

**DESERT EVENING NEWS**  
Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

**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, \$3.00  
Six Months, \$1.75  
Three Months, \$1.00  
One Month, .25  
Saturday Edition, Per Year, \$2.00  
Semi-Weekly, Per Year, \$1.00

**NEW YORK OFFICE.**  
In charge of E. F. Cummings, manager.  
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 121 Park Row Building, New York.

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In charge of E. J. Cooper, 15 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.  
Address all business communications and all remittances to:  
**THE DESERT NEWS,**  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered as Second Class Matter according to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

**SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 4, 1905**

**MEXICAN ENTERPRISES.**

Old Mexico is a land of great opportunities for American enterprise. There are vast areas in that country that are capable of high cultivation and there are openings for industries of various kinds which could be made exceedingly profitable if placed under American direction, with American skill, machinery and agricultural implements. Great stretches of it, however, are without water-rights for irrigation, and could not be depended upon for "dry farming."

A very large part of the land can be bought at reasonable figures, and a number of companies have invested means in that direction. Some of them are undoubtedly valuable possessions, which have yielded large returns, even under the slipshod management and poor arrangements common to that region for centuries. Under American enterprise they are giving promise of immense profits. For labor is cheap, the climate is fine, particularly in the higher altitudes, and the prospects of splendid success are reliable and in the highest degree encouraging.

This, however, applies only to such corporations and companies as are bona fide, and not to those speculative ventures organized for the purpose of inducing people with a little money to embark on doubtful voyages. There are many of such pretended mining and agricultural concerns that are little or nothing but baits for suckers. It is such frauds as these that Consul-General Parsons of Mexico City denounces, in a report published in Consular and Trade Reports for November 14, in which he says:

"Americans should not invest in Mexican enterprises except as the result of personal investigation or from report known to be reliable. They should not conclude because reputable banking companies in the United States act as trustees for Mexican enterprises that shares of stock in such concerns must have value, as these trusteeships as a rule have no bearing on the soundness of the proposition or the value of the stock, which may be absolutely worthless. Promoters of the rank and file in Mexico usually seek to cloak their designs with some degree of respectability by getting men of reputation and wealth in both countries interested in their enterprises. The promoters have printed in their circulars names of many distinguished Americans as vouching for their business ability and integrity, and then trade and sell the stock on the strength of the names, with a knowledge that the enterprise is a fake. These names are generally obtained by the sly statement of the promoter who promises great returns, and frequently the names are used without authority."

By quoting the above paragraphs we have no intention of belittling in any way, those promising enterprises in Mexico which have been described and spoken of approvingly in the Desert News. They have every appearance of prosperity and permanence. They have yielded big returns in the past, are established on a solid basis, and under American management will doubtless fulfill every promise and promise, given to persons who have taken or may take shares in the capital stock of the companies mentioned. We learn further that the titles to the lands they have purchased are complete, the abstracts going back to the earliest times and having been passed upon by some of the highest legal talent in the Republic.

This is a point to be closely investigated by all persons and companies in purchasing lands in Old Mexico. The title may be perfect back for a long period, but the purchaser is liable to run against some old Spanish grant, which in case of litigation may overturn his plans and leave him, either on the sands of uncertainty, or overwhelmed with the waters of dispossession. Great care and caution are necessary in such Mexican investments and without speculations that look well on paper, but have no solid basis on which to build the sanguine hopes that are set forth as deceptions.

But there is no doubt that a number of most profitable enterprises have been projected in that country, some of them by citizens of Utah, which will bring fortunes to the investors, and find employment for numerous laborers. This paper, however, is not engaged in business of that kind or in colonization schemes, nor is it to be quoted as guaranteeing the success of any firm or company. Mexico is rapidly advancing because of the influx of American capital and skill and intelligent oversight. President Diaz is a friend to such enterprise, and his vice presidency is lending the Republic to higher planes of civilization and power, which cannot fail to bring his country up to an enviable standard among the nations of the world.

**THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEM.**

A diplomat in Constantinople is represented as having expressed the opinion that the Sultan is daily listening to fanatical orations concerning the greatness of former Caliphs, and that these orations have a marked influence

upon him, as seen in his attitude toward the European powers which are now threatening to take possession of Turkish territory, unless the Macedonian problem is settled satisfactorily. There is every reason for doubting the correctness of this statement. If the speakers connected with the mosques are delivering inflammatory addresses, they are in all probability commanded to do so by the full consent of the Sultan, perhaps to impress the Europeans with his seemingly dangerous position, should he yield now. It is more likely that the orations referred to are intended for effect in Europe, rather than in the council of the Sultan. Abdul Hamid does not need stimulants to resist foreign encroachment on his territory.

