DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 14, 1899.

NOTICE.

The Sixty-ninth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on Thursday, April 6th, 1899.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

IN VINDICATION.

We publish today a communication from Mr. A. M. Musser, in vindication of his course as Fish and Game Commissioner of Utah Territory. The sneering remarks of a State Senator in reference to that gentleman, as reported in a morning paper, were entirely uncalled for and an exhibition of either ignorance or malice. They were promptly met by the statements of another Senator, who knew what he was talking about, and the appropriation to partly reimburse Mr. Musser for legitimate expenditures was passed, notwithstanding the attempt to belittle that gentleman's labors for the benefit of Utah.

Mr. Musser's letter is cheerfully inserted in the Deseret News, and we would not do justice to the subject on which it treats, without adding our endorsement to that of members of the Legislature of his indefatigable efforts to promote the fish and game interests of Utah. We do not believe there is a man in the State who knows more, or has done so much as A. Milton Musser, about increasing and improving our fish supply. He has not ceased in his work in that direction, notwithstanding the fact that the application, supported by citizens all over the State, two years ago, for his appointment to the State office did not meet with gubernatorial favor, but he is still, as ever, interested in that important matter, and ready to impart that information concerning it for which he receives numerous applications both in and outside of the State.

Party politics should not enter into the question of fish and game conservation, nor the qualifications for the office of commissioner. Fitness for the place is the chief consideration, and recognition of faithful, unselfish, efficient labors might reasonably enter into the causes for appointments. Be that as it may, the people of Utah are indebted to Mr. Musser for his services in the past, to an extent for which no pecuniary appreciation will afford proper compensation.

ENTIRELY OUT OF PLACE.

We ought not to be surprised at anything that appears in reference to "Mormonism" and the "Mormons," in the religious papers published in this country. They have been uniformly so unfair and misleading, not to say malicious and wilfully false, that no one familiar with their course should be astonished, no matter what may emanate from that source. Yet we feel surprised at an article in the New York Independent for March 9, because that journal is usually fair-minded on most public topics, and careful in its statements and conclusions.

The Independent publishes an epitome of gossip of the most scandalous character, for which there is no reliable data or anything that may be reasonably considered as evidence. It abounds in errors, it repeats assertions which if true could do no good to anybody, it panders to the taste of the depraved for slander, and is utterly out of place in a religious paper like the Independent.

We presume it has been furnished by some person to prejudice with a reputation for piety, and that has served to impose on the editor. When a high-class religious weekly informs its readers that the Mormon Church leaders have the "ownership of saloons, gambling houses and houses of ill-fame," and this is only a sample of the entire article under the head of "Religious," it raises the question of what the editor considers religion to be, and causes a doubt as to the reliability of his paper on general religious information.

Either the Independent has been imposed upon, or it has become imbued with the spirit of the new crusade, which seems to be that of "false witness," and anything to vanquish the "Mormons" and give funds for the pecuniary benefit of preachers who are a failure in Utah.

TIMBER BELT AND MOISTURE.

In another part of this paper appears an article on Timber Belts and Moisture. It is from Hon. John C. Mackay, in reference to an editorial in the Deseret News, which offered some comments on a speech by Mr. Mackay at the Denver Stockmen's convention, regarding the comparative relation of the timber belts to the water supply, in which the gentleman disputes the generally accepted theory, upon data which he has gathered in his own experience, that a good timber belt attracts a copious rainfall.

Mr. Mackay is frank and courteous in his expressions, and the points of consideration of this subject, even from different points of view, is of the friendliest character, with a view of ascertaining the truth. There is one error which we think Mr. Mackay has fallen into, that is, that the Deseret News takes issue with his claim that animals on the hills do not injure the timber to any great extent. We do not dispute his experience on that point, the question now being whether the destruction of timber affects the supply of water in the valleys.

Our correspondent comes to the conclusion that "the theory that forests are the attracting causes of precipitation is entirely erroneous," and that "the mountains—being a higher altitude, the air rarer and cooler—are the attracting cause of condensation and precipitation." If his theory were even approximately correct, then the mountains would be as well without timber, and the forest-covered plains or rolling hills would be as steadily without it. Whatever Mr. Mackay may think of the so-called theory, he must admit that, in the light of this comparison, his own does not "hold water" to any appreciable extent.

