

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING,
(Sunday Excepted),
Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
One Year \$5.00
Six Months 2.50
One Month50
Saturday Edition, Per Year 2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year50

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.

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

SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 4, 1907.

ABOUT CONGRESS.

Congress meets again under auspicious circumstances. The country is at peace with all the world and enjoys tranquility at home. The revenue is more than ample and measures for the reduction of the indirect taxes can profitably be considered.

The financial situation calls for the most earnest consideration. It is true that a few financiers have it in their power to create a money stranglehold at will, and stop the wheels of commerce and industry, for purposes of their own. Congress should see to it that they are deprived of such tremendous power, no matter at what cost.

The President, in his message, has made several recommendations. One of the most important is that concerning arbitration of labor disputes. We hope Congress will take that matter up, and render the country a very important service.

The Brooklyn Eagle has looked up some data relating to our national Legislature. It has found that, "since the first Congress met in 1789, 118 years ago, there have been 134 sessions. There have been 119 regular and 15 extra sessions; 39 different speakers and speakers pro tempore and 25 clerks. The longest regular sitting was the first session of the Fifth Congress, which met December 5, 1887, and adjourned October 29, 1888, a period of 321 days. Other long sessions were the first of the Fifty-first Congress, 294 days, and the first of the Thirty-first, 302 days. The second regular sessions of each Congress are always short, both houses assembling according to law on the first Monday in December and adjourning by limitation on the 14th of the following March. These sessions last from ninety to ninety-five days. Aside from these the shortest ever held was the first session of the Thirteenth Congress, which covered 124 days and came immediately after an extra session. Other notably short sessions were during the Fifteenth Congress, 141 days; the Fifty-eighth, 144 days; the Fourteenth, 145 days; the Eleventh, 156 days, and the Fifty-fifth, 144 days."

Several changes are noted in the Senate. The political complexion of that body will be sixty-one Republicans and thirty-one Democrats. Of the latter two new senators fall from Oklahoma. The Republican strength is now such that, should a Democratic President be elected, he would have to face a dominant opposition in at least one House of Congress throughout his term.

HOW ENEMIES HELP.

There is a Danish Lutheran mission, maintaining, we believe, a clergyman in Salt Lake City who is trying to make friends among Latter-day Saints here.

But, in spite of this, a committee of the mission has published a pamphlet which is being circulated in Denmark, the burden of which is: "Close the door to all 'Mormon' missionaries."

How far this is from the spirit of the Master may be gathered from the fact that He did not permit His disciples to oppose those who preached, though they were not of His followers. But many modern preachers are not animated by the spirit of the Master. They are Pharisees, strangers to the law of liberty and tolerance that constitutes one of the fundamental principles of the kingdom of God.

And why does this pamphlet want the doors closed to the Gospel? The author of it explains. He says: "Mormonism is not a Christian sect." Mormonism rests on the more than doubtful existence Joseph Smith. Further, the 'Mormons' teach polygamy; therefore, their missionary work is prohibited by the constitution of the country. Close, therefore, the door to their missionaries."

There is a great deal of nonsense in this representation of "Mormonism." As to whether the Church is a "Christian" sect, or not, the learned differ. The theological faculty of Christiania university declared that it is not Christian, while the theological faculty of Berne took the opposite view. You cannot go to the contradictory declarations of the experts. The "Mormons" believe in the Christ as their Redeemer, their Mediator, their Master, and they expect His coming in glory to judge the quick and the dead, and to reign for evermore. If we believe in the Christ, and to try to follow Him in all holiness, it is to be Christians, then the Latter-day Saints are Christians.

It is a barefaced falsehood, of which the Reverend authors of the pamphlet are guilty, when they say that the "Mormon" missionaries teach polygamy. They have never taught that doctrine in Denmark, and especially not since the Nauvoo era.

It is, consequently, too late to discover that "Mormonism" is preached in violation of the Constitution. The missionaries have labored in Denmark and other northern countries for over fifty years now, and their status has been fully examined into, both from a legal point of view, and a moral. If there had been anything in their teachings that was contrary to the Constitution, this would have been discovered long ago.

It will interest the authors of the pamphlet to know that it has created quite a little interest in some parts of Denmark, and as a consequence, "Mormon" missionaries had many inquirers who, but for that little leaflet, would not have thought of "Mormon-

ism." And thus again it proves true that the enemies themselves are helping the work of God onward.

A LESSON IN LIBERTY.

