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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 annoyance
if they will take time to notice these numbers:

For the Chief Editor's office No. 74.

For Deseret News Book Store, 74, 2

rings.

For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 2

rings.

For Business Manager, 359, 3 rings.

For Business Office, 359, 2 rings.

SUPPRESS THE NUISANCE!

That was a public service that was
rendered by Mr. Joseph Geoghegan, of
the Board of Education, on Sunday afternoon.
He was a witness to the disgraceful
conduct of some youths who take
delight in embarrassing ladies as they
pass along the sidewalks of the
business part of town. He promptly
interfered, much to their surprise, and
aided in turning them over to the police.The Deseret News has repeatedly
called official attention to the nuisance
which people coming from the Tabernacle
have endured for a long time. Callow
youths line up on the sidewalks, gather
in doorways and on steps of large
buildings, and pass remarks sometimes
obscene, always offensive, and arouse
the ire of all decent people who see or
hear them. Men who resent their
insolence hesitate about seizing and
thrashing them as they deserve, because
they do not want to make a disturbance,
particularly on Sunday, as it is the duty
of the peace officers to abate the nuisance
and private citizens do not like to interfere.We are not finding fault with the police.
They are probably avoided by the
scurvy scoundrels who are guilty of the
conduct complained of, some of whom
are not mere boys, but loafers who are
old enough to be men of family. When
a policeman passes they hold their
tongues and reserve their insults until
they think they are safe. But we believe
it to be necessary that some officers of the
city and of the county, in plain clothes,
be detailed for brief service on Sunday
afternoons, to detect these breakers of the
peace, for that they really are.Loitering on street corners in gangs
is against the regulations of this municipality,
and those who indulge in it ought to be
"moved on." The depraved creatures who
put their cigarette or cigar smoke into the
faces of passers-by, and make their
ludicrous comments on the appearance and
apparel of ladies, ought to be watched and
at the right moment arrested. But this
will be of little use unless they are properly
punished. The law forbids words and
actions likely to provoke a breach of the
peace, individuals who "offend public
decency, or commit any act that 'annoys,
injures, or endangers the comfort, repose,
health, or safety of three or more persons' are
guilty of a misdemeanor, and when convicted
ought to receive the just penalty of the law.We hope the example set by Mr. Geoghegan
will be followed by other citizens, and that
not only will the police be ready to do their
duty in this matter, but that the prosecuting
officer and magistrate, into whose hands the
administration of the law is entrusted, will
not hesitate to protect the public against
this unmitigated nuisance.

A MANLY DENIAL.

Logan, Utah, Jan. 28, 1904.
To the Editor:I have just read the editorial in your
issue of last night, relative to "Traffic in
Plural Wives," and feel impelled, in the
interest of fairness, to write you.
Without being understood as endorsing
your views of conditions in Utah and of
the pending controversy, I think it only
fair to say that I was born and brought
up in a "Mormon" home; that for reasons
satisfactory to my own mind I quit the
Church many years ago; that I have been a
resident of Utah forty-one years; that for
thirty years I have been a careful observer
of conditions here; that during the whole
time of my residence among the "Mormons"
people I have never known nor heard of
such "traffic in plural wives" as that to
which you make reference in your editorial.
I believe the truth sufficiently severe for
honest men and every good cause.

N. E. CLEMENSON.

The foregoing letter reached us on
Saturday, too late for publication in the
"News." We give place to it with pleasure,
as an indication that there are "Christian"
ministers in Utah who not only do not
endorse the falsehoods which some of them
utter about the "Mormons," but are
courageous enoughto publicly express their dissent from
such utterances.No one acquainted with Rev. N. E. Clemenson
is likely to accuse him of affiliating with
"Mormonism" or apologizing for it in any
way. His sentiments on that form of doctrine
have been too pronounced for any mistake
to be made on that score. But the monstrous
story which has appeared in New York papers,
as noticed in these columns, was too much for
him and therefore his letter on the subject.
The writer of it has long been known as an
opponent of the plural marriage system and of
everything connected with its practice, and his
familiarity with affairs in Utah render his
testimony particularly pertinent just now.We are of the opinion that his example
ought to be followed by other people who
believe in fair play and justice, and who
detest such monstrous falsehoods as those
endorsed by the Presbyterian Dr. D. J. McMillan
of New York, who knows that what he
testified to as reported in New York papers,
is shamefully untrue and without reason or
excuse.The words of Mr. Clemenson, who is also
a Presbyterian minister, at the close of his
letter will strike every fair-minded person as
eminently correct; he says: "I believe the truth
sufficiently severe for honest men and every
good cause." If it is not found sufficient for
any individual and any cause, the latter must
be had and the person who advocates it knowing
it to be untrue, must be worthy of condemnation
by God and man.We desire to be charitable, even to our
bitterest foes, among whom stand very prominent
a number of professed ministers of the Gospel.
Some of them are mistaken and think they are
doing God service in opposing "Mormonism."
But others are, beyond question, wilful
defamers of the truth, whose consciences have
become "seared as with a hot iron" and who
delight in everything malicious and evil that
is said about "Mormonism" or the "Mormons." As
to them we desire to exercise patience, and
certainly we would do them no harm, but while
we may say, "The Lord have mercy upon them,"
we cannot truthfully plead that, "they know
not what they do."Who else is there among the influential
non-"Mormons" of Utah, who has the courage
and fairness to deny and repudiate the glaring
falsehood emanating from this city about the
"traffic in plural wives?"

