

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 28, 1901.

TO SCHOOL BOARDS AND OTHERS.

The Deseret News has spoken very plainly several times on the subject of contagious diseases and their prevention, and has emphasized the instructions sent out from the State Board of Health by its secretary, Dr. Beatty. There is one point of importance to which we now desire to draw attention, particularly that of the boards of education in the cities, and the trustees in the country districts where books and school utensils are provided by those authorities.

School books when used by different individuals, particularly when covered with any kind of cloth material, are liable to carry germs of infection if handled by a person in the incipient or advanced stage of a contagious disease. They should be kept for the use of the pupil who receives them until the end of the term. It would be better to cover the books with stiff paper than with any sort of cloth. They should be in any event fumigated and thoroughly disinfected at the end of the term, and before allowing any other person to handle them.

One of the dangerous practices in times of contagion, is that of permitting children to use pencils that have been handled by other children. The pencil is frequently held in the mouth when not employed in writing, and if the child so using it is in any stage of a contagious disease, the germs, which are imperceptible to the senses, may become fastened upon the pencil from the breath, and when used in the same way by another child may impart the disease in a malignant form. Some diseases become more virulent by transmission. It would be better to stop supplying pens and pencils to the schools altogether than to have them used indiscriminately as at present. Let each child use its own pen, and pencil, and books, without being passed to others, or else let the parents supply these articles and reserve them to their individual use.

Ridding the lips of a child suffering from a contagious disease is often the means of communicating it to others. It is a foolish and needless custom. It is "better honored in the breach than in the observance." If a sick person must be kissed, let the salute be on the brow or anywhere rather than on the lips. There is too much kissing of sick persons, anyhow, for the general health. It should be stopped altogether.

If the idea can once be clearly impressed upon the minds of our people that disease may be carried from one person to another, by means of infected clothing and by waste matter from sick persons that has not been disinfected, also that fifth of all kinds forms a suitable breeding place for disease germs, and there will be reason to hope for the stamping out of those complaints, that afflict so many of our children and spread suffering and death among people of all ages.

It is necessary to harp on this one string until its vibrations reach not only the ears but the hearts and minds of the public, and until they are induced to use proper precautions and all unite in striving to prevent the spread of infection. Every individual should be interested in this important subject, and boards of education and school trustees, who have the care and oversight of school children, ought to be keenly alive to the momentous question of the preservation of juvenile and general health.

LOCAL YELLOW JOURNALISM.

What is popularly known as yellow journalism is becoming somewhat unpopular. We hope it will reach the stage of repudiation by the reading public. It is different from that which is termed sensationalism. The latter will be for a long time a feature of newspaperdom. People like to be startled. The love of the marvelous animates the multitude. Common things, or those that are unusual, present in an ordinary manner, do not attract great attention. Therefore, display headlines and large type will continue to disfigure daily journals, until better taste is cultivated among the masses.

But "yellow journalism," which consists largely of either bald falsehoods or gross exaggerations and extreme burlesques of the truth, dressed up in striking language or depicted in coarse cartoons, is unjustifiable even by popular demand for that sort of evil, and it is pleasing to learn that the appetite for it is becoming satiated.

Salt Lake City can do very well without that kind of journalism. It will not win in the long run. On two or three occasions it has been announced in flaring headlines and flaming sentences, that lynching was contemplated by the Salt Lake populace, and people at a distance have been led to look upon our community, as a wild and lawless and lawless city, when there was scarcely a threat of fact in the whole fabric of fiction. This has been now repeated. It does no good, but may do considerable harm.

The confession made by the brute who assaulted little girl, aroused much indignation very naturally, and explosive persons were heard to say the wretch ought to be lynched, and that if he was in some place a mob would soon settle his fate at the end of a rope. This casual talk had been magnified by a morning paper into a lurid story about a mob organized to attack the jail and hang the prisoner. It is stated that this was "heard in every corner" that the threats were so general that the jailer called his keys, and had guns prepared for action, with police rifles ready for reinforcement.