The situation at present is considerably more grave, though it is generally believed that the Turkish government will yield completely at the last moment. At the conference in Berlin 1878, the powers represented pledged themselves to see to it that the Turkish provinces should no longer be the scene of persecution and misgovernment. Russia had been deprived of the power to liberate the Christians of the Balkan states, though she had waged a successful war for that purpose, and the great powers of Europe pledged themselves to see to the establishment of peace and tranquility. But these pledges were never kept. Three years ago the conditions in Macedonia became so notorious that the signatory powers decided to intervene, though they had refused to do so in behalf of the Armenians. Russia and Austria took the initiative, and the proposition was to place the Turkish troops in the provinces under European officers, and put the revenue collection under the supervision of responsible parties. The Sultan then promised to inaugurate reforms, but the promises were, of course, not kept. The unrest in Macedonia grew, and open insurrection was threatened.

Last May the powers again took the matter up. They sent a collective note to the Sultan, proposing a scheme for administering the finances of the three Macedonian vilayets, Salonica, Monastir and Uskub. The scheme provided for the appointment of four financial representatives of the powers, with the Austro-Russian civil agents, should constitute a commission to deal with the provincial budget. This collective note also conveyed the information that the foreign delegates appointed as controllers would reach Salonica on October 1st. The Sultan's answers were evasive. He, evidently, counted on German backing. Finally, the powers served him with an ultimatum, accompanied with a threat to invade Turkish waters with an international fleet. In accordance with this ultimatum a fleet of war ships belonging to Great Britain, Austria, Italy and France assembled at the Piræus, and under the command of the Austrian admiral, Ritter von Jedina, sailed for the islands of Mytilene and Lemnos. If the Sultan continues his policy of procrastination, the fleet may attempt to force the Dardanelles and threaten Constantinople.

Whether the Macedonian problem will be settled by the introduction of the proposed reforms, is doubtful. The Macedonians want complete liberty. They have a secret government, known as the Macedonian committee. This committee make laws, collect taxes in their own way, pass judgment upon offenders, and virtually exercise all the functions of a government. They are working for freedom from Turkish rule, and they will not be satisfied with less. The problem can only be solved by the liberation of the victims of oppression.

**AS SEEN ABROAD.**

It is a lamentable fact that many of the men who are now in public view on account of the investigation of the affairs of the insurance companies, were, not long ago, pointed out as instances of financial success attained through industry, honesty and integrity. The American youth were told to imitate them, and to hope for similar results. Some of these men were delivering addresses on how to attain success, and they invariably emphasized merit and honesty as necessary factors, intimating their own superabundant supply of those ingredients.

But now, how are the mighty fallen! What an irony! Mr. Hughes! He has, so far, discovered very little real industry, and still less integrity, in the activity of the great "financiers." He has found more ingenuity in the invention of schemes whereby to defraud the public, and even the government.

The investigation has placed the entire country in a bad light before the world. This fact is curiously illustrated in an article by a writer in a Paris paper, whose statements are all the more significant because they betray dense ignorance of American conditions generally. For, when even those little familiar with what is going on in this country, become impressed with its weaknesses, these must be conspicuous indeed.

"This writer draws a map of the United States showing the extent of 'graft,' as he understands it, and then concludes that 60,000,000 people are infected with political corruption." He gives a list of senators who, he claims, have added their votes, legislators who have taken bribes, state officials who have embezzled, and cases of miscarriage of justice, and then adds:

"Is it possible that this Augean stable—the expression is not too strong—will ever be so cleaned and cleared up that all the black patches will disappear from the map of graft? There are men in the United States who have not lost hope in this matter. I would mention the district attorney of New York, Mr. Jerome, and the governor of Illinois, Mr. Deneen."

Our author blames some of our men prominent in the financial world for the "social plague." He calls them the great malefactors and suggests that there is no "salvation for the Union until the day a grand jury is empowered to force from all those promoters and organizers of public corruption an account of their whole life, whose shameful acts they are attempting to blot out by endowing churches, schools, galleries and public libraries."

We quote this, not as an endorsement

ment of the exaggerations the writer indulges in, but merely as an illustration of the opinion held abroad about this country, on account of the searchlight that for some time has played on the inner transactions of some leading financiers, and we observe in passing that it is not Utah that is the cause of this unfavorable opinion. Some of our fanatics talk as if the commonwealth would be clean and tidy everywhere, were it not for the "Mormons." That was also the view held in Rome of the first followers of the Nazarene. Facts are against this falsehood. There are, unfortunately, other things than "Mormonism" that make foreigners call this country an "Augean stable."

**WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS!**

We are in this country experiencing an era of unprecedented prosperity, but that does not prevent many of our enterprising business men from selling hawser and sugar, colored red with aniline, for raspberry jam. Others sell old felt cloth chopped up and retorted with acids for mushrooms. It is really astonishing to what extent the American public can be imposed upon by vendors of stuff intended for food. Rotten eggs, it is claimed, are deodorized with chemicals and sold to bakers to be used in making cakes. Spoiled fish, having gone beyond rots, is treated with salts of zinc, aluminum and other metals, and the gifts colored with coal tar dyes to give them a fresh look. Boracic acid is squirted over chopped beef, to "sweeten it," by the butcher under the customer's very eyes.

It is strange that such practices can be successfully indulged in, but it is still more strange that a number of people, otherwise bright and intelligent, are so easily misled in regard to matters intended for spiritual consumption. They will accept falsehoods for truth, if the rotten part is properly deodorized with high-sounding pretensions. They will accept drunken sons as leaders in a temperance movement, moral perverts as apostles of purity, and traitors to God and man as noble patriots, provided only the necessary "chemicals" are judiciously applied as the boracic acid to "sweeten" the decaying food. Still, the old saying, whether by Abraham Lincoln, or Burnham, holds good: "You cannot fool all the people all the time." And it should be added that some people cannot be fooled very long. The "elect" cannot be deceived.

More "dust" than dirt flies on the Panama canal.

As a drawing card, Castro must be jealous of Ab Hamid.

There are those who say no coal man was ever warm hearted.

The Sultan is showing signs of distress. He hesitates to come to a showdown.

As time rolls on James Hazen Hyde appears to be the whitest crow in the flock.

If football is prohibited within the limits of Boston, it will create a hubbub of the universe.

Turkey would be delighted to take out on Bulgaria her grudge against Europe.

It might relieve the situation if the Russian government would use the wireless telegraph.

It must have been Senator Depew's "raucous friend" who started the reports about his resignation.

The city officials couldn't compel observance of the sprinkling ordinance but the snow has.

Mr. Carnegie has never been known to smoke. He had no need to; Pittsburgh did it for him.

Doubtless an effort will be made to railroad the rate regulation bill through Congress.

Count Witte is said to be the victim of overwork. If he isn't the victim of an assassin he will be all right.

Soldiers firing on mobs in the streets of Seoul looks as though civilization had reached the Hermit kingdom.

"Upright walking is sure walking," says the Philadelphia Record. Not much, on an ice covered walk.

Those Wisconsin and Michigan hunters who were mistaken for deer and shot, might be called dead game sports.

The naval demonstration was resumed today. That demonstration is getting to be a continuous performance.

Senator Depew denies that he has resigned or that he intends to. It was also denied that Richard A. McCurdy would resign.

"There is no loss without some gain. People who haven't cement walks in front of their places won't have to sweep the snow off."

Count Tolstol feels very optimistic over the situation in Russia at the present time. This makes him the greatest optimist of all time.

During the West Point-Annapolis football game the President sat on the navy side during the first half and on the army side during the second half. In neither case was he on the losing side.

President Wheeler of the University of California says that William R. Hearst will be a commanding figure in the next Democratic national convention. How many votes will he be able to command? Is the important question.

**ATHLETICS AND MORALS.**

Seattle Post-Intelligencer. A great athlete of the old school who had outlived his day and generation in the athletic world, said his period of superiority had been greatly lengthened because he early had recognized the fact that muscular tissue would deteriorate if the individual formed bad habits. He said that he did not use liquor or tobacco, because both were injurious. He did not swear, because the swearing habit caused him to lose his self-control. This man deliberately cultivated sobriety, temperance and the virtues that discipline men's natures and make for better character, as a means of promoting his physical superiority over other athletes. Today there is hardly a professional wrestler or prize-fighter who either drinks or uses tobacco. An instance is found in the rifle expert. He is the same sort of self-disciplined creature. He knows that to use either narcotics or stimulants means to lose his nerve.

**A SMALL CROP.**  
New York World.  
The largest yield of American gold ever recorded was taken from the earth last year, according to the geological survey report. The product was worth \$30,535,000, a trifle less than \$1 for each inhabitant of the United States. The year's yield of silver was about 40 cents per inhabitant. The combined production of gold and silver in the whole world is only 35 cents for each inhabitant. For each inhabitant of the United States the United States produces \$5.60 worth of cotton, \$1.90 worth of potatoes, nearly \$7 worth of hay, nearly \$30 worth of grain crops. The American hog roots out more wealthily by \$24,000,000 a year than all the gold miners dig. The side product of cotton seed is worth more than the silver yield.

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