

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

CORNELIO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)
Printed at South Temple and East Temple Streets
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Horace O. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
Per Year, \$2.00
Six Months, \$1.00
Three Months, \$0.50
One Month, \$0.25
One Week, \$0.10
Saturday edition, per year, \$2.00
Single copy, \$0.05EASTERN OFFICE.
104-105 Times Building, New York City. In
charge of B. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign
Advertising, from our Home Office.Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications
to the BUSINESS MANAGER.
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 21, 1901.

AS TO DEBATES.

We have received the thanks of students and others connected with our State University for the remarks of the "News" in reference to a "Mock convention" held some time ago at that institution. We are assured that the whole arrangement was educational in its purpose, and that it was carried out with order and decorum, and proved a valuable piece of training in the manner of conducting election affairs, from the caucus up to the voting and the making of the returns. It was perfectly carried out in every particular, and was both entertaining and instructive.

The question of the propriety of permitting debates in our educational establishments is an old one, on which different views are honestly held. It appears to us that the matter can be safely left to the discretion of the principals of those institutions. They are men of experience and judgment, and know far better than persons not connected with educational concerns, what is for the best advantage of the students. Of course the boards and trustees who have the oversight of them should also have something to say on the subject.

Debates conducted under competent direction to bring out both sides of a public question, not for polemical strife or mastery, may be productive of good results. It depends upon the motive of the disputants and the spirit they act in. Respect for an adversary, argument without invective, the avoidance of all personalities, addresses invariably to be made to the chair and no attacks on or replies to individuals, should be rules rigidly enforced, or ill feelings may be engendered and the truth and the right be lost sight of in wrangling and contention. We have thought frequently that much time and oratory are wasted, in debates upon questions that have no profit in their determination. Schools copy after each other as to this. If a discussion is permitted at all, it should be on something that will give light, and establish some principle or promote some practical and praiseworthy object. Contentious ought never to be permitted under any circumstances. But respectful expressions of opinion for the purpose of holding up truth are not to be classed as contentions, and may be, at proper times and under proper supervision, productive of material benefit.

A FRENCH CANARD.

A Paris dispatch to the New York World and also to the Chicago Chronicle carries the annexed canard:

"A Mormon sect has just been discovered in Paris with a temple in a private house. Among the male members are sixteen, owning fifty-eight wives. One man has seven, with just one child each. Another has three wives with sixteen children. All Paris Mormons are respectable, industrious citizens."

"Although the authorities have been informed of this, it is said that no prosecution is intended, the marriages being strictly religious, with no civil formality, the extra wives being viewed by the state as concubines, whose children, however, can be legitimated without entailing marriage with the mothers."

That bit of fiction will doubtless go the rounds of the press. Some papers will publish it with malicious intent, some in a spirit of jocularity, others in ignorance of the truth and believing that there is something in it. The use made of it by anti-Mormons will be, to show that polygamy is still taught and practiced by the "Mormons," notwithstanding the assurances that have been given to the contrary.

The truth is, there is no such branch of the Church in Paris as the dispatch would indicate. That may be set down as a positive fact. If there were an organization of the Church in Paris, polygamy would not be permitted there, nor would it be taught even in theory. It is forbidden here as elsewhere. It is not only contrary to statutory enactment in Utah, but to the counsel and instruction of the Church authorities.

In the times when plural marriage was taught, and practiced to some extent in Utah, it was not permitted abroad. There never was, in any of the foreign missions, such an organization as that described in the Paris dispatch. No member of the Church abroad was permitted to marry more than one wife, the first being alive and undivorced. The practice was limited to the Church at home; that is, to Utah and the regions immediately adjoining.

Since the admission of this State into the Union, plural marriage has entirely ceased in the Church. This is well known by people who are posted on "Mormon" affairs, and what is left of polygamous institutions here, consists merely of the relations existing between plural families established many years ago. These are gradually passing away as the parties die, and there is little if any excuse for the noise that uninformed or evil-minded persons stir up to make an unprofitable sensation.

The story from Paris was probably started from some case of bigamy recently discovered, and as many people

think polygamy is synonymous with "Mormon," the dispatch was worded as it appears in our eastern contemporaries. But really there is nothing in it to justify the sensational romance which some papers take pleasure in reproducing.

NO MORE BOARDS.

There appears to be a movement on foot to revive the old police and fire muddles. The people of this city remember with chagrin the scandals arising from the so-called non-partisan board that was finally abolished. It is proposed now to have a police board and a fire board, separate concerns, for the management of those departments of the civic service.

