

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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AS TO DEATH REPORTS.

The chief statistician in charge of the

division of vital statistics in the govern-

ment census bureau, has written to

Dr. T. B. Beatty, secretary of the Utah

State board of health, in reference to

the registration of deaths required by

law. He intimates that unless the nec-

essary reports are made by physicians

and undertakers, it will be necessary

to resort to some prosecutions. This

course is not desired, nor is it desirable.

It can be avoided if the laws of this

State in relation to the registration of

deaths are carried out.

Under chapter forty-five of the laws

of 1893, no burial must take place with-

out a permit from the board of health

of the county, city or town. That per-

mit is to be issued on the certificate of

death signed by the attendant physi-

cian, or in his absence, by two rep-

utable citizens, or by the coroner, if an

inquest is held. This certificate must

be registered at the office of the board

of health, and a record of permits must

be kept by the board. Any undertaker,

sexton or other person who engages in

a burial or the removal of a dead body

from the State in violation of these

provisions, is liable to prosecution for

misdemeanor.

Under the Revised Laws of Utah of

1893, section 2023, the county clerk is re-

quired to keep a register of births and

a separate register of deaths. It is the

latter to which we now refer. The clerk

of the board of health is required to

report to the county clerk the certifi-

cates of death, that they may be

duly registered by that officer. We

believe these provisions are

honored in this city and county.

It is complained however that in

many county districts of this State

there is much carelessness in reference

to these regulations. In every incor-

porated city or town, a board of health

should be appointed by the city council

or board of trustees. In every county

outside the limits of such cities and

towns, a health officer should be ap-

pointed by the county commissioners for each district of the county, and he with them is to constitute the board of health.

If these provisions of the law are carried into effect, then the registration required can be properly attended to. Forms are provided for certificates of death, to be filled out by the person or persons reporting the death. There should be uniformity in the manner of certifying and registering. The form prepared by the government census office ought to be adopted in every State of the Union, as it is by many of them. Utah should not be behind in attending to this important matter, and every city, town and county in the State ought to take it in hand, and see that some competent persons are appointed each to be responsible for the proper registration and reporting of all deaths that occur in his district.

Particulars on all points in relation to this subject can be obtained of the Secretary of the State board of health, Dr. T. B. Beatty, who is deeply interested in all matters pertaining to the public health, and desires to co-operate with the Government census bureau in obtaining vital statistics, to make the national reports as complete as possible. He will cheerfully respond to questions on these points, and letters may be addressed to him in this city.

**THE OUTLOOK FOR PEACE.**

The opinions as to whether the present dispute between Russia and Japan is to end in war, or not, are divided. The czar talks peace, and the emperor of Austria speaks in hopeful terms of the situation, but the preparations for war continue, and the rumors of war are thick.

In considering the probabilities on both sides, it must be remembered that Russia's policy for centuries has been expansion toward the sea, and the securing of open seaports is more necessary than ever. To the north the ice-bound waves of the Arctic do not give, the needed outlet, except for a short season each year. To the west the Baltic gives but little better facilities, and besides, the straits might at any time be closed by the combined fleets of European

powers. To the south Turkey, backed by Europe, stands guard. That way is closed, except as the road is open past British outposts, either by way of Suez, or Gibraltar. No other way is open than to the Pacific over Manchuria and Korea, and there the Russian giant is met by little Japan, bidding him to halt. From a Russian point of view, we do not believe compromise on this point is possible. Russia may play for time, for she needs more time to concentrate her forces in the east. And for that reason she may pretend to yield certain points, but the main object will nevertheless be kept in view. Whenever the opportunity comes, she will secure seaports on the Pacific. And then it will be China's turn.

In the opinion of those acquainted with the situation, Japan must wait for the arrival of spring, before opening hostilities, because the winter in northern Korea, where troops would be landed, is severe. But it is not believed that Japan will recede from her position, because she understands the Russian plans perfectly. This being the situation, the outlook for a permanent settlement of the trouble, without war, appears rather gloomy. War may be postponed, but it can hardly be averted by compromise.

