DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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All communications should be addressed to DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Telephone 25.

THE FORT DOUGLAS KILLING.

Judging the matter from a civilian's standpoint, and by the light of all the facts thus far adduced, the claim put forth by one of the officers at Fort Douglas to his talk with a NEWS representative Tuesday, to the effect that the killing of the man Leonard was justifiable, is preposterous and inhuman. The victim's offense consisted simply in driving at a too rapid pace through the grounds; and it will probably be argued that since he had only recently been a soldier, and was therefore familiar with the regulations and the penalty for their infraction, he was even left without the excuse that might have been urged in extenuation had he never worn the uniform. But this is a mere begging of the question. The point at issue is a few feet short. And if the mere act of driving a horse and buggy through the grounds at a rate of speed that seems to the military authorities to be too fast, is to constitute a provocation for the deliberate shooting down of the offender, the sooner the public shall be informed of the fact the better. Until the contrary is established it will seem precarious for anybody to drive a horse and buggy into the grounds at all, for under stress of excitement or fright, or even in playfulness, the steadiest horse and the most careful driver may unconsciously arrive at such a speed of travel as to put the human life in peril from the sentry's rifle. Nay, it may even be unsafe for a pedestrian to go across the reservation on any part of it on the run or run; or to stand still and pass a moment at the shrubs, lawns, flowers and fountains if ordered to move on. If the infraction of any trivial rule is to be considered a justification for killing the offender, the less often an ordinary person visits the post the safer he will be.

However, we believe the investigation now under way will not result in any such decision. That military rules and discipline are strict and absolute, everybody knows and is thankful for. But that the stricken rules under the most absolute interpretation will exonerate the slayer of Leonard, no right-minded person can for a moment believe. We are not living under a military despotism, where a sentry for killing an innocent violator of the most insignificant rule is complimented and rewarded for his marksmanship. We are citizens of a nation that has little use for the military, a nation at profound peace with all mankind. Let there be no decision which shall diminish even in a soldier a sense of the value and sanctity of human life!

A HINT FOR THE G. S. L. & H. S.

"The little mystery," as some people call the Great Salt Lake and Hot Springs railway, has so fine an opportunity as any concern we know of to win for itself a measure of popular favor. Of this it stands in most desperate need, as it and everybody else ought to know. The hostility of feeling that exists against it among the property owners along Third West street may not be overcome by anything it can do; but even if that is a fixed quantity, there is no reason why it should not make quite itself friends with the traveling public—those for instance who wish to journey often between the city and the Hot Springs and those who for business or pleasure make regular and frequent trips between the city and the pretty towns in Davis county. No allusion is here made to the need of better rolling stock and a more comfortable road bed, those improvements will of course come along in time. But what is meant, and emphatically so, is the necessity for regularity and frequency in the running of trains. A good, plain time card and a consistent advertising of the same in the papers are a great convenience to those who desire to travel but unless the card truly represents an hour of the arrival and departure of trains it is worse than useless—it is a delusion and a snare. Of such character is the position of the road in question when it leaves passengers for an hour or two at a way station a few miles out of town, and when it puts out a train or two at this and station in the opinion of the management there are not passengers enough to pay for running out on schedule time. The exasperation of people who are at the depot on time or who perchance have been carried out to the springs or some other place and cannot get home at the time advertised, may be imagined. Mr. Bamberger's one night is single right merely upon occasion, if there is any truth in the views that such is the occasion when one is being talked about.

In its own interest and in the interest of its patrons the evil complained of should be remedied. A gentleman who states to have been a material loser through his inability to meet an important appointment because the train which should have carried him didn't run at all, has been threatening to institute legal inquiry as to the road's liability for damages for failing in its agreement. It is not likely that a remedy so doubtful will be sought but the road might not to drift too long with a waiting public's patience.

UTAH'S DAY CHANGED.

The telegraph advises us that Utah day at the Columbian Exposition has been changed from the 24th of July to the 5th of September. Of course this is done to enable the Tabernacle choir to be present and participate in the services, and perhaps for some other reason, and this reflects good judgment on the part of the managers, but the former was the date par excellence. It is Utah's natal day and around it cluster a host of sacred recollections of patriotic performances, of daring achievement and of triumphs won in the field of peace and progress. We thought so day so fit to christen our Territory's temporary commission at the great Fair, and when the choice of it was made we gave it our most hearty approval, as we believe did everybody who gave it a thought in Utah. However, those who are on the ground looking after the Territory's welfare would not, let us feel assured, forego a date so entirely appropriate were it not for the best, all things considered, even then, we confess to a slight twinge of disappointment over the unlooked-for change.

