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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 13, 1904

DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
this establishment a great deal of an-
noyance if they will take time to notice
these numbers:

For the Chief Editor's office No. 74,
2 rings.

For Deseret News Book Store, 74, 2
rings.

For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 3
rings.

For Business Manager, 359, 3 rings.

For Business Office, 359, 2 rings.

A MATTER OF ASTONISHMENT.

This is a time of many surprises.
Among them is one that is almost
startling, even in the midst of political
excitement, misconception and mis-
representation. It is an alleged "con-
vincing reply" to a purported "adverse
criticism" of the county commis-
sioners said to have appeared in "an evan-
gelist paper." As the subject of the val-
uation of property and the rate of tax-
ation has not recently been mentioned
in any paper but the Deseret News, it is
evident that an editorial in the "News"
of Tuesday evening is the so-called
"criticism" which has elicited the at-
tempted "reply."

Now, we invite special attention to
the brief article in question, that it may
be made clear beyond rational dispute
that we made no "adverse criticism" of
either the present or past board of
county commissioners. On the con-
trary, the only allusion to the course
of the gentlemen now in office was very
complimentary. We found no fault
with them, but simply asked them to
consider a fact that cannot be denied,
namely, that the total valuation of prop-
erty for 1904 is higher than that of former years,
and then suggested that in view of the
hardship imposed upon poor property
owners by high taxation, it would be
a graceful act to reduce the levy for
this year.

Imagine our astonishment at seeing,
in a morning paper, a long dissertation
of a partisan character which avoids
entirely the point put forward, rambles
over matters not touched upon or hint-
ed at in this paper, nor relevant to our
remarks, and winding up with a di-
rect and positive falsehood, easily
proved to be such by reference to files
of the Deseret News, and on a matter
fresh in the minds of the taxpayers of
this city. We can account for the ef-
fusion only on the agitation of mind
consequent on the heat of the weather,
and the upheavals in the political at-
mosphere.

It will be observed by some readers
that the "News" made no complaint
about individual valuations of property.
All the talk wasted on that is gratuitous
and superfluous. It is the total
valuation for each year that we named,
with the view of showing that with its
increase there might probably come
a reduction in the tax levy. It is not
a party question. There was no intimation, nor even a
thought, that politics had anything to
do with the matter. The insinuations
in that direction indulged in, are sim-
ply silly and have "nothing to do with
the case." The only question is, can-
not the tax levy for the year 1904 be
decreased from that of the past seven
years? We remarked that ten years
ago the total valuation was nearly the
same as that of this year and the levy
then was but three mills. Is not that
true? We had no thought about who
were the incumbents of office at that
time, nor of finding any fault with their
successors. That is all imaginary on
the part of the would-be critic who has
gone off in a crazy tangent away from
the real subject. We may add that it
was a prominent and influential Repub-
lican who first suggested to us the need
of a reduction in the tax rate.

The annexed paragraph closes the al-
leged reply to a criticism that was
never made:

"In this connection it may also be
said that the same paper that is now
criticizing the Board of County Com-
missioners for the alleged increase in
property valuations and the alleged
high rate of taxation, just one year ago
abused the Commissioners for not in-
creasing the school tax 33 per cent in
the county. The city Board of Educa-
tion wanted a levy of 2-3-5 mills made.
The Commissioners thought 2-2-10 suf-
ficient. The paper referred to abused
the Commissioners. The tax levied
proved ample for all purposes."

All that we need to say as to that is,
that this paper supported the County
Commissioners at the time referred to,
much to the chagrin of good friends on
the Board of Education, some of whom
were highly incensed at the "News"
for doing so. This paper did not "abuse"
anybody connected with the dispute,
and "the tax levied did NOT prove suf-
ficient for all purposes," as everybody
knows who is acquainted with the facts
and the results. Anyhow, the "News"
did not take issue with the County
Commissioners then, nor has it done
so now, except in noticing the absolute
nonsense purporting to come from that
quarter as to the article in the "News"
of Tuesday. We repeat our sugges-
tion, which is all there is to be con-

sidered, viz., in view of the fact that the
total valuation for 1904 is greater than
in previous years, cannot the tax levy
for this year be somewhat reduced?

HELP IT ALONG!