GOOD DETECTIVE WORK.

A fine piece of detective work has been
performed by Sheriff Emery and his deputies,
in the tracing out and arrest of the murderers
of Fred Butler, the old umbrella peddler and
repairer, whose horrible death startled the Salt
Lake public several years ago. Strong efforts
were made to fasten the awful crime upon
certain suspects, and one of them was arrested
and charged with the offense, but the evidence
was insufficient to convict him and he escaped
punishment. Particulars of the inquiries more
recently set on foot, and of the arrest of three
and confession of one of the guilty persons, will
be found in this issue of the Deseret Evening
News, and will prove interesting to a very
large number of our readers. The story adds to
the many illustrations of the adage that "murder
will out," and reflects great credit on the
officers who have been instrumental in bringing
the assassins to justice. The leading facts
have been under consideration by the
"News" for some days and are brought to
light in due season for public information,
through reportorial diligence and discretion.
Let Justice claim its own!

DENOMINATIONAL STATISTICS

According to the church statistics prepared
by Mr. H. K. Carroll, the gains of "communicants"
during 1903 was 72,955 smaller than that of 1902,
and yet there was an increase in the number
of churches and ministers. More shepherds and
smaller flocks, seems to be the lesson of the
figures. The Roman Catholics are credited with
the largest increase—166,016. The next largest
is the African Methodist Episcopal church—66,646.
The Southern Baptists are given the third place,
and the Disciples the fourth. The largest religious
bodies are, in this order: The Catholics,
Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians.
The total membership of all denominations is
given as 2,323,158. The latter figure certainly
suggests the question, where are the rest of the
seventy millions? Dowle is credited with a
following of 40,000 communicants. The Christian
Scientists are said to report a total of 63,283
members.

RUSSIA'S DILATORY POLICY.

Russia is aggravatingly slow in her
negotiations with Japan. The Mikado's note
was sent to St. Petersburg on the 13th of
January. For several days a reply has been
expected, and now comes the announcement
that another delay has occurred. Japan, it will
be observed, has been prompt in her dealings
with Russia, while the latter country has
evinced a marked tendency to dilatory tactics.
The history of the negotiations thus far shows
that the first interchange of views took place
during last summer, but the first formal note
was sent by Japan to Russia Oct. 12. Immediately
after Russia had allowed the date for the evacuation
of Manchuria to pass by without action. Two
weeks later Russia replied to this. Oct. 30 Japan
made her demands on Russia explicit. It took
forty days for the Russians to prepare their
reply. Japan next was ready with her answer
in a week. Russia took two weeks and a half
for consideration before sending her note of Jan. 6.
This note was answered by Japan seven days
later. It looks as if Russia were determined
to put off the evil day as far as possible, but
Japan, it is also certain, is not going to be
taken unawares. There are rumors of secret
war preparations, which may be well calculated
to force the antagonist to make his move on the
chessboard and disclose his plans. Russia's
position is not enviable. The country has got
possession of the ter-ritory causing the dispute, and cannot "let go,"
without sacrificing much of her railroad and
other interests. But she is also badly equipped
for a serious war, such as one with Japan would
be likely to become. According to George Kennan
in the Outlook, the economic condition of the
country is extremely unsatisfactory. The people
have been taxed to the utmost limit, while the
expenditures have increased, during the last few
years, from \$529,000,000 to \$1,036,000,000.
M. de Witte not long ago said in a state council
that "the imposition of direct and indirect taxes
upon the population has reached the last possible
limit. To lay any further burden upon the
taxpayers power will not only be fruitless of
results, but can hardly be regarded as permissible
in the present economic condition of the country."
The aim of an enlightened financial policy now
should be to seek means of decreasing, gradually,
the burden of taxation. These being facts, Russian
statesmanship must necessarily be devoted to the
preservation of peace, if possible. But Russia
cannot retreat from the Pacific coast now. The
question of peace or war rests, therefore, with
Japan.

