

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: (In Advance.)

One Year \$3.00
Six Months \$1.50
Three Months .75
One Month .25
Saturday Edition, per year \$1.00
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.

Eastern Representatives—New York, Franklin P. Wood, Flat Iron Building, Chicago—A. W. Wolf, Security Building.

Entered at the postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter, according to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 6, 1909.

FRANCE ON THE BRINK.

Close observers of the conditions in France do not regard the outlook there as particularly bright. They find clouds on the horizon in every direction, threatening serious disturbances. It has even been thought possible that the overthrow of the monarchy may be among the possibilities of a near future.

The decrease in the birthrate is one of the ill omens of the time. We have recently noticed this fact in these columns, but revert to it again. The statisticians tell us that there are now 500,000 fewer births every year than there were in 1870, and 150,000 fewer than in 1859. The population of France is dwindling, while that of Germany is growing.

Another cause of anxiety is the increasing tax-burdens. France has a yearly revenue of about \$800,000,000, but this is far from sufficient to cover its expenditures. There is always a deficit. This year the balance on the wrong side will be about \$40,000,000, and this will have to be met by extra taxation. The government employees are multiplying at a rate out of all proportion to the resources of the country, and this is naturally a source of irritation to those on whom the burdens of taxation fall heavily.

But the war inaugurated upon the Catholic church seems to be the chief cause of anxiety at the present time. The evil effects are now felt. The harvest of mischief is ripening. It is claimed that the teachers employed by the government in the secularized schools do not confine themselves to their business as instructors, but that they often go out of their way to ridicule religious beliefs and observances. The doctrine of the divinity of Christ the incarnation, the redemption, they characterize as "superstitions," and religious worship as "fanaticism."

In doing so they lay the foundation for infidelity. But they also arouse the sentiment of the better element to a realization of the dangers of a religious crusade by the state. And a reaction, it is said, has set in.

It is claimed that the Protestants have joined the Catholic clergy in protests against the war upon the church institutions. This in itself is a formidable coalition. But the Royalists have also made the common cause theirs, and no one can as yet tell what the outcome will be. If it should transpire that the church members of various denominations, the landowners, the Royalists, and all dissatisfied with present conditions should combine for defense in the coming general election, the result might be disastrous to the republic. In our day revolutions sometimes come like the whirlwind.

RAILROAD FREIGHT RATES.

In another column will be found an article from S. H. Babcock criticizing some statements as to railroad freight charges that recently appeared in these columns. Mr. Babcock represents the Commercial Club Traffic Bureau, organized to secure better freight rates to Utah.

The first point to which exception is taken, and this is the main issue involved in the entire subject, is that water competition as adversely affecting the transcontinental freight rates of the rail carriers has long since ceased to be much if anything more than a mere pretext, or subterfuge on the part of those carriers.

This may, or not, be true. The railroads allege it as a fact. Mr. Babcock declares it a subterfuge, "as is evidenced," he says, "by the fact that the net earnings per mile of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads are higher than those of any of any other railroads in the country west of Chicago." He then gives figures as to the earnings of these roads.

We are not defending the railroads but the remark seems pertinent that the figures presented may be perfectly correct and yet may have no bearing whatever upon the question as to whether water competition has any influence upon inland rates. That the lines referred to are making money may be due to numerous other circumstances that readily suggest themselves.

We wish to remove another suspicion from the mind of our critic. The authorship of the article referred to does rest "with a member of our regular editorial staff." No railroad representative supplied the facts (we supposed they were facts). They were taken from a recent number of the Saturday Evening Post. If any of the statements is, as Mr. Babcock is polite enough to declare, "unworthy of consideration" or "too absurd for comment," correction on our part will be both easy and agreeable. Neither was it suggested in the article that "the people of Utah should be burdened with grossly untrue Moore's assertions as an insurance for the Sembrich's." This imputation of Sembrich's is a remark that we do not down to it. The evil of the lowest possible.

Orpheum—A new bill tonight, the headliners being Earl Bloomquist and Rosa Romo, do not list.

Colonial—The widely known "Commencement" by Frederick V. Bowers in the absolute role, will be seen all this week for low.

Grand—Willard Mack an

or freight rates to this state; and we are inclined to admire the vigorous fight to that end which is being waged by the local organization. Yet every such question is not only two-sided, but often many-sided, and we do not propose to deviate from the time-honored policy of the "News" to present impartially, as far as the data can be ascertained, the facts and arguments submitted by both sides of any controverted question of public interest.

As already remarked, we believe Utah is entitled to lower freight and passenger rates, and we hope the success of Mr. Babcock may exceed the most sanguine expectations.

IT WOULD BE BETTER.

