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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 23, 1905

DESERET NEWS PHONES

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will find themselves and
this establishment a great deal of annoy-
ance 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 Reporter, 359-2.
For Business Manager, 359-2.
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THE MESSAGE OF THE MAYOR.

The message of Mayor Morris to the
City Council contains a great deal of
valuable information, and also some
very timely and pertinent suggestions.
It is not our purpose to make complete
comments on the document, but merely
to touch upon a few salient points in it.We hope the readers of the Deseret
News have perused the whole message,
particularly the citizens of Salt Lake,
that they may learn the status of munici-
pal affairs and understand what has
been done and what needs to be done
for the advancement of the city.The bonded indebtedness is now \$2,-
795,000, the annual interest upon which
amounts to \$122,550. This shows a de-
crease of interest paid in 1904 of \$2,740
on that of 1903. This is gratifying, and
was brought about through funding the
bonds at a lower rate of interest. The
report of the auditor shows an actual
improvement in financial conditions
over the report of 1903 of \$49,711.67.The Mayor endorses some recommen-
dations by the Board of Public Works,
and also by the City Engineer. That
board recommends the use as far as
practicable in city improvements, of
materials of home production. For in-
stance, there is a project on foot for the
manufacture of sewer pipe in this city.Hydrants also, manufactured by home
companies, are said to be fully equal
to the hydrants heretofore used of out-
side manufacture. Valves, too, it is
said, are made here, which are equal
in all respects to the foreign article,
and the Board of Public Works recom-
mends the patronizing of home indus-
tries, which the Mayor endorses and
emphasizes. There are other valuable
suggestions from the board, which will
no doubt receive due consideration from
the council.The Engineer's department contem-
plates a great deal of paving and of
sidewalk extensions during the present
year. The Engineer recommends mac-
adamizing of streets where traffic is
not excessive, which will greatly reduce
the cost of putting them in a proper
condition, from the expense attending
the various kinds of material within
reach of the city, for that purpose, be-
fore proceeding to carry out the im-
provement to any great extent. He
further makes some good suggestions in
regard to the laying of water mains, so
as to substitute larger pipes in place of
those smaller ones that are found to be
detrimental to the efficiency of the wa-
ter service, and these with many other
practical suggestions the Mayor ap-
proves.A very complete report is furnished
by the Waterworks department, show-
ing a total expenditure for all purposes
during the past year of \$51,557.09, a de-
crease of actual cost over the year
1903 of \$2,697.37. The superintendent
recommends the replacing of the wood-
en tanks in City Creek canyon by ce-
ment tanks, and also the removal of all
water pipes below the size of six inches,
and the closing of all "dead ends"
as early as possible. The furnishing of
free water to certain county institu-
tions he thinks should be abolished. He
favors the establishment of the meter
system throughout the entire business
district. A system for the better drain-
ing of the west and northwest portions
of the city is strongly urged; also the
building of a new structure to replace
the old White Bridge over Jordan.The Police department calls for an
increase of twenty-seven patrolmen,
which the Mayor considers necessary,
but believes that ten additional patrol-
men should be appointed for the pres-
ent year. The Police department ap-
pears to be well conducted, and the
Mayor gives great credit to the fire de-
partment for its efficiency and able
management.The health of the city, as reported by
the commissioner, shows the death rate
for the year to have been 88, which is
a percentage of 11.84 per thousand,
counting the population at 75,000. The
number of births for the year was 1,746.
The city water, on analyses of seven
samples, proved to be pure. The re-
ports from the various other depart-
ments of the city government are all
encouraging and show marked im-
provement.The Mayor gives a clear explanation
of the project for obtaining an ade-
quate supply of pure water, involving
the issue of water bonds as passed
upon by citizens at the recent election.
The Mayor is confident that the plans
contemplated for the exchanges of wa-
ter and the supply for the city will be

carried out before the end of the year.

