DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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A PROPER CHRISTMAS.

Among the many other excellent lessons taught by the "hard times," one of the most salutary has been that gift-giving at Christmas does not necessarily mean a large outlay of money in the purchase of expensive presents. Probably the holiday just passed found as few children unprovided with little tokens of parental love as any similar occasion in many years; and yet there have been few seasons, at least in the last twenty or twenty-five years, when money was more scarce or when people generally felt as poor as they do just now. Notwithstanding this, the shop-keepers have done a fairly good business. The trinkets and other remembrances inseparably connected with the coming of Santa Claus, have not failed the expectant wee ones, and the holiday all round has been as merry and joyous as though there were no such things as debts or money stringency in the world. The merchants have shown wisdom in the selection of their stock, leaving the high-priced novelties out of their purchases altogether; and their customers, acting under the force of necessity if not of prudence, have been able to convert a small sum of money into a really large number of useful or appropriate remembrances of the festival time.

We consider this a very proper and gratifying result; if it required that there should be hard times in order to bring it about, then the hard times have again proven themselves a blessing. Of recent years the custom of giving presents at Christmas, like that of giving presents at weddings, has been one that in perhaps the majority of cases deserved more to be honored in the breach than the observance. Young men and women, as well as those who are older and ought to know better, have fairly squandered means that they could not afford, in many cases actually borrowing or running in debt, for gift articles for one another. Through having accepted like tokens on previous occasions, they have felt under obligations to make payment in kind. The spirit and significance of the holiday has thus been turned into a nervous worry or a cold, calculating business transaction. It is all wrong—a sad departure from the true meaning and the blessed gratitude and joy that should mark the day.

Our hope is that, having through force of circumstances made some improvement on the line suggested, we shall not again lapse into the extravagant, unwise and mercenary habit, when better times shall once more dawn upon us, bringing plenty in their wake.

BEETS FOR SUGAR.

The management of the Lehi sugar factory has announced its inability to operate for another season unless there is a reduction in the cost of sugar beets delivered at the factory. Because of this, efforts are now being made to have the railways fix a lower rate for freight, in order that the whole burden of the reduction shall not fall on the farmer. As it is, the railways have secured a large business, particularly from Utah county, in the hauling of beets, and the continuation of operations at the factory should be an important feature to them. They not only have the freight on the beets, but the supplies for the factory, the shipping of its output, and the general increase in business among the people connected with the industry in any form.

It has been suggested that farmers can raise beets for much less than $5 per ton—the amount paid during the past season by the factory. It should be remembered, however, that the railway freights came out of that figure, and if a farmer had to pay $1 a ton for hauling, he only got $4 for his beets. If, therefore, a reduction must be made to say $4 a ton, it should not be forgotten that if the railways insist on the same rate, the farmer loses the whole reduction, or 25 per cent of the price formerly received. Those who get their beets to the factory for less than the rate named of course have an advantage over others who must pay more; but the figures given are merely for illustration. As the present season's run consumed more than 25,000 tons of beets, it will be seen that the railways had a pretty large business, and can be consistently asked to operate therewith on the lowest reasonable basis, rather than compel the farmer to go out of beet-raising and force the factory to stop.

In dealing with this matter it would be a good idea for the farmers to figure down to detail the actual cost of beet production in their various localities, as is done with farm products elsewhere by those who operate on a more strict business basis than is customary with the majority of western grangers. Then each one would know exactly where he stands. In doing this, for instance, a California calculation places the cost of sugar beet culture at $2.53 per ton. This was upon a yield of 12 tons to the acre, with beets which ran 14 per cent saccharine matter. An examination of the figures, however, shows that by the same process of calculation, the Utah beet grower would be at a greater expense, as some of the items of cost here are higher than those named in the Sacramento valley. Taking the corrected figures for this locality, however, the totals would be made to show, on a production of 32,000 tons for which, at $4.25 per ton at the factory, the price would be $136,000, as follows:

Outlay for seed, rent of improved land, machinery, etc.	$35,200 or	$1.10 per ton.	
Labor in cultivation	61,300 "	1.90	"
Freight to factory	24,000 "	.75	"
Profit to farmer	15,500 "	.50	"
Totals	$136,000 "	$4.25	"

Perhaps some of the Utah producers could give results even more favorable to the farmers than these, and if so their detail would be interesting and valuable. These give the actual cost as $3.10 per ton, with 10 cents for incidentals and to meet exigencies, making $3.50 per ton. Of course such figures take into consideration that there is much child labor available in beet culture, and probably represent a fair average and such as will offer an inducement to the farmers to continue in the industry, provided the cost of transportation to the factory can be fixed at rates to allow for hauling the beets to the railway and necessary expenses in connection therewith.