All this is the yellowest kind of sensationalism. In "every corner" where inquiries have been made no mob appears to have been even a whisper of such an "organized" attempt to break the law. It is possible that in some saloon or saloons such inflammatory language was heard, and that the rumor reached the jail and the police. But that is all. Lynching is not contemplated in Salt Lake. The law is respected here. The culprit will be fairly tried and punished on conviction. No mob has been or will be organized to interfere with the law's progress or authority. Such misleading and defamatory tales ought not to be permitted to appear in print. Entertaining reporters are anxious to make up a good story, but they should not be encouraged in manufacturing "rot." We make this protest on behalf of the law-abiding citizens, who know that the yarn fabricated on this occasion is false in material and "yellow" in coloring. It renders the paper that indulges in or permits it unreliable, and is of no earthly benefit to anybody. Let us have facts; presented if need be in attractive or even ornate style, but down with glaring yellow journalism!

ASIATICS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A special bulletin prepared under the direction of Mr. William C. Hunt, chief statistician for population, gives figures showing the total number and distribution of Chinese and Japanese residents in the United States. The figures are of interest at the present time, when there is a strong agitation in favor of the continuation of the provisions of the Chinese exclusion act. They show that the largest number by far is found in the western states and territories, and that, consequently, the West is most directly interested in the matter.

According to the Twelfth census, there were 119,050 Chinese in the country. Of these, 25,767 were in Hawaii, 2,114 in Alaska, 394 at military and naval stations abroad, and 89,863 in the United States proper. Of this number 67,723 were enumerated in the West, distributed as follows: Arizona, 1,419; California, 45,733; Colorado, 599; Idaho, 1,467; Montana, 1,763; Nevada, 1,352; New Mexico, 941; Oregon, 10,337; Utah, 473; Washington, 2,629; and Wyoming, 461.

The Japanese are not quite as numerous as the Chinese. The Twelfth census returned 85,690, and of these 61,111 were in Hawaii, 279 in Alaska, 254 at military and naval stations abroad, and 24,358 in the United States proper. Of this number 23,376 were found in the West, distributed as follows: Arizona, 281; California, 19,151; Colorado, 48; Idaho, 1,201; Montana, 2,441; Nevada, 223; New Mexico, 8; Oregon, 2,501; Utah, 417; Washington, 5,617; and Wyoming, 333.

California and the Hawaiian Islands have the greatest number of these Asiatic residents, and it is but natural that the agitation for the exclusion of new arrivals of that class, should be strongest there. Public sentiment in California has been strongly expressed against lifting the bars, to permit Chinese immigration. And now the Hawaiian delegate to Congress, Mr. Robert Wilcox, comes instructed to present resolutions favoring the prevention of further immigration of Asiatics to the Islands. The resolutions by the "Home Rule" party declare that while 90 per cent of the Asiatics that are in the country came from the Orient to be plantation laborers, less than 35 per cent of them are such now, the rest being engaged in competing with the whites and Hawaiians as mechanics and merchants. That is the root of the trouble everywhere. The Asiatics are supposed to be industrial rivals, with whom white laborers cannot compete.

This, of course, is not apparent in the East, where the intruders are so few, but as the matter appears to be chiefly a Western question, the experience of a Westerner, the experience of the West is entitled to the chief consideration.

PUNGENT COMMENTS.

The anti-"Mormon" outburst in Denver on Sunday, November 17, has occasioned considerable comment in the press, and we are pleased to note, not a little dissent to the expressions used by the sectarian preachers who rushed into print in concert. We clip the annexed paragraphs from an editorial in the Ogden Standard, which is a non-"Mormon" evening newspaper:

"There is an old saying that you must go away from home to get the news, and certain it is that much of what the Denver ministers have to say against the people of Utah is strange to new. One of the preachers asserts that the 'Mormons' are a shiftless, lazy lot, yet everyone who has visited this portion of the Intermountain country has been carried away with the conquest of the desert, accomplished by the people so severely condemned and misrepresented by expounders of the gospel who will not take the time to investigate for themselves, but are ready to accept all the sensational stories related about Utah and her inhabitants.

"There is shown to be too much of a disposition to attack 'Mormonism' because it is an advancing, spreading creed, rather than oppose it for what errors in morals are disclosed in its teachings. With the wiping out of 'polygamy' 'Mormonism' cannot afford the most sensitive Gentile except in so much as he may object to the method proposed for following the pathway that leads to eternal life.

