

## 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.

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Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager

## SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

(In Advance)

One Year	\$3.00
Six Months	\$1.50
Three Months	.75
One Month	.25
Sunday Edition, Per Year	2.00
Single Copies	.05

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In charge of F. J. Cooper, 36 Geary St.

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

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 1, 1903

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## THE ANTI-SMOOT AGITATION

The St. Paul Globe of Nov. 25 presents, on its first page, a very good cut of "The Only Mrs. Smoot." It is a half-tone portrait of Mrs. Reed Smoot, the "only" wife of the Senator, a fact well known and recognized in Utah. But there are other Mrs. Smoots—the Senator's brothers and other relatives bearing that honored name being married men. The Globe states that:

"In the great controversy pending at Washington over the question of Mr. Smoot's fitness for the Senate the polygamy question is uppermost. The Senator alleges that he will bring the only wife he ever had, who is pictured above, and by whom he has five children, to disprove any allegations made against him on that score."

We do not think the Senator made such a statement, but as the lady is going to New York with him on a visit with her mother, Mrs. H. S. Eldredge, it is possible she may go to Washington, not to be exhibited, however, or as an object lesson for any purpose, but to see the capital, where she would shine in any circle.

The agitation over his occupancy of a seat in the United States Senate still continues, and is likely to do so until a settlement of the question is reached, which we believe will not turn on any popular demand, but on the establishment or failure of the charges advanced against his position; nothing is seriously urged against him personally.

We have received a letter from a gentleman in Nebraska that relates to this matter, and as it quotes from the Kansas City Star a statement that has appeared in other papers, we reply to his question, that it may not be said there has been no denial of the allegation that each of the Apostles of the "Mormon" Church takes an oath against the government. He asks us to state whether it is true that a part of that alleged oath is as follows:

"And I furthermore promise and swear that I will hold eternal enmity toward the government of the United States, and will average the death of the Prophet, Joseph Smith."

We assure our correspondent, and all other persons who may have seen and paid attention to this charge, that no such oath, affirmation, obligation or covenant is taken by an Apostle, Elder, officer or member of the "Mormon" Church at any time or in any place.

There have been statements by apostate "Mormons" that have been published, pretending to give accounts of such swearing, but they are conflicting in their language, and made by individuals whose personal character is such that no credence would be given to their word by those that know them.

Honorable men who have seceded from the Church and who have been familiar with its rites and ceremonies, although now out of harmony with the Church and disbelievers in its divine authority, have testified and do testify that no such obligation as that we have copied is taken or required.

Various stories of a sensational nature are being published just now, to keep up the opposition to Senator Smoot and aid in gaining signatures to petitions, but they will probably have the effect, merely, of intensifying public feeling for a time and certainly should have no weight in a fair and calm investigation.

They serve, however, to show the animus and malice of the chief movers in the attempt against him and the Church to which he belongs, and will be the means of attracting attention to "Mormonism," which the Elders in the mission field will doubtless take advantage of, and the result may be the convincing of many honest people that it is true, from the very fact that only falsehood can be arrayed against it.

The St. Louis Chronicle had an editorial recently in which it reviewed the attack of the "club women" on the Senator, and also referred to the question of senatorial seat-buying and kin-

dred matters, and closed with the following pertinent paragraphs:

"From all reports of a staff correspondent of the Chronicle sent to Salt Lake City to investigate, Reed Smoot is a clean man. The searching light of inquiry and investigation turned upon him has failed to disclose a single base or dishonorable act in his whole life. His religion is of the seventh sort. Among his Senatorial colleagues he will be a marked man for his morality."

"This ought to win the club women to him."

"But he is a Mormon and represents Mormonism. That seems to be regarded as worse than being a leading agent of trusts that rob the public, or a conscienceless rogue who makes outcasts of women."

"And what are the Mormons, politically, that they should be considered unworthy of representation in the government of the nation they have done so much to make great?"

"A peaceful, pious, God-fearing, law-abiding, industrious, temperate and provident people."