## CHURCH OR SALOON.

The Salt Lake Journal makes a calculation which carries with it a moral lesson, even if it is not absolutely correct as to the dollars and cents.

It points out that the church membership of a certain city in this country is 7,025, or about half of the population. It is a "Christian" city. It has eighteen churches and at least as many clergymen.

But the same city has twenty saloons with forty-four proprietors and bartenders. The business done in these saloons amounts to about \$146,000 a year; perhaps more. The business of the churches does not exceed \$12,000. Of course only one-half of the population here classed as non-church members are really supporters of the saloons. The fact, then, is that one-half of the people of that place pay \$72,000 a year for churches, while not above one-quarter of the people of the same place pay \$146,000 a year for saloons. Is the devil's collection system the more efficient of the two? Or can it be that the church members are more generally the patrons of the saloons, than the patrons of saloons are contributors to church work?

Certain it is that the saloon exercises too much influence in these so-called Christian communities.

## AT IT AGAIN.

The Salt Lake Herald has a purported account of the services in the Tabernacle on Sunday. It is headed "Scores the Signers." "Elder C. W. Penrose Roasts Anti-Smoot Pettiness—Danger for Hereafter." The large congregation assembled on that occasion, if appealed to, would declare the statement in those sensational headlines utterly false and uncalled-for. There was no mention of Senator Smoot or his affairs at that meeting, and no "roast" or threat against any "anti-Smoot" petitioners. There seems to be a determination on the part of some newspaper men in this city to distort and falsify remarks of speakers in the Tabernacle. The story as to an alleged discourse about advice to "Mormon" miners to take the place of union men is still fresh in the public mind, and it is known that no such discourse was ever delivered, but that the story was a newspaper "fake" for sensational purposes, and was widely spread by wire and print. We fail to see what is expected to be accomplished by such impudent misrepresentations, outside of the gratification of anti-"Mormon" malice and spleen.

## URGES INVESTIGATION.

The Los Angeles Express takes this view of the controversy as to Senator Smoot:

"It is evident the senate committee on privileges and elections has a definite course mapped out for it through the presentation of the reply of Senator Reed Smoot of Utah to the protest made against his retention of a seat in Congress. Of the charges preferred against the Utah senator-elect, those concerning polygamy and the obligation made by oath to the Mormon Church were most important, and these are especially denied. It is, therefore, the duty of the committee to determine certain questions of fact by the usual judicial procedure.

"Without a doubt a thorough investigation would be welcomed by the entire country, and the issue seems to be so well defined in the present case that hope is entertained that the squabble which occurs every time Utah sends a Mormon to Congress may be settled for all time. There is no question as to the criminality of polygamy under the laws of the United States and the truth as to the alleged offense should be easily established by the usual methods of the courts.

"Mr. Smoot makes emphatic denial that any oath or obligation binds him to disregard his duties as a citizen or legislator in favor of the Church of which he is a member. His accusers are equally emphatic in making the charge that his connection with the Mormon Church does interfere with such duties. This controversy should be investigated thoroughly by the senatorial committee, and all possible evidence for and against should be secured for a determination of the case. There is a strong public demand that the Utah question be settled—it is becoming wearisome."

## "CONSTIPATED HOMES."

Medical Talk is a periodical that offers many practical suggestions. In its February issue appears a paper on "Constipated Homes." By such homes the writer means houses more or less filled up with all kinds of old stuff, of no use to anybody except the junkman, such as old clothing, boxes, bottles, rags, etc. The advice is to get rid of all such things, and to thoroughly clean and paint, or whitewash, the places occupied by such rubbish. Says Medical Talk, speaking particularly to the housewives: "Call the junk man to your home tomorrow. Persuade your husband to stay at home with you all day. Go over the house from top to bottom. Take away all superfluous stuff—chairs, benches, boxes, bottles,

papers, old magazines, old clothing, worthless books, everything that is not needed. Trim it down close. The more you get rid of the better you will be off. Make clean every vacant place that is left by the absence of these things. Put on a coat of paint or varnish or whitewash. Something or other to take the place of the confusion."

