

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)
411 E. 1st Temple and East Temple Streets
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Herbert G. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
By Year, \$1.00
By Six Months, .50
By Three Months, .25
By One Month, .10
By One Week, .05
Single Copies, per year, \$1.00
Single Copies, per week, .05NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE.
F. A. Craig, 41 Times BuildingCHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE.
R. A. Craig, 87 Washington St.SAN FRANCISCO REPRESENTATIVE.
C. S. King-Sheridan & Co., 409 Examiner Bldg.Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.
Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 14, 1900.

A GRAND CONVENTION.

The Sunday school convention of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was, as we have foretold previously, a most successful one. We believe the delegates who assembled here, no matter how far they had to travel and from this city, were all well repaid for the expenditure of time and money consequent upon their presence at the convention.

Although three days were spent in the business and exercises of the great gathering, the time was all too short for the work in hand, and at the close the general feeling was that it would have been very pleasant and satisfactory, if it could have been kept up for the rest of the week.

All the proceedings were eminently good and appropriate. The addresses delivered were brief and to the point. They contained valuable instructions to Sunday school workers, and the effects will be felt and seen in the further advancement of Sunday school interests in every part of the Church. The object lessons given, the methods explained, the questions answered, the principles expounded, and the spirit enjoyed cannot fail to bring excellent results, while the musical exercises were of the choicest kind, and the talent displayed was truly encouraging and delightful.

The value of our Sunday schools cannot be over-estimated. They plant the seeds of truth and righteousness in the most suitable and fruitful soil. They train the juvenile mind in orderly conduct, in right thinking and temperate, virtuous and religious conduct, and thus accomplish much toward present and eternal happiness and peace.

The Sunday School Union has already accomplished a splendid work. The convention just closed shows something of its achievements. It also portends great things for the future, in the training of the children of the Latter-day Saints in the faith of the Gospel that has been revealed from heaven in this dispensation.

The Deseret News rejoices in the success of the convention, in common with all who participated in its proceedings, and hopes that the noble band of Sunday school workers will go on with their labors, with a new strength, with broader views of their responsibilities, and with fresh determination to be devoted to their tasks, in consequence of attending the grand convention in this city during the closing days of the wonderful nineteenth century.

COMPLY WITH THE LAW.

The Deseret News once more advises the strictest compliance on the part of the people, with the quarantine regulations instituted by the health authorities. The disease which has been prevalent in the State for many months, is likely to find increased expansion, and obtain greater virulence, during the cold weather now approaching.

The most rigid precautions should be taken to limit its ravages as narrowly as possible. All cases of its outbreak should be reported to the board of health of the city, town or village where they occur. The rules formulated for the isolation of patients and the quarantining of infected houses and persons, ought to be carried out implicitly. And people who know they have been exposed to contagion, ought not to mingle with the public until all danger in their cases has passed.

We have not stated at any time that there was no smallpox in the State. We have pointed out some essential differences between the prevalent disorder, and the more loathsome and fatal disease that creates such terror. But, at the same time, we have strongly advised compliance with sanitary and quarantine regulations, because this eruption, by whatever name it may be called, is contagious and its germs may be carried in the clothing and in the hair of persons who have been exposed to it, even if they do not contract the disease themselves.

We deprecate the raising of an alarm over something that does not exist in such form and extent as to warrant a scare. At the same time we recognize the presence of a most disagreeable distemper, that may be spread through lack of caution and disobedience of sanitary rules, and we impress upon our readers the importance of adhering to the regulations established by proper authority, and of endeavoring to confine the disorder within the smallest possible limits.

COMING SESSION OF CONGRESS.

In a short time Congress will convene for the last time in this century, and the interest of this great nation will be centered in the discussions and doings of its representatives.

One of the more important measures to be considered is the army bill which was introduced last winter but postponed.

It contemplates the enlargement of the standing army to the proportion of something like one soldier for each 1,000 inhabitants. Before the war with Spain the standing army was 25,000 men. By an act of Congress it was increased to 35,000, with an addition of 35,000 volunteers. The intention was to discharge the war additions and reduce the force to the original strength, but those interested in military exploits deem 25,000 men too small a number of soldiers for a big nation, and efforts are being made to have it increased.

