

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## BISHOPS AND TITHE-PAYERS

There seems to be a very general misunderstanding in regard to the date of settlement of tithing accounts for the year 1900. In consequence of the intention of the Presiding Bishopric, and the instructions of the First Presidency, to close up the year's accounts at the end of the year, instead of prolonging the work for several days in the following January, the idea is entertained that tithing-payers must either settle up with their Bishops about the middle of December, or have their payments after that date credited to the year 1901. This is a great mistake.

Bishops of the several wards should not close their accounts with tithing-payers until December 31st. Payments made to them up to that date, no matter in what kind, should be credited for the year 1900.

The Bishop's General Storehouse will receive tithing of all kinds and descriptions, from individuals and from the ward Bishops, until the last day of the present year, and credit will be given for the year 1900.

Statements will be rendered to the ward Bishops by the Presiding Bishopric after the close of this year, showing the tithes received for credit to the respective wards, and the individual tithing-payers should be duly credited therefor in the year 1900, whether the tithing-payer presents the receipt obtained when payment was made or does not present it.

It is hoped that this will be sufficient plain to be understood by members of the Church, as well as by the Bishops. Tithing of all kinds may be paid up to the last day of the year, and it will be credited for the year 1900. Anything paid in the year 1901, from the first day to the last of that year, will be credited for 1901.

Now, let all who wish to settle up for this year take care to be in time, and remember that while it is desirable to have this settlement made as soon as possible, the books will not be closed, either in the wards or at the Presiding Bishop's office, until the last day of the year 1900.

## OUR MISSIONARIES

Some of our contemporaries occasionally refer to the missionary work of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and speak of certain Elders having been appointed or expected to be appointed to "a two years' mission," or a "three years' mission." The purpose is frequently to show a familiarity with the inner proceedings of Church councils that does not exist, but consists of rumor and guess-work, and sometimes of impertinent interference with affairs that only concern private individuals.

This idea of a fixed mission term, is a misapprehension of the rules and spirit governing our missionary appointments. When Elders are called and sent to the different parts of the world selected for their labors, they are placed under the direction of the President of that particular mission, or of the conference with which the locality is connected. They remain until duly released by their presiding officers. No agreement is entered into with a missionary as to the length of time he is to serve, or the date of his release. The phrase, "a two years' mission," so frequently used by those who do not know what they are talking about, is incorrect and misleading.

The missionaries of this Church go where they are sent, to preach the Gospel and labor with all their might to enlighten and save humanity. They are not called to work among any particular class of people, rich or poor, dwellers in cities or in rural districts, male or female. Nor are they emigration agents with inducements for folks to come here to get land or employment. All the stories told to the contrary are untrue and without foundation.

It has been customary to retain Elders in the mission field for at least two years unless released in consequence of ill-health or other unusual cause, but there is no settled term for a mission; the time frequently ranges from two to three and occasionally has reached up to five years. The period is governed by the needs of the mission and the discretion of the presiding officer, unless some special order is sent by the First Presidency.

The devotion and integrity exhibited by the Elders on missions are worthy of admiration and praise. They receive no salary. They do not work for money, or for ambition or personal glory. They are devoted to the labor of spreading light and truth, and bearing witness of the restoration of the Church of Christ on earth, by the personal manifestation of the Redeemer and heavenly messengers, preparatory to the consummation of all things.

Even if they are deemed in error, they should be treated with kindness and consideration by all people among whom they travel, and those who seek their personal injury engage in a most un-Christian and shameful endeavor. They deserve the protection of every government where they are sent as missionaries, because they render obedience to its laws and good order. There are no more exemplary and consistent men, as a rule, in the world than the traveling Elders of this Church, nor more worthy of the confidence and esteem of the virtuous, upright and truth-loving men and women of Christendom.

An association has been formed for the purpose of securing legislation prohibiting the use of the American flag for civil or commercial purposes. This is a subject that has been agitated for some years, but enough interest has not, so far, been aroused, to secure the desired legislation. The association referred to will appeal to the people of this country for aid in the passage of some legislative act for the protection of the Stars and Stripes against profanation.

