

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 ICRENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.  
 (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)  
 Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets,  
 Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose, Editor  
 George Whitney, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.  
 One Year, in advance, \$3.00  
 Six Months, " " 1.50  
 Three Months, " " .75  
 One Month, " " .25  
 One Week, " " .10  
 Saturday edition, per year, 2.10  
 Semi-Weekly, " " 2.00

EASTERN OFFICE  
 194-196 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 DESERET NEWS,  
 Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 9, 1901.

## THE SOUTHERN ROUTE AGAIN.

A movement is on foot to urge upon the Southern Pacific company, the importance of changing its projected route by a cut-off across the northern end of the Great Salt Lake, to a road passing near the south end of the lake. This may not suit our Ogden friends and the folks in their immediate neighborhood, but the effort ought to be made for the benefit of the traveling public, for the interest of the railroad company, and for the advantages to the metropolis of the State.

The Deseret News has several times presented the matter to public consideration. This southern route was advised by the late President Brigham Young, while the continental highway was in process of construction. He was not listened to then, but the wisdom of his counsel and the strength of his foresight have since been acknowledged. The plan for the cut-off is a tact acknowledgment that the adoption of the northern route was a mistake.

The route past the south end of the lake is the easiest to follow, because of the even grade, and the cheap construction requiring no bridges, tunnels or other expensive works. It would be longer than the cut-off route, but it would be all land work instead of water work, and it would render feasible a spur to the Deep Creek mines, or by building further west than the survey to Lucin, could take in those mines and secure profitable business.

The cost of the trestle work if the cut-off plan is pursued, the probability of ill effects from storms on the lake, the terrible consequences if any disaster should occur on that route, and the insecurity of filling instead of a solid land bed, are formidable obstacles when contrasted with the safe and easy route at the south end of the lake, and the situation ought to be clearly and forcibly portrayed to the promoters of the new railway schemes, before definite action is taken.

The benefits to the road as well as to the people here, which would result from a route directly through this city need not be emphasized, as they must be self-evident. Salt Lake is bound to be a great distributing point, therefore an important railway center, and the Southern Pacific people ought not to be slow in perceiving these advantages. Let the plan be pressed.

## WOULD-BE FUNSTONS.

The evil influence of the dime novel and the journalism that is its nearest kin, upon the youthful mind is sometimes disputed, and more often it is not considered as seriously as it deserves to be. But the other day an event occurred in New York, which demonstrates the power of literature to influence the thoughts and acts of those who have not obtained maturity enough to think and act independently.

It was after the announcement had been made of the capture of Aguinaldo. Two boys, ten and eleven years old respectively, read about Funston's exploit. The younger boy secured a loaded revolver, made his companion his chief aide, organized a band of privates and set forth in the wilds of New York to hunt Philipinos. They found an Aguinaldo very soon in the person of a ten-year-old boy, the son of a cigarmaker. Into the poor child's face was thrust the weapon, and at the same time terrible shouts of triumph were raised. Fortunately a policeman happened to see the dangerous play, and stopped it before a tragedy was enacted. But for the timely interference of the officer of the law, the boys might have become the slayers of their playmate, as a result of a newspaper article.

The case is by no means exceptional. Boys, fired with patriotism by the glowing accounts of the wars of their country, will play battles. They will organize armies, build snow forts and plan attacks and defense with the seriousness of army leaders in the field. At other times, inflamed by the fanciful tales of adventures among Indians, they will band together and play the "wild west show," to the best of their ability, even in countries where no Indians as far as known, ever were seen. Sometimes when the papers have been full of accounts of an execution, little children will be seen to catch toads, or other small animals, "try" them and strangle them to death. The child is an actor. It enacts the scenes of real life, depicting it as near as possible in its plays, and the important point to notice is this, that these plays are as much character-forming as the more serious acts and occupations of the grown up people, perhaps more so.