THE SITUATION AS IT IS.

A lengthy article on the political situation in Utah appears in a recent number of the Los Angeles *Express*. It is from the pen of Judge Hammacker of this city, but well known to other parts of the Territory, particularly Sanpete. The headlines which the publisher attaches to the article give it a rather savage appearance, one which the article itself does not give both on a perusal of it. There is not much in it but the job lot of stale, flat and unprofitable assertions, deductions and insinuations which have been doing service in the liberal cause so long, and while as its dressing shows it is considered of some consequence by our California contemporary, it will be without effect or result here other than to be spoken of and then forgotten if read at all. The following extract, however, exhibits an ingenuousness by which we were not entirely prepared:

> The People's party was dissolved and an apparent alienation of Church and state was decreed. The Church people were then given to understand that they were at liberty to divide on national party lines. Of course, some they were probably ignorant. National politics had never been discussed and but few of the lay members understood the fundamental principles of Republicanism or Democracy. They resembled sheep without a shepherd and some went this way to vote, the equally ignorant others gave to the fight against the Church and began to disseminate the principles of their respective political parties.

There is but one feature of this that we care to notice, that relating to the people's ignorance of national politics. It is not to be denied, because a fact, that a great many of Utah's citizens were not as well posted in that way three years ago as they are today, nor as much so today as they probably will be three years hence. Those who think this a disputable condition are welcome to their thoughts, but suffice it to say so far that that the Mormons as a class did not come to Utah to either establish or advocate partisanship in public life, nor did their tenets or preferences incline that way. It is pretty well known the world over what they did come for, and there should be no cavil as to whether they were and are good or bad politicians, because of such knowledge. They are mainly pretty well informed now, so much so, we believe, as any class of hard-working, toiling, agricultural people are anywhere. Inquiry was made as to what the national parties advocated in 1890, what they promised and what their objects were, and each voter chose one or the other in accordance with his preferences. No class of people was ever labored with more zealously by propagandists of the Democratic and Republican faith, any one of whom will cheerfully testify that he never has more admirers, supporters and, all things considered, more generously attended audiences. The result is the people, while individual and individuals as relates to the primal object of their coming and settlement here, are as much divided, as strongly and strikingly individualized in respect to politics as are the people of any other territory or of any state. They do not look for guidance in political matters to their spiritual leaders for they have been made to realize beyond question that in respect to such matters they are the architects of their own fortunes, the responsibility is theirs, and their leaders, and must be shouldered accordingly.

Mention is made of the difference between the vote for the two great parties as to a year ago and the preceding year. It was not nearly so great here as in some other places. The fact is that the vote of 1891 in Utah was the first cast on such lines, when a great number of the forces as shown were undisciplined and their action thus not amounting to a test. In saying this we do not intend to put forth the idea that the vote of last year was conclusive as to what Utah will or will not do in the field of national politics. The people will, we presume, act in accordance with whichever line of policy seems to promise most for them and their, and in doing so will not be deterred save by the revelation campaign methods let all be assured of that.

NEWSPAPER FAILURES.

Utah has not, all things considered, been a fast newspaper field; on the contrary, it has been a liberally good one and the great number of journalistic ventures that have gone down here about this proposition, paradoxical as it may appear. The proof is in the fact that newspapers do not rush into a bad or utterly unpromising field; they look out for good growing grounds, and when these are found more or less more in than there is room for. That is about the correct statement, we think, and the graveyard that Utah has become for newspapers which went hence at various but always tender ages only shows that we have attracted more of such enterprises than we could carry. But the list of periodicals which died and for some reason have found sustenance here is a very long one, as long as or longer than that of any other commonwealth of no more than 230,000 people in the world.

The latest news spur to succumb to the stringency of the times was the *Provo Enquirer*, which apparently went down on Tuesday. It was a paper, Democratic in politics and conducted with some degree of ability. There are a good many Democrats in Provo, and Utah county is claimed as their stronghold; not to sustain a publication, even a small one, in a field where there is already one well established and holding fast the bulk of the patronage, seems to have been more of a task than they were able to cope with. The truth of these observations is not imparted by the inner information that the suspension was not permanent and that an arrangement was made by which publication will be resumed. If the paper can weather the storm, there will be no complaints thereat from this quarter.

DEALING WITH CRIMINALS.

