

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## "MORMONS" IN POLITICS.

The Caldwell, Idaho, Tribune made some remarks a short time ago concerning the influence exercised by the "Mormons" in politics, and argued that it was quite right that they should do so, and further, that "unless we argue that the influence of church people is generally bad, we must admit that their influence is good in politics." That was taken up by some anti-Mormon publications, twisted and turned out of its evident meaning, and made to serve the purpose of politicians who endeavor to excite the public mind in reference to the alleged interference of the "Mormon" church in political affairs.

Of course the Caldwell paper referred to the "Mormons" as citizens of Idaho in their individual capacity, and simply took the ground that they ought to have as much influence in politics as members of any religious organization should have. Replying now to the misinterpretations of its remarks on this question, that paper stands up for the principle that religion should have some power to regulate the politics of the State and the nation. As to the "Mormon" church, it does not admit that any undue power is used by that organization as an ecclesiastical body, but says:

Our knowledge is of the Mormon people, gained by several years residence among them. We found that they were as much divided politically as other church people. Many of them are Democrats. More are Republicans and a few are Populists, Prohibitionists and Socialists as the case may be.

That fact, which cannot be truthfully disputed, disposes of the notion that the Church as a religious body enters into the sphere of civil government so far as citizenship is concerned. When its members vote for any person or proposition, they do so on their own volition and according to the position taken by the respective parties with which they affiliate. The Caldwell Tribune takes correct ground on this matter, and that ought to be occupied by every individual and paper that considers the subject.

But the Idaho newspaper views the subject from another standpoint, which is equally fair and consistent with the other. It expresses the opinion that the influence of religion being good, it ought to be brought to bear on political affairs, and that members of one denomination should have equal privileges in this respect with others, and closes its editorial with this paragraph:

"As to the question, that Mormons exercise an influence in politics, the Caldwell Tribune still claims that they do and that they should. All religious men and women should. The day that every God-fearing man exercises every influence he can to bring into being those principles of government and those policies of party, which he thinks are right, that day will be seen clearer, more just laws and a better government. It is the indifference of good, moral men and women that has permitted and fostered a condition that allows crime among authorities and corruption in high places."

There is a wide difference between this proper influence that should be exerted by every good man and woman, and the intrusion of a religious organization into the domain of the state. In the case supported by the Idaho paper, each citizen is accorded the right to act according to his own judgment influenced by religious impulses for the promotion of morality, the choice of good and capable men for public office, and the elevation of society under a pure system of government. In the other, an ecclesiastical organization would dominate political affairs and sway its members in a manner that would interfere with their individual predilections and their personal choice. One is eminently proper, the other is distinctly improper.

Every member of the "Mormon" Church is entirely free to join a political party or to stay out of it, as he chooses. That Church as a religious institution does not attempt to control him in the least in his political actions. As a body it is not in politics at all, but everyone of its members should have the same liberty as non-Mormons have in all political matters, in the state or in the nation. With that view of the subject, "Mormons" may exercise influence in politics without just cause from any source. When the public generally understands this point, which is clearly perceived by the Caldwell Tribune, the senseless prejudice which political agitators stir up against them will soon pass away.

## A SCHOOL OF VICE.

The crusade against the public display of obnoxious pictures is going on, sporadically in various parts of the country, and we believe every community ought to join that movement. The fact is that in many public places pictures are displayed in flaming colors, which would not be tolerated in a decent home. Why they should be suffered to disgraceful billboards in places where everybody that passes by must notice them, is one of the mysteries of public ethics.

The objections raised, however, are nearly always against the class that is suggestive of indecency, and that is well as far as it goes. Too much cannot be said against the display of that kind of pictures. But there is another class of pictures equally dangerous in its corrupting influence. We refer to the display of crime, and various ghastly scenes that form the chief feature

of the advertising of many second-rate shows. Men in the act of plunging a knife into the heart of woman; women firing guns at men; lynching scenes—such horrors should not be displayed. Who can say that the influence of such diabolical exhibits is not very largely responsible for many of the crimes committed in daily life? Who can say that many a young boy or girl did not receive his, or her, first impressive lesson in crime from just such gruesome pictures?

Generally the purpose of the posters is to advertise shows that are still worse, and very often they are monstrous misrepresentations similar to some of the devices resorted to by the enterprising advertising agents of circuses who represent animals as performing impossible feats. To that extent they are fraudulent and no better than any other attempt at obtaining money under false pretenses. But more objectionable than this is their necessary influence upon the morals of a community. They are part of that great school for vice which has fastened itself upon public institutions in various forms.