There are many distinguished names on the roll of the association. The president is Col. Ralph E. Prime, a Civil War veteran. Theodore Roosevelt is the first vice president, and among the other vice presidents are Generals Miles, Howard and Fred Grant, Rear Admiral Schley, Rear Admiral Gherard and General Breckinridge. The secretary is Brigadier General Wilson, U. S. A., retired.

The movement is also strongly endorsed. Ex-President Cleveland is quoted as follows:

"I am strongly opposed to all advertising uses and other perversions of our flag, and I hope the efforts of your association will be successful to prevent every desecration and improper use of our national emblem."

Ex-President Harrison speaks in a general way:

"Any movement that tends to promote love and reverence for the flag has my ardent sympathy."

Secretary of War Root says:

"I am always heartily in sympathy with any movement which has for its object the prevention of desecration of the national emblem of the United States."

Secretary of State Hay has these good words for the new organization:

"I cordially sympathize with the good work in which you are engaged of protecting the national flag from desecration. It is a symbol which ought to be sacred to every citizen of the Republic, and should never be sullied by unworthy uses."

And President McKinley favors legislation on the subject. He says:

"Those who seek to divert the flag from its sacred uses should be restrained by public law."

If it is true, as it undoubtedly is in some cases, that the flag is used for base purposes, as for instance when the brutal and brutalizing prize fights are fought under its folds, it is time to take steps for its protection. The emblem of the highest type of civilization should not be used as a cover of fraud, selfishness or crime. And this is not a matter of sentimentalism either. Reverence for an emblem means reverence for that which the emblem represents, and one is destroyed with the other. Were men and women purely spiritual beings, material representations of principles might not be needed, but as it is, wisdom dictates that such aids to the appreciation of that which is spiritual be surrounded with a certain sacredness, just as with pictures of beloved friends, not for the shadow itself, but for that which the shadow represents.

**FRENCH DREAMS OF INVASION.**

The comments made upon General Merder's proposition in the French senate, to the effect that a plan be drawn up for the invasion of Great Britain, are called forth, presumably, more on account of the place in which the "winged words" were let loose, than out of regard for the French general who became known principally for his connection with the unenviable Dreyfus affair. The proposition is likely to have its effect, though. The British press points out that an "alarming number" of English battle-ships are ineffective, and that Germany soon will have a sufficient naval strength to land an expedition on the British coast.

The invasion of England is one of the French dreams dating as far back as the great Napoleon, but it is only a dream. General de la Roque, a little over a year ago, had it, judging from the Revue des Deux Mondes, in which he gave a vivid sketch of how it could be done, and a prediction that it would take place within a short time.

His idea was that the French warships should first destroy as many as possible of the British fleet. He argued that this would be practical, for the reason that the English vessels are so defectively protected that their destruction with missile shells would be comparatively easy. Upon the finest built, the protective armor is lacking where it is indispensable, and superabundant where it is useless; the aggressive is represented upon badly protected cruisers by enormous guns, and upon cruisers that are well protected, by artillery throughout of medium quality from every point of view. General de la Roque thinks that the entire main deck space of battleships of the Majestic type would be shambles in fifteen minutes, if exposed to an attack by high explosive shells, and that cruisers of the Powerful type would serve as mere sport and pastime for an energetic missile. The French ships, on the other hand, are, according to that authority, better sea boats, and are better protected, carrying superior artillery.

The English fleet thus being disposed

of, in this present vision, the French army, the general thinks, is prepared for an invasion of England, and Egypt simultaneously. The area of English possessions, he says, is great, and the vulnerable points are many. And he concludes by stating that if this aggressive action is decided to be impossible, then the entire French navy is a luxury that should be abandoned, and the money it costs should be devoted to works of national utility, and to the army.

Such are the dreams and visions of certain French military authorities. France, however, have had dreams before this time of triumphal marches to neighboring capitals, for instance to Berlin. But the reality did not correspond to the pictures painted by a lively imagination. It is pretty safe to say that if Great Britain is not invaded until the French ships have annihilated the English navy no alarm need be felt across the channel at present. What Napoleon with his hordes, accustomed to victory in numerous battles, did not dare to undertake, neither Merder nor de la Roque would care to attempt. The talk is fraught with mischief, though. It serves to keep up the tension between two nations which ought to be friends, and to delay the beginning of the era of universal peace.