He recommends great caution in the
granting of franchises for any purpose
and of whatever nature. He refers to
the smoke nuisance and shows that it
is not to be expected that the ordinance
for its abolition can be enforced while
the city itself does not observe the law
in that respect. He urges immediate
steps to pave a number of streets ad-
jacent to the business district, and ex-
presses his appreciation of the cordial
support he has received from the coun-
cil and from the citizens generally.The address is an able and compre-
hensive representation of municipal af-
fairs and shows that the Mayor is
alive to the public welfare. We con-
gratulate him on the good showing
that is made in the various depart-
ments with which he is officially asso-
ciated, and on his business-like and
capable administration.

IS IT PEACE?

Reports from St. Petersburg say that
the Czar, at last, has decided to con-
sider terms of peace. This sounds
reasonable. To prolong a struggle that
certainly means enormous sacrifice of
life and property, and perhaps final
disastrous defeat would be extreme fol-
ly. The Czar shows some good sense,
if he swallows his pride and accepts
whatever peace terms he can obtain.The latest revelations of the condi-
tions in the Russian army and navy
prove the utter impossibility of suc-
cess in the struggle against a strong,
united nation. According to Admiral
Skrydloff, Alexoff was utterly incom-
petent, and there was general rejoin-
tment when he was recalled. But he does
not appear to have been the only blun-
derer. Now we have Gen. Gripenberg's
extraordinary insubordination in pub-
licly denouncing Kuropatkin when that
officer is still commanding in the field.
That the highest officers have begun
to blame each other in this way is
proof that both army and navy are in
a state of utter demoralization.Then, there are the internal disor-
ders. According to the report from St.
Petersburg, every member of the im-
perial family is doomed to death, by
the same terrible power that has picked
off a number of the leading aristocrats.
Sentences of assassination, it is said,
have been sent to every doomed per-
sonage, great and small. This is the ap-
palling declaration made by represen-
tative men of the revolutionary party,
and when it is remembered that this
"society" forfeited almost to a day the
date of Sergius's assassination and that
every minister against whom it has
issued an edict has fallen, the terror of
Russia may be imagined. It is, clearly,
impossible for the government to carry
on its military operations, until peace-
ful conditions are established in the
empire.The terms Russia is said to be willing
to accept from Japan may have to be
revised, before they can be granted. They
include the "cession" of Port Arthur
and the Liao Tung peninsula—which,
by the way, is Chinese territory and
not in the power of Russia to cede—the
restoration of the greater part of Man-
churia to China, and the placing of
China under Japanese sovereignty.
This, as will be seen, does not deprive
Russia of any territory belonging to her.On the contrary, it rather gives to her
a part of Manchuria. Japan has
fought for the integrity of the Chinese
empire, and the control of Korea. And
these Russia now is said to be willing
to grant to her successful rival in
Asia. Japan may accept these condi-
tions, together with a war indemnity,
and retire, satisfied with the achieve-
ments so far recorded. The next time
a difference of opinion or a divergence
of interests arises, both contestants
may be far enough advanced in civiliza-
tion, to submit the quarrel to arbitra-
tion first.

LITERATURE AND LABOR.

The late General Lew Wallace was
one of the most elegant writers of the
English language. But he did not
achieve this distinction without great
effort. He is said to have had a habit
of writing the rough draft of his ideas
on a slate, so that erasures could be
made easily, then transferring the writ-
ing with a soft pencil to paper, and
finally, when all was to his satisfaction,
copying in ink with the precision of a
clerk. Frequently he wrote but a few
lines a day, and sometimes he wrote
them out within the next twenty-four
hours. This is the only way in which
writing can attain to some degree of
perfection. The famous Letters of
Blaise Pascal, which have for genera-
tions been considered the model of that
department of literature to which they
belong, were written and re-written
repeatedly, until they assumed the per-
fect form in which they were given to
the world. Robert Louis Stevenson is
quoted as having said that a man who
is unwilling to spend a whole afternoon
looking for the right word for the ex-
pression of an idea is unfit for the work
of literature. In literature, as in all
art, there is no excellence without hard,
conscientious labor.