THE SHOEMAKERS' STRIKE.

The experience of 1894 with strikes has caused people generally to look with less favor than ever before upon this method of settling disputes between employer and employe. It is recognized that at best it is a resort to means so nearly allied in its nature to lawlessness that it is justifiable only under exceptionally extreme circumstances, if at all. For this reason the striking shoemakers at Haverhill, Massachusetts, are not likely to receive any great measure of public sympathy in their latest move. When comparison is made between their attitude and that of the Pennsylvania miners a few days ago, who accepted the proposed reduction of wages rather than strike because the latter was the greater of the two evils, the better sense of the nation will commend the miners as pursuing the wiser course under existing circumstances.

At the same time, it cannot be admitted that the compulsory reduction of the miners' wages was not a wrong; nor that the Haverhill strikers are not oppressed by the low scale of wages. The action of Mr. Spaulding, if truthfully narrated in the dispatches, in locking out his employes because they attended a labor rally, was, under the circumstances related, a piece of tyranny. But all this does not help the strikers' cause. They have attempted to take advantage of the busy season, and even if the manufacturers are compelled to give way, the employes will lose more in wages than they can gain by the proposed increase in the schedule when the reduction that will be imposed at the approaching dull season is considered. The employers, however, can hold out better than the employes, if they decide to do so. The result will be that the trade will go elsewhere than to Haverhill, and the beaten strikers will suffer most severely in any event.

If the shoemakers' union which is conducting this business were to use its combined strength and money as naturally to start a portion of its members in some new and more profitable industry in some other part of the country as it does in the strike line, it would serve its own purpose and the public good much better than by present methods. There is plenty of opportunity for good workingmen in many avenues of life, if there were enough co-operation among their fellows to give them a start therein. It requires some effort and a small amount of capital for a mechanic to get out of the old rut into a new field; but it would be much cheaper for labor unions to reduce competition in their own ranks, for a time at least, by adopting this process than to engage in ruinous strikes. Their co-operative effort is misdirected power.

PUGILISM STILL THRIVES.

That the case against the prize fighting gang in New Orleans should be dismissed, as reported in the dispatches, will be no surprise to the majority of newspaper readers who have watched the course of similar occurrences and proceedings in the past. Indeed, after the [illegible] finding of the coroner's jury—in substance that Andy Bowen's death was not caused by the blow from Lavigne's fist but by striking his head upon an unpadded floor—it was hardly necessary to expect any further judicial announcement on the matter at all. The return of a verdict in case of a boiler explosion would place the blame on the mangled victim who was not killed by being blown into the air, but by contact with the cruel ground when he came down. And carrying the same absurd reasoning to its legitimate conclusion, there would be nobody but Providence to blame for anything; and coroners' inquiries as well as judicial investigations of criminal acts might as well be done away with altogether in a thousand and one cases where they now are expected to play an important part.

As a matter of fact, a community which permits and takes peaceful cognizance of prize fighting cannot be deemed to have a very acute sense of the proprieties in case the fight results in a murder. The dramatic complaint of the bruiser fraternity—that this "unfortunate affair will be the death-blow of pugilism"—is accordingly more rubbish. The killing of Bowen recently, and of Riordan a few weeks ago, has not made prize-fighting a particle more degrading and lawless than it was before. Fatalities of the sort referred to do not rob the ring of what little of any dignity or honor it may have ever had. Nor are the brutes who caused the death of these other brutes in any degree [illegible] or more barbarous by reason of this record than any others who follow the same line of business and whose prowess up to date has considerably stopped short of actual murder when their opponents were pounded into unconsciousness. The death-blow of pugilism will not be administered by any particular number of death-blows to pugilists, unless, forsooth, the whole outfit of them could thus be wiped out of existence. It will come only when public sentiment is so aroused and determined that not only participants in, but spectators of ring encounters are all bundled into jail together as accessories in crime, and treated every one as enemies of civilization and order—a combined whose free existence is a menace to law and decency. Until then, while there may be hypocritical expressions of regret and spasmodic attempts at reform, the cultivation of the brutal instinct will go on, and the study of the delivery of the knock-out blow on the point of the jaw, over the heart or upon the jugular, will be pursued as assiduously as ever.