We have no doubt that the projectors of this revival mean well and that their motives are good. But we are of the opinion that there are already too many boards in power in this State. They need cutting down instead of multiplying. The powers of government bestowed upon the county commissioners, town councils and city councils, are ample in their respective spheres, without creating boards to exercise functions in conflict with them, and to make confusion and clothe with insufferable authority presumptuous and arrogant petty officials.

We do not say that persons of that sort would necessarily fill the positions designed on the boards of fire and of police. But the establishment of those needless boards would render that possible, and the people are sick of the assumption of boards already existing, and do not want their number increased.

In a city of the size of Salt Lake, there is no need of any other municipal organizations than those comprehended in the city council, with the mayor and regularly elected and appointed officials, and if every board outside of them was abolished, it would be better for the public service and the public peace.

AN EXTRA SESSION.

The supposition that an extra session of Congress will be called, for the purpose of considering the Cuban constitution, as soon as that document shall have been completed, is now very generally taken for granted. It is considered necessary for the reason that this country has obligations to fulfill toward the Cubans, of such a nature, that the national representatives alone are competent to devise ways and means therefor.

To free Cuba and leave the Cubans to paddle their own canoe would appear simple enough. But it is not considered desirable that the new republic should be led into alliances or international relations that may at some future time be a menace to the peace of this country, as the turbulent conditions under Spanish rule were a permanent menace to peace, and injury to our commerce. How to establish the Cuban republic upon a safe basis, both financially and politically, and to do that without wounding the patriotic feelings of the Cubans, is the problem before Congress, important enough, it is thought, to warrant an extra session.

The Cuban problem is, in some respects similar to that presented by the so-called eastern question in Europe. Had it not been for the difficulty of finding a satisfactory solution of the question of what to do with the liberated peoples now under Turkish rule, the European powers would long ago have sent the Turks back to their Asiatic homes. But that would have meant a European war, and so the Turk was permitted to remain and abuse his power. The United States took another course. This country turned back the Turks of this hemisphere, across the ocean, and now the question remains how to prevent the evacuated countries from becoming a subject of strife and perpetual menace to peace. That American statesmanship in addition to Cuban patriotism, is needed for the accomplishment of this end, must be admitted by all.

Extra sessions of Congress are not common occurrences. There have been, it seems, but twelve since the foundation of the government. The extra session on Cuba would be the thirteenth, and it is lucky that statesmen are not superstitious; otherwise they might consider the number ominous.

One of the most important extras so far held, was, according to a contributor to the Los Angeles Times, that assembled by Madison in November, 1811, to deliberate upon the question of peace or war with England. The enforcement by her of the outrageous orders in council and the insults heaped upon the flag by high-handed enforcement of the so-called right of search, had brought affairs in the two countries to a crisis. The session was the first step toward the declaration of war that followed. In September, 1814, Congress again met in extra session. The capitol had been burned by a British army, the executive mansion and other public buildings wrecked and pillaged.

Another momentous extra session was that called by Abraham Lincoln, 1861. At that time Fort Sumter had been fired on. The President's proclamation announced that the execution of the laws was obstructed in several States, called out the militia, and summoned Congress to meet on July 4 "to consider and determine such measures as, in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand."

Generally such sessions are held at periods of difficult crises in the history. There is no such crisis now. The question is purely one of policy. And yet, when the country is called upon to help lay the foundations of a new republic, that event is important enough to warrant some special effort and sacrifice.

DIRECT LEGISLATION.

The question of direct legislation is one that seems to engage attention in many parts of the country. In Oregon the Republican legislature has passed a resolution submitting to the people a constitutional amendment providing for what is known as initiative and referendum. The people may vote adversely on the proposition, but there must be some demand for it in the State, since the resolution was passed by the legislature. South Dakota has adopted an amendment similar to that voted on in this State at the last election, and

in several American cities the referendum has been put to the practical test.

In Wisconsin a measure is considered which contemplates giving the people direct influence upon public affairs, in another way. It abolishes political conventions and caucuses and provides for a number of nominations by the people. This, it is hoped, will bring about sweeping changes for the better in the political life of the State.

There are widely different opinions as to the wisdom of these various measures for direct legislation. A summary is given in the Literary Digest. The Cleveland Leader sees in the experiment a "radical departure from the fundamental principles of representative government." The Chicago Chronicle believes that to apply the principle on a broad scale is to "paralyze all government." On the other hand it is claimed that statesmen such as Salisbury, Rosebery and Balfour have declared in favor of direct appeals to the people. And the Democratic party, in its platform of 1900 has this plank:

"... favor an amendment to the federal constitution providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, and we favor direct legislation wherever practicable."

