

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 19, 1901.

NO RELIGIOUS TEST.

The prospects are excellent for the maintenance and progress of the district schools of this city. The confidence expressed by the large majority of votes at the election of last Tuesday in the present Board of Education, enables that body to obtain the necessary funds for finishing the school year, without incurring any debt for interest on borrowed money. Some doubts have been expressed as to the possibility of making a loan without having to pay interest on it. But the cash being now in sight, the Board will simply take an overdraft on the bank where its assets are deposited, and there will be no difficulty in the way.

The expenses of the present school year and those of the ensuing year, for obvious reasons will be somewhat greater than in the past. The number of pupils is and will be larger; the value of teachers' services becomes greater with their extended experience and development of ability; and increased facilities mean further cost. However, these expenditures can be limited to the power to meet them, and wise economy, which does not mean parsimony, will have to be observed in the management of school affairs.

The selection of a superintendent will soon be one of the duties of the Board. The fame of our city school system has gone abroad, and already there are applications for the position from principals in eastern States. Of course we want a competent official, one who will understand the educational situation here, and who can keep up the schools to the present high standard, with advancement according to means and opportunities. But is there any necessity to go outside of this State for a man qualified for this task? We do not believe that there is.

There ought to be no religious test in the choice of a superintendent of schools. Those who have affiliated heretofore in this position, have not been objected to by the majority because they were not of the dominant faith. They have filled the place with credit to themselves and benefit to the cause of education. There ought to be no opposition, then, to any person who is of the prevailing religious belief, providing he is in every respect qualified for the post. Fitness and ability are the proper tests to be applied. In their absence candidates should not be considered, no matter what may be their religious status.

We have no one to suggest for this important position. We speak on general principles. We think there has been too little regard for home talent in the past. We do not want this pressed unduly in the future. But we are opposed to importations of any kind when they are unnecessary. If the right man can be found among our Utah preceptors, we think he should have the preference over outside applicants. If no such person can be found in Utah, by all means let us secure the necessary talent from abroad.

The Board of Education will, no doubt, be on the look out for a superintendent, though immediate action is not required. The incumbent goes from our city with the good will of the people whom he has efficiently served, and with their regrets at his departure. His place should be filled by one who can take up and carry on the work inaugurated, and the question of his creed should not be raised. Let him be "Mormon" or "Gentile," Catholic or Protestant, Hebrew or Christian, it will not matter so long as he is fully competent for the place. But all other things being equal, a bona fide resident of Utah should be preferred.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

We have received a letter from a lady in New York State, who is a constant reader of the Deseret News and who, with many of her neighbors, speaks very highly of it and ranks it above several others that are popular where she resides, but who regrets the appearance of an advertisement in our columns which does not comport with her ideas of that which conduces to the welfare of society. As there are others who doubtless take the same view of this matter, we briefly reply through the "News" for the benefit of all concerned.

The modern newspaper is chiefly supported by the advertising business in which it is engaged. Many journals supply the public with news and other reading matter, at a subscription price which would entail an actual monetary loss but for the advertisements they contain. They do not guarantee the articles thus offered to customers, nor give them the stamp of approval. The Deseret News does not become responsible for any claim to public patronage made in an advertisement. People read them as they do the signs painted on stops and handbills printed to catch the public eye. Neither the artist that paints nor the printer that strikes off these applications for business, gives any endorsement to them whatever.

Most people understand this. They do not regard the advertising pages of a magazine or similar columns of a news-

paper as any part of the editorial matter, but simply as the bids of the advertisers for public patronage, with which the paper or periodical has nothing to do except to print them for pay. Of course there are some things that the Deseret News would not accept at any price. The line is drawn where the business department thinks the limit should occur. But if the different notions of different people were to rule in this matter, the advertising columns might as well be closed, for there would be something to object to by some parties and insisted upon by others, and confusion would inevitably ensue.

Our correspondent is mistaken in one thing, when stating her case. The announcement referred to is not about any saloon. No such advertisement appears in the "News." Very rigid temperance people should be temperate in their regard for the opinions, customs and appetites of others. There are very good people who entertain ideas somewhat different to theirs, and this world has not yet reached that perfection which we all hope it will some time attain. Meanwhile we have to be tolerant and take the world as we find it, doing all we can in a proper way to bring about needed reforms.