"Hounded by the persecution of bigots, they worked their way through a continental wilderness, leaving the seeds of civilization and industry in their trail, and took refuge in the heart of a pathless desert, that they might worship God according to their conscience."

"The sands of that desert they have turned into golden seas of grain. Out of the alkali they have reared a great state. Upon beds of salt they have built a metropolis."

"All this marks manhood of a stamp that true Americans delight to give recognition. It deserves representation in the government. More men such as Smoot in the Senate might infinitely elevate the moral and patriotic tone of that body."

"There is not one chance in a thousand that Smoot will be unelected. So the club women may as well return to their dishwashing."

## "POOR LO."

One would hardly suppose that the richest people in the world is an Indian tribe—the Osage Indians who inhabit part of Oklahoma. But this is said to be a fact. We are told by a contributor to The World Today that every one of the 1,833 members of the tribe has a cash balance of \$4,644, deposited in the vaults of Uncle Sam's big bank at Washington, drawing five per cent interest. In addition to this they have each 857 acres of land, about one-fifth of which is in good state of cultivation and is worth from \$10 to \$20 an acre. Of the total remainder, \$88,000 acres, is leased for pasturage, mostly to Texas cattlemen, at an average rental that gives the land a value of \$5 an acre to the Indian. But averaging up the whole at the low valuation of \$5 an acre—and this does not take into consideration the oil, natural gas and coal to be found throughout that region, nor the leap in values that must follow the several lines of railway now being constructed through the reservation—the land holdings of each Osage are easily worth \$5,856. That is to say, a very conservative statement of the wealth of these people must place it at not less than \$11,500 for every man, woman and child of the tribe.

Concerning the tribe the following account may be of interest:

"The tribe comprises seventeen bands, each having its chief; besides whom there is the big chief of the whole tribe, who, by way of distinction from the other lesser chiefs, is given the complace title of 'governor.' He is elected by his people every two years, but the functions of his high office are now almost exclusively social, since of recent years all legislation for the tribe is attended to by the Great Father at Washington. Ne-kah-wah-shun-kah, the present governor-chief, belongs to the Bill Bill band, whose wigwams are in the southwestern part of the reservation near Gray Horse. For while many of them have homes on their farms, built after the manner the white man has showed them, they are not always to be found there. Yielding to their strong social instincts, they dwell much in wigwam villages, especially in summer time; and there is much visiting between bands, as well as between the Osages and other neighboring tribes."

"Fifty years ago the home of the Osages was in southern Kansas, where they owned a strip of land fifty miles wide, reaching two-thirds of the distance across the state. By and by Uncle Sam told the Osages that if they would buy a new homeland from their Cheesah country to the south, he could take better care of them down there. This arrangement pleased the Osages, who after a few years found themselves with more land than they could possibly use, and with upwards of eight and a half millions of dollars to their credit in the United States treasury."

The impression prevails abroad, somewhere, that Uncle Sam has treated the Indians very brutally, but the condition of these "wards of the nation" is a testimony to the contrary, so far as that tribe is concerned. No nations need to fear too close contact with the United States. Prosperity and liberty go hand in hand.

## THOSE TEN MILLIONS.

The New York World has raised the question, why should we pay ten million dollars to Panama for the right of way through the isthmus? Or, why should we pay any sum at all? And, strange as it may seem, the argument implied in this question is gaining ground. It is argued that we obtain no equivalent for the money, but that we give far more than we receive, by recognizing the new republic; by protecting it, policing it, improving it, and paying it a rental of \$250,000 a year. Must we, it is asked, pay \$10,000,000 for the privilege of doing all this? What will the Panamas do with so large a sum? Will they get the money? Will not the expenditure, it made, be an absolutely useless one, a gratuity?

To all of which it is but necessary to say, that the President has already been authorized to acquire such right of way, upon "reasonable" terms, and that in the negotiations with the Colombian republic, ten million dollars appeared "reasonable" to the American commissioners, while twenty-five million dollars looked more "reasonable" to the Colombians. Put it is said that if that right of way was worth, reasonably, ten million dollars a few days ago, it is worth as much now, and to refuse to pay anything at all would be unreasonable. We can hardly believe that anyone will seriously ask our government to repudiate the value it has put on the concessions needed.