We think it would be better to give more financial encouragement to Utah artists, many of whom have already won places of honor in this fine and unusual field of professional endeavor.

It would be better if organized clubs and associations, or societies of all kinds would strive to possess some good works of art, preferably the products of home talent and representations of local scenes, events, or persons.

This is especially true of literary and learned societies, fraternal organizations, and others that seek to perpetuate the memory of what is noble in human action or of what is beautiful at home or abroad.

It would be better for each ancestral head of every numerous or prominent family to be portrayed upon canvas as an heirloom, for the remembrance of all, than that his name and works should be left merely to printing and memory.

It would be better to educate public taste with one beautiful portrayal of local life or scenery than to makeshift with a hundred chromos or cheap representations.

It is a matter for congratulation that the pictures of several of the Governors of this state are painted by home artists.

More than thirty artists have gone from the state in order to prepare themselves more thoroughly for their calling; of these, eight are said to have found it necessary to live in other states, in order to sell their paintings.

That this is true and that the work of local artists is not preferred to that of strangers, must be due mainly to the fact that the excellence of local talent is not generally known.

Thus, when the people of Utah county decided to have a monument to commemorate the services of the veterans of the Black Hawk war, they ordered from an Eastern firm a conventional design from the hundreds kept in stock by a commercial company—just such a one as may perhaps be found in hundreds of other places and exactly the same monument already used to represent the Southern soldier of the Civil War.

Now, had a Utah sculptor been employed to do this work, there would have been created something at least original, and we have no doubt, something quite as artistic and striking as the conventional form bought ready-made.

When we erect a monument, it would be better to have one of our own. Such a piece of work is a part of the country that produces it, a lasting memorial of those whose deeds it glorifies, and a mark by which the artist gains that distinction in the minds of the people generally, to which his genius may fairly entitle him.

We are told that the highest commission ever given in the United States, was awarded to a Utah artist now resident of another State. Many hundreds of pictures, including numerous paintings, are purchased each year in Utah by those who have more or less appreciation of such works. Very few of these, however, are purchased from the high-class artists at home, who do work vastly superior in artistic merits, real beauty, and local association, to anything that is brought from afar.

One local artist of prominence, after a successful experience in Paris, has been heard to say that in five years of home work he has sold scarcely \$300 worth of his paintings.

Many artists are compelled to leave the profession, because it is too unremunerative to live upon; and this, not because enough money is not spent upon things professedly artistic, but because the expenditures are, as a rule, unwise or even carelessly made.

Those who buy expensive Christmas presents, for example, usually let their tastes run to luxurious and easy chairs, gold-headed canes, writing desks, or sets of books in costly binding; but it would be better to choose a fine oil painting of some home scene by some home artist. Such a gift would be cherished, not only by the immediate recipient, but by the family, the friends, and often by whole communities. Each year such a gift usually increases in value and grows dearer to its possessor and to all beholders. It was Keats who remarked that a thing of beauty cannot pass into nothingness, but is "a joy forever," whose loveliness increases with its years.

Finally, we judge that it would be better for the State to enlarge its purchases of such works of local artists as depict home scenes; for city governments to do likewise, and for legislatures to extend the work of the Art Institute by engaging local artists to work more at home and less in Paris.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon is himself again.

Few shoeblacks have polished manners.

An "insurgent" is one who is out with his party.

An easy-going person is usually compelled to walk.

All the world's a stage but most of the people are supes.

Not all the good die young, nor do all the young die good.

Zelaya ignores an ultimatum as easily as the Sultan does.

Man never cherishes an ideal half so much as he does an actual.

Everybody says there's plenty of room

at the top but no one says at the top of what.

It is always the shuffling and listless who find the road the roughest.

Women should have their rights although all their wrongs are not righted.

Is it better to have loved and lost an engagement ring than never to have loved at all?

Gifford Pinchot is said to be sawing wood. A very proper occupation for a chief forester.

The fact that he is a doctor of laws will be very manifest in President Taft's first annual message.

There are fewer wolves in sheep's clothing than there used to be. Clothing made of sheep's wool is higher than ever.

Already the suffragettes are in evidence in the great campaign now on in England. If not very careful they will be in jail.

The Jeffries-Johnson match will not be allowed to be "pulled off" in Utah. In its place Utah will have not only something "equally good" but better; its good name unscathed.

A John Hopkins professor has suc-

ceeded in producing a mirage in miniature. He does it with hot air. That's the means used by many people to produce mirages of various kinds.

As the little Indian maidens in waiting to Princess Pocahontas said to Captain John Smith, so may it be said to the striking switchmen: "You're off the track, you'd better get back."

Whether lords or commons win, the losing side is sure to say that English liberty is doomed to destruction. It is really astonishing how often liberty can be doomed yet is never destroyed.