Good, common sense advice, even if following it must be put off till later on. It is absolutely certain that our moral status is very much influenced by our surroundings. Peace and contentment are sensitive of the presence of filth; the buoyant spirit of youth does not dwell among heaps of rubbish. A clean, sunny, airy home is the best elixir of life so far discovered. Happiness dwells there, and sickness and death will hesitate to enter.

## AS TO THE CLOSED DOOR.

Russia has promised not to place any obstacles in the way of the full enjoyment by the powers having treaties with China of all the rights and privileges guaranteed by such treaties in Manchuria. That is the statement by the Russian ambassador in the official notice posted at the state department in Washington. This promise, if made by any other civilized power, would be of great importance to the world, and to the United States in particular, because this country has just negotiated a treaty with China for the opening of Manchurian ports to the world's trade. But Russia is not noted for keeping promises. Her solemn pledges to Finland have recently been torn to shreds and scattered by the winds, and more recently still, her pledges to evacuate Manchuria on a definite date were never redeemed. Under the circumstances, what are the promises to open the doors of Manchuria to trade, worth? Wherever Russian influence goes, the doors will necessarily be closed to the rest of the world. Russia is virtually a "closed" domain, except to such products as she cannot produce in sufficient quantities, herself. No other policy is to be expected in Russianized Manchuria, or any other part of the world, where Russian influence becomes paramount.

Japan should beware of entrance into a quarrel.

Here is a pointer, "Everything points to victory," says Mr. Bryan.

When the die is cast in the Far East, it will mean death to many.

So far as theaters are concerned Chicago is not a wide open town.

If Nicholas really wills peace he can have it, for where there is a will there is a way.

Russell Sage no longer keeps regular office hours. But he keeps his ducaats all right.

Ex-Congressman Glover defies the Colorado militia. He will soon be calling them out.

Senator Scott calls General Wood "a bloodless soldier." Would that all wars were bloodless.

General Alexieff says that it is the czar's will that peace shall reign in the east. His will be done.

Chairman Hanna has issued a call for the Republican national convention. Many are called, but two are chosen.

The czar continues to talk peace and prepares for war. Apparently a case of the wise man foreseeing the danger.

The Chicago Medical society has declared against the anti-toxin trust. It looks as though it would be a fight to the death.

"D. C. Coleman sawed up a jag of pole wood for us Monday," says the Garden City (Mo.) View. And then did he get on a "jag"?

"International right of eminent domain" is very like what is called in the diplomatic language of Europe, "sphere of influence."

More Chicago churches have been ordered closed by the fire inspector. This is hard indeed upon the millions of church-going Chicagoans.

Dr. Harper wants twenty million dollars for the University of Chicago. It really begins to look as though the University of Chicago wanted the earth.

Murderer Shockley has begun to publish precepts to young men how to avoid falling into evil ways. Not to follow his example will be their safest guide.

The guard at the United States embassy at Seoul has been largely increased. That's right. Put none but Americans on guard.

Chief Moore is authority for the statement that the weather bureau is at fault in not more than 17 per cent of its forecasts. The almanacks and the ordinary weather prophet are out about the same per cent.

Dr. J. A. Leavitt, of Ewing College, denounces Homer and Virgil, saying of their works, "All these pagan classics, notwithstanding their popularity, leave their stain on the purity of our literature." From which it is to be inferred that the culture derived from their study is, in the doctor's opinion, only a veneer.

## CANADA AND EXPANSION.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The telegraphed reports about Canada's negotiations with Denmark are all nonsense. Canada has not and cannot negotiate on any question with Denmark or any other power so long as she remains a possession of the British empire. Any negotiations must be carried on by Great Britain, and Canada can no more bargain for Greenland than Ohio can bargain for Jamaica. In fact, next to Great Britain the United States is the power most directly concerned with the proposed transfer of Greenland to the British empire in America. Its position along the line of communication across the Atlantic makes the matter of a change of ownership one of decided interest to this country. It might be regarded as distinctly disturbing the balance of power on the northern half of this hemisphere. The question, however, has not ad-

vanced beyond the stage of academic discussion.

