

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:
(In Advance.)
One Year \$12.00
Six Months \$7.00
Three Months \$4.00
Single Copies 10c
Semi-Weekly per year \$2.00

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.

Address all business communications and all notices 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. 9, 1908.

TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Dear Brethren: "It is by no means improbable that some future text-book for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: 'What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen?' And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: JOSEPH SMITH, THE MORMON PROPHET."

Such was the opinion of Josiah Quincy in 1844, the year of the martyrdom. The intervening sixty-four years have tended to prove not only the greatness of Joseph Smith as a man, but also the divinity of the work he was instrumental in establishing. To every member of the Church, Joseph Smith is not only the most "historical American of the nineteenth century" but a true prophet of God.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1908, will be the one hundred and third anniversary of his birth, and it is suggested that on Sunday Dec. 19, appropriate services be held in every Sunday school in the Church. As a means to this end, the General Sunday School Union Board suggests the following program. It is only suggestive, the purpose being to have every officer of the Sunday School Union put forth his best thought and effort to make the exercises so impressive that the children will realize the true greatness of the Latter-day prophet:

- Omit regular class exercises.
- Roll.
- Song—"Joseph Smith's First Prayer."
- Prayer.
- Minutes of previous session.
- Song—"One Hundred Years."
- Administration of the Sacrament.
- Song—"Joseph the Priest."
- Articles of Faith in concert by the entire school.
- Song—"Joseph Smith."
- 10-Brief anecdotes concerning sayings of, or extracts from the life and writings of the Prophet Joseph Smith; or extracts from the Doctrine and Covenants. (See Life of Joseph Smith by Geo. C. Cannon). These may be given by classes in concert or by a representative from each department.
- 11-Remarks (preferably by those who knew the Prophet).
- 12-Song—"Sing, Sing the Wondrous Story."
- 13-Benediction.

Sincerely your brethren,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
DAVID O. MCKAY,
General Superintendency.
GEO. D. PYPER,
Gen. Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's message is a document well worth reading. It gives the views of the Chief Executive upon many of the questions to which public attention has been called and suggests necessary legislation. All citizens who care about the affairs of the Republic will read it thoughtfully.

The message very properly starts with a brief financial review, the gist of which is that the past seven years and three months there have been a net surplus of nearly one hundred millions of receipts over expenditures, a reduction of the interest bearing debt by ninety millions, in spite of the extraordinary expense of the Panama canal and a saving of nearly nine millions on the annual interest charge. There have been no new taxes and no increases of taxes. On the contrary, some taxes have been taken off. The currency system, however, is imperfect and reform is recommended.

On the question of corporations, the message emphasizes the right of the Federal government to control all agencies of interstate commerce, but it points out that this power must be exercised with wisdom so that justice may be done to all parties. "There must be no defrauding of investors, oppression of the farmers and business men who ship freight, or callous disregard of the rights and needs of the employees. In addition to this, the interests of the shareholders, of the employees and of the shippers should all be guarded against one another. To give any one of them undue and improper consideration is to do injustice to the others. Rates must be made as low as is compatible with giving proper returns to all the employees of the railroad, from the highest to the lowest, and proper returns to the shareholders, but they must not, for instance, be reduced in such fashion as to necessitate a cut in the wages of the employees or the abolition of the higher and legitimate profits of business."

The message deals at length with the labor question. It recommends the prohibition of child labor, the diminution of woman labor and the shortening of the hours of all mechanical labor, and recommends that Congress take up in earnest the question of protection of laborers, as far as possible, against disabilities incurred while serving. It recommends employers' liabilities laws and old age pensions. On this subject the message has some excellent suggestions.

The message recommends the increase of the salaries of judges and the doing away with "the law's delays." It criticizes certain injunction proceedings as doing an injustice to employees. "The power of injunction," the message says, "is a great equitable remedy which should on no account be destroyed. But safeguards should be erected against its abuse. I believe that some such provisions as those I advocated a year ago for checking the abuse of the issuance of temporary injunctions should be adopted. In substance, provision should be made that no injunction or temporary restraining order issue otherwise than on notice, except where irreparable injury would otherwise result, and in such case a hearing on the merits of the order should be had within a short fixed period, and if not then continued after hearing it should forthwith lapse. Decisions should be rendered immediately and the chance of delay minimized in every way. Moreover, I believe that the procedure should be sharply defined and the judge required minutely to state the particulars both of his action and of his reasons therefor, so that the Congress can, if it desires, examine and investigate the same."

The message pleads for the preservation of the forests, and points to the conditions obtaining in the Mediterranean countries of Europe, Africa and Asia as a warning example. It describes the dangers of deforestation and urges a wise forest policy.

The message recommends immediate action for the improvement of our inland waterways, and the placing of our national parks under the control of the forest service; it recommends postal savings banks and the extension of the parcels post on the rural routes; more ample appropriations for the national bureau of education are urged; also that the appointments to the census force be placed under the civil service law. It recommends the passage of a bill authorizing the concentration of the existing health bureaus into one department, and the placing of the government printing office under the direction of the department of commerce and labor. It recommends statehood for New Mexico and Arizona, and the protection by mutual agreement of interstate fisheries and seal catching.

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PERSIAN CONSTITUTION.

Springfield-Republican.

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SCIENCE MORE MODEST.

New York Evening Post.

Arguing against science at the present time would be acting like the farmer who saw an elephant for the first time and declared that he didn't believe there was such a beast. But to protest against the exaggerated claims of the scientists is not the legitimate, but useful. For it is certain that reaction will otherwise carry us to the opposite extreme of mysticism, spiritualism, and plain charlatans. Bumptious lighting about electrons and ions will make an opening for the discovery of "psychometers" or soul-atomers. Evolution itself is growing more modest, as it should, and the true fact that biology has piled up millions of facts in its support. But now and then it stands revealed that all the million facts hang one upon another, and the one of them is altogether beyond question. Twenty years ago the extreme Darwinians could easily have told us why women have long hair. Primitive marriage was always marriage by capture. The long-haired women could be easily seized and dragged away in the forest. The short-haired women failed to get husbands, and in the course of time died out. But nowadays we should look twice at such an explanation.

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THE HONEYMOONERS

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