WIND FOR WATER.

If the report which comes from Kansas, that the underflow of water can be raised to the surface by utilizing the winds which sweep over the prairies of that state, and can be secured in sufficient quantity and at such a reasonable cost as to be used for irrigation purposes, the future of the great plains as a farm, garden and orchard district ought to be definitely assured. Water has been found to exist in abundance at a depth of 150 to 200 feet; and it is now claimed that thorough tests have demonstrated beyond a doubt that by a pump and windmill apparatus specially designed, sufficient water to irrigate from ten to twenty acres of land can be secured at a maximum cost of $250, while the apparatus can be kept in repair at comparatively slight expense.

The experience with windmills in this part of the country causes some dubiety as to the success of the experiments being as great as claimed for them. With water much nearer the surface, windmills have not proven altogether satisfactory here for the purpose of raising the fluid. The expense has been too great for the quantity of water procured even in seasons when the movement of currents of air was sufficient to operate the pumps; and then there is a great portion of the time here when there is practically no wind. The greater constancy of the air currents which sweep over the Kansas plains, supplemented by the special pumping device, may, however, supply the deficiency. If the scheme should prove as satisfactory as alleged, it is no wonder that "the most cheerful expectations are felt by those who have watched the experiments closely," as is stated in the report referred to.

In the interest of the farmers now residing on the plains of Kansas and Nebraska, and the thousands of industrious people who could find homes there if the land could be fully cultivated, it is to be hoped that the new process of securing irrigation water by the aid of windmill pumps will be successful. With this feature demonstrated in a favorable manner, there is another suggestion that might prove valuable for localities situated like the dry lands in Salt Lake county. There are thousands of acres where there is now no prospect of water being conveyed for irrigating purposes, but if it could be done there would be a much larger acreage brought under cultivation than at present. At the same time, the underflow of water is abundant at a reasonable depth. With the vast electric power which can be developed in this valley, and for which arrangements are now being perfected by several companies, there is no reason why it could not be [illegible] for windmill power, and be almost as cheap.

Whether or not the Kansas experiments have made the complete and gratifying demonstration that is claimed for them, it is probable the time is approaching when the inventive genius will adapt some mechanism to make available any water supply at all within reach. An era of irrigation development is upon the great West, largely as a result of what has been accomplished in Utah, and as a necessity for the welfare of the nation. In this situation it will not be surprising if there are discoveries and adaptations of a character little dreamed of today to help the great work along. If the Kansas windmill experiments are but a comparatively small means to this end, their results may be hailed with joy by all who would have the earth produce of its fulness for the sustenance of its inhabitants.

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William W. Taggart, son of C. Y. Taggart, will in the [illegible] time piano—uprights, squares and grands, for $2.00 each. Orders left in person or by postal at Taggart and Chamberlain's Piano and Organ show room, 276 1st Street, will be promptly attended to. Organs tuned and repaired at equally low prices.

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Second class tickets accepted on this car.

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FRIDAY, December 28th, Millöcker's [illegible]

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Prices: Night—$1.00, 75c, 50c, 25c. Matinee—75c, 50c, 25c.

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TAMMANY

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Grover has Gone to His Buzzard Roost
Wilson and Breckenridge are Gone to England.
(God save the Queen.)

In the presidential election of two years ago and the one just passed, should teach the men who are chosen to represent the people in their national affairs, that the people are keeping tabs on them very closely, and will stand no more monkeying.

In times of general prosperity, people become very lax in keeping themselves posted on what their public representatives are doing; but when it becomes hard for them to make both financial ends meet a pretty thorough investigation is sure to follow, and the unfaithful senators are pretty effectually weeded out, and the process continues until an honest administration is obtained and general prosperity again resumed.

We are now of the opinion that the radical change in the congress will preclude any further radical tariff legislation, which fact will alone restore confidence in the manufacturing, commercial and financial circles and a in great measure restore prosperity and value in property. To be sure.

Almost all commodities will advance in price. Wages will advance, work will be more plentiful and the advanced prices will not be so much noticed.

We shall, however, continue for a time at least, our hard times prices and continue to make clothing at twenty five per cent lower than most of our competitors, but how long we shall be able to give the splendid suits we are now offering for the price is a question not answerable at the present time. But anyone who will call and examine the quality of our $13.75, $16.50 and $18.00 suits, will be convinced that such bargains can't continue long. Our Overcoats at $16.00 are beauties, though we have some even lower priced.

Yours truly,

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