The supposition is that such legislation will have the effect of taking political questions out of the hands of so-called wire-pullers, but it need hardly be said that it will be accompanied with difficulties, perhaps dangers of its own, which may not be apparent until it is put to the practical test. Radical changes in government should always be made with great caution, and only as the people are prepared for them. Experience teaches that while the citizens of a State take general interest in the election of officers and representatives, they expect these to study the various questions that bear on the common affairs, and to deal with them according to their best understanding. Business men do not care to take time for a thorough investigation of every public problem. The consequence is that there generally is a light vote on questions submitted for reference. This may not be due to indifference, but to lack of time or facilities for the investigation that is indispensable to an intelligent vote on any public question. A great many people prefer to have others do their thinking for them, on such matters, and no possible application of the system of initiative and referendum can change that fact in a short time.

The Sioux Indians are said to be contemplating an uprising. They seem to be by Lonely Contemplation led.

The Boers came very near catching General Kitchener, bag and baggage. They got the baggage all right enough.

Russia countered so quick on Uncle Sam's countervailing duty that the old man was dazed. But he didn't come up "groggy."

The whereabouts of Smith-Dorrien seems to be giving the English military authorities some concern. Why not offer a reward for any information that will lead to his apprehension?

There was a great landslide in Cottonwood canyon yesterday. A local politician, still thinking over the November returns, when he heard of it, asked, "What was the majority?"

The members of the Austrian Reichsrath have been creating a great disturbance. They have even gone so far as to throw paper balls at the speaker. They may yet become revolutionary and assault him with feathers.

Count von Waldersee may not start his great overhauling expedition into the interior of China, the Chinese promising to comply with all demands. It is by no means impossible that the great general himself is being outgeneraled.

Mrs. Carrie Nation has been released from jail, having been declared not guilty of "malicious" destruction of property. Some will regard her release as a vindication and others as a visitation. Ah, woe is me, Kansas!

Down in Onaga, Kansas, the zeal for practical education has prompted the school children there to engage in the trial of a mimic divorce suit. This is a fine preparation for children who expect to eventually take upon themselves the duties of fathers and mothers. How precocious those dear little Onaga cherubs must be.

Minister Conger telegraphs that the Chinese plenipotentiaries have informed the foreign ministers that the emperor agreed to all the punishments named in his (Conger's) telegram of February 6th. Certainly his imperial majesty will promise this, or "something equally good," but will his promises ever be fulfilled? It still remains true that promises are made for the purpose that pie crust is.

The electric street railway company in the city of Kansas is about to inaugurate an all night service on its various lines. Regular cars are to run to the hour of 1:30 a.m., and from that time to 5:30 a.m. the service is to be hourly. The idea is to accommodate the many suburban residents who patronize the amusements in town, or attend social gatherings, and who are considerably annoyed at having to "catch the last car." In all probability the all-night service will not pay at first, but facilities for travel create more travel, and it is only a question of time when the extended service will prove as remunerative to the company as it is convenient to some of its suburban patrons. When can Salt Lake's suburban service be extended a little beyond the midnight hour?

This is the day of big things. One check representing \$23,127,016 was deposited in the First National Bank of New York Saturday by J. Pierpont Morgan in connection with the recent acquisition of a controlling interest in the Central railway of New Jersey by himself and associates. This is one of the largest checks ever drawn. Twenty years ago the late Jay Gould in one of his numerous railway transactions drew a check for five million dollars, and the payee was just a bit nervous. "It is a rather large amount," he suggested. "Would it not be as well to have it certified?" "As you wish," replied Mr. Gould. And he had it certified, and the payee when he received it

was just a little bit chagrined because of his suggestions. But that check was a mere bagatelle to those that Mr. Morgan and the steel magnates are exchanging these days.

A recent dispatch to the London Daily Mail from Copenhagen says that while King Christian and his son, Prince Waldemar, were walking on a public thoroughfare a bicyclist ran into the king, bruising his majesty's leg and soiling his clothes. The aged king tottered from the shock and would have fallen if the prince had not caught him. The bicyclist, not knowing who the two persons were, began to abuse them, whereupon Prince Waldemar seized him and turned him over to a policeman. The bicyclist then learned the identity of the two and became humbly apologetic. King Christian then ordered that he be released. The conclusion of the bicyclist was perfectly natural and the rebuke he administered to the king for daring to be in his way quite the proper caper. The only surprising thing about the incident is the tenacity of Prince Waldemar in "talking back" to the bicyclist. But then the prince is a young man and probably without much experience.

A GIGANTIC TRUST.