WHAT IT COSTS TO DRINK.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the British chancellor of the exchequer, in his statement of the year's budget, frankly admitted that the military operations of the country, in Africa and Asia, had brought the empire very near the verge of financial ruin. Not only had those operations consumed vast sums of money, but the revenues had also, in some instances, fallen far below the estimate. From the statement it appears, that the wars will cost Great Britain, before very long, in the neighborhood of a billion dollars.

The revenue from beer alone was \$26,000,000 short of the estimate, and this the chancellor attributed to the fact that so many beer drinkers now are in South Africa, and also to the decrease of the spending power of the people, the price of other commodities being higher than usual.

That, however, the consumption of intoxicants in Great Britain is still considerable, is shown by some figures on that subject published by the London Times and covering the year 1900. According to these figures the total bill for drinks amounted to \$160,891,718. That means an expenditure of a little over \$19 a head for one year, for this item alone.

Of this grand total the sum of \$133,521,443, or \$550,578,998, is credited to England, and as her population by the last census was 32,081,907 the expenditure per head was \$43.38, or \$20.17. Scotland, with 4,313,993 people, consumed \$14,305,861 worth, or \$33.38, an expenditure of \$18.98 per head. Ireland, with 4,504,025 population, spent \$13,064,044 on liquor, or \$28.92, an expenditure of \$11.09 per head. Therefore Irishmen spent \$6.11 less than Englishmen. With such a showing, it cannot be much regretted that the government revenue of the sale of intoxicants fell some millions of dollars below the first estimate. The entire South African war has, up to date, not cost quite as much as the thirst for stimulants.

For the sake of comparison it is stated that the cost of the clothing of the people is less; the rents of all the houses and farms of the country are less; and that the collections for charity in all churches amount to only one-seventh of the expenditure for drink.

PRAYER IS NOT MEDICINE.

A decision was rendered the other day in the Circuit court at Milwaukee, by Judge Elliott, on a point of general interest. Two so-called Christian Scientists had been on trial for "practicing medicine" without a license, but the judge discharged them, on the ground that "prayer is not medicine." The decision is important, because it settles the status of that class of healers in the State of Wisconsin. It is also a just decision. In fact, it is difficult to conceive of any line of argument by which a different conclusion could be reached, consistent with facts and common sense. And yet Christian Scientists have been much annoyed in various places because of their practices.

The judge stated that the defendants did not assume to be doctors, nor to prescribe drugs. He then argued: "The whole question at issue in this case resolves itself to this: Is prayer medical treatment? If it is, then the defendants are guilty of an offense under the laws of the state; if it is not, then they are not guilty and must be discharged. It would seem as if this question answered itself; the act of prayer is so unlike anything that is popularly regarded as medical treatment that it looks like an absurdity to seriously argue the question."

He admitted the wisdom of the law that limits the administration of drugs to those properly qualified for that service, but he denied that it was the intention of the law to restrict curatives of an intangible nature so as to prevent those not claiming to be doctors to use these methods. Clergymen, the court pointed out, prayed for the sick. Was that service medical, and if so, were the doctors to monopolize it? Under such a construction, every clergyman would be brought to trial. The treatment, he added, given by the defendants might be called theological; it certainly is not medical. The decision reverses the judgment of the police court, by which the defendants were found guilty as charged, and fined \$50 and costs.

It will be generally admitted that persons who believe in healing by faith should not, in cases of sickness, be prevented from seeking to obtain relief by that means; but they would be barred from doing so, were faith healers to be prosecuted for unlawful practice. At the same time faith healers should not, by their influence, prevent the application of tried remedies by skilled physi-

cians. There should be common sense in all things. Even the Apostle Paul advises a remedy against a troublesome ailment of which a friend suffered. And this evidently not for lack of faith, or absence of power to rebuke sickness. Faith and prayer should not be considered as contrary to the scientific application of any known laws of nature. They are rather an aid to such treatment. They are of utmost value, when science has reached the limit of her resources, or when she is confronted with facts for which she has found no satisfactory explanation. In such cases faith often rises above all difficulties and soars upward as the eagle, which needs no laboriously constructed bridges to cross the foaming rivers; no dark tunnels through which to reach the other side of the mountain. A great many modern "healers," we believe, miss the full truth, when they strike a hostile attitude toward science, and act as if the God of nature were different from the Omnipotent, in whom faith rests and to whom prayers are directed.

CATHOLIC PROTESTS.

At the Roman Catholic Educational conference in Chicago, the speakers uttered loud complaints against the American school system. They stated that Catholics were compelled to pay taxes for schools, of which their children had no benefit, and suggested that the state should recognize Catholic schools, on the same basis as other educational institutions, that receive financial aid.