LOOKING AHEAD.

We notice that the French Academy
of Sciences is said to have offered a
prize of a hundred thousand francs to
any person who discovers a means of
communication with any celestial body.
Marx excepted, during the present year.
The report is going the round of the
press, but it sounds incredible. In the
first place, the prize is too small for
such an achievement, and the time too
short. In the second place, it would be
folly to make an exception of the planet
Mars. It can safely be said that no
scientific institution would offer such a
prize on such conditions.It would be folly to deny the possibi-
lity of ultimate interplanetary commu-
nication. For the various celestial bodies
form one unit, as surely as do the var-
ious stories and wings and rooms,
chambers, and halls in a large palace.
They are not independent of one an-
other, but are held together according
to the will of the great Builder and
Architect. And there must be com-
munication now, for else, how could
all the worlds be governed by one di-
vine power? No government could rule
over any part of a country with whichIt could hold no communication what-
ever.As yet, man has not been able to
penetrate the mysteries of interplane-
tary communication, or master the laws
by which it may be regulated. But that
does not mean that the mystery can
never be revealed. On the contrary,
when knowledge shall have attained
a high degree of perfection, it may be-
come as natural, and as easy to soar
from planet to planet as it is now to
cross the oceans on the surface of the
earth.It is said the Czar seeks peace. Seek,
and he shall find.If the Beef trust goes up the beef
prices will come down.Does the Missouri legislature propose
to let Governor Folk appoint a senator?"When will high prices cease," asks
the Washington Post. Ask us some-
thing easier.The oldest Elk has just died. As the
years go on he will die as often as does
the oldest Mason.The round-up of the Beef trust barons
will be the greatest cattle drive the
country has ever seen.Russia may not be in the throes of
revolution but she is throwing fits of
some kind all the time.Slowly, one by one, the roses fade.
Another supporter has dropped away
from Mr. Niedringhaus.If Russia does not get on what
she now asks she may ask more. "A
stitch in time saves nine."Germany is afraid that J. P. Mor-
gan is going to rob the Old World of its
art treasures. That isn't the fear in
the New World.Uncle John Sharp made as good and
competent a fish and game warden as
any state ever had. May his successor
achieve as great a success.Boodle and graft are the root of
most of the evils in politics. And until
these evils are got rid of there will be
no health in the body politic.The State School of Mines should be
the special care of the Legislature. If
fostered as it should be, it cannot fail
to become the special pride of the
State.President Roosevelt and Emperor
William have had the degree of doc-
tor of laws conferred upon them. Sol-
omon in all his glory was not arrayed
like one of these.The Washington correspondent of the
New York Evening Post says that deep
in their hearts congressmen are dead
sick of the Philippines. But they are
not sick enough to throw them up.At Philadelphia, at the Washington
commemoration exercises, the President
again took occasion to sound the
praises of the navy and suggest a
larger one. With him the navy seems
to have become the ship of state.Bulletin No. 91 sent from the Experi-
ment Station of The Agricultural Col-
lege of Utah contains a wealth of in-
teresting information regarding arid
farming in Utah. The bulletins are
sent free of charge to any address in
the State, on written application to the
Experiment Station, Logan, Utah.With the killing of a bear weighing
157 pounds, after a long chase, Matt
Decker, the famous hunter, of Wil-
lowmead, Sullivan county, N. Y., has
fifty-eight bears to his credit. That is
the record of an old man who has hunt-
ed bears all his life. That's nothing.
Some of Utah's famous bounty hunters
have killed that many in a season, and
they have got the skins and the war-
rants to prove it.Dr. William Osler, who goes from
Johns Hopkins university to Oxford to
become the head of the medical school
there, in his farewell address, declared
that nothing was accomplished by a
man more than forty years old, and
that men of sixty years should be re-
tired or chloroformed. He himself was
born in 1848. According to his own the-
ory what fools the Oxford authorities
must be to think that he can accom-
plish anything.A contributor to the current number
of Medical Record reports two cases of
pneumonia in infants, in which the
windows of the sick room were kept
open day and night; both children re-
covered. He believes it will become
more and more the rule to treat pneu-
monia in this way. Cool, pure air, he
says, reddens the blood, stimulates the
heart, improves digestion, quiets rest-
lessness, and aids in overcoming tox-
emia. He gives the following prescrip-
tion for killing a baby with pneumonia:
Crib in far corner of room with can-
opy over it. Steam kettle; gas stove
(leaky tubing); room at 80 degrees F.
Many gas jets burning. Friends in the
room, also the pug dog. Chest tightly
enveloped in waistcoat poultice. If
child's temperature is 101 degrees F.
make a poultice thick, hot, and tight.
Blanket the windows, shut the doors.
If these do not do it, give coal-tar an-
tipyretics and wait.