**A QUESTION OF AMUSEMENTS.**

The Russian author, Eugene Marlow, whose striking article in the Novoye Vremya, on the dangers to our civilization, was noted in these columns some time ago, is attracting considerable attention. Mr. Marlow is known for his conservative views, and what he has to say on that subject is, on that account, more than common interest. From the extracts we have seen it is evident that he has given the subject a careful study, and that he is striking at the root of an alarming and growing evil.

Mr. Marlow points out that one of the characteristics of our time is the ever increasing demand for all kinds of amusements. This makes him fear for the future of mankind. Amusements have always been needed. But the difference is that formerly they were looked upon as something rare with which the burdens of life were occasionally lightened; while now pleasure is a constant need. Now all, without exception, rich and poor, the idle as well as the industrious, demand daily amusements as something without which life is unbearable. The consequence is that the populace is being taught religion, politics, morals and art in music halls. They accept coarse jests upon the fundamental principles of life with characteristic naïveté, and are gradually inspired with distrust in everything that is good and contempt for everything high and lofty. The teachings of amusement halls the author sums up in a few sentences: "Everything is deception, pretence. The clever imposes upon the simple-minded man; the stronger burdens the weaker. Believe nothing; use everything and take advantage of everybody without shame or restraint; enjoy yourself and laugh at the fools who do not see that which is at the command of the bold and sophisticated."

Seldom, if ever, was a more timely word of warning sent out to the world. The prevailing craze for amusements of a questionable nature is interfering with the devotion of men and women to the serious enactments of life; it is draining the resources of the laboring classes and sometimes undermining the foundations of family happiness. It is diverting the thought from the channels of faith and leading the minds into the broad highways of materialism and sensuality.

At one time the rigidly ascetic tendency of German Pietism stemmed the tide in this direction, by pronouncing all kinds of worldly amusements, such as theater performances, dances, card playing, etc., sinful. This was going too far, and when the reaction set in, it became as foundation sweeping away, perhaps even the most desirable restraint. It is high time to reconsider the entire question, and to find the happy middle road between the two extremes. If the public standard of morality is to be elevated, attention must be paid to the class of amusements that is to be patronized, as well as the number of them. It is one of the great questions of the present.

**A PARTING WORD.**

The Deseret News has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the many thousands of its readers, that its opposition to compulsory vaccination has not included voluntary vaccination, or the rejection of any regulation authorized by law for the protection of the public health. The endeavors of a malicious contemporary to misrepresent our position, will therefore only rebound to its own discredit.

The logic of that paper is on a par with its veracity. The very quotations which it makes from our columns, purposely isolated as they are from the explanatory context, establish the very opposite of the charges which it pretends against us. The weakness of its cause it has displayed by its own comments, and it never seems to have sense enough to perceive its own fatuity. It provides food for mirth when it attempts to make an argument, and at the same time occasions disgust at the recklessness of its mendacity. Well, it may continue to froth at the mouth until the present paroxysm has passed.

Farewell, then, welcome clear skies and bright sunshine!

And all that Holland gave Oom Paul was the marble heart.

To cut off the war supplies is not the way to shorten the session of parliament.

New Yorkers are very arch, but they failed to make the Dewey Arch permanent.

One way to overcome the objection to a large standing army is to keep it on the move.

Minister Wu in a recent lecture said jokingly, comparing the training of boys in his own country and this, that if his son were to sit down in his presence he would "punch his head."

Should an American father command his son to stand up in his presence, he would possibly get his head punched.

In the concert of the powers at Pekin, the French horn seems to be a little out of tune.

Lord Kitchener reports that Gen. Knox and Gen. Dewet are having a running fight, and yet both absolutely refuse to run.

According to the estimates for appropriations for the fiscal year of 1902, the famous Billion Dollar Congress was a penurious body.