Regarding the argument that the timber in the mountains has been reduced by being cut for fuel and for mining timbers, yet the rainfall from 1869 to 1888 was increased one-tenth of an inch over that of 1879 to 1888, the increase of timber growth in the valleys, as orchards, etc., is any solution of this growth in the hills constantly replacing most if not all of that consumed the issue raised.

Mentioning Mr. Mackay's argument that dark attracts heat and white repels it, as a scientific reason why snow in the timber belts disappears before that on the open ground, it is sufficient to say that the gentleman can find a contradiction to that in his own orchard, or at any row of shade trees at this season of the year. This might be in forgetting the temperature of the earth or soil where the snow has laid, the absorbing power of which is as important a factor as the sun's rays.

It is a fact, as Mr. Mackay claims, that snow on mountains in the vicinity melts first in the tracts of heavy timber, except on the sunny slopes of the hills, and sometimes even then. This is because in the timber the temperature does not fall as low as on the clearings near by, and the heat of the earth does much of the thawing, while on the open space it is left to a greater extent to the sun's rays. But while this is the case, the soil in the timber belt retains the moisture much longer than in the open. The snow on the bare hill may last till July before it melts, and in a few days the ground is hard and dry; while in the timber belt adjoining, where the snow disappeared in June, the soil is kept moist through August and September, the roots of the trees and undergrowth having served as a reservoir wall to hold back the moisture, and allow its gradual percolation through the soil to the streamlets below, thus prolonging the supply of water supply.

The fact established by universal data, including that given by Mr. Mackay, is that timber holds back the water supply, in the soil, not above the surface, much longer than it is retained on the bare ground, which often retains the snow longest in frozen form, but not any great length of time after melting; also that not the mountains, but the vegetation thereon and in valleys, is a notable attraction for water because of the moisture it contains, thus conforming to the law of affinity in nature. As to the vegetation being "the sequence of the rain, not the rain of the luxuriant growth," the discussion of that proposition is much like an inquiry as to which was first, the egg or the hen. We have them both; and if the care of the hen is necessary to the production of the egg, so the good timber belt is necessary to drawing moisture from the passing clouds, then it is proper to give that view due care of the preservation of forest timber is the care needed. That is the point to determine. In regard to the further question, and which we believe was the animal one to which Mr. Mackay's speech was directed, it is a matter of easy demonstration whether or not sheep destroy the timber. He says they do not, but take only the underbrush, which is a hindrance to the growth of the timber. If that be the case, then the permission of stock in the timber is no proven incident to this other question, that has been brought up, and Mr. Mackay's speech introduced an element into the discussion which had no place there.

A FAIR COMPARISON.

The official statement showing the number of deaths in the army, as reported to the adjutant general's office between May 1, 1898, and Feb. 28, 1899, covers the campaigns in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. The figures are as follows:

Killed in action	329
Died of wounds	125
Died of disease	5,277
Total	5,731

The number is not large when the size of the army, over 200,000 men, is considered, but it proves that the dangers of war are not all on the battlefield. Notwithstanding that only the men with perfect physical health were accepted for service, many of these succumbed to the changes of climate and diet and the hardships of camp life.

When these dangers were pointed out, just before the enlistment of Utah volunteers, by a speaker in this city, his remarks created a storm of disapproval. What he was saying to make clear was lost sight of in the enthusiasm aroused over the war and the thought that he was opposed to it. What he predicted has come to pass, however, and the deaths from disease, climatic causes and other natural deleterious influences far outnumber those from wounds received in battle. This is not mentioned with a view to find fault with anyone, but merely as a reminder.

FRANCE OUT OF THE RACE.

A few days ago M. De Freycinet had occasion to say, in the Chamber of Deputies, that France can no longer keep pace with Germany in the increase of the army, for the simple reason, that she cannot procure the raw material, so to speak. France lacks the population necessary. This is the first time that fact has been publicly and officially admitted, and the statement should give all France something to think about.

Statisticians tell us that the population in France in 1896 was 38,517,975, and that the entire increase in the ten years preceding amounted to about 150,000 persons, largely due to immigration, the deaths in some years actually outnumbering the births. On the other hand, in Germany the population increased in the decade from 1885 to 1895 from 46,855,704 to 52,279,901. In view of these facts, the sooner the French people settle down to the fact that they are out of the military race with Germany, the better, because one cause of the decline in this constant effort at accomplishing an impossibility.