FALLING BIRTH RATE.

A Boston correspondent of the New York Sun
has studied the statistics concerning the birth rate
in Massachusetts, and found that, while there was
a big increase in marriages for the year 1902,
the birth rate fell to the lowest figure since 1879.
He also found that the birth rate among foreign
born parents was considerably larger than among
the native born.Some curious facts are noted in the statistics.
In the town of New Ashfield there was neither a
marriage, birth nor death. Gosnold nearly equaled
this, having neither a marriage nor a death, but it
did have one birth. In Gay Head there was one
marriage, one birth and no deaths. Seven sets of
triplets were born, aggregating fourteen boys and
seven girls. Four bridegrooms out of the 25,655
married were over 80 years of age. Three women
became brides at between 75 and 80. Seven girls
married at the age of 14, and twenty-nine at the
age of 15. The youngest boy married was 16 years
old.The birth rate problem is one that "will not
down." What is the matter with the civilized world?
In a gathering of ladies the question was sprung
not long ago, what each one would consider the
highest happiness. One suggested the possession
of beautiful dresses, objects of art, etc. Another
mentioned the ability to travel wherever inclination
would lead. Another said that there was no happiness
exceeding that of a mother. If she had her choice
she would choose to rear many children of her own,
provided she had means enough to take care of them
as they ought to be.That is it. Perhaps that touches the very
key to the secret of what has been termed "race
suicide." People find themselves in the midst of a
civilization that places demands upon them, with
regard to the bringing up of their posterity, that
they are unable to meet, under the keen competition
that exists everywhere. And they shirk the responsibility.At all events, here is a field of research
worthy of the best efforts of "mothers' congresses,
and women's organizations. The greatest danger to
the American home lies in that direction, ladies!

Vice should not be exploited.

A tabloid of cyanide of potassium is far more
efficient than a bare bodkin.Winter cannot last much longer. February is
the shortest month of the year.Secretary Moody's naval program is as long as
that of an amateur concert company.With the House of Representatives double mileage
does not go. That is as it should be.That the "Pilgrims' Chorus" was not sung at
the Pilgrims' society dinner was a strange neglect.Those cities where the thermometer is below zero
for a large part of the winter, are below par as
winter resorts.If Russia seems slow in replying to Japan's note
it should be attributed to the fact that the Bear
may be hibernating.Mr. Bryan is really a blessing to his fellow men,
especially the paragraphers, who could scarcely
get along without him.A New Jersey justice has held that a wedding
engagement entered into Sunday evening is void.
Possibly in law but not in fact.Where are the resolutions that were so boastfully
made a month ago? As well ask where is the scent
of the rose of last summer.Having had so many resolutions of inquiry on the
Panama question by way of change, the country
would be glad to have a few resolutions of action.When all the irrigation schemes are realized there
will still be needed one great essential to make
the land productive. That one great essential is
hard work.The Kentucky senate refused to endorse Mr. Roosevelt's
Panama policy. This is the first intimation the
people of the country have had that there was a
Kentucky senate.A statistician computes that John D. Rockefeller's
income is a hundred and twenty-five dollars a
minute. Here is a case where if the minutes are
taken care of the hours will take care of themselves.The anniversary of the execution of King Charles I.
January 30, 1649, was observed Saturday by several
Episcopal churches in Boston and vicinity. How
annoying and distressing to thesedevoted loyalists must be the sight of Bunker Hill
monument."People who assume that Chicago will profit largely
by war in the east forget that Chicago feeds the
standing armies there anyway and that live soldiers
eat more than dead ones," says the Chicago Chronicle.
What a splendid example of the ruling passion
strong in death.A Great Barrington, Mass., young man is in a peculiar
and great dilemma. He was rescued from drowning
by two young women. He cannot say to both: "Take
me, you saved my life, and I am yours for life." Though
perhaps, he might be happy with either were
t'other dear charmer away.Here is the Herald of Boston, Boston the Hub of the
Universe and the center of all literary excellence,
quoting Coleridge thus:

"Water, water, everywhere, And not a drop to drink!"

Not a western schoolboy but knows better than that,
and that the correct quotation is:

"Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink."

WHITTAKER WRIGHT.