A New York sanitary expert says that twenty billion dollars would be saved by the United States if the housefly were exterminated. Then how much would be saved if the grafters were exterminated?

It is probable that a joint congressional committee will be appointed to make an investigation of the entire customs service of the country. It may or it may not be needed; it can do no harm and it may do some good. Presumably the service generally is what it should be, but the revelations in the New York custom house have given rise to some general suspicions. No honestly administered custom house has anything to fear.

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

A STORY OF LINCOLN'S CIRCUIT JUDGE.

By E. J. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently unobtainable light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil War. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards' notebook, and other in whole or in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, gathered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions to the "real" sort of American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

First as a justice of the supreme court of the United States from 1862 to 1877, and then as a senator from Illinois until 1883, the late David Davis, who presided over the senate following the accession of Chester A. Arthur to the presidency, was for many years prominently in the eye of the country. But long after his name has been forgotten as that of a great statesman, judge or a United States senator, it will be remembered as that of the judge before whom Lincoln tried his cases when he rode the circuit in Illinois. The histories of Lincoln's life are full of anecdotes telling of Judge Davis's partiality for Lincoln and of his eagerness to hear Lincoln's stories when the day's work was over.

I got to know Judge Davis well in Washington when he was a senator from Illinois, and at the time that he was riding the circuit in Illinois. The histories of Lincoln's life are full of anecdotes telling of Judge Davis's partiality for Lincoln and of his eagerness to hear Lincoln's stories when the day's work was over.

"Do you know," he said to me as we were hearing the end of the journey, "it was a case with which Mr. Lincoln was connected that had a very important effect upon my methods of doing business."

"This particular case involved the non-payment of a promissory note. The note itself was in evidence and the defendant admitted that the signature on it was his. But he denied having written the body of the note. He also swore that he could not explain how it had got into the hands of the man who was suing upon it."

"It was not an uncommon practice for business men to sign notes in blank, which their partners might utilize, and that would explain the difference between the handwriting in the signature and the body of the note. It was written upon ordinary letter paper—and that was not uncommon in those days—but I noticed that the strip of paper used was much narrower than that usually employed in making out notes. Upon closer examination it looked to me as though the strip of paper had been cut off the bottom of a sheet of writing paper, letter size. I had an expert—

NEW TASKS FOR THE PRESS.

New York Evening Post.

Henry Watterson's appeal to the American press not to confuse its duties with those of the police has been widely commented on. He had particularly in mind divorce scandals, sensational crimes, and private misfortunes of one kind or another; and the reputable newspapers have admitted the justice of his criticisms. He did not, mean while, mean to say that the press should undertake detective work in the public interest. It has frequently been of great value to a locality, a State, or even the country as a whole, for a newspaper to expose the baseness of a ring, as the Times laid bare the truth about Tweed. Where the good name of a city is at stake, where the corrupt control of a State is the issue, the newspaper can often ferret out things that are beyond the skill of public officials and can then stir the general conscience by the force of the disclosure. Of this kind of newspaper detection there cannot be too much.

CHURCH DEFENDS MOB MURDER

New York Post.

Mob murder reaches its climax when the church openly comes to its defense. From half a dozen pulpits in Cairo the double lynching of last week was applauded as a natural outburst against the failure of the law of the state to punish crime. Evil never has much trouble in fastening its apologies. This failure, supposed or real, of judges and juries to convict has been for some years the hardest worked justification for communities which have sloughed off the civilization of 10,000 years to descend into the primitive brute. What, as a defense, does the argument amount to? Are criminal court judges superimposed upon the people of Illinois by some external power, or are they the creatures of the people's own selection? Are Cairo juries made up of seraphim and cherubim softened into criminal mercy, or are they made up of the citizens of Cairo, Ill., the very citizens who, with rope and pistol shot, are so brave in meting out the punishment which as jurymen they have not the heart to apportion? We can a democracy maintain, without crying shame upon itself, that its legislatures, its courts, its police administration, are unrepresentative? We can imagine a Hindu Brahman justifying murder of the English oppressor, we can imagine a Christian priest justifying the assassination of a despot, but that ministers of the Gospel should sympathize with murder in a free and self-governing community we should consider utterly incredible if Cairo had not supplied the fact.

JUST FOR FUN.

The Only Safe Bets.

Oral betting is now established to be lawful in New York, but mind betting continues to be more economical in all states.—Pittsburgh Dispatch

Getting Even.

Narrowly escaping death when charged by a bull elephant, Mr. Roosevelt has yet the satisfaction of knowing that in turn he can charge the publishers.—Los Angeles Express.

Sounded Hopeful.

