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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
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yance if they will take time to notice
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rings.For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 3
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PREST. SMITH SPEAKS OUT.

The frank and candid statement made
by President Joseph F. Smith before
the Senate committee as to his family
relations, will be published throughout
the land and will probably be variously
interpreted. He was under no "compul-
sion" in the matter, but having nothing
to hide, he unhesitatingly announced
the fact that he had lived with his
wives and children in plural relations
notwithstanding the law against such
cohabitation, holding himself ready to
meet the consequences whatever they
might be.His position is well defined. He married
his wives before the manifesto of
President Woodruff was given to and
adopted by the Church. He has not
married any since that time. Nor
does he admit but avows to the con-
trary that the Church has since au-
thorized any plural marriages. He re-
gards his covenants with his wives as
sacred and binding, and he will not
desert them or cast them off. If he is
lawfully accused and prosecuted for
this he is ready to meet the issue. He
conceals nothing as to his status or as
to his belief in the principle of plural
marriage.There is nothing new in this to the
people of Utah, or to a great many
well-informed persons residing in other
parts of the country. The compact be-
tween the Nation and this State on en-
tering the Union was, that "polygam-
ous marriages should be forever prohib-
ited." They have been prohibited by
law. There was no condition exacted
as to the living of men with the wives
previously married to them. The new
State enacted laws as to the relations
of the sexes, and they may be executed
and enforced.But it is well known that public senti-
ment was widely in favor of permit-
ting existing plural relations to remain
without disturbance, so long as further
polygamous marriages were not con-
tracted. The laws of Congress had de-
fined the difference between the two
conditions, and the definitions had been
adopted by the State. President Smith's
attitude is well understood, and there
has been no "lifting of the curtain," as
alleged. The Deseret News has dilated
upon the situation repeatedly, and those
public journals that have understood
it and did not wish to confuse the pub-
lic mind have explained it in the same
light.As to the revelation on plural
marriage, President Smith's position
is plain and consistent. He believes
in its divine authenticity. But he
conforms to the official manifesto
of President Woodruff. He and every
other man has a right to the free exer-
cise of his religious belief. No person,
court, government or earthly power
may rightly interfere with or attempt
to punish him for his abstract faith.
His acts, however, are within the pur-
view of the law.If, as avowed by some persons, it
is "the Mormon Church" and not Reed
Smoot that is under investigation, while
the Senate may have no lawful author-
ity to pursue such an inquiry, we hope
it will be so thorough and fair that
it will be a real exposition. We have
been trying to expose "Mormonism"
for more than half a century. The
national inquisition will do more to aid
that work than anything that has hap-
pened during that period. Whatever
the result may be as to individuals and
their rights as citizens and legislators,
the truth will be held up for public at-
tention, and will emerge out of the
clouds that may be cast around it,
bright, effulgent and potent for the
glory of God and the accomplishment of
His great latter-day work.

"AN ANGEL IN BLACK."

There will be numerous small errors,
unintentional no doubt, in the press
reports of the proceedings before the
Senate committee on privileges and
elections, and these when known should
be corrected, that the public may not
be misled. For instance:
The reporter gives the name of FrankCannon instead of Abraham H. Can-
non, in speaking of the inquiry into an
alleged plural marriage which has been
the subject of newspaper tales for
many years. Also George Teasdale, one
of the Apostles is called George F.
Teasdale; there is no need to retain the
F, which is superfluous. There is no
such Senator as Reed B. Smoot, as
published with a portrait in the Tri-
bune; the B. should be left out. The
terms polygamous marriage and poly-
gamous cohabitation are confounded in
the dispatches, and when either is
clearly mentioned mistakenly, the er-
ror needs to be corrected.The report that President Smith
stated that "an angel in black" gave
a revelation to the Prophet Joseph
Smith is so palpably erroneous, that
the words "in black" should be elim-
inated, as no one acquainted with the
Church and its history ever heard of
such an appearance. "An angel of
light," "an angel clothed in white
robes," or words to this effect, have
been frequently mentioned, but never
"an angel in black." Yet this blunder
is headlined in black, in a morning pa-
per, showing how a black mistake can
be magnified and emphasized.Persons unacquainted with "Mor-
mon" doctrine may be misled by the
blunder, but Latter-day Saints will
wonder how it occurred. It was doubt-
less a reporter's error in the hurry of
the moment, or a telegraphic slip, either
of which is quite pardonable. No angel
in modern divine manifestations, that
we have heard of, appeared "in black,"
but rather in snowy white and with
light as a garment. But quite possibly
the "black" blunder will go the rounds
and be made prominent in the newspa-
per accounts of the congressional in-
quiry. "The wise will understand."