That the German government still has some important lessons in liberty to learn is evident from the struggle for free speech that is going on in some parts of Germany. The following paragraph is from the Boston Transcript:

"Free speech in Germany continues to go its sorry road. The new bill abolishing police permission to hold public meetings resembles the generosity of the small boy who gave his pet hen his liberty with a string attached to one leg. Police permission is not necessary, but the people will still be free. And they will call off the session if they hear any horrid, revolutionary ideas. If the speakers break out into foreign tongues, out they go. Pentecostal occasions are not popular with state officials. On the whole, this clause is important. A rapid speaker might impregnate the ears of a large audience with words before an interpreter could arrive. The speaker's language takes no chance. But scandalous induced, coming at such a time, is the exposure of the dayload of double decker fronts for transporting forbidden literature. The lesson appears to have been wholly lost on the Berliners. Cork up a fermenting populace and they double decker fronts. America is slow to learn the important discovery made by America early in her career, viz., if you allow everybody to talk, no one is left to listen."

German authorities seem to be especially suspicious about missionary work by "Mormon" Elders. They should learn a lesson from other countries. It is this that when the Gospel messengers are accorded freedom and hospitality, these spiritual and material blessings are showered upon the country. Compare the countries where religious liberty exists with those in which intolerance is the rule. Look at the United States, Great Britain, the Scandinavian countries, Mexico, and even Japan, and compare the conditions prevailing to those of Russia, Turkey and others. Denmark was one of the first foreign countries to open its gates to the missionaries of the Church, and today, though both Prussia and Austria at one time combined to crush it, it not only survives, but it is one of the most prosperous countries in Europe. Worldly wisdom may ascribe this to chance, but it is not difficult to trace the connection between cause and effect. If we believe in a Providence that rules and overrules all things.

BANK REFORM.

We noted recently the differences of opinion among experts as to the causes of the present financial stringency.

The New York World makes a sensible contribution to the discussion by recommending three short, simple changes in the State and National banking laws which, it thinks, would prevent the recurrence of a general panic as the result of excessive stock speculation.

The first proposal is to require every bank to keep its reserves in the form of legal-tender money in its own vaults instead of as bank credits in Wall street. This would retain in the banks of the manufacturing and agricultural sections of the country the real money necessary for wages and moving the crops.

The second recommendation is that the law should prohibit the payment of interest on demand deposits. A demand deposit is the corollary to a call loan, which is a Wall street gambling device. Commercial banks do not pay interest on demand deposits. Wall street banks do. By prohibiting any bank from paying any interest on time deposits, the Wall street banks will be made unable to divert accounts which properly belong in commercial banks.

The third improvement suggested is that the law shall divide all checks accounts into two classes, commercial and finance—that is, banks of discount and deposit and banks which loan on promotions, syndicate allotments, Stock Exchange collateral and the like. This distinction is well recognized in England, France and Germany, where a commercial bill and a finance bill are kept, wholly separate. Restrict each bank so that it may not do both kinds of business.

These proposals have the great advantage of simplicity, and involve no violent revolution in the present system of banking. Whatever faults the present system may have or may be supposed to have, it is the result of slow growth and is somewhat fixed in our methods of exchange of finance. It is therefore doubtful as to whether radical changes could be grafted upon it, while the inauguration of an entirely new system would present still more difficulty.

To improve the system we have would seem to be preferable to the undertaking of an entirely new one untried by experience.

ARID FARMING.

Of the things on which the world's attention is now focused only the future can decide what is most freighted with meaning for the generations yet unborn. We of the century's beginning have our ancestors to thank for steam and machinery in the more modern types. Just now we are wondering how great will be the thanks of coming decades to the people of these years who are giving their lives to the development of arid farming.

Arid farming calls for the use of machinery on a large scale, and its motive power is the steam engine, a single one of which will draw more plows and drag them farther in a day than would a large barn full of horses. In this latest use for machines, wonderful results are being quietly obtained, and nowhere are these results more to be desired than here in Utah, whose acres have in such large numbers lost hope under old methods of soil culture.

This year the scrub brush browns of Levan and the Juan valley have been replaced by the yellow greens of sprouting grain, and the dry parts of this valley were so poor a few years ago that the only homesesteads there—railroad switchmen who had to live in the vicinity—abandoned their homes after piling the initial payment.

Now the land cannot be secured for 10 times what the state asked for it, and four big arid farming companies control practically the whole valley. Yields this year were between 10 bushels and 20 bushels to the acre, and an

A SERMONET FOR WORKERS

Salt Lake City,
The Inter-Mountain Milling Co.
Gentlemen:

When you want good bread,
Prepare for baking-day.
If "Hustler" Flour is always said,
That's all you need to say.

Because its pure and "always right."
That's why it is "the best."
The bread it makes is "always light"
And that's "the four test."

Respectfully,
MRS. D. H. ELDER,
Sandy, Utah.

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