If this is true, how great is the responsibility of parents and guardians, as to the literature they place in the hands of the children! How great is the responsibility of framers of public opinion in regard to the manner in which they present current events to the public, and the comments they make upon them. This is a subject that should be carefully considered by the leaders of the press, the stage and the pulpit.

It is said, sometimes, that the public has in this line just what it wants, and what it is willing to pay for, as if that

ended the responsibility of those that control the sources of supply. But if that reasoning were justifiable, it would be equally so applied to some other things. The manager of a gambling place, or an opium den might plead that he is but selling what one class of the public wants. Some people undoubtedly want the kind of spiritual food that poisons the imagination of youth, blunts the moral senses and helps to make men and women, lynchers, murderers and thieves, but the best part of the public views with concern the growing indifference to the quality of that inspiration which is to be drawn from the educational forces of the present time.

## CUSTOM-HOUSE AFFLICTIONS.

From time to time complaints are made by travelers about the brutal manner in which custom house rules are enforced in American ports of entry, and the complaints are certainly well founded. The latest criticism comes from a New York correspondent to the London Times. The writer says:

"The coarse methods of the New York custom house have now become those of mere brutality. After some months of comparative decency new officials appear and new rules are suddenly applied. The friends of arriving passengers are excluded from the pier. The passengers themselves, women included—not some, but all—are held in a detention which amounts to arrest on suspicion of smuggling, and are not allowed to leave the pier or communicate with their friends. The search is minute, vexatious, and destructive to property, which is strewn about the floor. It is prolonged for hours on the wind-swept dock the victims meantime being exposed to inconvenience, annoyance, insult, and humiliation. The immediate instrument of these is the deputy surveyor, Mr. Croft; the ultimate responsibility rests on Mr. Bidwell, collector, and Mr. Gage, secretary of the treasury. The American public grumbles, protests, and submits, though the detention is certainly illegal, and the other acts are probably illegal."

"Under the old rules English passengers escaped, the personal-luggage clause not reaching them. They are now swept into the net. Whoever proposes to journey hither must expect to endure on landing temporary imprisonment and a whole series of wanton persecutions. Mr. Spaulding, assistant secretary of the treasury, publishes an apology for these proceedings, based entirely on the usual treasury view that the last possible dollar of duties on personal luggage should be extorted from innocent passengers. To do that the treasury is willing to expose the United States to obloquy, and make its customs rule one of pure barbarism."

Due vigilance should, of course, be observed for the protection of the American trade, but there is absolutely no need of barbarous, or inquisitorial measures. Travelers should not be presumed to be thieves, though there may be some dishonest individuals among them. In no other country, except Turkey perhaps, are they subjected to such indignities as here complained of, and there the officials themselves are not any more honest than they ought to be. In civilized countries travelers are, on landing, treated as ladies and gentlemen, unless there are reasons for a contrary procedure.

The theory here is, we presume, that the country cannot afford to lose the dollar a tourist may owe the government on dutiable goods, but the fact is that, if customs regulations are so strict as to drive away the tourists, the country will lose thousands of dollars to every one dollar extracted by obnoxious custom house officials.

## THE ORIENTAL COMPLICATIONS.

It is a curious and significant coincidence that a rebellion is threatened in China, at the same time Russia declares her intentions not to insist on the annexation of Manchuria. If that rebellion assumes large proportions, the Czar's government would have a new excuse for sending troops east, and to place them at convenient points for the protection of Russia's railroad and other interests. And with a sufficient military strength in eastern Asia, she might resume the negotiations for control over the coveted Chinese province.

Russia has always gained her point by assuming a waiting attitude and advancing when the opportunities were favorable. She learned patience in the Crimean war, and found that by waiting long enough she could gain her object cheaper than by war, and at the present time not one power is in a position to arrest the growth of her naval strength on the Black Sea, though that was the very object for which that war was fought. Russia is again simply waiting. The time will yet come when the Chinese emperor will be compelled to sign the Manchurian treaty, or the province will become Russian without any formal treaty. The assurances from Washington, that our government accepts Russian statements regarding the evacuation of the province, as sincere and made in good faith, cannot be taken seriously. It would be incorrect to profess, officially, to discredit what a diplomat says officially; but for all that, no one entertains any doubts as to Russia's real intentions.

