DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1901.

THE LAW FOR ANARCHISTS.

It is needless to waste time denouncig anarchism. All men who are not reamers agree that society cannot cist without laws and officers to enprce them, and that every legitimate neans should be used to check the pread of anarchism and put an end to te crimes of anarchists. If, however, marchists go no further than holding a rivate opinion that the world can get ong without laws, we have no possile legal grounds for action against hem, since they are guilty merely of oly. The crimes of anarchists, therepre, may for practical purposes be diided into two classes-murderous as-aults like that upon President McKiney, and the instigation of such assaults. For dealing with these crimes the first legitimate means is the existing law; the second, such amendments as are in accord with our constitution and poli-tical traditions, and are capable of enforcement.

As for murder, we already have ade-quate laws. Death is a sufficient pen-alty. Furthermore, the case of the Chicago anarchists shows that those who incite to murder, even though they may not strike the blow themselves, may be convicted as accomplices be-fore the fact. If the penal code of any state lacks such a provision as that un-der which the convictions were obtain-ed in Illinois in 1886, an amendment is a comparatively easy matter. The sug-gestion of the New York Heraid, en-worsed by other papers which have for the moment turned anarchists themserves, that we repeal the constitutional prohibition of cruel and unusual pun-

ishment, is both silly and savage. Complaint is made, however, that in New York the penalty for such an as-sault as Czolgosz's, if the President for not more than one

sent. Possibly some way might be devised-though this is very doubtfulbe of excepting the punishment from the common law, and making death the punishment for even an unsuccessful attempt upon his life; but such an amendment would be based on the now out-worn theory that the object of punishment is a successful attempt of the successful attempt would be based on the now out-worn theory that the object of amendment would be based on the now out-worn theory that the object of punishment is vengeance. As a pre-ventive, it would be useless, for the simple reason that every anarchist who plans' such an assassination expects nothing but death. He hopes to suc-ceed, and he knows that in any event he is sure of capture. Even if we mark our horror of attacks upon the President by imposing the death pen-alty in every case, we shall merely sat-isfy our feelings, without making the least headway in checking the crime. In regard to incendiary talk, we al-ready have, in New York state at least, a law which has been invoked several times with salutary effect. Section 45, of the penal code, entitled "Unhawful Assemblages," reads: "Whenever three or more persons as-semble with intent to commit any un-lawful act by force; or assemble with

semble with intent to commit any un-lawful act by force; or assemble with intent to carry out any purpose in such a manner as to disturb the public peace, or being assembled, attempt or threat-en any act tending toward a brench of the peace, or any injury to person or property, or any unlawful act, such an assembly is unlawful and every person participating therein by his presence, participating therein by his presence, aid, or instigation is guilty of a misde-meanor. But this section shall not be so construed as to prevent the pence-able assembling of persons for lawful

purposes or protest or petition." According to the same code, a mis-demeaner "is purishable by imprison-ment in a penitentiary or county jail

should recover, is only imprison-ment for ten years, a term wholly disproportionate in a case like the pre-Goldman have served terms in the penitentiary.

One proposition, which has been urged by the Boston Heraid, is a general law to send anarchists to the lunatic asy-lum, instead of to fail. If the anar-chist really be a lunatic, there is no difficulty whatever about sending him to the asylum under the present lr_{m} if he be not mentally diseased, no $lr^{*}w$ to commit him to an asylum can be framed under which the editor of the Boston Herald will be safe. A law which should declare anarchists, com-munists, Christian Scientiats, Popu-lists or any other class of citizens in-sane could never be enacted account by sane, could never be enacted except by a legislature of lunatics, The only possible change in the pra-

sent law is to make the crime of in-cendiary talk, a feiony, rather than a misdemeanor-that is, make it punishable by long imprisonment or death. In the heat of the present excitement, the death penalty has been proposed; but public opinion, on sober second thought, public opinion, on sober second thought, would reject such an amendment as likely to make martyrs of the anar-chists, win sympathy for them, and strengthen their cause, rather than weaken it. The plan of lengthening the term of imprisonment beyond a year is more feasible. Even here, however, we run the risk of imposing too severe a penalty and thus losing more than we gain. Such an amend-ment should not pass till the present excitement has subsided, the subject has been fully discussed, the experience of other countries carefully considered. and over funy discussed, the experience of other countries carefully considered, and overy safeguard provided for rea-sonable freedom of speech. With such precations it might be well to allow the judge to extend the sentence in atrocious cases.