## WHICH TURN NEXT?

The Montpelier, Idaho, Examiner does not seem to entertain much admiration for the senior Senator from that State. It appears to be too well acquainted with his political summer-schools and frequent gymnastics to place dependence upon his position on any subject. As to his present attitude of anti-Mormon animosity, the Examiner has this to say and we believe it has ample evidence to supply proofs of what it charges:

"Church influence in politics was a good thing with Fred T. Dubois as long as that influence was used in his behalf, but when he could no longer use that influence to further his own political ambitions it at once became a menace to good government. Wonder if Fredie ever recalls the time in Boise, upon the occasion of a state convention, that he went to the room of a prominent member of the Mormon church, and upon bended knees implored that gentleman to go to the president of a certain stake in Idaho and request him to use his ecclesiastical influence in Dubois' behalf. When that gentleman informed Dubois that he was opposed to having officials of his church using their influence in politics for the reason that such action would be condemned by the public, wonder if Dubois remembers having said: 'What in hell do we care what the people say, so long as we can win through this influence.' O consistency, thou art a level, but thy name is not Fred T. Dubois."

## LOOKING FOR SETTLERS.

According to consular reports the government of the little republic of Panama has under consideration a proposition to offer very liberal concessions to settlers, for the purpose of inducing immigration and colonization. It is especially contemplated that the settlers shall be industrious and moral, and of all kinds of nationalities, and this is a good stipulation. If it is adhered to, the country will be benefited every way.

Panama has an area of 21,571 square miles, not much more than one-third of the area of Utah. Its population is about equal in numbers to that of this State, but the entire commerce of the Republic is but a fraction of what it ought to be, were its resources developed. There must be room for the right kind of settlers, especially in the districts farthest away from the canal zone.

The principal ports are Panama, on the Pacific coast, and Colon, on the Atlantic side, and these ports are visited annually by more than a thousand vessels, which land over one million tons of merchandise and nearly 100,000 passengers, chiefly for transfer over the Panama Railway. Forty-seven miles in length, connecting the Pacific port of Panama with the Atlantic port of Colon, Colon, or Aspinwall, as it is sometimes called, has a population of about three thousand persons. The city of Panama has a population of about twenty-five thousand. It was founded in 1519, burned in 1671, and rebuilt in 1673, while Colon is of much more recent date having been founded in 1815.

With regard to the composition of the population, it consists of various elements—Spanish, Indian, negro, and a limited number of persons from the European countries and the United States, especially those engaged in commerce and transportation and the operation of the Panama railway. A considerable number of the population is composed of persons brought to the isthmus as laborers for the construction of the canal and of their descendants. Since the abolition of slavery in Jamaica a considerable number of blacks and mulattoes have settled on the isthmus as small dealers and farmers, and in some villages on the Atlantic side they are said to be in the majority, and as a result the English language is much in use, especially on the Atlantic side. Some of the native population have retained their customs, speech, and physical type, especially those in the western part of the country, and claim to be descendants of the natives found in that section by the Spaniards when they discovered and conquered the country.

Panama, since its accession from Colombia, is virtually under the protection of the United States, and it is evident that the progressive spirit of this country has already had a benevolent influence upon the leading men. They are looking round for the right kind of men and women to come and build the country up and make it strong. This is infinitely better than to spend time and energy upon revolutions, as seems to be the time-honored custom in some of the neighbors of Panama.

## OVERTAKEN BY NEMESIS.

Charles Dickens, in one of his immortal novels, drew with master-hand the picture of a murderer tortured by his own conscience. We are reminded of this by the story told by the Sacramento Bee of a man who committed suicide a short time ago. It must have been the lashing of his own conscience that drove him to this desperate act.

The facts are worth stating. Forty years ago the man came to Bear Valley, and settled there under an assumed name. A short time before he took his own life, he confided to a friend that he came from the State of

Maine, and that he had been tried for murder there. The trial had resulted in acquittal. But he feared the relatives of the victim and fled to California and changed his name.

Under the assumed identity he located where he lived for so many years, set out a little orchard and built a cozy home. It is stated that he was highly regarded by all his neighbors, with whom he was on very friendly terms. For years he conducted a toll bridge at his home, but after it went out of commission, like many others he still clung to the valley and seemed content to spend his days there. This is a story with an obvious moral. Here was a man who might have been happy and contented but for the terrible secret that weighed him down. He was safe, as far as the law had any claim upon him. He was respected by neighbors and friends, and yet life was a burden to him. There is no happiness where there is not a good conscience. Our age is one in which human life is but a juggle. It needs to have the lesson brought home to it that the murderer, even if acquitted by a jury, is followed by a Nemesis that is sure to overtake him sooner or later.