The sultan has sent a quantity of cigarettes to the crew of the Kentucky. His real object was, no doubt, to beloud the real issues between the United States and Turkey.

Chaffee and Von Waldersee settled their differences at breakfast over the coffee. How much better is this than the old way of coffee and pistols for two.

Instead of people having to be vaccinated once a year, or "as often as it will take," couldn't the people, for whose welfare the dear doctors are so solicitous, buy what may be termed a vaccination annuity?

When an anarchist meeting in New York, or elsewhere in this country, indulges in talk about assassinating the President of the United States, or anybody else as for that matter, the meeting should be broken up, even if it should become necessary to break the heads of the anarchists to do it.

Rumors of an alliance of the South American republics against the United States persist, the alleged reason for the same being fear of the great republic of the north. The fears are groundless, and the great republic with its Monroe doctrine is the best guarantee for their independence and territorial integrity that the South American republics can have. Their true policy is to cultivate the friendship of the United States.

Today is the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the seat of the federal government at Washington. It has become a great city, and is the only one in the world established for a national capital. It is a beautiful city, one of the most beautiful in the world. In years past there has been agitation in favor of removing the capital to some place in the Mississippi valley, but it was never very popular. It should, and doubtless will remain on the banks of the Potomac.

As a result of the death of ex-Cadet Booz hazing at West Point is to be investigated. That is very well and proper, but it is no worse there, if so bad, as at the various colleges and universities throughout the country. But there is more or less prejudice against the national military academy, this prejudice generally taking the form of the charge that it is an aristocratic institution, a place for the educating of the sons of the rich. It is not so. It is one of the most democratic institutions in the country. To illustrate, the last Utah boy to graduate there is the son of poor parents, and Lieut. Cole himself, before going to West Point, worked as a section hand on the railroad. He is now an artillery officer. Take the case of Cadet Telford, Utah's cadet, who graduates next spring. He is a son of a poor family, but he has no social prominence or pretensions. But Cadet Telford stands first in his class in mathematics while his general class standing is three. Had West Point military academy been an aristocratic institution Cole and Telford would never have entered it as cadets.

**THE ISTHMIAN CANAL.**

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The preliminary report of the Isthmian canal commission sent to Congress by the President yesterday, unqualifiedly favors the Nicaragua route against all others. The first cost of a canal on the Panama route is estimated at \$88,000,000 less than by the Nicaragua route, and the cost of maintenance would be less on account of the shorter line, but this, in the opinion of the commission, would be offset by the compensation certain to be demanded by the Panama Canal company for the relinquishment of its rights, without which the canal could not be built under the conditions prescribed by Congress.

Springfield Republican.

If the commission's preference were based upon complete advantages of an engineering and financial character, there could be little or no hesitation to accept its conclusion. But the determining consideration seems to be based on the question of absolute and permanent ownership by the United States. If the American people are a practical people, they ought to see the amazing inconsistency in insisting on absolute ownership of a canal and the neutralization of that canal. If the canal is to be neutralized, so that the United States cannot use it for exclusive military ends in time of war, what special benefit is to accrue to this country from paying the entire cost of construction and then forever after maintaining an absolute ownership of the work?

New York Journal.

The Nicaragua canal commission has removed the last excuse for delay in beginning the construction of the Isthmian waterway. It has definitely recommended the Nicaragua route and dismissed the Panama route from consideration. It is the business of Congress to do now what it should have done two years ago: "Dig the Nicaragua canal."

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

We term it the Nicaragua canal because the dimensions, not only of its locks, but of its channel, are much larger. We hope Congress will attend to this matter at once, and after the nation has not involved in an expenditure of at least \$200,000,000, there will not be so many wild fools arguing a bigger navy, when we have sixteen battleships which are completed or authorized, and the aspect of the world to the United States looks so serene that the nation is not likely to be involved in another war during the next twenty-five years.

San Francisco Chronicle.

There is, therefore, but one route to be considered, and the friends of the Nicaragua canal should insist upon action at this session, and should not permit and other measures to be displaced by any secret opposition of the project to show their colors. Congress is fully advised. The country is fully advised. The time is now ripe for a vote, and we want it at once, so that work may begin. There has been talk enough.

