

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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DESERET NEWS' PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department of the Deseret News, will save themselves and the establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers: For the Chief Editor's office, 743, For Deseret News Book Store, 743, For City Editor and Reporters, 339-3, For Business Manager, 369-2, For Business Office, 369-2.

RETRACE THE MISSTEP.

The failure of the House to adopt the majority report on the bill extending the right of eminent domain to cities, for the purpose of obtaining a sufficient water supply for their inhabitants, we regard as a great mistake, which, if possible, should be retraced so as to prevent the bad effects which will result unless a change is made. There were some features of the bill, or bills, as at first introduced which, no doubt, created a prejudice against the measure that could not be easily removed.

There was also a suspicion in some minds that Salt Lake City was endeavoring to obtain some special benefit at the expense of individuals or companies. That was entirely unfounded. There are other cities equally concerned in the matter. And as the bill which received a majority support from the committee to which it was referred, was so framed that no one could be injured by its operation, but great good depended upon its enactment, we think its opponents were actuated more by the prejudice to which we have alluded, and the opinions of constituents who have never investigated so as to understand the purpose and provisions of the bills, than by that consistent and liberal spirit which characterizes true statesmanship.

The welfare of this city, which some members appeared to think was the sole object of the bill, is to a large extent the welfare of the State, and the absurd jealousy in regard to anything that relates to the upbuilding of the capital of Utah, which has often cropped out in legislative debates, ought never to be entertained, and we hope will at no distant date be entirely banished from the legislative mind.

We cannot see why the right of eminent domain, if exercised at all, should not apply to the acquisition of water-rights and privileges to supply a public necessity, as much as to lands and their appurtenances, which may now be condemned under provisions of law that protect their owners from injustice. The right of eminent domain may be exercised under present law in the condemnation of almost any kind of property for public use, on the payment of its value and damages to the owner, with the exception of water-rights. These of course are somewhat different and of more far-reaching value than some other kinds of possession. But they were taken care of in the measure that has not been passed, and the justification for the exercise of the power in question for the purposes in view in the bill, seems to us much greater than for the objects mentioned in the law as it stands.

The supplying of a city or town with pure water for general purposes is certainly essential to the welfare of its inhabitants, and sometimes would be of far higher moment than the erection of a public building, the construction of a railroad or the building of a canal for irrigation purposes. And when individuals or companies try to hold up and bleed a city or town which needs a stream or spring, or other source of supply for the public good, private rights ought to be subordinate just as much as they are under the law applying to real estate and its appurtenances.

Injustice to any one should not be perpetrated for any purpose, public or private. Ample compensation for private property or rights, whether to land or water, should be afforded to the fullest extent, and that was the intent and scope of the bill which passed the Senate, but as yet has failed in the House. Its defeat would be an unfortunate conclusion, and in our opinion would show a lack of full comprehension of the merits of the measure, or a disposition to keep a block in the way of the urgent needs of this city, with the mistaken idea that it alone was to receive the benefits of the bill. A sober second thought would show wisdom at this juncture.

A SPLENDID ENACTMENT.

The passage of the newly framed irrigation law by the Legislature is one of the acts of that body to be highly commended. In the main, the law as passed at the last session of the Legislature was an excellent measure. There were some features in it which were objectionable to portions of the agricultural community; there were a few

provisions in it which were viewed by some critics as unconstitutional, and others thought to be unadvisable. All these have been remedied, either by elimination of the objectionable sections or clauses, or the substitution for them of provisions against which nothing could be urged in reason.

The bill as it now stands is a codification or unification of a number of provisions of law, all relating to the one subject, but touching on separate and particular points that some persons might regard as requiring separate enactments. But the measure, comprehensive as it is, having been framed in the manner in which it has passed, becomes unobjectionable for any reason of that kind. We are of the opinion that when it is carefully read and fully understood, it will receive the approval of the people of this State, no matter what may be their occupation or special interests. A practical, liberal and constitutional irrigation law, such as we believe the present measure to be, is a priceless boon to a State which depends on the use of water upon arid or semi-arid soil for the production of crops, or fruit or vegetation of any kind.

Utah has gained a wide and deserved reputation for its work in subduing the desert and supplying the place of the rains considered essential to agriculture, by the diversion of streams upon the land and their economical distribution. She has yet much to learn on this subject, and many improvements to make in the methods of storing and using wisely her water supplies from natural sources. Knowledge on these matters will come from further experience and the suggestions and teachings of science, and the act of the Legislature just passed will prove a powerful aid in the accomplishment of the purpose held in view—the conservation and distribution of water for all necessary purposes in this inter-mountain State.

JAPS TAKE MUKDEN.