Russia has a large program to carry out. She aims at a dominating position on the Pacific coast in Asia. She bides her time as to the opportune moment of seizing Constantinople, making the Black Sea a Russian lake and the Bosphorus a Russian channel. At the same time she is looking across the Scandinavian peninsula toward the Atlantic ocean. It is told on reliable authority that the Russian government has a plan formulated for the invasion of northern Norway, and that this plan may be carried out, when the fortification of Archangel shall have been completed. The coercion of Finland is supposed to be one of the preliminaries of this plan. For it is hoped to provoke the Finns to rebellion, and thus obtain a pretext for flooding the country with troops. The next step would be to provoke some border dispute, and the sequel would be the annexation of the part desired. "In order to prevent future disturbances," Russia's program in the east, south, and west is no enigma to anyone acquainted with her history since Czar Peter.

At the same time it is significant that the European powers appear to be grouping themselves slowly against Russia. Even the affection of France

is waning. Europe is ringing with protests against the bigotry that has kindled the fires of disturbances throughout the empire, and if Japan should at this time make an aggressive move against the giant of the north, it is doubtful whether Russia would have a single friend. In all probability Russia's backdown in Manchuria was considered necessary, for prudential reasons, in order to avert a possible conflict with Japan at this time. Whether it can be entirely avoided seems to be doubtful, as long as both powers aim at supremacy in eastern Asia.

## STILL TALKING PEACE.

A London report has it that Botha is about to resume the peace negotiations with Lord Kitchener. If there is any foundation in fact for that rumor, it may be presumed that the Boers are willing to accept even less favorable terms than were offered them some time ago, when the initiative seems to have been taken by the British general. At all events, the rumor, if true, proves that the Boer leaders are about to abandon their cause as lost.

The rumors as to the true cause of the failure of the previous negotiations are conflicting. It is alleged that one of the points at issue between Lord Kitchener and General Dewet was the future status of non-Protestants. The latter is said to have objected to the demands of religious liberty for Catholics and Jews. The outlanders have for years complained about the constitutional restrictions placed upon non-Protestants. The British insisted upon the removal of these restrictions, and the Boer leaders are said to have refused to consent to that condition, preferring the extermination of their followers to the establishment of full liberty.

The Boers themselves, however, maintain that no reliance can be placed upon the London reports. They claim that General Botha was at one time offered a salary of \$50,000 a year as an inducement for him to lay down his arms, but that he refused the offer. They state that the real question at issue was the independence of the republics, which the British refused to consider at all. That and the refusal of the British to grant amnesty to the Dutch in the Cape Colony, who had identified themselves with the Boer cause, brought the negotiations to an end. General Botha's conditions were:

"Restoration of full rights to every burgher; restoration of property; free pardon to every Cape rebel who had joined the Boer forces and a free form of government to both republics."

It is now a year and a half since the commencement of the Boer war. It has cost Great Britain 15,000 men and perhaps \$800,000,000 in money. The expenses far exceed those of the Crimean campaign, and if the struggle is to continue, the cost will be still further augmented. Besides this, it has cost the British empire much prestige in other parts of the world. Everything considered, it would be better for Great Britain to grant liberal terms of peace than to go on with a conflict that seems well nigh interminable. But the war, having been waged to this point, should not be ended until religious liberty is secured. That cannot be sacrificed. It would be of no advantage to the Boers to have political independence, if they do not grant equal rights to all creeds and races. War is a curse to any country, but very often it prepares the way for better conditions. Then it becomes a blessing. Perhaps this long conflict was necessary to open the two republics to that liberty without which no progress is possible.