A memorial resolution regarding the late ex-President Hayes was adopted a few days ago by the Prison Reform association, of which he was an active and thoroughly earnest member. The organization is composed mainly of men of like purpose and temperament, holding that, as relates to our manner of dealing with violators of recorded statutes, we are not nearly advanced or civilized enough, enlightenment otherwise, and by agitation and precept it is hoped to effect such changes and modifications as are most needful to make society secure without resorting to cruel or unusual punishment.

The subject is by no means confined to the United States. It would be rather singular if it were, in view of the fact that almost any part of Europe contains a greater proportion of criminals, especially when the comparison is made as between the older and thoroughly settled districts of each country. As article in relation to the matter spoken of recently appeared in the *Epoca Moderna* of Madrid, in which it was declared that, after all, there is no cure for born criminals but to keep them locked up where it is impossible for them to do any harm, or to hang them, when they become very dangerous to the rank and file of honest people. Nevertheless, outlets are to be found for criminally inclined persons. They may be led to take up such occupations as would satisfy their particular passion, and this passion will then not only be less dangerous to the public, but may even be made useful. The butcher trade, it is suggested, will do for the bloodthirsty as well as the army—which is often nothing but an official slaughtering establishment. The stress is pronounced available for athletic horse-thieves, and that is the only preventive measure for those who appear incurable. But the treatment should be less radical for chance offenders, especially women.

Our reform school or penitentiary system is spoken of as possessing special interest. Here a young criminal who is not yet a hardened offender is sent at once not to prison. The judge will pass sentence upon him to the effect that, at the first expulsion of an unlawful actions, he will be sent to the house of correction; in the meantime he may remain under the vigilance of a special agent. If this agent thinks that the charge was not received the proper merits of crime, then the agent reports this to the court, and obtains a writ which empowers him to place his charge in an institution—a means of dealing which it is declared has produced excellent results in the country at large, and we can add to the fact that it has done so in Utah. It is noted that young prisoners have signed completely disappointed from the jails of Massachusetts, and it has been proved that in the majority of cases it is sufficient to place these young offenders for some time under the rigorous supervision of the state agent, and to keep them in terror of the Damocles sword of a term in the house of correction.

Such results have led to the idea that the system may be applicable to adults as well as minors, and a law was passed in 1878—for the city of Boston only—appointing a functionary with the title of probation officer, whose duty it is to examine the character of every individual prosecuted in a criminal court in Boston, and to report the cases in which it is likely the offenders will return without being punished. The figures show that in 1879, 244 persons were placed on probation. Of course, many of the promises to reform were not kept, but in the majority of cases they produced a very decided effect. The agent declared that out of every 100 persons placed under his supervision, about 95 behaved so well that they could be freed from that supervision altogether. Out of 244 only 19 were recognized as hardened and incorrigible criminals, and were made to undergo their penalties.

The late A. P. Rockwood, while warden of the Utah penitentiary, was often criticised and not infrequently ridiculed for the compassionate manner in which he dealt with his charges. The fact was never bad and sometimes it was decidedly good, equal to the best in fact. This, while showing a humane disposition and not therefore to be despised or condemned, was hardly the proper thing after all, because if it did not actually cause some to seek a term in the penitentiary, it went a long way toward overturning its implacable terrors. A medium course is best, not just how to get at it, and make a system of it is the question that is vexing the philanthropic.

The Anthropological Society of Washington offers prizes of $150 and $75 for the best and second best essay on the elements that go to make up the most useful citizen of the United States regardless of occupation. The essays must not exceed 3,000 words in length. Competition is open to all the world. This is the chance for the Tabernacle. They claim that they know what constitutes good citizenship.

Don't despise small things, or be discouraged because you are to have only a small part in the great world's business. It takes 3,750,000 bees, working upon and depriving of their honey 82,000 clover blossoms, to collect a single pound of honey.

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Garfield Beach Trains.

Effective June 1st and until further notice trains between Salt Lake and Garfield Beach will run as follows:

Leave Salt Lake Central	Arrive Garfield Beach	Leave Garfield Beach	Arrive Salt Lake Central
9:00 a.m.	10:40 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	12:40 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:40 p.m.
5:00 p.m.	6:40 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	8:40 p.m.
7:00 p.m.	8:40 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	10:40 p.m.
9:00 p.m.	10:40 p.m.	11:00 p.m.	12:40 a.m.

Sunday trains as follows:

9:00 a.m.	10:40 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	12:40 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:40 p.m.
5:00 p.m.	6:40 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	8:40 p.m.
7:00 p.m.	8:40 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	10:40 p.m.
9:00 p.m.	10:40 p.m.	11:00 p.m.	12:40 a.m.

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