A brief dispatch received this morning states that the Japanese have occupied Mukden. That means that the Russians have been forced to abandon their strong positions around that city, and that the enemy is in full possession of the field. Interest now centers in the question whether General Kuropatkin will be able to save enough of his army to make a stand at Tie Pass, the next line of defense. If that pass is not occupied by the Japs, as reported, the war may still be continued. If not, the probability is that Russia will have to sue for peace. For, if the Manchurian army is broken up, the Russian government, with the conditions prevailing at home, will find it about impossible to send another efficient force to the seat of war, immediately.

The achievements of the Japanese as fighters have been a startling revelation to the world. The Russians have fought as bravely and stubbornly as any men could do with the leadership they have had. But the Japs have proved their masters. They have suddenly risen to the first rank of military powers, and in the council of nations they will wield influence as never before.

HOW THEY VIEW IT.

The press comments on the tirade read so miserably in the United States Senate by Thomas Kearns, are not very numerous, and the evident chagrin and spite of the writer and the reader of the attack on the "Mormon" Church, are perceived by the papers that notice the effort. The following editorial in the Topeka (Kansas) Daily Herald puts the general view of the matter tersely and briefly:

"Senator Kearns of Utah vigorously denounced the Mormons a few days before the close of the session just passed. He was closing his term as senator, as his state refused to re-elect him. Until three months ago he had been working in unison with the Mormons. It was the Mormon element that elected him in the first place. When Senator Kearns, however, found he had lost the Mormon support he forthwith turned upon them in denunciation. The Mormons may be as bad as the Senator says, and they may be worse, but it is four years since Kearns was made a United States Senator and during all that time and until the present he had no criticisms to make upon the people who created him politically.

SPAIN RECOVERING.

It was predicted in these columns shortly after the late war with Spain, that that country, freed from its colonial pride and confined to its own home resources, would soon recover from the amputation and be stronger and more prosperous than it has been for centuries. This is now verified. According to the New York Tribune, Spain is now waking up to the consciousness that she is better off than she was before the war, and that to have been cut loose from her troublesome and unprofitable colonial possessions was the most prosperous thing that could have happened to her. Her domestic industries are reviving; her factories at Bilbao and Barcelona and other points are said to be more active than they have ever been before, and there are everywhere signs of a genuine industrial awakening. Moreover, Spain, we are told, harbors no grudge against us on account of the late war and her territorial losses. On the contrary, she has come to regard both not as a calamity, but as a blessing in disguise.

The colonies were a curse to Spain under the system of government applied to them. They were placed under the supervision of court favorites, who had no other object in view than to enrich themselves. Under this policy the people were oppressed to the verge of destitution, and the colonies became a drain and a loss instead of a source of income to the home country. This loss was stopped by the terms of peace. The government will

be compelled to pay attention to the development of the home resources, long neglected, and the result will be prosperity.

What a small country, well governed, can accomplish in the line of attaining prosperity is demonstrated by the smaller countries of Europe—Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Denmark.

LOSS BY WAR.

According to figures collected by the New York World Russia has lost in the present war no less than 100,000 men, not counting the losses in the latest engagements. About 55,000 men died in hospitals, or were invalided home, and 60,000 are supposed to have been killed on the various battlefields, 2,500 of the naval force are added to those who have perished, making a total of about 100,000 men sacrificed on the altar of Mars. And to this number must, further, be added the thousands that now have been slain around Mukden, the most sanguinary battle of the war.

In order to realize what this means, it must be remembered that these 100,000 men are of the very strength and flower of the population. Only those who are physically strong and sound are drafted into the army. The weak, the deformed, those least fit to carry on the work of a nation, and propagate the species, are left at home. The contention has been made by some, that wars have a tendency to make nations strong and rugged. But the fact is that the French nation today is less vigorous than it was before the Napoleonic wars, for the simple reason that the strong and healthy were killed off. So one of the worst features of war is the fact that it drains nations of their strength and manhood and leaves them enfeebled and demoralized.

If Russia's rulers were wise, they would give liberty to the country and encourage immigration to its vast territory, in order to obtain, from other nations, compensation for the loss of men sustained. That would be the quickest way to recovery.

A constructive recess is a private snafu.

Like Othello's, Kuropatkin's Oku-pation is gone.

The indications are that it will be a great dry farming year.

Playing with guns is usually more dangerous than gun plays.

Kuropatkin appears to have made every preparation for his Sedan.

There is no longer any subterfuge about "retiring." It's plain retreat now.

It used to be "Pike's Peak or bust." Now it seems to be "Peabody or bust."

The Senate is urged to ratify the San Domingo treaty pro bono Dominico.

In the California assembly the anti-prize fight bill was knocked out in the first round.

Whatever else she may do to him Kansas can never take Rockefeller's scap lock.

The Japanese have cut the railroad north of Mukden. The Russians have cut and run.

Train a child up in the way he should go and when he gets old he will not be a politician.

In Manchuria the Japanese style of wrestling seems to win every time there is a set-to.

Still the Beef Trust's profits are not so small or precarious that it proposes to go out of business.