Kansas City Star.

The prompt submission of the Isthmian canal report to Congress renews hope that work on the waterway may be provided for before the end of the session. As was expected, the commission reported squarely in favor of the Nicaragua route, as against the Panama route. Both are said to be feasible, and provided the Panama company would sell its property to the United States, their cost would be about the same. The proximity of the Nicaragua route to New York and San Francisco would more than compensate for its greater length.

Chicago Record.

The cost of maintaining fortifications, the increased liability to attack at a given and not an invulnerable point, and even the possible loss of the canal itself—for it might be taken away from us were it fortified—all point to neutralization as the preferable policy. The best assurance of a rightful supremacy, in the canal, is the application of the Monroe doctrine in preventing powers which may become hostile from strengthening their hold upon naval bases within striking distance of American ports.

Chicago Times-Herald.

The report differs from the report of previous commissions in that it increases the estimate of cost for a Nicaragua canal from \$125,000,000 and \$130,000,000 to \$200,000,000. The commission was also confronted by a different situation as respects franchises and concessions. The concessions to the Maritime company having expired, and the grant to the Cragin-Eby syndicate having been declared forfeited, the commission found the way clear for United States ownership and control of a canal through Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the Photo Era for December are found a great number of beautiful illustrations, both portraits and landscapes. The text deals with "The Third Philadelphia Photographic Salon," "Landscape Composition," and kindred subjects. The magazine is printed on heavy paper, and its illustrations are truly artistic productions.—Chicago.

The leading article in Sunset Magazine for November is entitled "Half Round the World with Grand Opera." It is profusely illustrated and is a description of the tour of the Maurice Maeterlinck to California. There is also a paper on "Horses of California," and a story, "The Locating of Bronco Ned," by Bourdon Wilson.—San Francisco, Cal.

The December number of Trained Motherhood gives space to a number of subjects of special interest to wives and mothers. Among the topics treated on are "The Girl at Twelve," "Pleasure Grounds for Children," "Whooping Cough," "Little Beds for Little Bodies," etc. The special department includes "The Mother's Book Shelf," "The Kindergarten in the Home," "Baby's Requirements," etc.—The Motherhood Co., Park Row, New York.

Two features of the December number of Werner's Magazine are of special interest. One is "Roses in Fiction," illustrated by Genevieve Lucile Farnell. The other, "Ban-Hur Tab-leaux." The first mentioned are full length illustrations from life, accompanied by a highly interesting explanatory article. The tableaux are printed in colored ink and described from a dramatic standpoint. Among the other features are portraits of English Grand Opera singers; an article, "The Ancient Church—The Story of a Word," arguing that the Christ is the Great Voice speaking to us. The article is illustrated by a full-page reproduction of Skredsveld's painting, "The Son of Man," picturing Christ in everyday modern costume. There are recitation, declamation and entertainment departments. "Graded Physical Exercises," and "Current Thought Department."—Werner Publishing Co., New York.

The Book World for December announces some special features, among which are "Christ in Fiction," illustrated by Genevieve Lucile Farnell. Hawaii and the Hawaiians," the first of a series of illustrated articles, by Robert Stuart MacArthur, on his tour around the world; "The Empty of the Ghetto," illustrated, the first of a Series of Articles, by Dr. Adolphe Dausiger; "The Home Life of Oliver Wendell Holmes," illustrated, by Frank Lee Farnell; "Methods in Literature," illustrated, by Rev. Henry Moore Simpson; and "The Men of Wall Street."—Siegel-Cooper Co., Chicago.

The Quarterly Report is the title of a new little magazine devoted to the interests of the National Congress of Mothers. Its editor is Sallie S. Cotten. Its chief feature is a report of the convention held at Des Moines, Iowa, on May 21st, last.—Woodward & Lothrop, Washington, D. C.

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**MUSIC LOVERS.**

All who desire information of the address, etc., of Salt Lake's music teachers, should consult the Musicians' Directory, published on the Dramatic and Musical page of the Saturday "News."

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