ANTI-RUSSIAN SENTIMENT.

Count Cassini, the Russian representa-
tive in Washington, has made the an-
ti-Russian sentiment in this country
the subject of a conference with Secre-
tary Hay. That proves the importance
attached by the Russian government to
American public opinion.Count Cassini seems to be of the
opinion that the newspapers are to be
blame for the prevailing sentiment, and
that a change could be effected, if
both countries were to take measures
to check the press, "before it is too
late." It is possible that the ambassa-
dor is correct as far as Russia is con-
cerned. In his country the newspa-
pers may be the leaders and creators
of public opinion, as far as such opin-
ion can be said to exist there. But in
the United States the press, as a rule,
merely reflects that opinion. The newspa-
pers have not created an anti-Russ-
ian sentiment here. They have given
the news, as far as obtainable, and
their readers have formed their own
opinions. This opinion has again been
reflected in the editorial columns of
some papers. Restrictions on the press
would not change public opinion here.There are several reasons why Amer-
ican sentiment, lately, has to some ex-
tent turned against Russia. One is the
diplomatic double-dealing in Man-
churia. American diplomacy is
straight forward, honest and open.
The American people can, therefore, not
understand the hypocrisy that dic-
tates promises which are made only to
be broken.Another reason is found in Kishineff.
Russia has treated her Hebrew popula-
tion with medieval cruelty. She has,
probably, forgotten that the Jews play
an important part in the commerce of
the world, and that Hebrew voters are
a factor in the politics of the United
States. Russia cannot persecute her
Hebrew subjects and yet retain the
good will of an enlightened nation.
Every Jew in this country has an in-
fluence, and this is not exerted in be-
half of the country in which his breth-
ren are massacred and proscribed.Another reason is Finland. It is dif-
ficult to sympathize with a government
that has broken the solemn pledges
given to an enlightened, liberty-loving
people, with a view of crushing its in-
dependence and reducing it to the status
of serfs. Thousands of Finlanders
have found a refuge in this country,
and they, too, are exercising an influ-
ence against their oppressors.The effort to silence Tolstoy is also
kept in remembrance, by the fact that
that kind of persecution is going on
all the time. Concerning Tolstoy, J. A.
Edgerton says in Mind:He sought to follow God. The church,
respectable and old,
Accustomed but to follow form,
Was shocked at one so bold.
To follow God was blasphemous—
It drove him from the fold.He sought to help humanity.
The despots in command
Had never heard of such a thing—
They could not understand.
They thought it must be treason, so
They drove him from the land.That is very nearly the view taken
by a majority of American thinkers
about that episode, even by those who
are far from agreeing with the Rus-
sian philosopher. In Russia a statisti-
cian goes to Siberia for five years for
expressing his views of peasant con-
ditions, at a technical congress. A
lawyer is sent to the dungeon at Arch-
angel for opinions expressed at the same
congress. A newspaper writer is im-
prisoned for words spoken at the grave
of a fellow writer. Another man, who
is simply known to be a liberal, is ban-
ished. How can Russian statesmen ex-
pect a friendly American sentiment,
notwithstanding all these stories of
persecutions?The American people, however, will
not be unfair. The good will of Russia,
expressed toward us, at critical periods
of our history, will not be forgotten.
This country has declared its neutral-
ity in the present conflict, and this de-
claration will be made good. It is re-
ported that Russian merchants are al-
ready countermanding orders for Amer-
ican goods. That may be a natural con-
sequence of patriotism, but there is no
justification for it, as long as no rep-
resentative of our government has been
guilty of any unfriendly act. In our
little war with Spain, the conduct of
certain German commanders at Man-
ila caused some bad feelings, but in
the present conflict, nothing parallel to
that has occurred. There is no cause
for Russian ill will. If Russia wereto step forth and open her portals to
civilization, to liberty, to truth, the
United States would be first to welcome
her advancement in every direction.

KOREA'S DOOM SEALED.