A young man who was not particu-

larly entertaining was monopolizing the attention of a pretty debutante with a lot of uninteresting conversation. "Now, my brother," he remarked, "I have a radical change of method of writing, and from that day to this I have always written from one edge of the paper to the other, both across and down, and whenever I sign my name to a document, I place it so close to the last line of the text that it all but runs into it making any interlineation between text and signature impossible. And any interlineation elsewhere is made impossible by the fact that I cover the page completely with my writing, and write the lines as close to one another as legibility will permit."

"This is the method I followed all the time I was on the Supreme bench, and at the time I wrote the bench and the senate and I recommend it as a good rule for any business man to adopt."

That Arabian Climber.

Mahomet commanded the mountain to come to him. "Be sure to bring your proofs," he cautioned. During dispute, he decided to go himself instead.—New York Sun.

A Diagnosis.

"How's yer husband after the accident, Mrs. Gimmerty?"

"Faith, sometimes he's better an' sometimes he's worse, but from the way he yells an' takes on when he's better, Oi think he's better when he's worse."—Kansas City Journal.

SALT LAKE THEATRE

Geo. D. Pyper, Mgr.

3 Nights and Wednesday Matinee.

Starting

TONIGHT

COHAN & HARRIS PRESENT

Victor Moore

as "KID BURNS," in

George M. Cohan's Musical Riot,

"THE TALK OF NEW YORK."

With the Original Cast and Chorus and Stupendous Scenic Equipment as played for Four Months at the Knickerbocker Theatre, New York.

Prices—Eve, 50c to \$1.50. Matinee, 25c to \$1.00.

Special Announcement.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9.

MARCELLA SEMBRICH

Assisted by

FRANCIS ROGERS, BARITONE,

AND FRANK LA FORGE, PIANIST.

Scale of Prices: Box and stall seats, \$2.50; parquet and dress circle, \$2.00; first circle, \$1.50 and \$1.00; family circle, \$1.00 and 50c; gallery, 10c.

Regular box office sale begins today.

READ THE

THEATRE MAGAZINE

FOR THEATRICAL NEWS

AND STAGE PICTURES.

The Anderson Piano

With its singing soul.

New York and Western

Piano Co.

22 W. FIRST STREET.

Z. C. M. I. Great Half Price

Suit Sale

Is now on—never before did we offer our entire line at half price so early in the season. This remarkable sale includes our entire line of ladies' and misses' stylish suits at

Half Price

Absolutely no reservations; every suit in the house included in this great sale.

No approvals—No exchanges—

Alterations extra.

Tailored Waists

Half Price

A splendid variety of Tailored Waists, strictly stylish and up-to-date in linen, cambric and madras—plain, pleated and embroidered. Regular \$2 to \$4 values, your choice now at—

Half Price

OUR DRUG STORE IS AT 112-114 SO. MAIN STREET.

Both Phones 3569.

Opheum

THEATRE

ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE.

MATINEE TODAY 2:15

EVERY EVENING, 8:15

George Bloomquist,

Howard & Howard,

Martinet & Sylvester,

Rosa Roma,

Ballerin's Canine Tumbler,

John Birch, Myers & Rosa.

Matinee prices—10c, 25c, 50c.

Evening, 75c, 50c, 25c.

Night prices—25c, 50c, 75c.

COLONIAL

TONIGHT,

Matinee Wednesday and Saturday,

John Cort Presents

COMMENCEMENT

DAYS With Frederick

V. Bowers.

Souvenir Matinee Wednesday.

Next Week—"HUMAN HEARTS."

The Grand

Salt Lake's

Most Popular

Playhouse.

TONIGHT,

Willard Mack, Blanche Douglas and

In a Brilliant Revival of the Celebrated Story of Paris and Its Underworld.

THE TWO ORPHANS.

It Will Live Forever, as It Should,

for a Better Play was Never Written.

Mounted and Played in the Usual Brilliant Mack Fashion.

Evening, 75c, 50c, 25c. Matinee, Wed and Sat, 50c and 25c.

Next Week—"JANICE MERE-DITH."

BUNGALOW

Pantages Unequaled Vaudeville.

TONIGHT,

Great Buckner,

Seymour's Dogs,

Jaques Greno,

The Clarks,

Dixie Trio.

Pantageo, Miss Ballinger.

Evening Prices—10c, 25c, 50c.

Matinee—50c, 25c, 10c.

MISSION

THE THEATRE DIFFERENT

EAST THIRD SOUTH ST.

JOHN E. CLARK, Manager.

Sullivan-Considine Imperial Vaudeville.

Opening Wednesday Evening, Dec. 8.

Capt. Nat. Resler & Co.

Miss Josephine Morrison.

May Nannary & Co.

Violetta Curtis.