

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

Charles W. Penrose - Editor.
Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
(In Advance):
One Year \$5.00
Six Months 3.00
Three Months 1.50
One Month50
Saturday Edition, Per Year 3.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year 1.00

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 according to the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 30, 1906

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1906, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of officers and members is requested.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 8, 1906, at 7 o'clock p. m. Officers and workers are requested to be present and all the Saints are invited. The subject of "Parents' Classes" will be considered.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
General Superintendent.

IT STANDS CORRECTED.

The New York Evening Mail, for some unexplained cause, is keeping up a racket about the "Mormons" in Utah, and displaying so much ignorance on the subject that we consider it a duty to point out some of its egregious errors. In an editorial of its issue of March 29, 1906, appear the following paragraphs:

"Utah was admitted to the Union on the condition that the constitution of the State should prohibit polygamy or plural marriages." It did so, but no sooner was the State in the Union than its Legislature deliberately repealed the territorial act which forbade polygamous cohabitation. That is to say, all that a Utah Mormon now has to do is to go to some other State or Territory, or to Mexico, and be "sealed" to as many women as he chooses. Then he may return to Utah and live openly with these women in polygamous cohabitation.

"When a State is able to play this trick on the nation, what course is open for other States, except to adopt a constitutional amendment giving to Congress the whole authority over the subject, and prohibiting throughout the United States both polygamous marriage and polygamous cohabitation?"

The palpable blunder into which the Mail has fallen has been in relation to any other matter than "Mormon" affairs. It would have been excoriated by its contemporaries at the commercial capital of the country. But many of them know little if anything more on the subject than does the paper from which we have taken these extracts.

It is true that when Utah was admitted to the Union the condition was imposed which is stated above. That condition was complied with. There was no obligation or compact or agreement in regard to "polygamous cohabitation," but it is not true that the State of Utah took advantage of that fact in any way. The territorial act alluded to was not "repealed," either "deliberately" or otherwise. The New York Mail can satisfy itself in regard to this, by obtaining a copy of the Revised Statutes of Utah of 1898, and reading section 4299, which is as follows:

"If any male person hereafter cohabits with more than one woman, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by both such punishments, in the discretion of the court."

Thus it will be seen that while it was possible, and by some lawyers thought constitutional and permissible to omit that section from the revision of the statutes, no advantage was taken of that opportunity, but the territorial provision, which was identical with the clause of the Edmunds act in relation to that offense, was continued in force and today stands upon the statute book of this State, and therefore the New York Mail should stand corrected and acknowledge its error. Of course, all the suppositions and arguments and strictures built upon the blunder fall to the ground. As the Mail is not the only paper in the country that has exhibited lack of knowledge on this question, others should take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

The Mail may perhaps inquire why there are not a number of prosecutions under the law herein quoted, as there were many years ago, before Utah became a State. The answer is, circumstances have greatly changed. Polygamous marriages have been placed under the ban of the Church as well as of statutory law, and, as was testified to by both "Mormons" and "Gentiles" before the committee on privileges and elections and published to the country, there had been a disposition not to press prosecution upon the older "Mormon" people who entered into plural family relations previous to the issuance of the manifesto of 1890, and who still are in such relations, but have not contracted polygamy since that date. The admissions made by witnesses before that committee would put no figure in a trial before a court,

but proof of infraction of the law would be required and the statute of limitations would also have its legal effect.

We make these explanations for the benefit of some of our contemporaries, who do not appear to understand the situation in Utah and are probably confused, if not greatly deceived, by reports sent out from this city, and by the misrepresentations made in the pulpits of the sectarian churches which are echoes of wilful fabrications made upon the lecture platform. We venture to assert that there is less of the offense named by the Mail and forbidden in the Utah statutes, proportionate to the population, than in any other State in the Union, and if the city of New York were inspected by the aid of a moral and official searchlight, figures would be found to bear on this question that would be appalling to a great many people, and would make Salt Lake City and the State of which it is the capital a model of morality and purity in the way of comparison. Let the Mail take note and "play fair."

PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

Secretary of State Root, it is announced, will attend the Pan-American congress which is to convene at Rio Janeiro next July. It is also stated that the cruiser Charleston will take him and the other delegates from this country to the place of meeting. Undoubtedly this announcement will have the effect of inducing other American republics to send to the congress high state officials as their representatives. The gathering is likely to be the most important of its kind ever held.