Korea has placed her troops at the
disposition of Japan. The Korean ar-
my is not large. It is said to consist of
about 17,000 warriors, but it can, pos-
sibly, be enlarged under Japanese direc-
tion. They are not thought to be good
fighters, but under efficient officers they
may become useful in the field.The treaty recently entered into be-
tween Japan and Korea provides that
"in case the welfare of the Imperial
house of Korea or the territorial integ-
rity of Korea is endangered by aggres-
sion of a third power, or internal dis-
turbances, the Imperial government of
Japan shall immediately take such nec-
essary measures as the circumstances
require, and in such case the Imperial
government of Korea shall give full fa-
cilities to promote action of the Im-
perial Japanese government." In ac-
cordance with this treaty, Korea has
opened her territory to the Japanese
armies, and entered the field as an ally
of her defenders.The importance of this move on the
part of Korea will be apparent after
the war. No matter which power be-
comes victorious, the independence of
Korea is gone. If Russia drives the
Japanese "into the sea," the "land of
the morning calm," as the Korean
peninsula has been called, will become
a Russian province, and if Japan con-
quers, it will remain under "the influ-
ence" of that country. Its doom is
sealed, no matter which side wins.France would, according to her agree-
ment with Russia, it is thought, be un-
der obligation to take part in the war,
when her ally has more than one an-
tagonist to deal with, but neither Korea
nor China is considered a "power," in
the meaning of the treaty, and the
French, consequently, do not feel called
upon to break their neutrality on ac-
count of Korea. The French sentiment
is expressed by the former minister of
marine, when he says:"Russia knows that it would be of no
use for us to resort to armed interven-
tion in her favor, whereas we should ex-
pose ourselves to disasters prejudicial
not only to our own interests, but also
to the prestige and influence of our al-
liance. Those people are very blind who
have spread false or falsified stories in
order to convince public opinion that
Russia is entitled to expect armed in-
tervention on our part."The European powers will exert
themselves to the utmost to keep the
confagration from spreading, but will
they succeed?In this city money doesn't make the
Mayor go.The crowds of loafers on the corners
"stand pat."An ounce of radium is worth a
pound of cure.Were Admiral Togo a Roman, he
would receive a toga.The transgressor rarely realizes that
his way is hard until he gets bumped
good and hard.When boys are arrested for crime, as
a rule the parents are not wholly
blameless.The anti-Smoot cry is the old bigoted
anti-Catholic cry—"no popery"—in a
new form.What Russia wants is that the
United States should muzzle the Amer-
ican press unless it shouts for Russia.It was a typical March day yester-
day. Rain and snow in the morning
and splendid sunshine in the after-
noon.Ninety thousand tons of ore were re-
duced in the smelters of this valley
during the month of February. That
might almost be called a crusher.Evidently the Russian press does not
intend to raise a fund for the purpose
of presenting an equestrian statue of
Peter the Great to the government of
the United States.Some of the city employes never felt
so bad in their lives as when the audi-
tor refused to certify their pay
accounts. In fact they felt all broke
up.The United States will be in pos-
session of the Panama canal property
within thirty days. That will make its
title good, possession being nine-tenths
of the law.The range of questions allowed Mr.
Taylor suggests the idea that the Com-
mittee on Privileges and Elections con-
siders the investigation to be in the
nature of a census taking.Russian military authorities profess
to know what the Japanese military
plan of campaign is. It is very pos-
sible that they do, for they seem to be
doing all they can to carry out those
plans.We do not believe that any person
who has performed labor for the city
will be deprived of his pay therefor.
But all work should be legitimate and
be lawfully authorized. Let the courts
define the law.The Deseret News has never advocat-
ed the exercise of unlawful authority
either by the Mayor or the City Council.
In that as well as some other respects,
thank God, it differs from the Salt Lake
Tribune."The Patti concert in Philadelphia
was abandoned, the receipts being re-
turned, and no money was returned,"
says an exchange. A duplication of
the Butte experience. This will be the
diva's farewell tour sure enough.The remarriage of the former hus-
band of Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett,following the remarriage of the former
wife of Mr. Burnett suggests the ques-
tion, where does Little Lord Fauntler-
roy come in?Premier Balfour made a fine display
of jingoism in the commons on Brit-
ain's naval policy. Of course England
must have a navy as large as the com-
bined navies of any two maritime pow-
ers, but can she always keep it up?A dispatch to the Chicago Chronicle
from Louisville, Ky., says that Mrs.
Laura Wyman, wife of one of the large-
est landowners in central Kentucky,
has given birth to quadruplets. Mr. Wy-
man immediately named them Grover
Cleveland Wyman, Marcus Hanna Wy-
man, Theodore Roosevelt Wyman and
Wille Bryan Wyman, the last being a
girl. Do not Mr. and Mrs. Wyman un-
derstand that a house divided against
itself cannot stand?It seems that a statue of Napoleon is
to be set up in the grounds of the
Army War College at Washington, in
the vicinity of the effigy of Frederick
the Great, the German war hero.
Something must be done, we presume,
to preserve the balance of power be-
tween France and Germany. But other
nationalities are also entitled to con-
sideration. The Russians might claim
space for a statue of Peter the Great,
and the Italians for Julius Caesar; the
Swedes for Gustavus Adolphus and the
British for Wellington. And why
should not the Danes and the Nor-
wegians, the Poles and the Hungarians,
the Mexicans, the Turks, the Spaniards,
and the Japanese have the privilege of
being represented by their respective
warriors? A regular museum of stat-
ues might be established, if that is de-
sired.