If Congress will listen to the voice of the people in this matter, there will be no large increase in the army. The nation is not on the war path. Military burdens necessary for the defense of the country will gladly be borne, and even, if need be, for the defense of oppressed people in this hemisphere, but ours is not a mission of war but of peace, and a permanent war army would be a national calamity, not only on account of its burdens to be carried by those least capable of doing so, but also on account of its demoralizing influences and menace to free institutions.

The question of the Isthmian canal should again receive consideration, the party in power having declared in favor of "the construction, ownership, control and protection" of such a canal, by the government. The scheme is one of world-wide importance.

Other measures are the ship subsidy bill, provisions for the construction of new ships for the navy and the enlistment of a larger force of sailors, besides the ordinary appropriation bills and the apportionment bill under the new census.

One measure that should be adopted is the admission of at least one of the Territories—Arizona—to statehood. The platform of the dominant party declares in favor of the early admission of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma, and Congress should not unnecessarily delay the fulfillment of what ought to be considered sacred pledges.

The work of the coming session of Congress should be in every respect the crown and glory of the congressional labors of this century; it should be a firmly laid foundation for the labors of the coming era, upon which the future may build a structure that will stand the storms and tempests that appear to be gathering along the shores of time. And in all the deliberations, the point should be kept in view that our national mission is different from that of most nations. Ours is one for the elevation, enlightenment and happiness of the individual, and the dissemination of the seeds of the highest civilization throughout the world. "Our rock is not as theirs, even our enemies themselves being judges."

THE CHINESE AGREEMENT.

The agreement of the foreign envoys in China relating to the demands to be made upon the imperial government, as a basis of a preliminary treaty, seems reasonable enough. Its most important features are the abolishment of the T'ung Li Yamen, the prohibition of the importation of arms and war material, and the indemnity to be paid. The question now is as to what position the Chinese government will take upon these and the other stipulations. Only a short time ago the empress dowager expressed a desire that foreigners keep out of China entirely, and her views on this point are not known to have undergone any radical change.

The agreement on a basis of negotiations is a long step forward toward the termination of the present suspense, but the final conclusion of a treaty of peace can hardly be looked for in the immediate future. In the further progress of the discussion, the great powers will presumably seek to influence the Chinese government so that each may have the advantage over the other. The Chinese will be used as the pieces on the chess board, but these pieces will be moved secretly by the foreigners. For the game played at this quarter is not by the world united against China, but by the world powers against one another, and that is what makes the progress so slow. Russia, notwithstanding the Anglo-German agreement, still seems to be in the lead.

The Russian papers do not take an optimistic view of the situation. Speaking of the French proposals which were almost identical with those now accepted by the envoys, they point to the fact that the generals are anxious to prepare satisfactory winter quarters as far from the end of their task. The question of the prohibition of the importation of arms for one, may yet cause dissension, as the manufacturers regard a prohibition of this kind as a hardship on them. On the whole, the Chinese problem is still far from its solution, although the previous coalition between England and Germany may have removed any immediate danger of a European war over the affair in eastern Asia. There can be no European coalition against these two powers, especially as they, in an emergency would have the co-operation of both Austria and Italy.

KRUGER IN FRANCE.

Otto Paul is expected to arrive in Marseilles next Saturday, and the plans for his reception seem to be laid with a view of causing a great display of popular excitement in his behalf. On his journey to Paris, stops will be made at various points, and at each place the ex-president of the Transvaal will be given an ovation. The antipathy of the French people toward the British is to be given free reins under the disguise of sympathy for the distinguished fugitive.

If the display comes off as planned, the best thing for the British people to do will be to ignore it. Whatever the French enthusiasts may do, the position of the government will be strictly correct. To take any official notice of the doings of an irresponsible crowd in a country with popular government, would only aggravate matters and lead to serious complications. Kruger may meet with an enthusiastic ovation, but France is not going to resist him with armies and navies to regain what he has lost in an uneven contest.