It is thought that the Monroe doctrine will be one of the special subjects of discussion. An effort will be made to induce the other states represented to adopt it, and pledge themselves to its maintenance by united effort, if necessary. The smaller republics have viewed with alarm the firmness with which that doctrine has been emphasized by the United States. A thorough discussion of the meaning and purpose of it would undoubtedly remove many prejudices, and pave the way for a general agreement concerning its application to continental affairs.

In Brazil the sentiment, as expressed by the press, is that the nations of America are under the necessity of assuring their international existence, and that "they must consolidate a collective ideal of a continent which will seek to share with Europe those principles which are the foundation of the political organization of its peoples." It is hoped that the pan-American congress this time will clearly express the heartfelt aspirations of the American republics. It seems that the two greatest American republics are united on the Monroe doctrine, as a necessity to the existence of the American nations. The other countries should not hesitate to fall into line, especially as there is nothing in the Monroe doctrine that can be interpreted as adverse to any legitimate European interests. It aims only at the assertion of equality. It maintains that the sovereignty of the American republics is as inviolable as that of the European nations. It holds that American territory is inaccessible to European conquest, but open to the culture that is the glory of our age. There is in this no menace to other nations.

It is hoped that the coming congress will result in the recommendation of a treaty that will ultimately, if not just yet, unite all America for the defense of common interests and draw them closer together in commercial and industrial relations. The Old World seems to be drifting into a storm center. The New World will not suffer from the general wreck that is threatened, as long as it avoids entangling alliances.

A CANDID PROFESSOR.

A clipping has been forwarded to us from a Chicago paper, containing an account of a meeting of the Woman's Union, held at the First Baptist Church in that city recently, at which a lady read a paper which excited much interest in reference to the "Teachings of Mormonism." This brought out a response from a gentleman present, who had visited Utah and was also somewhat acquainted with the "Mormon" question, having lived for some time near Nauvoo. We here append his remarks, and feel glad that occasionally there is found a man of eminence who is not afraid to tell the truth, as he understands it, concerning an unpopular people and system, but is willing to do so before the public, although his hearers may not view the matter in a favorable light.

"Professor Praeger, of Kalamazoo college, spoke informally on the subject of the afternoon, but in so doing presented a point of view most interesting and quite different from that which is often discussed. In part Professor Praeger said: 'I have met the Mormon question in two ways. I have lived for some time near Nauvoo, Illinois, and talked with many who remembered the city of the Saints there, and were familiar with the circumstances of the sack and burning of that city and the murder of Joseph Smith. More recently I went from the University of Chicago to give a course of lectures at the Mormon school for teachers. It will gradually die out, especially as it is against the law, but the old polygamous families will not break up, for to a Mormon the married relation is the most sacred thing in the world.'"

"The Mormon believes that the getting and educating of a large family is a sacred duty. Consequently they are great believers in education. Utah spends more in public education per

capita than any state in the Union save one. There are few ignorant and no poor among the Mormons. Large numbers are now in all our leading universities, no less than thirty-five were at Chicago last year."

"The Mormon Church has a greater power, no one knows how much. But it would be interesting to know whether this power is inherent or due to conditions. Throughout all history any church that was in the position that the Mormon Church is today became a secret and compact organization. The question is, if the outside pressure were removed, would this last?"

SCHOOLS THEN AND NOW.

Somebody has discovered a volume of examination papers in spelling and arithmetic, written by pupils of the Springfield high school in 1848. The original questions were found with the papers, and they were subsequently submitted to pupils of the ninth year of the present elementary schools. The test proved that the number of correct answers 60 years ago was 46.6 per cent, while today it was 51.2 per cent, in spelling, and 28.4 and 65.5 per cent respectively in arithmetic. This is taken to prove conclusively that the children now are more proficient in the two branches put to the test, than they were in former days.

The interesting experiment has also been made in Brooklyn with a still more flattering result. In that city in 1865, 71.2 per cent of the answers in arithmetic were correct against 24.4 of the Springfield pupils in 1848, and in spelling 70 per cent or more was 35.1 against 17.6 in 1848 in Springfield. "The conclusions to be drawn from these results in a Brooklyn school are very positive," concludes the report. "Spelling and arithmetic, instead of suffering in a course of study which trains a child to use all his powers of expression, are actually far better—in fact, at least twice as good as they were under a curriculum with endless, brain-tiring, uninteresting drill, and nothing else, on the 'three Rs.'"