THE HAGUE DECISION.

Pueblo Chieftain.
The decision of The Hague arbitra-
tion tribunal that the allied powers are
entitled to preferential treatment in the
payment of indemnity by the govern-
ment of Venezuela is not in accordance
with American opinion. Our statesmen
have taken the position that nations
that did not resort to force for the set-
tlement of their claims should not be
placed at a disadvantage as compared
with those that made a show of force.
The Hague tribunal, on the other hand,
seems to have considered that it was
called upon to consider matters as
they stood on the day the question
was submitted to it for action, at which
time certain nations were demanding
their dues by force of arms, while other
powers were using only peaceful in-
fluences.

San Francisco Chronicle.

But while the decision is unfortunate,
it could hardly have been otherwise ex-
cept by the assumption of the tribunal
of the authority to enact law. As a
matter of fact, "The good old rule that
they shall take who have the power,
and they may keep who can" has never
been abrogated in international affairs,
as we may see every day in other con-
flicts than this. It was hoped, per-
haps, that this arbitral tribunal
would boldly declare that to be the law
which ought to be the law.
It declined to accept the responsibility
and probably it is, upon the whole, best
for the cause of arbitration. Nations
will be the more likely to arbitrate dis-
putes if assured that the arbitral court
will not make precedents.

New York Evening Sun.

One of the grounds on which the
Tribunal rendered its decision was that
Venezuela had been at fault in refus-
ing arbitration when England and Ger-
many proposed it prior to the blockade.
At first blush this seems to justify the
decision in their favor, but there might
very well be a claim or demand which
a South American nation might honor-
ably refuse to submit to arbitration,
when there was a descent of the flag
of the creditor power on her
shores to obtain preference over other
nations. On some such occasion war
might ensue, with the prospect that the
United States would be involved. It is
much to be regretted that The Hague
court did not put the blockading and
non-blockading creditors on an equal
footing in the Venezuela case, at the
same time allowing the allies blockade
expenses.

St. Paul Globe.

It is reasonably apparent that neither
the creditors who used force nor any
other party have got anything
from Venezuela unless force had been
applied. She was a persistent and con-
tumacious debtor, and the sheriff had
to be called in to levy an execution.
Naturally enough he demanded his
fee. The decision may serve as a
needed warning to many of the inferior
South American powers that they
cannot flaunt their independence and
their occasional dishonesty in the faces
of others and hope that the United
States will protect them from the con-
sequences.

Springfield Republican.

In the present case it may be noted
that the French have lost this equality
of treatment by following the peaceful
policy which distinguished their arbi-
tration agreement with the Venezue-
lans. The bad effect of this cannot be
ignored. Colombia, for example, hav-
ing lost the isthmus, owes a large sum
to European creditors and has no vis-
ible means for satisfying them all. The
Hague decision makes it advantageous
to that foreign power which can first
blockade the Colombian ports and de-
mand payment of her claims.

New York World.

It is not unnatural that there should
be some dissatisfaction with the award
of The Hague Tribunal in the Venezue-
la case. Yet it would be illogical to
criticize arbitration because of the
award in a particular case. If the pre-
ference claims of the three powers are
legal, it is better that they should be
enforced by argument than by whole-
sale murder.Delfosse
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