In the meantime skirmishes with small Boer detachments continue. In all probability they will go on until the fulfillment of hoping for European intervention is fully realized. Mr. Kruger's visit to Europe may be regarded as the last sign of activity on the part of the exiled South African republicans. With the failure of his mission, the armed Boers will, no doubt, return to peaceful occupations.

PEARY AND SVERDRUP.

Dr. Leopold Kann, an Arctic explorer, has just returned from Dr. Peary's expedition to Dundee, Scotland, with news from the expeditions of Lieutenant Peary and Captain Sverdrup. Peary, he said, is now wintering at Fort Conner, where the Windward was expected to arrive in the middle of July, of this year.

The inference is made that the explorer had again been prevented from making his dash to the pole, as the program was to pass the winter of 1898-99 at Rink and then proceed in the spring of 1899 to Fort Conner, and thence northward and return during the summer of this year. If, however, he has reached Fort Conner this summer, he will, it is believed, pass the winter there and then endeavor to reach the pole next year.

Lieutenant Peary is not making much display about his work in the frozen north, but he seems to be following out his plans with a persistence that no other Arctic explorer has displayed, and unless some accident befalls him, he has a fair chance of success. It is reported that he has again been so badly frostbitten that the amputation of several toes became a necessity, but he stays in the north and continues his efforts to penetrate to the highest latitudes.

There seems to be some jealousy between the lieutenant and Captain Sverdrup, but perhaps success will be achieved all the sooner because of the rivalry between the American scientist and the Norwegian sailor. Undoubtedly one is being stimulated to greater effort by the presence of the other.

HORRORS OF THE WAR IN CHINA.

People sometimes wonder why, in war times, military censorship of the press nearly always is so strict as to exclude from general knowledge the official "imprimatur"—it may be printed in the dark ages, when popular enlightenment was much dreaded by rulers of nations. But the Pekin letter in the London Globe, from a Belgian gentleman, throws sufficient light on that point. It shows why war lords are anxious to have some of the scenes enacted in the dark and, if possible, completely hidden from human view.

The correspondent of the Globe traveled to the Chinese capital, partly along a route where lately the Russian forces have operated, ostensibly for the purpose of putting down the Chinese rebellion. What he saw and heard on the Amur river led him to the conclusion that no less than 2,000 persons were deliberately drowned at a place called Moxo; 2,000 more were dispatched the same way at Rabe, and 8,000 around Blagovetschenak. And among these 12,000 victims of Russian civilization were a great number of women and children. The corpses floating in the river made navigation exceedingly slow, and the banks were, in places, literally covered with dead.

The correspondent says that before the outbreak of hostilities the river banks between Blagovetschenak and Aguil were studded with villages containing a thrifty and industrious population. Now there is not a village left. No one will ever know the number of people that perished by the gun, sword and river. The village of Aguil was but a mass of smoking ruins. The scenes described by the writer in the Globe remind one most forcibly of the most barbarous wars of history. But such is war. Notwithstanding all the laudable efforts at restricting the demons of strife within the boundaries drawn by a humane civilization, they still are demons, reveling in blood, death and destruction. And especially is this the case when raw, uncivilized peoples are given the sword and told to use it to their heart's content. It should be noted that while the foreign envoys at Pekin were talking peace, all this carnage was committed on the banks of the Amur river, and that without a formal declaration of war.

Just now these envoys have agreed on certain terms as a basis of further negotiations, and among these is a demand that more blood be shed as a punishment for the outrages committed against the foreigners, but it would seem that in the matter of killing, the Chinese account is more than balanced by the proceedings of the "Christians," or some of them. If the Chinese, as is probable, object to the wholesale executions of their princes and noblemen, the powers can afford to be moderate in their demands on that point, in view of the massacres that have taken place. After all, the chief point is to take measures whereby similar occurrences may be prevented in the future.

IRRIGATION DELEGATES.

The "News" has already expressed its views on the importance of the National Irrigation Congress to meet in Chicago on Nov. 21 to 24, 1900. We have also raised the question of who will represent Utah there? We are now able to state that such persons as can spare the time and are willing to serve as delegates can obtain appointments by making application therefor. The governor has the appointing power for a number, and those who wish to obtain the needed credentials should apply to Col. C. L. Stevenson, secretary of the State Irrigation Association, 323 Atlas Block, in this city. Applications should be sent in without delay.