The endeavors of a lady in this city
to collect portraits of all the ladies and
gentlemen who have been members of
the Tabernacle choir during the leader-
ship of Professor Evan Stephens, have
not yet succeeded to the extent desired.
A large number have been obtained, but
there are still many lacking. The inten-
tion is to make the collection as per-
fect as possible and to place the por-
traits in a suitable album, so grouped
as to divide them according to the parts
which they were accustomed to take in
the great choir. As there have been
numerous changes since the esteemed
professor was inaugurated as leader,
many members having left it and others
coming in to take their places, the en-
tire number of portraits will necessarily
be very large. Some of them, however,
it will be difficult if not impossible to
obtain. We think that the labors of
the collector should be lightened as
much as possible by the voluntary for-
warding of photographs to Miss Mary
Hanson, thus saving her much time
and effort in the completion of her self-
imposed task. A collection of this
kind in a finely bound album would be
a pleasant and fitting acknowledgement
of the services of a leader of exceptional
ability, who is recognized by many
thousands of people in and outside of
this state as a musical genius, but who
does not express their feelings and senti-
ments in any public manner. The
Tabernacle choir is an institution of
praise. The memento proposed will
place them on record as well as give
expression to the good feelings enter-
tained toward their gifted leader, and
we hope it will be finished soon, that
he may enjoy the pleasure of receiving
it and placing it among his household
treasures. Help the good work along!

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from the Arabs, to be delivered on the
seashore. From there it is shipped to
the Jericho side and carried on don-
keys to Jerusalem, where it finds a
ready sale at a good price.

"When adverse winds blow, the little
craft is in danger of being swamped,
for the so-called Dead Sea becomes a
living mass of waves. The writer re-
cently spent four nights such as never
will be forgotten on these waters, and
the smartness of the old man at the
helm, and the boy with the three sails
saved us from being wrecked again and
again. A charge of one mellede (three
shillings and four pence) a trip is made
for each passenger, and for such a
unique voyage this is not exorbitant.
There is some talk about a small steam
tug being put on the sea, but the au-
thorities are loth to grant permission."

The Dead Sea is a most beautiful
sheet of water, but, like all inland lakes,
surrounded by mountains, it is subject
to sudden, violent windstorms. When
these arise the agitated waves would
beat against a vessel with the force of
liquid metal, and render navigation ex-
tremely difficult and dangerous. Still,
if the enterprising settlers have com-
menced, in a small way, to navigate
that lake, the time may come when it
can no longer appropriately be called
"dead."

In unions there are strikes.
Butchered to make a strikers' holiday.
Spray the trees and sprinkle the
streets.

This strike of packing-house employ-
ees is not to the Swift alone.

Poet Laureate Austin has begun to
write plays. What a farce!

If people only realized it, the true
Independence day is election day.

It was bad for business, still yester-
day could hardly be beat for raising the
wind.

It is to be hoped that the striking
butchers and meat cutters will not cut
any capers.

Four years ago Mr. Bryan spoke in
the nominative case. Now he speaks in
the objective.

The temporary chairman usually gets
more permanent glory than the perma-
nent chairman.

It seems somewhat uncertain whether
Mr. Sheehan's telegram to Judge Park-
er was lost, strayed or stolen.

The Bey of Tunis is in Paris. It is a
pity that Raisuli cannot be brought to
bay in Paris or somewhere else.

The man who refuses to give out an
interview for publication is more of a
public benefactor than he wots of.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody
any good. How cool and delightful was
the day after the ill wind of yesterday!

When Carrie Nation starts in to
smash the London bars, she will find
them all presided over by smashing
bar maids.

The weary hunter man says that
the wind yesterday attained a velocity
of fifty-nine miles an hour. Everybody
else knows that it blew like sixty.

The Russian war office is said to be
in the dark concerning the advance on
Ts Tchu Kiu. It will soon, no doubt,
get light from the east, from the Land
of the Rising Sun.

The reason for the very high price of
beef the last few years is made plain
at last. It is because the packing-
house employees of Chicago, Omaha,
Kansas City and other places went on
strike yesterday.

The English press and people are not
quite sure whether or not they approve
of the arbitration treaty with Germany.
Whether they do or do not the treaty
is a good thing per se, as it makes for
peace and against war.

A man went to Esopus the other day
to photograph Judge Parker just as he
was taking a dive. And the judge ob-
jected. Very properly a presidential
candidate objected to be photographed
as he was about to enter a dive.