One of the speakers, Mgr. Conaty, put it rather strongly, in this language: "We are not here by sufferance, but we are here as American citizens demanding our right. We are not asking for favor; all we want is justice. We want recognition as citizens and taxpayers in school affairs. We believe that no true education is possible without religious instruction and we have a right to insist upon our demands. There is no doubt that nearly all the educational laws enacted by the states are aimed at the Catholic school system. It is our duty both to ourselves and our people to protest and continue protesting until our objections are heeded."

The position of the Catholics in this country, on the important school question, should be noticed. It may be true that all Catholics do not take the view expressed by Mgr. Conaty, but it is also true that his church sees in the secular school system a menace to morality, and the state, and that, if she had the power, the citizens would be taxed for the benefit of schools in which Romanism is taught. Catholics are not alone in their position toward secular schools, but in this country there are presumably few outside that church, who would not consider it an injustice to maintain from public funds one denomination in preference to another.

The secular school system has come into existence, because the inconsistency of taxing all for the benefit of some, be they Catholics, Jews, or Protestants, is generally acknowledged. That religious instruction should go hand in hand with secular education is true. But as long as perfect religious liberty demands non-interference by the state, the religious training must be left to the various denominations themselves. This is the right Mr. Conaty has, in common with all American citizens. That is the only right in the matter he can demand—the right to use the common schools for Catholic children, and to establish as many private schools as may be needed. As long as that right is not violated, there is no ground for protests, or for impassioned oratory.

Fear is expressed sometimes that the American school system will bring forth a nation of atheists, but we believe so far this country compares favorably both in faith and morals with the European countries, where religion classes are taught, the same as mathematics, or geography and history. Immorality flourishes in Europe, as here. Infidelity is not less frequent there than here. The religious life of those who are sincere is as intense on this side of the ocean as on that. The trouble in European schools is, that the teaching of religion is very often entrusted to men who have no religion themselves, who contradict in their daily lives, the teachings they give as a matter of routine. The result is a great deal of hypocrisy. Pupils are more prone to imitate examples than to follow precepts. Religion cannot, strictly speaking, be taught. It must be experienced, and only those who are themselves permeated by the life of religion, can inspire it in others. Between a school system that does not meddle with religion at all, and one that gives a form of it without its substance—the shell and not the kernel—the former is preferable.

China will pay for the grievances of the powers and swallow her own.

It appears that the Smasher's Mail has already become a back number.

Books may or may not spread disease, but it cannot be denied that good ones carry the germs of knowledge.

So the President will spend the first Sunday in June in Salt Lake City after all. He will be most welcome.

Let Vice President Roosevelt look to his laurels. A ten-year-old boy in Bingham killed a mountain lion the other day.

The great United States Steel corporation will enter the foreign field, in which case the foreign field will soon be the steel company's common.

"Platt-tudes, Platt-titudes, nothing but Platt-titudes," answer the Cubans to all arguments and explanations in favor of the Platt amendment.

There is to be no strike of the steel mill employees, they and their employers having composed all differences. This is truly good news and is a triumph for all hands and common sense.

In making the budget statement Sir Michael Hicks Beach had a most difficult situation to meet, but he met it boldly. And after all it is usually the bold man who wins.

Gen. MacArthur says that the commissary frauds are not so big as reported, that the press reports have greatly exaggerated them. They may

not be so wide as a barn door nor so deep as a well, but still they will do.

Uncle Sam has in his treasury five hundred million dollars in gold. It seems an immense sum for even a great government to have, yet it is not half enough to buy out the stock of the United States Steel corporation.

Conductor Stephens seems to have been premature—gone off on a high pitch before the organ was ready, so to speak. Harmony is the key to happiness and peace. Discord leads to discomfort and confusion. Organ and choir must be musically and fraternally one.

Aguainaldo will issue his manifesto tomorrow, if he has really and truly been the head and front of the insurrection then his manifesto should have a very marked influence in suppressing it and causing the insurgents to accept American sovereignty. If, on the other hand, the insurrection is deep rooted and the people have set their hearts on an independent government, then his manifesto will have little or no effect. In any event it will be eagerly awaited both here and in the Philippines.

The Boer war has already cost England a hundred and fifty million pounds, and members of the commons anticipate that it will yet cost two hundred millions. It is an enormous outlay, one that only a country so wealthy as England could stand. This tremendous cost has been incurred because Great Britain has been engaged in conquering a people in their own country, and it shows how very difficult such a task is. It would have cost any other country just as much.