American schools of today are all right, no matter to what test they may be put. Human capacity for receiving instruction is probably expanding, and the methods of imparting instruction are now so much superior to previous methods that the results obtainable must be correspondingly satisfactory. One great drawback at present is the exactions of fraternities, and social duties that seem inseparable from the educational institutions. These are justly held responsible for poor scholarship and nervous breakdown.

TO WEIGH THE EARTH.

The earth, says an exchange, will be weighed again, for the purpose of ascertaining whether previous estimates are correct. For that purpose an expedition is to go to Egypt. The weight of the great pyramid will first be calculated, and then the weight of the earth from the proportional size of the two. The swinging of pendulums will be the gauge, for the pendulum is affected by the power of attraction exerted by a large or small body. From the force exerted by the pyramid in pulling the swinging pendulum from its natural course the weight of the pyramid is to be estimated, and that of the earth is then to be calculated.

To a layman this looks very much like the ingenious process shrewd oriental traders sometimes have in weighing produce to their customers. They will put a rock in one of the scales and the stuff to be weighed in the other, and then guess as closely as possible at the weight of the rock. But the scientists know what they are about.

Pyramid students have long ago claimed that the architects of that wonderful structure weighed the earth and made a pile that weighed just one thousand billionth part of the globe. The figures given are, for the pyramid, 5,272,000 tons, and for the earth, 5,271,900,000,000,000,000 tons.

Mr. Perkins isn't quite so perk as he was.

A child with a .22 always seems to have an unerring aim.

To allow fraudulent bounty claims is to encourage fraudulent bounty claims.

A moral wave is sweeping over Kansas. Later on it will be followed by floods.

Arkansas certainly will make a mistake if she swaps Senator Berry for Governor Davis.

The Rev. Dr. Gunsalus says the only real troubles are those of the heart. Has the doctor no stomach?

There is one Bulgarian atrocity that cannot be charged to the Turks. It is the one committed in Minneapolis.

Attorney-General Hadley having returned to Missouri, Mr. Rockefeller can go and see the baby with comparative safety.

"The world is better than it was," says Hon. Carroll D. Wright. It ought to be, being so much older than it used to be.

District Attorney Jerome wants a special grand jury, and some of the life insurance agents are wondering what on earth he wants it for.

And now it is said that the Puljanas are not a distinct race but Visayans gone wrong. What a pile of Puljanas material there is in our own dear native land.

The city attorney's discovery of the city's lack of water right in Big Cottonwood creek is of the same startling nature as his discovery concerning Senator Rawlins.

The house committee on naval affairs recommends the building of a battleship bigger than the English Dread-

naught. That's right. When you go in for a big navy go in for the biggest battleships.

Eleven thousand immigrants landed in New York yesterday, that being a new record. In five or six years most of them will be American citizens, while many, no doubt, will be voting long before that time.

According to Assistant Secretary of State Peirce, some of our consulates in the Orient are about as rotten as rotten can be. This is a matter of deep regret. It is also a matter that should be remedied at the earliest possible moment.

England is bothered with the tramp problem. There the tramps tramp and do not steal rides on the railroads. There is no country in the world where the highways and lanes more enticingly invite to a tramp than in England. It is an ideal country for pedestrians.

EASTER SPENDING.

Philadelphia Record.
The belated effort of winter to live up to his bleak and blustery reputation in the latter part of March has no influence upon preparations already launched for the advent of spring. The selection of women's Easter flairs is not a matter of days, but of weeks. Feminine readers are scanning the papers more closely than ever in search of helpful advice from advertisers on this all-important subject, and the merchant who proves unresponsive is bound to sacrifice his due proportion of the early spring trade. The times are good and the Easter spending free. When it rains prosperity it behooves every tradesman to put out his tub and catch all he can.

THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

Chicago Record-Herald.
Turning to the German Empire (exclusive of her colonies, for which the figures are yet to be furnished) the census of last year shows a total population of 69,955,000, on an area of 385,820 square miles. There have been no territorial annexations in Europe since unification of the German states, and the average recent rate of increase in population has been 1 1/2 per cent annually. Germany's progress in industry, commerce and education is remarkable, and there is food for reflection in the fact that her population today is almost as large as that of the United States was in 1890, and that in ten years she will probably have 80,000,000 inhabitants, and provide for her restricted territory.

CHINA'S EFFORTS TO LEARN.