George J. Gould is much interested
in the system of physical examination
established some time ago by President
Ramsey of the Washash. "I should like
to try the examination myself," said he
to Mr. Ramsey, who forthwith gave
him an ordinary card to an examiner
in Pittsburg who had never seen Mr.
Gould. The result of the interview
came to Mr. Ramsey in a report, which
runs in this fashion: "The applicant in
almost perfect physical condition, as
indicated on the accompanying chart.
His biceps and chest measurements
above the average. I have marked eye-
sight and hearing each at 100. Recom-
mend that the applicant be passed. He
would make a good brakeman and after
a while might be trained for the post of
locomotive engineer. Appears to have
nerve as well as good eyesight."

WAR SITUATION.
San Francisco Call.

Both Russians and Japanese are ap-
pealing to that great court of national
opinion represented by the ethics of
civilized nations against alleged barbar-
ities perpetrated by both in the oriental
conflict. It is highly probable that both
are to blame and that neither cen-
sure nor suggestion will be potent enough
to modify their practices while the war
is in progress. Victory covers every
offense in war.

Chicago Record-Herald.

General Kuropatkin is unable to get
re-enforcements because the money
which was appropriated for equipping
the men he called for has been stolen by
the Russian "graffers" who forced the
war upon the czar simply because they
expected it would furnish them a
chance to loot. Russia's most danger-
ous foes are not in Manchuria.

Those in control of the Japanese navy
realize that the warships that they
had when the war began were a maxi-
mum quantity, and that in this respect
they might be said to be at a disad-
vantage when compared with Russia,
which, including her Baltic fleet, had a
larger navy than that of Japan, and
had, moreover, the means of building
vessels of a larger size. For this reason
the Japanese felt under the necessity
of sparing their ships by not coming
into too close quarters with the
enemy; but as their supply of guns
for these was sufficient for renewals,
these were fired with full charges and

under conditions which it might be as-
sumed would lead to their quick de-
terioration, though whether this has
been the result one has no means of
knowing.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The Japanese are velling all their
movements so successfully that they
are disclosing nothing regarding their
plans which will be of value to the
enemy. The Russian commanders are
kept constantly guessing. One day the
Japanese army seems to be threaten-
ing an advance on Mukden with the pur-
pose of isolating everything south of
that city from the base of supplies at
Harbin. At other times Liao Yang and
Hai Chwang appear to be their objec-
tive. Kuropatkin's army is crowding
through all the mountain passes over-
looking the general Manchurian plain.
The Russian commanders expected that
the rainy season would arrest their
progress, but they continue to press on
despite bad roads and flooded streams,
successfully overcoming every resis-
tance offered to their onward march.

Springfield Republican.

When the war is ended and its his-
tory comes to be written in the light of
official records, it will probably be
shown that the Japanese general staff
had planned to clear the Russians out
of southern Manchuria and capture
New Chwang before the rainy season.
In this particular the Japanese cam-
paign now seems to be behind time, for
the heavy rains have begun and it is
scarcely possible for the Russians to be
driven back to Mukden before the rainy
season has gone. This probably means
that New Chwang will remain in Rus-
sian hands until late in the summer,
and that the Japanese armies in Man-
churia will have to be supplied by the
longer routes to the sea, stretching
southeast from the advanced line they
now occupy in the mountains.

New York American.

Japan has to a great extent what
very much more civilized countries
want and need. She has the devotion
of her own people to their own affairs—
that of her great strength. It is not
that the Japs have more honesty than the
Russians, individually or en masse, in
business. The large Japanese firms em-
ploy Chinese overseers, owing to the
necessities of their people. The Japs
has but small respect for honesty in
personal affairs, but the deepest respect
for honesty in public affairs. In that
he is also the direct antithesis of the
average American citizen, who thinks it
all right to smuggle, because only the
government is concerned, but who re-
gards his personal debts as debts of
honor that must be paid at any cost.

SCIENCE AND DEITY.

The Churchman.

With all reverence it may be said
that a new and profounder conception
of God's omnipotence is becoming part
of the common intellectual atmosphere;
and this has been one of the results of
scientific teaching, though the church
has not always been willing to confess
it. It is certain that the best Chris-
tian philosophy of the past, represented
by those who carried into their profes-
sion of the faith the achievements of
Greek thought, is in no way opposed
to the point of view of modern scientific
culture. Christians of today, therefore,
not only need to understand science,
but, above all, they need to go back
with discrimination to the best sources
of Christian teaching. The problems of
today arise from no mere repetition of
past experience. Independence of
thought alone will reconcile the oppos-
ing camps. The scientist is not ap-
pealed to by mere precedents, but
Christians and scientists, so long as
they are mutually loyal, and the truth,
can never be long estranged.

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