## A FRIGHTFUL SCARE.

The New York Society for Political Study had a fearful experience on April 2, according to a report of the proceedings in the New York Herald of April 3. It appears that the assembly was wrestling with the "Mormon" question with great zeal and earnestness. Obligations to the social evils existing around them and poisoning the very air they breathed, they were arguing on the necessity of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to meet the imaginary polygamous situation in far off Utah, when the terror came upon them which is thus described in the paper already mentioned:

"Just as the society was discussing whether or not it would amend the United States Constitution yesterday a ferocious mouse descended upon it. Never before in the history of women's clubdom has such a catastrophe occurred. The fierce beast came briskly out of its lair and skipped joyously over the threshold of Genoa Hall, in West Fifty-eighth street, where the meeting was being held. It then calmly made its way up the aisle while its unconscious victims debated the horrors of Mormonism and the need for an anti-polygamy amendment."

"Reaching the first row of occupied seats the mouse came under the observation of a demure young lady on the end of the row. She gasped for breath. 'There's a mouse!' she wailed. 'In vain Mrs. Helen Clarke, the club's president, sought to keep the members quiet with the magic of her own calm. In vain Mrs. Albert Johnson sought to hold their attention with tales of Mormon deceit. The members were distracted with fear. 'Oh, Oh!' 'Oh!' came from all the hall, as the invader continued to make its way to the platform, apparently inspired with a determination to eat up Miss Theresa Barclay, the first vice president. 'Then the heroine of the day arose. It was Miss M. E. Carter, who recently denounced rectors. 'It's only a little mouse, ladies,' she cried, 'a new member.'"

"Move to lay the anti-polygamy discussion on the table, ventured a timid voice. The motion was carried, and as if this was all that the mouse had wanted, it came quietly around the hall and vanished in a crack in the wall."

A combine of capital for less than a billion these days is a matter of secondary importance.

The strife for the possession of the railroad grade beyond Uvada is certainly degrading whatever else it may be.

The trouble over the siding at Tien Tain is insignificant compared with the trouble on the main line beyond Uvada.

Aguinaldo is purchasing diamonds and jewelry. Like a child he seems "pleased with a rattle, tickled with a toy."

Yesterday the children of Washington indulged in egg rolling on the lawn in front of the White House. The log

rolling is done in and around the Capitol. It is no child's play.

Uncle Sam places a great deal of faith in Russia. That is all very well, but he couldn't place a little bit of new creed in Russia.

Gen. Botha still desires to negotiate for peace. He seems to be in the predicament of crying peace when there is no peace.

In his forthcoming pronunciamento Aguinaldo should be careful to make it appear that his surrender was manifest destiny.

Dr. Gatling, inventor of the gun of that name, has invented a new plow. Is it his intention to turn Gatling guns into plowshares?

Of course Longfellow was right when he said, "Some days must be dark and dreary," but one cannot help asking, "How many must?"

So nervous is Czar Nicholas that there is talk of his giving up his throne. If he would give his subjects more liberty he would be much less nervous.

The weather clerk will have to give a better account of himself than he has for the past few weeks if he has any political ambitions and hopes to realize them.

The Board of Education had better let the Tenth ward square alone. It will make a handsome and needed public park when the D. A. M. association vacates the rancho.

The Mayor seems to have struck it right with his little veto. The new bike ordinance did not meet with public favor, and its denecence is unannounced by cyclists and walkists as well.

William Lloyd Garrison declares that he would rather be Aguinaldo in jail than McKinley as President. "They're no accounting for tastes," as the old woman said when she kissed the cow.

They have begun the slaughter of horses for food at Seattle. Quite a market for the meat has been opened in Norway and Sweden, where they do not find the product at all uncanny.

The friends of education must not forget to cast their votes in favor of borrowing the necessary funds to keep the school open for the full school year. Next Monday is the day to determine the question.

It seems that the Boers have made up their minds to fight to a finish. That means extermination. They have put up a brave and gallant fight, but unless something unforeseen happens, they are doomed to ultimate defeat through the process of attrition alone.