Shanghai Herald.
Government schools have been started in Nankin for the education of the Chinese in Western learning, but it is all a farce. The 4 o'clock sign is hung up every day at about noon and means dismissal of the scholars. There it hangs the rest of the day. The scholars have no one competent to teach them anything if they worked the hours. One teacher was candid enough to say all he knew of Western subjects was the twenty-six letters.

THE TOWN KICKER.

Kansas City Star.
This bit of philosophy is being passed around by the country papers: The kickers on the farm are not as hard to get along with as the kickers in the towns. On the farm there is the kicking cow and our long-eared friend, the mule, while in town there is the old moshack, who wants all the privileges of municipal living without paying for them, and blocks so far as he can, every municipal improvement. The cow may be sold, but beef and the mule traded for a shotgun, but nothing but a funeral will get rid of the town kicker.

A PROSPECTIVE SCHISM.

Los Angeles Times.
John Mitchell's United Mine Workers organization is sure to split, sooner or later, on the rock of Socialism. The crack-brained theorists among the men, backed up by the Huns and Italians, will insist on the first step toward anarchism, taken, when the American, the Welsh, the Irish, English and Scotch miners almost to a man will oppose it. Then will come the break.

JUST FOR FUN.

Judicial Acumen.
The late Justice Daly of New York frequently enlivened the tedium of legal proceedings had before him by his kindly wit.

One day a suit was brought before him in which damages were claimed by reason of an assault. Plaintiff had been knocked down by the defendant and severely pummeled while prostrate. One of the witnesses seemed very reluctant to answer the questions put to him on cross-examination, in which he was upheld by the court.

"With all due respect to your honor," complained the attorney for the plaintiff, "the court does not appear to take cognizance of the underlying principle in this case."

"In my opinion," replied his honor, good-naturedly, "the underlying principle in this case is your client, Mr. Attorney."—Harper's Weekly.

Paris Versus Evansville.
"Uncle Joe" Caimon has a good story of an Indiana man whose birthplace, Evansville, will ever keep a loving memory in his heart.

Some years ago this faithful son of Indiana was obliged by reason of an inheritance, to make a trip abroad. Upon his return the Evansville people were anxious to have his impressions of "foreign parts," a wish with which the traveler obligingly complied. "Tell us all about Paris," some one finally suggested.

"Paris," observed the Evansville man, gravely, "is certainly a wonderful place, gentle—all things considered, a wonderful place. But," he added, thoughtfully, "I have no pleasure in it."—Harper's Weekly.

Bitten by P. M. Microbe.
The great inventor had advertised his dwelling for sale and was showing a prospective purchaser through the house.

"I think I have seen all now," said the latter, "except the attic. It seems to be a roomy one. Perhaps I'd better look at that."

"There is nothing in the attic that would interest you," said the great inventor. "It's full of—or, perpetual motion machines that I have contrived—perfected up to a certain point and expect to finish some day."—Chicago Tribune.

What Father Thought.
A New York teacher of instrumental music was one day telling the father of a pupil, a lad of 10 years, of the progress made by the boy in his studies. "I think he is improving a great deal," said the professor. "He will certainly learn to play the piano."

"Is that so?" asked the father, much gratified. "I didn't know whether he was really improving or whether I was merely getting used to it."—Harper's Weekly.

A New Experience.
Harlemite—A friend of mine, who's

connected with the street railway company, showed me through one of the car barns yesterday and entertained me like a prince.

Brooklynite—In what way?

Harlemite—Why, he allowed me to sit on the car seats to my heart's content.—Puck.

On the Fringe.
The Manicure—And you now have the Clynors for customers? Posh! They don't cut enough to be to a cocktail.

The Hairdresser—Indeed! How do you know?
The Manicure—Why, I used to have them coming to me, but I couldn't sell a single one of their utterances to City Topics.—Puck.

An Exception.
"You can't get a money order for more than \$100, can you?"
"Don't you believe it. I got one the other day for \$200."

"Through the Postoffice?"
"Sure! It was from my wife. She said: 'Send me \$200 at once.'"
Philadelphia Press.

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The newest Spring and Summer "Tropical" Fabric, 27 inches wide, in Old Rose, Alice Blue, Baby Blue, White, Reseda Green, Cream White, Cardinal and Black, a regular 50c value to be sold Saturday at 35c

POSITIVELY NOT A YARD AT THIS PRICE BEFORE 5 NOR AFTER 9 O'CLOCK.

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DO NOT ASK FOR THEM BEFORE 3 NOR AFTER 9 O'CLOCK.

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