Bradstreet's, New York. Accustomed as the public now is to arrangements between banking and corporate interests involving scores of millions of capital, the magnitude of the deal just announced concerning the principal holdings of stock in the Carnegie steel company is calculated to create feelings akin to amazement. It had been understood that negotiations had been on foot between Messrs. Andrew Carnegie and J. Pierpont Morgan, the latter representing other steel manufacturing companies, but it was with more or less surprise that both the general public and the financial world heard the news at the beginning of the week that the former's interest in the company bearing his name was to be disposed of to Mr. Morgan and his associates. The conclusion which was most generally accepted was that the arrangement in question would be followed by a plan to consolidate the Carnegie properties with the Federal Steel, American Steel and Wire, and National Steel companies, resulting in a new "trust," to use the term generally employed in such matters, representing a capital of no less than \$1,000,000,000. Fears that the minority interests in the company will prove an obstacle to the scheme have been expressed. Mr. Carnegie holds \$2,000,000 of the \$160,000,000 share capital, but the intimations are that the deal, though not completed in all its details, may be regarded as in satisfactory shape for consummation in the near future.

New York Evening Post.

The question will rise in many minds. What will be the end of these consolidations? How can society protect itself against a monopoly in the production of steel for instance? Nobody is wise enough to answer this question off-hand, and we shall not attempt to do so. For the present it may be said that as long as the raw materials of industry are not monopolized, there can be no monopoly of long duration in the finished products. While the negotiations for acquiring the Carnegie properties have been pending, two announcements have been made of projects for new works to compete with the old ones in one or more specialties.

New York World.

The more perfect union of the anthracite coal interests, the practical consolidation of the great transcontinental railroads, and the merging of the gigantic steel concerns into a billion-dollar trust afford unmistakable evidence that the kings of finance and the masters of industry accept the verdict of the people in view of the strong campaign against trusts and monopolies—as a license to combine.

Chicago Evening Post.

Time was when so colossal an operation would have provoked excited discussion and even agitation for legislative intervention, but we are now habituated to the idea and practice of combination, and are aware of the futility of attempting to check a world-wide movement by weak and crude additions to the statute books. Combination has its serious drawbacks and its dangers, but under conservative, economic, and enlightened management it is capable of yielding substantial benefits to the consumers and workmen of all grades. The real question is, Can we be certain that the management will always be far-sighted and considerate of the public interests? Legislation is important, and it remains to be seen how far the sense of self-interest will take its place as a check and preventive.

Pittsburg Post.

If the combination has taken place on the mammoth scale reported, the American people will be apt to open their eyes wide on industrial and business, and even the political, possibilities of the future. It means the absorption, practically under one management, of the iron and steel interests, the transportation interests, and coal interests. The capitalists of industry, with decreased numbers, will have become the emperor or autocrat of business and industry, for the name of Morgan stands out as the promoter and ruling spirit of the proposed fusion of interests.

Boston Herald.

The combination movement has gone on at an entirely unexpected rate, and if maintained would, before the present generation has passed away, bring practically all producing and transportation agencies under the control of certain individuals, forming a trust. Whether these changes are to lead to state socialism which has been predicted, time alone will determine. If a limited financial group shall come to represent the capitalist end of industry in this country, the perils of socialism, even if this is brought about by a somewhat rude, because forcible, taking of the instruments of industry, may be looked upon as even intensified, as possibly the lesser of two evils.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Water Casts is the title of the first article in the March number of Penrose's. It is an examination of the shape assumed by water when thrown from a bucket. Another scientific article in the same number is "Wheeling on the Bottom of the Sea." This is a description of a trip in the Argonaut below the surface of the ocean. Next, "The Speaking Portrait" is an account of M. Bertillon's new system by which criminals at large may be immediately identified. "The Story of the Flats" is continued with the history of Florida. Over forty interesting old engravings, historical portraits and photographs accompany this. "Why the Eiffel Has a Long Neck," and other kindred problems of other animal specialists are in an article illustrated profusely. There are eight complete stories in the same number. One for children, also Rider Haggard's novel "Lysbeth," New York.

Cram's March number opens with an article on King Edward VII. by Spencer Townsend. "Foreign Commerce and Its Possibilities" are discussed by C. E. Allen. "Minstrel—A Tale of the Crusades," is continued. There is a "Plan for the Women in Prison," Lydia Tabbie, who informs her readers that no unfortunate women are

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responsible for their condition. They are always the victims of inherited vices, or of adverse surroundings, while men in a similar condition may have had pure homes and yet fall into temptation—a rather strange doctrine, since those who are not responsible for their misdeeds cannot merit any credit for their virtues, one condition being as much result of inheritance as the other. "One Phase of the Chinese Outlook," is discussed by Paul S. Henshaw. "Were the Former Days Better Than These?" is a question answered by Rev. S. M. Johnson in the negative. Then there are the special features, such as "Woman and Her World," and "The World's Dilemma." In "Young Folks' History of the World," the history of England is interestingly told—61-63, Plymouth Place, Chicago.

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