## San Francisco Chronicle.

Most thoughtful persons believe that, regardless of the feelings, wishes or hopes of the present generation of Canadians and Americans, the ultimate destiny of Canada and the United States is to be one country. Nature plainly designed it as such, and in the long run nature has her way. Men find it easier to work with her than against her. Consequently any expansion of Canada northward will be viewed with great satisfaction by philosophical Americans as one more step in the direction of manifest destiny.

## STATUS OF PORTO RICANS.

New York Evening Post.

Through the decision of the Supreme Court in the Gonzales case, the Porto Ricans are promoted from an anomalous position to that of "nationals" of the United States of America. Isabella Gonzales, a Porto Rican, was on the 4th of August, 1892, denied admission at the port of New York. Commissioner Williams took the ground that she was an alien immigrant, likely to become a public charge, and thus liable to exclusion under the immigration act of 1891. On appeal, the supreme court decides that the Porto Ricans, owing no allegiance to any other power, are "nationals" of the United States and entitled to freedom of passage. In other words, they are virtually subjects, and under conditions which are generally applied, say, to natives in the French colonies, or to our own Indians; they are entitled to all civil rights under our Constitution and laws.

## New York Mail and Express.

Until yesterday, and since the annexation in 1898, Porto Ricans who did not elect to remain Spanish subjects were citizens of no country. They were merely "citizens of Porto Rico"—a status which did not carry American citizenship with it. Our immigration authorities treated them as aliens; but as they had no foreign citizenship and owed allegiance to no foreign sovereignty, they were practically left without any citizenship at all—a populous colony of Philip Nolans. The United States Supreme Court now decides that they are not aliens, and cannot be treated as such. Its decision does not directly confer American citizenship upon them, but it does so by inference, and will go farther toward doing so in fact. If they cannot be treated as aliens, they are in effect treated as American citizens.

## Chicago News.

There is a seeming inconsistency in the Supreme court's decision declaring that a citizen of Porto Rico is not an alien within the meaning of the immigration act and cannot be denied admission to the country because he happens to be a pauper. If a man is neither alien nor citizen and may not be regarded as either a native or a foreigner, what sort of political status can he have?

## Boston Transcript.

Whatever the Porto Ricans may be in allegiance, in thought, in social aspirations and conditions and in many other ways, they are still aliens to us. They have not had time in less than six years either to fit themselves or be fitted by others for admission to statehood. It is better for the United States to maintain a colonial system than to bring into the Union prematurely communities which for a long time so admitted must be problem States.

## SALT LAKE THEATRE

Three Nights and Matinee Beginning

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Alberta Gallatin

In Ibsen's Widely-Discussed

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"The Greatest Work of the Greatest Living Dramatist."—New York Sun.

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Prices—Night, 5c to \$1.50. Matinee, 25c.

Carriages may be ordered for 10c.

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PRICES: Night—25c, 50c, 75c.

Matinee—5c.

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TONIGHT

MATINEE WEDNESDAY AT 3 P. M.

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The over-welcome favorite.

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"FOR MOTHER'S SAKE."

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Senior Enrique Robles,

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The world's champion bull fighter,

assisted by his renowned com-

pany of riders, broncho

riding,ariat throwing, bull

fighting and bull fighting.

Exhibition to be purely sci-

entific, no animals injured in any

way.

An interesting and instructive

treat to those who have not seen

this famous Spanish pastime.

Admission, 50c.

Reserved seats \$1.00.

Railroad excursions from all

points.

ALL'S WELL

THAT ENDS WELL

If you can continue to abuse your

eyes from day to day, of course,

you have probably concluded to

abide by the consequences—but just

think how much better it would be

if you could see the future, and in

future, to have scientifically correct

eyes tests free.

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End - Of - The - Season

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Men's, Ladies' and Children's SHOES and SLIP-PERS.

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Ladies' and Misses' GOATS and SUITS, Knit Underwear, Shirt Waists, Furs, Children's Dresses, Wrappers, Rain Coats, etc., etc.

Your Dollars will be Worth Double at this Clearance Sale.

No Time Like Now For Buying.

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Hard To Find Better Bargains.

UTAH'S GREATEST DEPARTMENT STORE.

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