## GENERAL DESTRUCTION.

One feature of terror of the San Francisco earthquake consisted in the wild rumors that were set afloat, as seen as the wires were down and communication with the outside world was interrupted. Eye-witnesses to the catastrophe say that they were told that Salt Lake City had been destroyed by the Lake; that Chicago had sunk, and that New York was no more. According to the rumors, Los Angeles had been totally destroyed, and Portland and Seattle had been wiped out. Those who were in San Francisco and had relatives in any of these cities, were as anxious for them as for themselves. For some unexplained cause the grim rumor of general destruction flew from mouth to mouth through the city while the flames were enveloping and devouring it. There was no means of disproving those tales until communication was restored. As an eye-witness describing his experiences in McClure's, expresses himself: "For all we knew, San Francisco might have been the last flickering pulse of a mighty shock that had made Europe a sea, made the bed of the Atlantic ocean dry land, and destroyed all the cities of the world." It can easily be believed that this added materially to the terror of the situation.

Human experience is full of examples of the utter folly of trusting to rumor for information. And yet it is often done, when there is no excuse for it. Most of the sensational information sent out about the majority of the people of Utah is just as true as those rumors according to which the entire country had been the scene of destruction. That is, it is just as false. But there is no excuse for believing it, as everyone who has been to Utah and looked at conditions here with the object of learning facts, can testify.

What a professor of ethics the President would make!

And now the ice-man rejoices and charges accordingly.

Train the young idea how to shoot but don't let it shoot 27%.

The Fourth was not exactly sane, being somewhat "disturbed."

Henceforth all the acts of the Kaiser will have the grandfather clause in them.

O Liberty! Liberty! how many accidents occur in thy name on the Fourth of July!

No doubt Premier Gorevsky would look upon his downfall as Russia's debacle.

Mrs. Thaw says that she will tell everything. But will it be allowed transmission through the mails?

The American cigarette is said to be more deadly than Chicago tinned meat. This will be pleasing news to the packers.

It is impossible to bring a child up in the way he should go if you try to teach him not to let off firecrackers on the Fourth.

Mr. Bryan objects to sitting on a pedestal for two years, looking pretty. On or off a pedestal he cannot help looking pleasant.

"When the railroad entered Salt Lake City, Mormonism was doomed," says the Troy Press. An oft repeated saying utterly lacking in truth.

A plant fully equipped for the manufacture of bombs and infernal machines has been discovered in Seattle. Seattle is a shrewd advertiser.

Barbara Krupp's engagement is announced. She is one of the richest women in the world, though far from being as rich as her sister Bertha. May she be happy as she is rich!

In asking President Roosevelt to preside at the reception to Mr. Bryan on his return from Europe, Mr. Hoge, the president of the Commercial Travelers' Anti-Trust league, shows a great deal of "enterprise."

The chamber of deputies has annulled Count Boni de Castellane's election. And soon the French courts will annul his marriage contract. The count has fallen on evil days.

Justice Brewer of the United States supreme court recently said: "Secretary Taft is the politest man alive. I hear that recently he arose in a street car and gave his seat to three women." Three times as polite as the most polite of men!

## THE CANAL A "PLANK."

Chicago Tribune.  
There will be two presidential elections before the earliest date suggested for the completion of the canal. No man can be elected president who is not pledged to do everything in his power to secure the realization of the national desire. The canal is vital to the prestige of the United States in the Pacific ocean politically and commercially. It would be eminently fitting that the

hundredth anniversary of the close of a war fought in defence of the rights of American seamen should be celebrated by the opening of the canal linking the two oceans in which the American navy has won fame.

## THE FORTY-SIXTH STAR.

Boston Transcript.  
How to add the forty-sixth star to the constellation in the flag is worrying some people, and suggestions for its symmetrical rearrangement are appearing in the press. One is that there shall be six rows of stars, the first, third, fourth and sixth to contain eight each, the second and fifth seven each. While we should be taking the subject under consideration, we shall have time enough to make the addition with due regard to a harmonious grouping. Oklahoma has yet to hold its convention and shape its constitution under the enabling act. The thing done the President will issue his proclamation declaring that Oklahoma has complied with the requirements set by Congress, and there will be another State in the Union.