France is no longer the leading nation of Europe, but she might become the spokesman of all the smaller countries, the interests of which are all in the direction of peace and industrial and commercial development. She might be the standard bearer in Europe of true republican institutions, instead of a worshiper at the shrine of despotic militarism under the guise of popular government.

Liberty and enlightenment together with a clear moral atmosphere would infuse new life into her veins. She has all the natural advantages for developing into a strong nation, and only the artificial conditions imposed upon her by ambitious rulers keep the country from prosperity. France today is an object lesson showing the world that a republican form of government is in itself no safeguard against national decay, unless it is influenced by the high principles on which the American Constitution was founded, and which cannot be too zealously guarded from public and private violations.

Uncle Sam has 51 war vessels in the course of construction. This little addition to the navy will at least keep up its strength.

There are no public schools in Cuba, but under the recommendation of an American board, a school system much like that in vogue in this country is likely to be instituted soon.

Those 40 per cent dividends of the Canadian Pacific are likely to be cut in two, now that the road finds itself under the necessity of making an additional expenditure of three million dollars or more for repairs to rolling stock and roadbed.

The Spanish cabinet has advised the queen regent to ratify the treaty with the United States, without further delay. That shows good judgment on the part of Premier Silvela and his associates. Doubtless their conclusion has been hastened by General Otis's having put a stop to Spanish dickering with the Filipinos.

Aguinaldo is credited with having said, recently, that he would prefer Spanish to American rule. Evidently so, for the Filipinos have just caught the Spanish governor of Palawan and cut off his head, but Filipino butchery does not pan out well when attempted toward Americans.

General Wheaton has had another running fight with the Filipinos, cutting the north and south line of communication between the insurgents. Today's fighting demonstrated the Filipino force in vastly greater numbers than the actual number of killed and wounded, since discouragement has caused many insurgents to give up the contest.

New York doctors should be happy now. Under the provisions of a law just signed by Gov. Roosevelt, they do not have to answer in law any question asked in court regarding their patients. As the legislature of the Empire State is composed mostly of lawyers, the question comes up as to how much it cost the doctors to secure this immunity.

The train service to Cache Valley is to undergo a reduction next week. While this will be a loss temporarily for the people there, it may invite still stronger efforts, with likely success, to have another railway line extended through Ogden Valley and over the divide, providing more direct communication with the county's largest towns than is given now and opening up a new section of country en route.

"It is hard to please the public," said a street car conductor this morning, who evidently is of a philosophical turn of mind. "When the cars are crowded, those who have to hang on the straps kick, but when we put a trailer on to give more room, they avoid the car with the greater accommodation and crowd into the cars that have no trailers. I believe," he added pensively, "that the kickers carefully select the cars that have no trailers merely for the pleasure of kicking."

Young Utah seems to be aroused, in other places besides Salt Lake, over the malicious attempts of the anti-"Mormon" slanderers in this city to provoke animosity against the Latter-day Saints. Young Utah in Ogden has furnish proofs of its perfidy. Will they be cited as coming from the editor of the "News"? The daily defamer of the "Mormon" people is putting itself in the pillory. But it persists in its slanders and vile assertions without proof, and will only work itself deeper and deeper into the mire of its infamy.

There have been several efforts to have Admiral Dewey removed from the Philippines, the latest being a scheme to get him to a celebration in Washington, D. C., on May 28. But President McKinley has such confidence in the admiral's skill and ability, both as a naval commander and a diplomat, that he is likely to be retained in the Philippines to complete his own part in the trouble there, and receive the full credit to which he is entitled in consummating a great work.

The customs regulations now in force in New York have proved a great annoyance to the traveling public. They were inaugurated at the instance of merchants and manufacturers who hoped thereby to increase their trade. But they have now found out their mistake, they are being boycotted, and pressure is brought to bear upon them to ask for the repeal of the obnoxious regulations. Probably they will do so, after being convinced that they cannot increase their trade by government aid. The matter is of interest to Utah citizens, of whom many go abroad every year.