The question whether Panama is entitled to the money, or not, is different. That might properly be submitted to the Hague tribunal, and that court might, in passing upon that question, indirectly at least, place the Panamas right before the world with regard to their rights to resume an independent government.

To be exonerated isn't in the same class as not being mixed up in it.

No boy studying arithmetic believes that example is better than precept.

The Dreyfus case is to be opened again. Lay in a supply of smelling salts.

"Graft" seems to have flourished in the postoffice department like a green bay tree.

At Telluride blanket warrants were not issued for miners because of the cold weather.

The trouble with the Grand Rapids, Mich., city officials is that their pace has been too rapid.

"Pati still thrills," says an exchange. Of course she does; in fact, her prices almost paralyze.

Demoli's motion for a writ of habeas corpus was denied so the sheriff will continue to "have his carcass."

The Duke of Roxburgh says that he will never return to this country. For which favor much thanks.

The regular session of Congress will come upon the people gently, they having been prepared for it by the extra session.

Uncle Sam has recognized Panama and now he is going to recognize King Peter of Serbia. Uncle Sam is nothing if not democratic.

Mr. Bristow's report will make the Bundy time record clocks more famous than the clock at the Strasburg or the one that figures in Triptam Shandy.

The coal miners of the northern coal fields of Colorado have settled their differences and returned to work. Now let the coal miners of Utah go and do likewise.

General Brooke's testimony in the Wood case makes one thing very clear—that either he or General Wood is not fit to be a major-general in the United States army.

"Philadelphia is the clearing house for tramps after the Mississippi," said James Forbes of the New York Charity Organization Society. Who can blame the tramps for wanting to clear out of Philadelphia?

The proprietor of a leading Boston bookstore has been arrested for selling Boccaccio's "Decameron." The arrest is doubt to increase the sales. It is very doubtful if such arrests do not do far more harm than good.

The art of conversation is said to be, in large measure, the art of listening. True, but the great trouble comes in in deciding who shall listen and who shall talk. That decided, all goes merry as a marriage bell.

The army fortification board recommends that for each large caliber gun one hundred rounds of ammunition be provided, and for each rapid-fire gun, two hundred and fifty rounds. It is a wise recommendation, for while every one realizes that a gun is dangerous without lock, stock or barrel, they must also realize that great guns without ammunition are useless.

CARRIE NATION.

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN.

One of her boasts on arriving in Washington was that she had been arrested nineteen times. If arrests contribute to glory, her glory is greater than ever, for now she has been arrested twenty times. Mrs. Nation is a frenk. The moral significance she has conferred upon the hatchet is inferior to that which it has before, by reason of the whimsical anecdote of Washington and the cherry tree. Yet she is at her best when she is selling hatchets.

Los Angeles Times.

Mrs. Nation's methods may be bizarre and indiscreet, as well as un-effective, but when one stops to consider the tremendous evils brought upon the world by drink he must acknowledge that it is even better for Mrs. Nation to knock the "joins" than that they be not knocked at all. At the same time we submit that Carrie oughtn't to make a holy show of herself in the White House, and that she would be more sympathetic for her and her cause were it not so clearly apparent that she is working a more or less modest graft in the name of temperance. And that is the city of Joins. The cause is too sacred to be made a means of graft by mountebanks.

Sacramento Bee.

It may be an open question whether Carrie Nation is more of a fanatic than a humbug, but she is certainly a compound of both. The method in her madness was shown at Washington in her brief sales of her emblematic little hatchets, after she had advertised herself sufficiently by her noisy behavior.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The public has regarded her performance with an amused toleration born of the proverbial American good nature and the equally proverbial respect which Americans show to all women, and which has been extended in her case in overlooking measure simply because she is old and alone and has known many sorrows. But there are should be limits to this tolerance. If all law is not to be regarded as a joke that which provides for maintaining the "peace and dignity" of the community should be enforced once in a while. If Mrs. Nation is now defying it with impunity why should it be invoked against others no more plainly guilty of disorderly conduct? If she can "smash" a joint with a hatchet and escape the penalty why forbid smashing a safe with nitroglycerine?