Many proposed railways never do more than bring trains of thought.

The weather bureau is taking a great deal of credit to itself these pleasant days.

Bishop Henry Potter says that New York is growing better. Heretofore it has been growing Greater.

The laws of the Spanish government, so far as I have inspected them, are all right. The defect, has been in not

carrying them out." Judge Taft of the Philippine commission. Their defect is the common defect of most laws.

The emergency ration is a great success. In an emergency almost any kind of a ration is a success.

The concert of the powers at Pekin is getting to be a case of sweet bells out of tune.

Some of the proceedings in China can only be justified on the ground that all things are fair in love and war.

It is said that Kruger purchased his ammunition for the Boer armies from Birmingham firms. Such is false.

The Filipino insurgents hate the American soldiers most heartily. It is clearly a case where no love is lost.

The bicycle trade is said to be on the decline. And yet there was a time when the bicycle ran away with everything.

The French were exceedingly fortunate to secure the finest existing specimens of porcelain before the break up of China.

Much is being said these days about the future of the Democracy. It will be the same as that of nearly half the American people.

That Montana stockman who ordered a \$200 dinner at the Chicago Auditorium annex was not so crazy after all. The hotel uses the European or a la carte system, and whoever has filled his stomach a la carte has emptied his purse.

By requesting the present members of his cabinet to remain in it for the ensuing four years, the President has deprived the American people of one of their most cherished and time-honored privileges—that of making a cabinet for him.

What's the matter with Elmira, N.Y.? Its present mayor has been arrested charged with forgery in the first degree, and the man whom he succeeded is now serving a term in the Auburn prison. And yet this city has the greatest modern reformatory.

It must seem like irony to the Chinese to have the powers insist that in future there shall be no more decapitations by imperial edict, but only after trial according to European methods, where the accused is permitted to make his defense, when the powers are demanding the death of numerous Chinese officials without the semblance of any trial.

In a few weeks there will be an election for members of the school board. It is a question that most vitally concerns the people, and only the very best men should be chosen to fill these important positions, men who will not surrender their functions to anyone. They should be servants of the people and not of any party. From this it follows that in their selection politics should have no part.

Don't let anyone frighten you over the "smallpox" scare. The following facts should have a reassuring effect on anyone inclined to be nervous: Since the year 1862 the mortality from smallpox has decreased in Prussia and Bavaria from 61.6 to 9.7; in Austria from 76.2 to 38.6; in Belgium from 79.6 to 13.2; in England from 26.6 to 2.9; and in Sweden from 26.9 to 0.5.

The bicycle and the automobile have to a large extent supplanted the horse, but in the heart of man nothing can supplant him. Since the days of Job he has been looked upon as the noblest of animals. That this is so is shown by the fact that boxes at the recent horse show in Madison Square Garden, New York, brought as high as \$625, the highest paid on record. It is true that this show was just as much for the purpose of displaying society as exhibiting the horses, but he who has the finest horse is for the time first in society there.

THE CANADIAN ELECTION.

San Francisco Call.
Canada has voted to sustain the administration. Like the people of the United States and those of Great Britain, the Canadians desire no change in their government. The three great representatives of the English-speaking world stand, therefore, as a unit for that kind of progress which is called conservatism. Laurier, at Ottawa, as McKinley at Washington, and Salisbury at London, will continue to direct the affairs of his people.

Chicago Times Herald.
Fortunately for Sir Wilfrid his support is so well distributed throughout the Dominion that it relieves his administration of the charge that it rests wholly upon the French vote of the Province of Quebec. Evidently with that province excluded the returns on Wednesday night gave the government 55 members of parliament to 22 for the opposition. The election of November 7 gives to Canada the assurance of a liberal progressive administration of its affairs for the next five years.