A petition emanating from Boston wants the United States to give up fighting in the Philippines and give the islanders independence. The paper has received the signatures of such leading men as Gov. Boutwell, ex-Senator Edmunds, John Sherman, Bourke Cockran, Samuel Gompers, Charles F. Adams, Sam Bowles, Carl Schurz, Andrew Carnegie, and John G. Carlisle. As the document amounts to a virtual confession that the United States have been whipped by the Filipinos, a good place to send it would be to Admiral Dewey and General Otis, and the men under them, who are as fairly well imbued with the spirit of the present situation as are the stay-at-home men whose attitude is looked upon by many people as being "against the government" for special purposes.

The dissertation given in the dispatches over a man being killed on March 13, by falling from a window, and in which it was pointed out that the victim was twice 13 years of age, had been employed there three times thirteen days, etc., is just such trashy stuff published about the figure 13 as is given as superstitious people dwell on, to the misery of themselves and others. If the alleged logic of this case were kept up, a man would be endangered every thirteenth minute of his life, or at every thirteenth breath, or step, and so on. Such calculations on the figure 13 are the height of absurdity, and should be frowned down by sensible people, so as to eliminate the superstitious feeling that is grasping every people in this line. It is good to know, however, that the farmer's wife is quite confident of success when she sets 13 eggs under a brooding hen, and so it goes.

UTAH'S SENATORIAL CONTEST.

Denver Post.

The Legislature having adjourned without electing a senator, Utah will be represented by but one senator, J. L. Rawlins, until a new legislature is elected or the present one called in special session. This termination of the contest is to be regretted the more as the opposition to the monometallic majority in the United States Senate will need every vote it can get, the free coinage majority in the Senate having disappeared with the expiration of the Congress which adjourned last week.

THE BEEF SURPRISE.

Buffalo News.

Serious charges have been made by Thomas F. Dolan, formerly of Chicago, but later of Boston, with reference to alleged practices of beef packers in the former city. One of Dolan's statements against the Chicago packers is that offal is condemned by the government inspectors as unfit for food, afterward sold as good beef. Dolan tells of terrible practices coming under his own observation, when he was employed as foreman in one of the largest packing houses in the great packing city of the West. These statements made by Dolan in a New York paper, have been telegraphed over the country. When the alleged exposure reached Chicago they were shown to J. Ogden Armour, George J. Brine and W. H. Pierce, and were denied in every particular.

Washington Times.

If the recital of Thomas F. Dolan is true, it will tax the ingenuity of the courts to find a fitting punishment for the Chicago packers responsible. It is true, they have fed mankind on diseased meat, containing the germs of hideous ailments, and calmly sent many thousands of human beings to the grave—have committed more murders than the most horrible tyrant of history, and thrown the shadow of suspicion and distrust over the commercial world. And, worse still, our soldiers, scrambling for a noble cause, the foul refuse of the slaughter house, the putrid parts of sick cattle, in place of the nourishment for which the government paid them.

Chicago Record.

If anything were needed to establish the natural results of the army inquiry board to delve deep into the "embalmed beef" possibilities of the Chicago stockyards, it was the trend in the board's sudden descent upon the surprised management of several big packing houses on Thursday morning. "* * * shortly after breakfast, a consultation was called among the inquisitors. Closed carriages were ordered, and so rather than the board of inquiry was whirled into the stockyards, a cab stopped before the doors of a big packing plant before a single packer knew of its coming. So surprised was the first plant visited that the canning department was not even in operation. However, when the surprised superintendent said the word he had at once offered to start up the plant so as to show the style of beef which the board might desire to see—saving, of course, embalmed beef.

Chicago Daily News.

It may be taken for granted that the army inquiry board will find no incriminating evidence in the course of its investigations at the stockyards. Nevertheless the board's visit to the packing-houses of the great food production center for the purpose of making a thorough inspection of the methods of killing, dressing, cooling and canning meats in the great establishments here and of incorporating a full statement of that investigation in its final report.

PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

Los Angeles Evening Express.

The President was exceptionally happy in the appointment of the civil commission, and excellent results may be expected from its work. There is reason to believe that the Filipinos will be brought to see that such "independence" as Aguinaldo seeks to establish would be for the worst thing that could happen to them.

Springfield Republican.

