

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.  
(Sundays excepted).Corner of South Temple and East Temple  
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor.  
Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager.SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.  
(In Advance):

One Year	.....\$10.00
Six Months	.....\$6.00
Three Months	.....\$3.00
One Month	.....\$1.00
Sunday Edition, Per Year	.....\$2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year	.....\$2.00

NEW YORK OFFICE

In charge of H. P. Cummings, manager  
Foreign Advertising, from 10 to 12  
noon, 127 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

In charge of F. J. Cooper, 71 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading mat-  
ter for publication should be addressed to  
the EDITOR.Address all business communications  
and all contributors to:THE DESERET NEWS,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake  
City as second class matter according to  
the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 21, 1905.

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BOND ISSUE VALID.

The unanimous decision of the Supreme court of Utah, declaring the bond issue voted by the citizens of Salt Lake, valid, removes one of the most serious obstacles which the enemies of this city, and of Utah, succeeded in placing on the road to material progress. It was due, we believe, to the false representations of some such evil genius, that the corporation that had signed its willingness to take the bonds, suspended the negotiations, with the suggestion that the Supreme Court be called upon to pass on the legality of the vote that authorized the issue. This suggestion has been acted upon and the vote is declared valid. The court has carefully considered the law and the facts as presented by both sides of the case, and removes every shadow of doubt as to the legal safety of the transaction. There can be no further excuse for delay in the work that will secure for this city a substantial and healthy development. The judges have done their duty in this matter, well and promptly.

It is not necessary to say anything about the defeated obstructionists. It is very deplorable that persons sometimes are found in a community who, for mere personal considerations, are willing to sacrifice the general interests and to that end oppose any move in the right direction, with all their power. In this case, as is well known, a few individuals who have sold themselves to ambitious but disappointed politicians, to carry out their plans of revenge, are stubbornly planting their feet in the path of progress, as the traditional bull on the railroad track. They are strenuously working against improvements of every kind, because improvement contradicts the falsehoods they daily, and hourly, proclaim from the housetops and in every public place. They know that if their absurd contentions were only approximately true, there could be no material advancement, no life, here; only death. Hence, they are for stagnation, and they endeavor to strangle business enterprises, one by one, or smother them under mountains of falsehoods. Hence their never ceasing outcry against a "hierarchy" that does not exist; against "trusts" that do not exist; against treachery, immorality, etc., that exist mostly in their own imagination, not to say anything about their own camp; hence their constant efforts at painting ghosts on the wall for the delusion of the simple-minded and credulous.

THE SIMPLE FACTS.

It is often said that falsehood will travel a league while truth is getting its boots on. However this may be, it is a fact that a falsehood will be flashed with lightning speed throughout the world, while it takes months and even years for the truth to refute it. This is evident in relation to the distortion of the testimony of President Joseph F. Smith concerning revelation, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the United States Senate. In addition to the untruthful assertions of newspapers and magazines concerning the same error has appeared in resolutions adopted by preachers and by women's societies, who know nothing about the matter except that which they have learned from anti-Mormon prints.

The charge is still made that President Smith admitted in a public discourse in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, that he had perjured himself before the committee, and he had done so to avoid being caught in a trap. The alleged basis of the purported contradiction between the Washington testimony and the Tabernacle remarks is, that President Smith declared in the former, "I have never pretended nor do I profess to have received revelations," but that in the latter he stated that he had never denied having received revelations.

This is one of those cases in which a single sentence is segregated from

its context, for the purpose of placing upon it a forced construction out of harmony with the entire purport of the remainder. The subject of revelation, as believed in by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was under critical examination before the committee at Washington. The testimony on this point was reported through the Associated Press at the time and was published in the Deseret News as well as other newspapers. We will quote from the official record, as published in Volume 1. On page 37-8, will be found the following questions and answers:

Senator Hoar. Mr. Smith, the revelations given through you and your predecessors have always been from God?  
Mr. Smith. I believe so.  
Senator Hoar. Very well. As I understand, these persons who you say reject your revelations, but still believe in the main principles of the church are at liberty to remain in the church. Do I understand you to say that any revelation coming from God to you is not one of the main principles of the church? Does not the person who rejects it reject the direct authority of God?  
Mr. Smith. Yes, sir, no doubt he does.

Senator Hoar. And still he remains a member of the church?  
Mr. Smith. Yes, sir.

Senator Hoar. In good standing, is a moral man?  
Mr. Smith. Yes, sir.  
Then follow explanations of the right of each member of the Church to his own opinion on matters of doctrine and revelation and to remain a member so long as he does not violate the laws of morality or deny the cardinal principles of the Gospel. Then came this colloquy:

Senator Hoar. Is the doctrine of the inspiration of the head of the Church and revelation given to him one of the fundamental or non-fundamental doctrines of Mormonism?  
Mr. Smith. The principle of revelation is a fundamental principle of the Church.

Senator Hoar. I speak of the revelations given to the head of the Church. Is that a fundamental doctrine of Mormonism?  
Mr. Smith. Yes, sir.