ABOUT THE NIAGARA.

Springfield Republican.

After ruin is practically achieved, the
people begin to get anxious about
glories of the earth, as in the case of
the giant trees of California and of
Niagara falls. Now that commercial
greed has despoiled the great natural
of its beauty, and has vulgarized the
whole region with powerhouses and fac-
tories, sending rattling streams
through newways in the cliffs to cheap-
en the effect, the New York legislature
is asked to memorialize the president
and Congress by joint resolution, asking
that an attempt be made to arrange
with the Canadian government to pre-
serve the falls—what there is left of
them. It is interesting that there
should be an endeavor of this sort
made.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Canada has been more careful than
has New York state in the granting of
franchises to power companies. Still,
New York has not yet taken any irre-
trievably ruinous steps. Its legislatureis, however, continuously assailed both
directly and indirectly by capitalists
eager to get the right to use the water.The indirect attempts are more dan-
gerous than the direct, for the latter
can be fought and defeated, but the
former are apt to slip through the leg-
islature without detection at almost any
time. If international action is not
taken New York should cause a careful
investigation to be made of the amount
of water that can be taken from the
Niagara river without injuring the
falls, and it should then place in its
state constitution a provision which
will make sure the protection of the
falls for all time to come.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It does not follow that the legislature
would sell this glorious inheritance for
a mess of pottage in the shape of tax
money, but there is good reason to
question its power and purpose to pro-
tect the falls for all time. The same
is true of the Ontario legislature. It
thus appears that if Niagara is to be
preserved joint action by the United
States and Great Britain is advisable
and probably necessary. This should
not be difficult to obtain, although a
previous request to this effect by the
New York legislature was ignored in
Washington. It is a question which
concerns not New York state alone but
the entire country. The cataract is the
most marvelous specimen of nature's
handiwork to be seen in the east, and
the systematic raid upon it for manu-
facturing purposes is a conspicuous ex-
ample of the tendency to sacrifice any-
thing and everything to purely utili-
tarian ends.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Leslie's monthly for March contains
an illustrated article on "Mormon or
Apostle?" written by special representa-
tives of that magazine. The authors
pay a high compliment to the "Mor-
mons" as colonizers, but they display
surprising ignorance concerning ecclesi-
astical and social conditions in Utah.
Other features of the magazine are
more creditable to the publication.
Among these are: "Lords of Traffic";
"The Discoverer of Alaska"; "A New
Theatrical Star"; and a number of good
short stories, and excellent pieces of
poetry.—Fifth Ave., New York.The current number of Leslie's Week-
ly is distinguished by features relating
to Washington's birthday, including a
cover drawing by T. Dart Walker; a
pleasing article, with photographs, by
Ellis Armstrong Benough, which tells
how this American holiday is celebrated
in the Bahamas (a British dependency)
with even more vim than in the
United States; a page of photographs
(with descriptive matter) of New
York's memorials to the Father of His
Country; and a special photograph con-
test, showing the patriotic reverence
in which Washington is held.—New
York.

TEA

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farthest: most economical
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