Unless the President enlarges the powers of the special commissioners, they cannot approach Aguinaldo, or any other leader of the Filipinos now fighting against the United States, with a view to discussing a plan for the end of the hostilities. The business of handling the Filipino war is entirely in the hands of Gen. Otis. If any dealings are to be made, Gen. Otis is the man to do it. These special commissioners are very likely, by the State department, their impressions and judgment.

San Francisco Chronicle.

There has been bad management in the Philippine matter from the start. Instead of taking a position there, where there is a minimum of dealing in the Philippines, he (the general) ordered us our troops entered Manila, should have had the negotiations ready to tell Aguinaldo that he would give him the world order upon his people. What is that Dewey had to do? With all due regard, I am much disposed the admiral and the government chose, until the time it has everything in its hands. If Merritt had done this, there would have been no fighting. In any case there seem to have done the cause of legitimate expansion more harm than good.

Early Spring Specials

We are now showing a lot of goods, new from the manufacturer, at prices that cannot fail to attract the purchasing public who understand the real values of the goods they are buying.

Notion Dept.

Kid Gloves—

Our patrons can always depend upon saving money by patronizing this section. We now have a specialty choice lot, having secured for the spring trade a most complete line of LADIES' KID GLOVES ever shown here. Fine, soft, pliable, in all the new shades and colors, with latest embroideries. Be sure and see the splendid quality of gloves we have in line this spring.

Ribbons—

Never has such a beautiful and complete stock of Ribbons been shown here as that which now graces our shelves. All the latest colors and styles are there, and we can suit you as no other house in the State can.

Collars—

Ladies' Stock Collars of the best shapes and styles, and at the lowest possible prices. These desirable articles go regularly at bargain figures.

Dress Goods Dept.

Black Grenadines—

Splendid quality, newest makes, a lovely assortment just received, will be sure to please the Ladies both as to goods and prices.

Black Creponnes—

Also choice goods of the latest manufacture, just arrived among our early spring purchases. Beautiful and stylish goods—come and inspect them.

Russian Plaids—

A magnificent line, specially for street skirts. The patterns are all new, and are sure to be decidedly popular. These goods have just been opened, and we have marked them at specially low prices, which with their choice quality, will insure quick sales.

Poplins, Bengalines—

Covers, and all the new weaves—a full line of colors that are sure to gratify the most fastidious, and within the reach of the moderate purse.

Silk Waist Lengths—

We have just received by express a few choice Silk Waist Lengths of most desirable patterns—just the thing for stylish appearance and serviceable wear at bargain prices.

Special Offers.

Percale House Waists—

Assorted colors, choice goods and latest patterns worth 75c. This week we have decided to offer them at the specially low price of **50c Each.**

LADIES' MUSLIN UNDERWEAR

The approach of Spring is a time for sharp reductions in underwear prices, and we have made it. This you will readily see by examining our complete line of Ladies' Muslin Underwear, just received, and consisting of an elegant variety of styles, with all the new designs and effects in laces and embroideries.

Millinery Dept.

We are receiving daily in our Millinery department choice novelties in HATS, TRIMMINGS, FLOWERS, WINGS, BUCKLES, &c., in fact all the New Novelties for Spring Millinery purposes. We are sparing no pains to make this department more attractive and popular than ever before.

Staple Dept.

Zephyrs—

We have an elegant line of these dainty goods, 32 inches wide, handsome patterns, perfectly lovely goods that we are sure to be a most agreeable surprise when you note their high quality in comparison with the remarkably low price of **15c Per Yard.**

We also have a beautiful line of Zephyrs ¾ wide, specially suitable for children's dresses and waists, sure to please in both appearance and wear, at only **12 1-2c Per Yard.**

Outing Flannels—

We have a splendid line of these in new goods that we have

Reduced for this Week 33 1-3 Per Cent

from the regular price. These are new designs and colors, standard goods, regular price 10c per yard, and we make them special for this week, TWELVE YARDS FOR ONE DOLLAR, or, per yard, **8 1-3c**

Z. C. M. I.

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Wednesday— **"Falka."**

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is the policy of young people and Republicanism the politics of older and wiser persons." As to the truth of above statement we are not supposed to be a judge; but we do assert that Vosler Health Flour is good for every one that has to earn or eat bread, regardless of the consequence to follow Utah's not having elected a Senator.

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