The following sarcastic paragraph concerning a faded star that once twinkled with a two-faced glimmer in Utah, is from the Inter-Mountain Catholic, of November 23. We were not aware that he was shedding his false light in Denver, indeed his presence anywhere seems to be shrouded in fog:

"Among the Denver ministers who made 'Mormonism' the topic of last Sunday's sermons, we failed to find the name of the erstwhile 'Henry Ward Beecher of Utah,' that Methodist political campaigner who played the 'Mormon'

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All this is the yellowest kind of sensationalism. In "every corner" where inquiries have been made no mob appears to have been even a whisper of such an "organized" attempt to break the law. It is possible that in some saloon or saloons such inflammatory language was heard, and that the rumor reached the jail and the police. But that is all. Lynching is not contemplated in Salt Lake. The law is respected here. The culprit will be fairly tried and punished on conviction. No mob has been or will be organized to interfere with the law's progress or authority. Such misleading and defamatory tales ought not to be permitted to appear in print. Entertaining reporters are anxious to make up a good story, but they should not be encouraged in manufacturing "rot." We make this protest on behalf of the law-abiding citizens, who know that the yarn fabricated on this occasion is false in material and "yellow" in coloring. It renders the paper that indulges in or permits it unreliable, and is of no earthly benefit to anybody. Let us have facts; presented if need be in attractive or even ornate style, but down with glaring yellow journalism!

According to the Twelfth census, there were 119,050 Chinese in the country. Of these, 25,767 were in Hawaii, 2,114 in Alaska, 394 at military and naval stations abroad, and 89,863 in the United States proper. Of this number 67,723 were enumerated in the West, distributed as follows: Arizona, 1,419; California, 45,733; Colorado, 599; Idaho, 1,467; Montana, 1,763; Nevada, 1,352; New Mexico, 941; Oregon, 10,337; Utah, 473; Washington, 2,629; and Wyoming, 461.

The Japanese are not quite as numerous as the Chinese. The Twelfth census returned 85,690, and of these 61,111 were in Hawaii, 279 in Alaska, 254 at military and naval stations abroad, and 24,358 in the United States proper. Of this number 23,376 were found in the West, distributed as follows: Arizona, 281; California, 19,151; Colorado, 48; Idaho, 1,201; Montana, 2,441; Nevada, 223; New Mexico, 8; Oregon, 2,501; Utah, 417; Washington, 5,617; and Wyoming, 333.

California and the Hawaiian Islands have the greatest number of these Asiatic residents, and it is but natural that the agitation for the exclusion of new arrivals of that class, should be strongest there. Public sentiment in California has been strongly expressed against lifting the bars, to permit Chinese immigration. And now the Hawaiian delegate to Congress, Mr. Robert Wilcox, comes instructed to present resolutions favoring the prevention of further immigration of Asiatics to the Islands. The resolutions by the "Home Rule" party declare that while 90 per cent of the Asiatics that are in the country came from the Orient to be plantation laborers, less than 35 per cent of them are such now, the rest being engaged in competing with the whites and Hawaiians as mechanics and merchants. That is the root of the trouble everywhere. The Asiatics are supposed to be industrial rivals, with whom white laborers cannot compete.

This, of course, is not apparent in the East, where the intruders are so few, but as the matter appears to be chiefly a Western question, the experience of a Westerner, the experience of the West is entitled to the chief consideration.

The anti-"Mormon" outburst in Denver on Sunday, November 17, has occasioned considerable comment in the press, and we are pleased to note, not a little dissent to the expressions used by the sectarian preachers who rushed into print in concert. We clip the annexed paragraphs from an editorial in the Ogden Standard, which is a non-"Mormon" evening newspaper:

"There is an old saying that you must go away from home to get the news, and certain it is that much of what the Denver ministers have to say against the people of Utah is strange to new. One of the preachers asserts that the 'Mormons' are a shiftless, lazy lot, yet everyone who has visited this portion of the Intermountain country has been carried away with the conquest of the desert, accomplished by the people so severely condemned and misrepresented by expounders of the gospel who will not take the time to investigate for themselves, but are ready to accept all the sensational stories related about Utah and her inhabitants.

"There is shown to be too much of a disposition to attack 'Mormonism' because it is an advancing, spreading creed, rather than oppose it for what errors in morals are disclosed in its teachings. With the wiping out of 'polygamy' 'Mormonism' cannot afford the most sensitive Gentile except in so much as he may object to the method proposed for following the pathway that leads to eternal life.

The following sarcastic paragraph concerning a faded star that once twinkled with a two-faced glimmer in Utah,