Springfield Republican.
It is notable that in Great Britain, Canada and the United States this autumn the general elections have resulted in the overwhelming defeat of the opposition. The Canadians voting on Wednesday, did substantially what the Americans did on Tuesday, and what the British did three and four weeks ago—they have returned the administration of the day to power by overwhelming pluralities. The conservatives of the Dominion did not "attack the business interests" of Canada, yet they have not received such a thrashing for a generation, even their leader, Sir Charles Tupper, being personally defeated for parliament the first time in his public career of forty years.

Boston Transcript.
The chief point of difference between Liberal and Tory, just now, is with respect to the tariff. Sir Charles Tupper and his followers do not like the preferential tariff, but desire an imperial tariff. This would involve economic changes in the mother country, so he is placed in the presumptuous attitude of seeking to interfere in high places, while on the other hand, the preferential tariff, if it does not amount to much in a business way is very acceptable as an expression of sentiment. It is not only preferential, but it is also deferential. We would like to see a little closer and more intimate trade relations between Canada and this country, but that we do not yet possess them is not altogether the fault of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his administrative family.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
The people of this country have good reason to be pleased with the result in Canada. Laurier and his associates

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have taken pains to show a desire for friendly relations with the United States, while keeping a sharp lookout for Canadian interests. It will be far better and easier for us to negotiate as to questions in dispute with the present Canadian government, than to have to begin all over again with another and probably less friendly one. The relations between the two countries are and should remain cordial. The Alaskan boundary dispute is not yet settled, but is in a fair way to be, and its importance has recently been magnified for reasons not wholly patriotic.

New York Evening Post.

Until the complete returns are accessible, it is impossible to appreciate fairly the causes of the liberal victory; but this much perhaps may be ventured, that Sir Charles Tupper bore too heavily on the race issue, and that Sir Wilfrid's association of his administration with commercial prosperity proved to be an invincible argument. "I have observed," says one who ought to know, "that majorities rise with prosperity."

Boston Herald.

We in this country have reason to congratulate ourselves on the political success of a man who has always regarded the American people with friendly eyes. It is true, that in the efforts that have been made by the members of the joint high Anglo-American commission to settle the differences existing between the United States and Canada no sensible success has been attained, but this has been due much more to difficulties raised on our side than on the Canadian side. It is to be hoped, now that the two general elections are over, that a renewed attempt will be made, by bringing together the Anglo-American commission, to see if a treaty cannot be formed which will be of advantage to the people of both countries.

Troy Press.

The elections in the Dominion of Canada, which were held yesterday, and resulted in the support of the present Laurier administration, are of considerable interest to the United States from the fact that the Liberals, who were returned to power, have as an avowed purpose the increase of the Canadian waterways. The effect of this policy will be to increase Canada's profit from the lake travel. It is predicted, if the canals that are proposed are built, that Montreal will rival Buffalo as a port of entry. Such prospects as these are not encouraging to our country and especially to New York State, which has in years gone by, largely profited by the lake trade which has centered at Buffalo. It behooves us to look well to our lake trade before Canada gets it; once gone, it will be slow to return.

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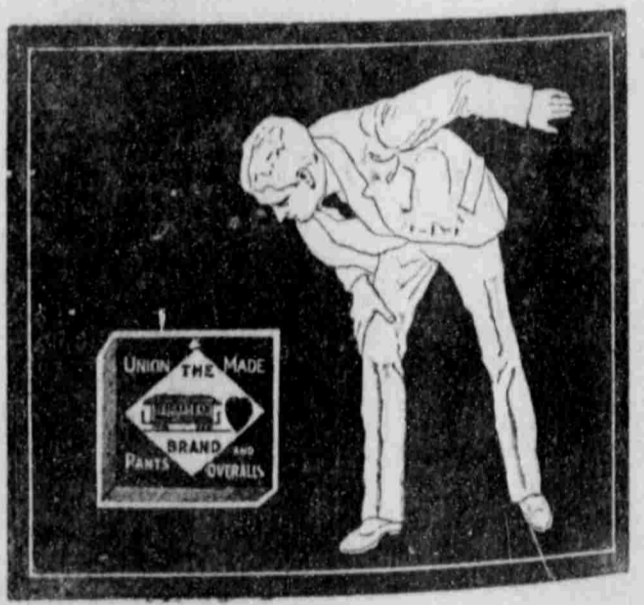
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