At royal dinners in England the guests do not have finger bowls. The London News gives this account of the very curious custom: "When a member of the royal family comes to dinner it is a point of etiquette, as all our readers know, to provide none but the illustrious guest with a finger bowl at the end of the banquet. The other diners must get on somehow without that convenience. The reason is a curious one. In early Georgian days one never knew who was loyal; every other man might be a Jacobite in his secret heart. Now it was a piece of Jacobite ritual whenever the toast of 'The King' was drunk secretly to pass the goblet over any water that happened to be by the drinker. This was supposed to convert the toast into that of 'The King Over the Water,' the exiled Stuart at Rome or St. Germain. On this becoming known the court insisted that there should be no water within reach of any guest, and the prohibition still holds." In America finger bowls are the privilege of all, and a good privilege it is.

THE MANILA SCANDALS.

Detroit Free Press.
The frauds which have been discovered in the Philippines resemble those that were perpetrated without number during the civil war. A commissary officer and his clerks and government stores to a contractor, who proceeds to dispose of the spoils, and everybody on the inside has a share in the loot. Conditions in the Philippines are peculiarly favorable for crimes of this character. The officers and their confederates are 7,000 miles from home. The nature of the country makes it comparatively easy to "lose" commissary supplies. An exorbitant tariff is placed upon imports of food-stuffs. Consequently, the profits to be made by the sale of government supplies are enormous, and it would be strange if somebody had not yielded to temptation.

Indianapolis Sentinel.
It is not surprising that the Neely and Rathbone scandals in Cuba are followed by the Barrows scandal at Manila. Down in his heart every American recognizes the fact that these are only specimens of what may be expected if we undertake colonial government, we will have fraud, scandal, shame, humiliation, and the more so because we have undertaken it in violation of our oft-declared principle of the God-given right of self-government.

Baltimore American.
They [the scandals] are in reality nothing more than the outcroppings of the weakness of human nature. Trusted officials have been tempted, and have yielded to the temptation. Their remoteness from the center of authority, and, probably, a certain sense of security attributable to the chaotic conditions surrounding them, have conduced to breed these scandals, which disgrace our nation, but do not impeach the honor or integrity of its motives. On the part of the country but one demand will be made. That demand will be for the discovery of all those implicated in these frauds, and their punishment without mercy.

WILL THE CZAR ABDICATE?

Boston Herald.
It is reported that the Czar's health is so shattered by recent disturbances in Russia that he may abdicate the throne shortly. Any one desiring to lead a quiet, peaceful life will think twice before applying for the position he leaves vacant.

St. Paul Globe.
Will the Czar abdicate? Perhaps! But it will not be until Edward VII and William II have set the pace. It will be until the theory of the divine rights of kings has been abandoned by the royal families of the world. If Nicolas III abdicates before that, it will be at the earnest solicitation of the Angel of Death.

THE CHINESE CONUNDRUM.

San Francisco Chronicle.
All the professions of the allied powers are to the effect that they have no wish to retain in China of the Chinese government can and will make life and property secure throughout the empire. If she proposes to accomplish that end with her own forces or by the aid of foreign troops under her own direction it will require some pretext not yet set up for any plausible excuse for preventing it. We do not know what basis of truth there may be for the dispatch which states that Japan has made such a suggestion to China. Very likely not much.

New York Evening Sun.
The following suggestions have been agreed upon by the Chinese officers as covering the changes which ought to be made at the present time: First, that the army and navy be extended throughout the empire; ninth, that silver dollars be made a universal legal

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LADIES' SUITS

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Z. C. M. I.

T. C. WEBBER, Superintendent.

tender. This would be only a beginning. Other changes would be made later as the need for them arose.

Philadelphia North American.
It is recorded officially in the records of the United States government that the bestial crimes of white soldiers have been so numerous that women have disappeared from many villages and small towns and it is difficult to find a female Chinese between the ages of ten and fifty years. If there is a universal law of retribution for nations as for men, if justice is not a myth and the wages of sin never paid, there will be a reckoning in good time for the hideous orgy the Christian powers have held in China.

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Two of his Great Illustrated Lectures.

"PERSONALITY OF WILD ANIMALS."
Saturday Afternoon, April 20th,
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"WILD ANIMALS I HAVE KNOWN."
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Since October last over 50,000 children and 75,000 grownups have attended these lectures, seen Mr. Seton-Thompson's beautiful animal pictures, and heard the wonderful stories of his experience with them.

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