It is easily explained how that great speaker was heard round the world. The speaker used a long distance telephone.

The saloons of Nevada are all wide open. Presumably nothing but sagebrush whisky passes over the bars of the Sagebrush state.

The San Francisco police, having nothing to work on in the Stanford case, might work on their imagination for a while.

A new substitute for tobacco has been introduced at the University of Chicago by Prof. Starr of the department of anthropology. A new kind of cabbage leaf probably.

"Will pry into Chicago pies. Food commissioner is told the article of commerce is dangerous," says the Record-Herald. Are they really so tough and had that a crowbar has to be used?

A German who has just visited Iceland is very enthusiastic about the intellectual progress made by the Icelanders. He says they are the most highly educated people in the world, and their attainments are far superior to those in Germany. They are omnivorous readers and take especial delight in pure literature and modern philosophy.

General Booth is said to be leading a little company of his Salvation Army to the Holy Land, where he expects to preach a sermon on the Mount of Calvary. He shows considerable foresight in bringing a congregation with him, when he intends preaching on Mount Calvary. But, by the way, where is that sacred spot? If we are not mistaken, nobody has, as yet, proved the genuineness of the places pointed out as Calvary.

"Real" society's latest fad is the "white rest cure." It is thus described: "Stealing away for a couple of hours in the middle of the day, they array themselves in spotless white, with no trace of color and with no ornaments other than white diamonds and pearls, seat themselves in a room done in white enamel, or preferably on a bed of white azules in the conservatory, and play soft chords on a guitar. When they reappear they find themselves greatly refreshed."

THE INAUGURATION.

Kansas City World. The triumphal pageant that passed down Pennsylvania avenue today was something of a cross between a nation's solemn ceremonial and a Buckskin Bill Wild West show. There were senators, congressmen, and the governors of states, and there were also cowboys from Montana, rough riders from Arizona and Sioux Indians from the reservation. There were more sounding brass and tinkling cymbals than ever before. There was much glitter and gilt and tinsel, that served to rob the occasion of much of its wonted solemnity and serious meaning.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Despite all the honors which he has received in the past, President Roosevelt cannot but feel a greatly heightened sense of gratification as he enters today upon the presidential term to which he was chosen with such marked preference by his countrymen. Fifty, to a degree, that no President has been so truly fortunate during the man of his whole nation. Jackson had his bitter enemies, Lincoln became the universally idolized hero and typically great American only after martyrdom had crowned his sorrows. Grant did not stand free from the vermin that crept in his shadow. Whatever may be the personality of Roosevelt, during his life in his enemies as well as in his friends. The auguries for the next four years are propitious. May no mischance mar the achievements.

New York Mail.

From the very beginning, this quadrennial installation of the chief magistrate of the people's choice has been a matter of deep interest to the nation. Jefferson tried to reduce it to a mere humdrum swapping of one servant for another by riding to the capital alone and tying his horse to a post. Van! The more truly democratic the country became, the more the people insisted on being represented in force and beholding the ceremony which was the consummation of their act of choice.

Los Angeles Express.

The affairs of government and the legislation of the last session of the Fifty-eighth Congress bear the impress of the personality of Roosevelt. As is usual, there have been slight differences of opinion between the executive and legislative departments of the government; there is a suspicion that the senate is not fully in accord with the President's views, which, while they almost approach the radical, are as close an approximation of popular opinion as the nation has seen in many years. It is safe to say that if Mr. Roosevelt were to go through another campaign in the immediate future, he could easily command a popular vote of 10,000,000 of the 7,624,459 given him at the last election.

Boston Transcript.

Reading the descriptions of Mrs. Roosevelt's inaugural gown you expect every instant that the next sentence will say "the court train is etc.," for the magnificence of it and the elegance that has entered into every detail make it appear as a royal creation fit for presentation at courts, for Americans, and especially nothing too good for the inauguration of an American president there isn't a patriotic soul among us all who would have one silken or golden thread of the garment changed to cotton. Besides it is all American made from the warp and woof of the material to the last finishing of the collar and to have it as "Exhibit A" at an affair where imported gowns are prominent will be almost enough to warrant the placing of another star in the flag.

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Advertisement for IT'S SURE IT'S PURE, featuring a woman in a hat and a product image.

Advertisement for SEWING MACHINES at \$17.50, featuring Young Bros. Company and Romney Dependable Shoes.

Advertisement for WILLES-HORNE DRUG CO., featuring a woman's face and product information.

Advertisement for SHOES, featuring a woman's face and product information.

Advertisement for Pierce Bicycles, featuring a bicycle and product information.

Advertisement for Don't Be Backward In Forwarding Backward Accounts to Us, featuring a man's face and The Merchants' Protective Association.

Advertisement for Club Violet Soap, featuring a woman's face and product information.

Advertisement for No Better Investment In Sight, featuring a man's face and The Salt Lake Hardware Co.