The secretary of state has just handed the Mexican ambassador a draft for two thousand dollars, "paid out of humane consideration and without reference to the question of liability," as full indemnity to the heirs of Florentino Suste, a Mexican who was lynched in Texas some six years ago. The "humane consideration" amounts to a plea in abatement and is an easy way of getting out of a nasty international difficulty. But how regrettable it is that the inhuman lynchings cannot be done away with entirely. "Humane considerations" can never wipe out the blot of the inhuman murders.

There was a meeting of prominent educators in Kansas City, the other day. One of them in the course of an able paper said:

"Shall we continue to pile it on until the children cannot stand under the load? Every crank who comes along wants to put everything into the schools, and so it is that well meaning school boards continue to load."

How very true that is. Too often the cranks are allowed to experiment in the schools to the detriment of education and the injury of the pupils. There is no royal road to learning and there is no excellence without labor, yet many times untutored cake pretenders in teaching are given too much sway. In teaching children the true theory is not how much is taught, but how thoroughly.

## GENERAL FUNSTON.

Springfield Republican.  
 The president, as a reward for distinguished services in the capture of Aguinaldo, has elevated Gen. Funston to a position which makes him a leading general of the United States army and places him in direct line for the command of the army, to be reached in the natural order of events not many years hence. Nevertheless, the daring Kansan has had no military training or experience beyond what he has gained during the past three years as a soldier of fortune with the insurgents in Cuba and a commander of volunteer troops in the Philippines.

Worcester Spy.  
 Gen. Funston's reward for his daring rise that resulted in the capture of Aguinaldo has come with remarkable swiftness. His appointment Saturday by the president to a brigadier-generalship in the regular army was an eloquent testimonial of the appreciation in which the government holds his recent services.

Chicago News.  
 Naturally remained for a member of the Texas legislature to unmask the villainy of this troublesome man, Funston of Kansas. The Texas member, it appears, had previously committed himself to the proposition that Aguinaldo is the George Washington of the Philippine Islands. Now, the breast of every patriotic American must swell with indignation at the thought of George Washington being ignominiously captured in his overalls and run into the guardhouse. The breast of the Texas member is swollen to twice its normal size, and he proposes a resolution of condemnation for the woolly Kansan who has put an indelible slight upon the father of his country.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
 Oh, Funston, Funston, Funston, push your chest out while you may; The world is looking at you and applauding you today.  
 For you the bells are ringing,  
 And for you the birds are singing—  
 But tomorrow some one else may come in view—  
 One who has a song to sing,  
 Or a dagger for a king,  
 And the world will cease to have a thought of you.

New York Journal.  
 Funston's exploit has borne prompt fruit. After inspecting the monster of American rule at close range, Funston, with his reconstructed comrades, Aguinaldo has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States. At last the war is over. True, the Filipino representatives in America will not admit the fact. They say that there are

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plenty of other generals as good as Aguinaldo, and insist that the fighting will go on just the same. But in their hearts they probably know better.

## Los Angeles Times.

In the course of his long, varied and strenuous service as a soldier, Funston became an apt pupil in the difficult school of partisan warfare, and finally graduated as a master in that school. He has developed a pronounced talent for the intrepid leadership of scouting parties engaged in dangerous undertakings, and at the same time has shown capacity for larger commands. He is small, wiry, nervous, quick and hardy. On the march and in action he is well-nigh tireless, despite his severe wounds received while serving in Cuba, and shows "the patient watch and vigil long" of him who is determined to come up with his enemy and get away with him.

## San Francisco Chronicle.

Sound judgment, wise planning and vigorous execution are evidences of fitness to command, but the feature of the capture which deserves the most marked recognition was the assumption of the extra war risk of penetrating an enemy's country in disguise. Assuming that the Philippine rebels are entitled to belligerent rights, the failure and capture of General Funston and his men would have subjected them to treatment as spies. The entire conduct of the expedition shows military capacity and enterprise of a very high order.

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