Senator Hoar. Does or does not a person who does not believe that a revelation given through the head of the Church comes from God reject a fundamental principle of Mormonism?  
Mr. Smith. He does; always if the revelation is a divine revelation from God.

The manner in which revelations were received by the head of the Church was the next point under investigation, when Senator Bailey interposed objections to the kind of inquiries on this subject, as he did not see their connection with the case before the committee. And he did not see how the religious faith of the Mormon Church had any relation to civil and political affairs. Mr. Taylor then asked, "In what different ways did Joseph Smith, Jun., receive revelations?" when the annexed questions and answers were given:

Mr. Taylor. Did Joseph Smith ever say that God or an angel appeared to him in fact?  
Mr. Smith. He did.

Mr. Taylor. That is what I asked you a moment ago.  
Mr. Smith. He did.

Mr. Taylor. Did Joseph Smith contend that always there was a visible appearance of the Almighty or of an angel?  
Mr. Smith. No, sir; he did not.

Mr. Taylor. How otherwise did he claim to receive revelations?  
Mr. Smith. By the spirit of the Lord.

Mr. Taylor. And in that way, such revelations as you have received, you have had them?  
Mr. Smith. Yes, sir.

Now, if a candid reader of the testimony given by President Smith will take the entire series of queries and replies on this subject, instead of cutting out a part of a paragraph and viewing it in its isolation, he will see that the witness, in stating he had not pretended to receive revelations, referred to those personal manifestations from God and angels that were vouchsafed to the Prophet Joseph Smith at the opening of the latter-day dispensation. That he testified to having received revelations by the Holy Spirit is clear from that which we have quoted above. This President Smith explained in his remarks made in the Tabernacle on March 19, 1905. They were reported verbatim and published without the change of a word in the Deseret News of March 20. We make therefore the following in reference to his testimony at Washington:

"For me to say that God had given to me a revelation upon some new doctrine or theory, or principle, or precept, or anything to be written, to be observed or handed down as a guide to the church, would have been untrue. I could not have said that, for He has not done this. But has God revealed to me in any way? Has He manifested to me a knowledge of His truth by and through the spirit of revelation? Did you ever hear of my denying that? No, no man has ever heard me deny that."

"The Lord Almighty has revealed to me many things for my own guidance, to assist me in the discharge of my duty as an Elder in the Church, as a High Priest in the Church, as an Apostle, one of the Twelve Apostles in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And I fervently believe that God has manifested to me in my present capacity, many glorious things, many principles and oftentimes much more wisdom than is inherent in myself, and I believe that He will continue to do so as long as I am in a position to hear when He calls, and to receive when He gives to me that which He desires."

The injustice, to say the least, that has been done President Smith in so placing before the public his testimony and his discourse as to place him in the light of a "perjurer" made so by his own "confession," must be evident to all fair-minded persons who have been acquainted with the facts. The gentleman did not make any statement or admission that he had untruthfully testified before the committee, nor is there any contradiction between his statements under oath and those in the Tabernacle. They harmonize completely. He did not claim at either place that God had given him revelations by open vision or angelic or divine appearance, but he did testify in both instances, as appears of record, that he had received revelations by the Spirit of the Lord, both as a member and as the head of the Church. The kind of revelations, which he testified he had received are those spoken of by the Apostle Peter in his second epistle, chapter one, verses 19-21:

"We have also a more sure word of

prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts."

"Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

As also the Apostle Paul in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 2:

"But as it is written, eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things that God hath prepared for them that love Him."

"But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

The revelations of the Holy Ghost came in old time by inspiration, and by the same Spirit the word and will of the Lord is given to His Church in the latter days. "Every member of it is entitled to this blessing for his or her own guidance, and the head of the Church receives those revelations by inspiration for the guidance of the whole Church. When God pleases to do so, He will manifest himself in person or send messages by angels or communicate in open vision. But whether by these means or by the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, He reveals His will, that is revelation, and President Joseph F. Smith has never denied having received such communications from on high, but testified that he had, both before the Congressional Committee and before the assembly in the Tabernacle.

We touch once more on this subject, for the information of people who have been misled by designing anti-Mormon malicious writers, and by men and women who themselves being deceived have become deceivers of others. People who desire the truth will understand and receive our explanation, but it is not expected that those who are filled with a spirit of mischief and venom will cease their repetitions of libelous mendacity.

Longest day of the year and about the pleasantest.

Made in Germany—International conference on Morocco.

Japan is the only man who could really and fully enjoy a three-ringed circus.

Hear those short, sharp explosions? They are the fore-runners of a sane (?) Fourth of July.

When suit for \$499 for damages is brought it looks very much like a bargain counter affair.

August 1 is a fit time for the meeting of such an august body as the peace commission will be.

You may break, you may scatter as you will, the smell of the gasoline will hang round the automobile still.

Secretary Hay is back at his desk. He returned just in time to witness the finish of the peace preliminaries negotiations.

