Everybody's Magazine.

"I came from one of the oldest families in Europe," said the titled suitor.  
"I know," answered Mr. Cumrox; "one of those families that fought and won several years ago that subsequent generations have done nothing except try to get rated up."  
—Washington Star.

Nan—I see Percy is becoming quite attentive to Kiki Skimmerhorn. Do you suppose his intentions are serious?  
Pan—Perhaps not, but he'll soon find out that Mamma Skimmerhorn's are.—Chicago Tribune.

Circus Manager—I thought when the clown married he would stop drinking. But he goes on worse spees than ever.  
Dog Trainer—Yes, but you see he married the snake charmer.—Baltimore American.

"One-half of the world does not know how the other half lives."  
"Well, it is gratifying to think that one-half of the world attends to its own business.—Puck.

Madge—Why is she going to the mountains instead of the seashore?  
Marjorie—She thinks she looks better in a peekaboo waist than in a bathing suit.—Judge.

His Pastor—My dear sir, don't you think you ought to try to come more in contact with your fellow men?

Mr. Muntoburn—My dear doctor, so many people touch me every day of my life that I have been compelled to employ a secretary at a good salary to act as a buffer.—Chicago Tribune.

Since the Auto Craze.

Stubbs—Some years ago you used to read of rich society women giving up their jewels for the benefit of the heathen. You don't hear of it now.

Percy—No, they are too busy giving them up to get their chauffeurs out of the police stations.—Chicago News.

## Fat People

Who wish to reduce flesh with-out suffering the ill effects of nauseous drugs will appreciate.

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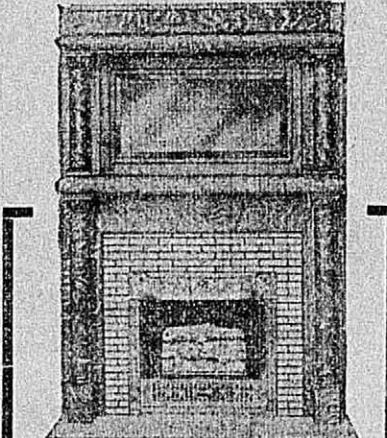
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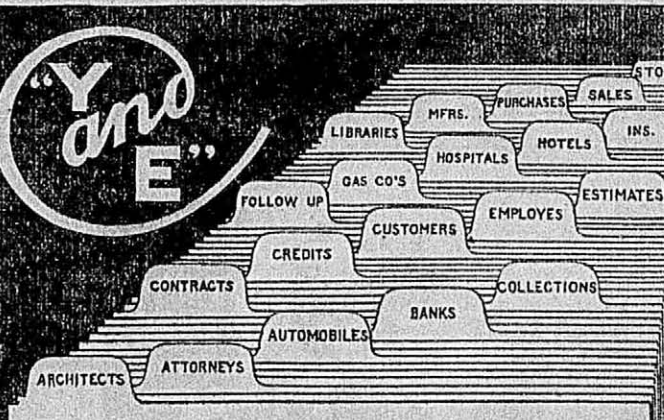
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