Kansas City Star.

One is almost disposed to enjoy the style in which she goes at things with hatchet and tongue. The way she strikes from the shoulder is refreshing even to persons who have the least admiration for her judgment. She is distinctly inopportune she is always breaking in where she is not wanted; she has no sense of propriety and she is as truculent as a wild Indian. Cravens can make themselves mighty peevish and troublesome, but they have not proved wholly ineffectual in overturning the altars of sin. Satan is so ill at ease with her manner of assault and so ill at ease with her manner of assault that he is not only to attack him in the open, but to like-wise steal upon him in gum shoes and with feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The December number of the Improvement Era is at hand, with much excellent reading matter. The frontispiece this time is a fine portrait of the late Elder John Jaques. On "The editor's table" will be found an excellent article by President Joseph F. Smith on "Worship in the Home." The entire list of contents is as follows: "Joseph Smith as Scientist," Dr. John A. Whitsoe; "Never Despair," a poem; "A Collect for Thanksgiving Day," a poem, Edwin Markham; "The Discipline of Missionary," Henry H. Hays; "Fisherman Knute's Christmas Gift," H. Nephi Anderson; "Immortality of the Spirit," S. J. Foster; "Be a Sunbeam," President Lyman; "Travels and Ministry," Joseph J. Cannon; "Life Lessons," a poem, Zina C. Crocheron; "A Patriarchal Blessing and its Realization," Dr. J. X. Allen; "Reflections," Elmer Bronson, Jr.; "Mortals vs. Spirituals," "Public Workers," John Jaques; "The Gospel," a poem, George W. Crocheron; "Some Leading Events in the Current Story of the World—The Revolution in Panama," Dr. J. M. Tanner; "Talks to Young Men, II—The Prudent Man," "Renewal," a poem, Bertha E. Anderson; "Editor's Table—Worship in the Home," President Joseph F. Smith; "The Prophet's Natal Day—Mormon Doctrine of Duty," Notes; "In Lighter Mood," "Our Work—Amusements and Entertainments—Conjoint Meetings—The General Improvement Fund—M. I. A. Conferences," and "Events of the Month," Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

The Black Cat for December has a prize story, "The Patent Envelope," and four other short stories in the excellent style peculiar to this magazine.—Short story Pub. Co., Boston, Mass.

The Christmas number of Lee's Magazine is very neatly gotten up. The following is the list of contents: "The Death of the Oycamans," Virginia Rudder Grundy; "Portrait—Editor and Publisher Lee's Magazine," "The Silent Partner," Erin McMahon Putnam; "Optimistic," poem, S. D. Gardner; "The Settling of Bridget O'Finnigan," Florence A. Lopez; "Your Kiss," poem, Mattie Lee Adams; "A Day in the Sierra Madras," Mrs. L. N. Wiswall; "Margaret's Poet," poem, illustrated, Mrs. M. A. Richard; "Santa Claus," poem, Ida Cleora Ball; "Somewhere," poem, Winfield L. Scott; and "Book Review,"—610 Pemberton Building, Boston, Mass.

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50 Ladies' \$4.00 Cloth Walking Skirts, for each.	\$3.00	5,000 pair Knitted Garments, all kinds, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$2.00	30c
100 Ladies' \$1.50 Cream Pure Silk Shawls, for each.	\$1.00	100 pair Ladies' Lamb Knit Golf Gloves, (per pair)	50c
200 Ladies' \$2.25 Cream Pure Silk Shawls, for each.	\$1.50	500 Men's Heavy Wool Undershirts or Drawers	\$1.00
100 Boys' \$2.50 Heavy Knee Pant Suits, ages 8 to 13, for each.	\$1.85	500 Ladies' \$1.25 Black Silkline Waists	90c
100 Youths' \$5.00 Heavy 3-piece Long Pant Suits, 19 to 18, for each.	\$4.00	500 Ladies' \$1.50 Black Silkline Waists	\$1.00
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