Portland Oregonian.
The death of Whittaker Wright almost at the moment
upon which sentence was pronounced upon him for
fraud was a tragic ending of a sensational career
which would otherwise have ended in deeper
disgrace. It is human nature to review in kindness
the misdeeds of a man upon whose existence death
has set his seal, and softened by this feeling, the
charges against Whittaker Wright will lose the
rancor with which—justly or unjustly—they were
weighed. Even the very evident probability that he
compassed his own death to avoid the penalty which
was passed upon him will not abate the sympathy
which death engenders for the evildoer. Whether the
act under the circumstances was cowardly or brave
will remain a matter of personal opinion.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The game which Whittaker Wright played so boldly
and for a long time so successfully was one not
unknown in this country, where promoters of his
strife come to grief in the courts far more frequently
than in Great Britain. Wright had many predecessors,
some of whom got away with their plunder, while
others paid the penalty in one way or another. Not
many years ago England and the United States were
filled with the name and fame of the great Hooley,
a typical "Napoleon of finance," who, after going
through one of the most sensational bankruptcy proceedings
on record, is living in deserved obscurity, though not
in the poverty which would have been his lot had
exact justice been done. Jabez Balfour was another
who played the promoter game and landed in the
penitentiary.

Kansas City Star.

Had such a case been on trial in the United States
the public would have looked forward to years of
litigation. One appeal would have followed another.
On some technical error, not affecting the merits of the
case, a new trial would probably have been ordered.
This would have given opportunity for further
appeals. Witnesses would have died or have left the
country and in the end it would have been extremely
uncertain whether Wright was not to go free. Such
are the technicalities of American judicial procedure
that a man with money is frequently able to keep
up the fight for years. And as Mr. Justice Brewer
has said: "Justice delayed is usually justice denied."

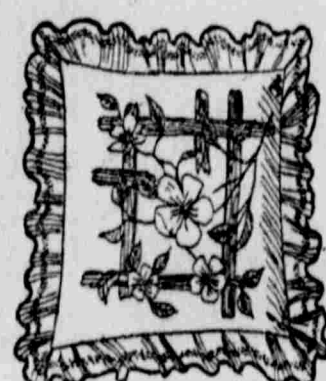
AS TO LYCHING.

Chicago Record-Herald.
If the legislature of Mississippi desires to show
itself progressive it should not reduce lynching to the
status of a misdemeanor. Lynching should be moved
in the opposite direction and declared lynching to be
treason—for in its essence lynching is a crime against
government itself.

GERMAN COLONIZATION.

Springfield Republican.
German hopes concerning the colonies of the empire
are not enthusiastic at present. The imperial expenditure
on their account continues greatly in excess of the total
value of the colonies. The search for valuable minerals
in New Guinea and German East Africa has been
disappointing. On the other hand, some good copper
deposits have been found in German Southwest Africa.
But they will remain unworked for a long time.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The "News" is indebted to Mr. W. F. Cooper, secretary
of the R. L. Polk publishing company, for the receipt
of volume I of the Logan City and Cache County
directory for 1904, just published by that company.
It is a very complete and accurate index to a part
of Utah, and it should be of great value to all
business houses especially. It is a neatly gotten up
volume, printed on good paper, with clear type.
The offices and library of the publishers are in the
Booby building, Salt Lake City.There are a number of good articles in Leslie's
Monthly for February. The magazine sent a special
correspondent to Montana to investigate the conditions
there in the struggle between Helms and the
Amalgamated Copper company backed by the Standard
Oil interests, and his article is a most startling story
of industrial wars. "Does it Pay to Be a Doctor?"
takes up the rewards, pecuniary and otherwise, of the
medical profession, and "Making Flowers on Broadway"
and "Imported Americans" are two descriptions of
working life and of immigrants. Of the nine short
stories "A Case in Surgery" is a splendid example
of straightforward fiction. There are also verses and
book notes, and an essay on "The Freedom of Life,"
by Annie Payson Call.—New York.In the World Today for February appears a
descriptive article of special interest to this region.
It is entitled "The Rockies as a Winter Residence,"
and is by Henry F. Cope. Among the contents of
the number are "The Conquest of the American Desert,"
by Day Allen Wiley; "The Architecture of the Louisiana
Purchase Exposition," by Edward Hale Bruhn; "American
Cartoon and Public Opinion," by Ingram A. Pyle,
and "The Divorce Situation in Canada," by W. S.
Harwood. A noted English writer describes
impressively "The Funeral of Herbert Spencer." Philanthropy
and religion are represented in several articles. Men
and women prominent in the public view at the
present time are described by pen and pencil. Incidents
of progress in various directions are narrated in the
department "The Making of Tomorrow," where also
are to be found an article on "The Primary Election
Laws of Massachusetts," by Jesse Tracy, and mention
of recent scientific discoveries and inventions.—67
Wabash avenue, Chicago.THIRD OFF.
Madge-Nellie says she is 24.
Marjorie-Yes: 24 marked down from 29.
—Judge.

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