Judicious enforcement of the present law, then, and an amendment declar-

ing incendiary talk a felony instead of a misdemeanor, really exhaust our re-sources in dealing with the offenses of anarchists who are already resident in the United States. The question of Exclusion remains. By the present law we prohibit the

immigration to this country of "per-sons who have been convicted of a fel-ony or other infamous crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude." An effort to close our doors to all anar-chists, meets with some of the same chists, meets with some of the same difficulties that attend a movement to visit any other punishment on them as a class. One bill for this purpose has already been abandoned in congress as impracticable. We cannot exclude the "philosophical" anarchist, who holds his theory as a private opinion, and ab-hors the use of force—we cannot detect him; and even if we could, he is not contradict of we could. nim; and even if we could, he is not particularly dangerous. Then, too, we must bear in mind that his anarchism, fostered in many cases by Russian des-potism, is likely to be laid aside and forgotten when he breathes the free air of the republic.

Under the present law we can already keep out all who have been convicted of violence or of instigating it. The only class, therefore, for which we need a new law is made up of the instigators of violence who have not been detected or captured in Europe. We can hardly go to the length of excluding them on mere hearsay or suspicion, but if we want anything like legal evidence we must maintain in Europe a detective and police force superior to that main-tained by the European governments, which are more eager than ours to run down and convict an anarchist. Nor can we trample on our traditions of a century and a quarter by sending back men of high character and aims who are political refugees. In short, we shall find it beyond our power to do much more than enforce rigorously the present law.

We are reduced, therefore, to the conclusion that our most effective legal remedy is to lengthen the term of im-prisonment for incendiary talk; and surely no one can hope for very large

results from such a step. The truth is, the trouble lies beyond the reach of the law. We may pile up enactments until our statute books cannot becounted; we may burn anarchists at the stake, or boil them in oil; but while men have murder in their hearts they will shoot and stab. We may put a triple guard about our President, but they shose feet are swift to shed innocent blood will dodge all sentinels. The risk of assassination may be somewhat reduced by restricting the traditional freedom of approach to the chief mareedom of approach to the chief ma-gistrate, but it cannot thus be elimin-ated. Our chief reliance in the future, as in the past, must be to allow wide freedom of speech, to beware of intens-lfying passion by unwise repression of mere talk; to oppose steadily every out-break of the mob in North or South, to strengthen our common schools to strengthen our common schools, to maintain a strong and just government. and to teach every man that his rights and privileges are absolutely dependent on its preservation .- New York Even-ing Post.

China May Sell Squadron.

Shanghai, Sept. 27 .-- China is favorably considering a Russian offer to purchase the Pel Yang squadron, consisting of three fast cruisers, four torclass crulsers, the price, five million roubles, to be deduced from the war in-

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MAN WHO SAW LINCOLN SHOT.

(Continued from page nine.)

prang again, this time high in the air, and struck me from above downward. The point of the weapon buried itself in the back of my neck after passing through the coat just below the collar. through the coat just below the collar, and I fell to the floor with my face to the rear door. Booth leaped over me, swung the door wide, and dashed through, slamming it behind him. As the shaft of light from the stage plerced the gloom outside I had a mo-mentary view of the plcture framed by the darkness. I recognized the head and hand of 'Peanut' John. and the heads of the two horase he was hold-ing. I did not know at that time that Booth had broken his ankle when he fell. He moved with remarkable ac-tivity.

tivity "I was dragged to my feet by a de-tective whose name I no longer re-member, and led to the front of the stage. There was a great confusion, and the stage was crowded with people who shouted for vengeance, screaming:

"Shoot him! Kill him?" "'Look,' replied the detective point-ing to the President's box. I did look and saw the President's head hanging over the rail. His face was very white, Mrs. Lincoln was wiping his forchead with a handkerchief while Laura Keene stood beside her holding a pitcher of water. "'Has Mr. Lincoln been shot?' I in-

quired. 'He has,' replied the detective, 'and

you are under arrest.' "I was taken to the police station. There I told my story and assured the who had escaped. I was wounded, and whon the dagger was found an hour later in front of the patent office, I was discharged. Spangler subsequently onfessed to his share in the plot. At

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the sound of the pistol shot he was to turn out the lights. Had it not been for me, he declared, no one could ever

have identified the assassin as he would

have identified the assassin as he would have escaped in the darkness." Mr. Withers has been to Europe twice under Sothern, and was leader in a San Francisco theater orchestra for five years. He served in the army during the war of the rebellion, and at its close signed at Ford's theater. His last engagement was under Daly, as late as when "The Geisha" was pro-

as late as when "The Geisha" was pro-duced. Since then Mr. Withers has

suffered from an abscess of the ear and on that account has been compelled to retire. He looks much younger than 65.

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-New York Sun.