## WHY THE TOY PISTOL?

Philadelphia Press.  
Why use the toy pistol? It is not possible to prevent the small boy and other boys who are so small—from exploding his patriotism on the glorious day, but there are other things quite as noisy as the toy pistol and not as dangerous by any means. Why not direct the youthful patriot toward these and away from the toy pistol and lock-law and death? Probably the toy pistol cannot be wholly suppressed. Its use can be considerably restricted, however. The vigilance and care of parents will do more to save the lives and limbs of their children than all the warnings the municipal authorities can give.

## CHARGE AGAINST THE HORSE.

Motor World.  
Statistics galore have been prepared showing the insignificantly small proportion of fatal accidents that are due to the automobile as compared to other means of transportation, and they have been published so often that it is time that any one interested in the subject should be able to reject the table backward. Now a Frenchman comes forward with figures, presents his facts in the shape of percentages. Coming from the country that has not alone known the automobile longest, but in which it is given the greatest latitude, they are instructive. As a destroyer of human life the horse stands foremost, overwhelmingly foremost, for he is responsible for 83 per cent of the total. The railroad comes next with but 9 per cent, the bicycle third in the list with 5 per cent, and the automobile last and least, as but 3 per cent of the accidents ending fatally are attributed to it.

## EQUINE ENGLAND.

Tip-Bits.  
When the motor car first began to come into popular use ten years or so ago, it was generally predicted that the horse was doomed to early extinction, and, since they have become so numerous and universal, one would naturally expect to find that the number of horses in the United Kingdom has been seriously reduced. It is a little astonishing, therefore, to find that this is by no means the case. In 1897 the number of horses in Great Britain and Ireland was 2,659,944. In 1902 the latest figures available for comparison the number was 2,669,944. Thus it appears that, in spite of the tens of thousands of motor vehicles which were doing the work of horses in 1902, the number of these useful animals had only been reduced by 56, or at the rate of less than ten a year.

## JUST FOR FUN.

This Wicked Eskimo.  
Oh, once an Eskimo had there was an Eskimo long and thick he fed. His brother asked him for the wick. "There ain't nothin' to be no wick," he said. —Judge.

Dogged vs. Kittenish.  
Patience—You say they live like cat and dog?  
Patience—Yes; when she acts kittenish he growls.—Yonkers Statesman.

Good Property.  
Miranda—I don't care if he does own an auto and a steam yacht, I won't marry him. Why, he's a regular flat.  
Mrs. Matchmaker—Yes, dear, but flats with all the modern improvements are very desirable.—Life.

All in a Shopping Bag.  
First Stylish Lady—Oh, dear, I've lost my pocketbook.  
Second Stylish Lady—Did it have any money in it, or were you just shopping?—American Spectator.

Altruism.  
Church—Is the janitor of your flat kind to children?  
Gotham—Oh, very kind. Why, he won't let 'em live in the same flats with him.—Yonkers Statesman.

"O'p extended the minister: 'dashing on the Sabbath!' What will your father say?"  
"I tell you yet," replied the lad boy. "If I don't catch nothing I'll catch it; if I do, I won't—Catholic Standard and Times."

"I wish," murmured Mr. Grumps, reflectively, "I wish my wife had played the piano for me when I was courting her."  
"She plays now, does she not?" asked Mr. Grumps.  
"Yes—oh, yes. But if she'd done it then, I'd still be a bachelor."—Cleveland Leader.

"Do what you please with me, Judge," pleaded the convicted man, "but don't send my wife to prison, too. Let her go free!"  
"Silence!" cried the judge sternly. "You go to the penitentiary and see to the house of correction."  
"O, that's all right. I was afraid you was going to put us in the same cell!"—Philadelphia Press.

## A Handsome Hand Mirror

A mirror with ebony finish.  
A mirror of heavy French plate.  
A mirror with beveled edges.  
A six-inch mirror of the best quality.  
A mirror which we are offering for a few days at seventy-five cents.  
A mirror you can see in our east window.  
Can you beat it?

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## WHY?

## THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS

## WHY:

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**SECOND**—The business we do as wholesalers and retailers enables us to buy large quantities of goods, direct from the importers and manufacturers, and thus obtain many price concessions, of which you get the benefit.

**THIRD**—Our motto has always been "Honest Goods at Honest Prices"—you obtain the best goods as reasonable as we can possibly offer them, consistent with their quality.

**FOURTH**—For thirty-seven years we have been building our present good name for fair and honest dealing—we have a reputation to uphold.

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