Could the paving of South Temple street proceed for a couple of weeks without a hitch? If it could, why doesn't it?

There is no case on record of the rejection of "tainted" money. That fact should quiet the quails of those who make so much fuss over it.

It looks as though President Roosevelt were going to do as much for the reform of diplomatic procedure as Tom Reed did for parliamentary procedure.

That man Morton is not satisfied with being elected chairman of the Equitable, but he actually wants to know all the ins and outs of its business. The very ideal!

According to the census of 1900, New York had a population of 3,437,202. A recent census gives to the city an even 4,000,000 souls. New York is therefore now the second city in the world, only London, with its 6,500,000 inhabitants being ahead. The question is whether New York will not, in a few years, have caught up with the British capital. For New York undoubtedly receives more immigrants every year, both from abroad and from the country, than does London.

The Board of Education is to be congratulated upon its action on the High School. The consolidation of the two schools will be in the interest of the High School and its patrons. As yet the city is not prepared to maintain two such schools and the effort to do so could only result in a weakening of both. A high school with half a course was not even a half a high school. The East Side High School should never have been started. There will undoubtedly be need for another high school some day, for several no doubt, but it does not exist today. Far better one strong, central school than several rather weak ones. The Board has done the proper thing.

The craze for athletics in college is well pictured by President James of Northwestern. He says: "A group of men in college after untold hardships are picked to represent the college on a football team. They are kept under continual strain for months. All the rest of the college men play merely the part of 'rooters,' taking no exercise at all. The great wrong here is that the incentive to general and most desirable athletic work on a sane scale is lost." Usually, college athletics simply means a crew or team and not the physical culture of the entire body of students. If every student were to take a course in the gymnasium for the first two years of his college career, nothing could be better. That is the great need.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

New York Evening Sun.  
Even if the mass of the work is done at Newport or Bar Harbor, on account of the heat, the last act in the momentous proceedings will take place under the shadow of the capitol. The

arrangements made, which will have a mighty effect on the future of two empires, and, indeed, on the future of the whole world, will be remembered as the treaty of Washington. That will keep more vividly in people's minds the fact that a president of the United States, by his sturdy common sense, by his courage in ignoring the red tape, the delays, the etiquette of diplomacy, played a man's part in bringing the titanic struggle in the Far East to an end.

New York Evening Post.

It has been somewhat noticeable that, in the preliminary discussion of a heavy indemnity demand upon Russia by Japan, little has been said as to Russia's ability to raise the money. Yet it might be supposed that, with such a sum as a thousand million dollars named in the conjectures of markets and foreign offices, that question would be unimportant. Presumably, this figure is far beyond what will ultimately be agreed on. As it stands it is precisely the sum levied on France by the Prussian government in 1871. It is a heavy payment through its people's sale of their very large investment in foreign securities, and the use of the proceeds in making up the new loan issued by France to raise the indemnity money. In other words, since these foreign securities were sold back mostly to the markets which had originally issued them, the billion-dollar indemnity was paid to Prussia, partly in its own securities, partly in drafts on other outside markets. It is a matter of record that Paris was the least disturbed of all important markets, as a result of the operation. M. Leon Say has proved that, during the entire period in which the indemnity was in course of payment, France exported to the world at large only 100,000,000 specie, one-half of which was silver.

Kansas City Star.

It is rather remarkable that the Japanese government should specify that the peace negotiations with Russia should be conducted in English. No precedent can be recalled in which a treaty, neither party to which was an English-speaking nation, was made in this language. The traditional base of international treaties has been the French language. This preference has been in part sentimental and merely traditional, inasmuch as French is generally regarded as the court language; but it has also had a practical side. The French is probably the most precise of all languages. Its words are more nearly confined to single meanings. It certainly admits of much less ambiguity than the English. A statement made in French rarely can be made to mean anything except what it clearly says. Japan's preference for the English language in this instance may be traced to the influence of the United States and Great Britain in that country. The Japanese understand English better than French.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
A movement has been seriously begun with the object of prevailing on the peace commissioners of Japan and Russia to hold their conferences in Chicago in case the temperature of Washington should grow uncomfortable. Just what inducements Chicago proposes to hold out to the diplomats is not yet certain. Possibly it expects to hasten the conclusion of peace by showing the visitors Chicago as an "awful example" of the evil consequences of protracted strife. It is to be feared the Japanese and Russian gentlemen would follow the example of the recent Scotch guest of the city and get away from Chicago in a hurry with uplifted hands and distended eyes.

New York Mail.

It is altogether likely that this conference will be conclusive, and that the treaty of Washington will stand as the document which settled the fate of the east. It will not merely be a preliminary step to a more general understanding, as San Stefano went before Berlin, and Versailles before Frankfurt in 1871. The harpies of Europe will have no chance to pick the bones at a subsequent conference. It will be the function of Washington to be the theater of the negotiation of an honest, enduring peace—one which will guarantee the future safety of Japan and China from aggression, and leave the doors of their commerce open to the world.

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