DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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GOLD IN ABUNDANCE.

Every day the word comes that some new gold discovery has been made. This circumstance is not always a matter of profound consequence, for the reason that a vast majority of these finds must be indifferent ones, in some cases actually bad; but the principal fact remains that the discoveries are continued with surprising regularity and that at least a small percentage of them must be good, some few very good. At this rate, and with silver mining in a state of comparative desuetude, the interesting question suggests itself as to how long the gap between the metals, commercially considered, can remain. Certainly it is being narrowed every day, although it may be imperceptibly, and under such circumstances, if long continued, the metals must again reach the practical equality which they enjoyed prior to the demonetization act of 1873.

A good many will ridicule the idea and hold, or try to, that gold being the more royal and generally scarcer metal, will always be the natural arbiter of other values, silver included. It would, however, in the absence of discriminative legislation, puzzle these to show how this comes about. Intrinsically considered, there are but few points in favor of gold that do not obtain in the case of the other metal. That of greater scarcity rapidly disappears under the regulation of search and development, as is shown sufficiently by current events; but little silver comparatively is being found, or at least extracted, while the yellow metal, as if in fulfillment of that more or less fakey prophecy of "Mother Shipton," is literally found at the root of a tree and a good many other previously unlooked-for places.

Is this generation, or the next one, to have a return to the full remonetization of silver through the equalization of production? Or is it among the unwritten decrees in the book of fate that both shall eventually be shorn of their monetary power and some new or presently unrecognized medium of exchange take their place? We are in the midst of strange events and doubtless on the verge of much stranger ones, and such a consummation as that spoken of would seem to be within the possibilities. If South Africa continues its wondrous output of auriferous wealth, and discoveries nearer home keep pace with the record recently made, it can all have but one meaning; gold can stand the stress of a commercial test longer perhaps than any other commodity, but there is a limit to the strain which even its autocratic sway could endure. Scarcity alone keeps it in its place, and supply is now gaining on scarcity with visible strides. There is no noticeable difference yet, may not be for years even with the present rate of production maintained and even increased; but with additional knowledge as to the location and development of mines, improved machinery and greater attention to the business than ever before, there must come a time when abundance, like too much familiarity, will beget contempt, unless, indeed, we shall previously have so depleted the stores of mother earth that the equilibrium will be restored in that way.

JUSTICE SHOULD BE BLIND.

The papers have lately told of the drunken escapade of a pair of Chicago aldermen, one of whom, having assaulted a police captain, was arrested and hustled off to the station house in the patrol wagon. But the full significance of the incident is not given in the above bald narration of facts. It appears that the offending alderman was a member of the city police committee. Prior to the passage of the civil service law he would easily have been able to secure the discharge of the officer who arrested him; but now, as the chief of police says, "from the driver of a patrol wagon upward there is no member of the force who has anything to fear from the plots or demands of any politician."

If this be so among our legislative solons and among the people generally who oppose the retention of the existing fire and police commission bill will reflect a moment upon the local possibilities of just such cases as are above alluded to, we believe they will be as keenly desirous of true civil service as the good people of Chicago ever were or can be. An officer ought to be as secure in his employment that he will have no less hesitation in arresting a drunken mayor, alderman or councilor than in "running in" a poor friendless tramp; indeed his continuance in office ought to depend solely upon his impartial, honest performance of his duty, regardless of the name or station of the offender. This has not been the case altogether in the past, and to that extent the law or its enforcement is still defective; but to repeal it entirely would be to make a bad matter infinitely worse. Instead of weakening the effort to place the police department above party politics, every legitimate endeavor should be made to strengthen it, and make it effective; and when it is once found that the law is sound and snug, then the aim should be to remove instanter every officer who through fear or favor covers up the peccadillos and the offenses of those who by virtue of their office ought to be an example of correct conduct.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

The remedy against consumption concerning which Dr. Cyrus Edson has made a statement to the Associated Press, as found in a dispatch, is a fluid called by him aseptolin. It is a combination of phenol (carbolic acid) and other substances.

In a recent number of the Medical Record, Dr. Edson describes his experiments and discoveries in this direction. He says it has long been his belief that many pathological phenomena observed in diseases not usually credited to germ infection are really manifestations of the absorption of poisonous bacterial products. If this be true, the increased secretion of phenol by the system during disease must be looked upon as one of nature's devices to cure the disease by destroying the germ infection. This reasoning led him to conclude that if nature provides phenol during disease, she must certainly tolerate it administered in effective dosages. Yet, the fact was well known that the injection of any known solution of phenol caused poisonous symptoms, and the problem was to find some form in which the fluid could be administered to the system, not objectionable to nature.

Dr. Edson now thinks he has found that combination in a solution, in pure water, of a compound of phenol with less than a hundredth part of a chemical known as pilocarpine-phenyl-hydrate. The solution prepared, he says, is a colorless fluid, strongly reflecting light, having the characteristic odor and taste of phenol. When injected under the skin, it causes a sharp burning pain, but not so severe as that following an injection of bi-chloride of mercury in solution. It is generally not followed by any local irritation. Its effect when injected into the organism is to directly inhibit bacterial development and consequently to diminish the production of poisonous bacterial products. Its beneficial effects are said to be so quick and positive as to convince any one who uses it of the correctness of this statement.

Dr. Edson concludes his description with a detailed statement of cases successfully treated with the new remedy. The total number reported up to the date of writing was 216. Of these, improvement was reported in 211 cases, and no improvement in four cases. Of the improved cases, 21 were discharged as cured; 66 will, in the opinion of the attending physician, be discharged cured; and in 91 cases, while improvement was noted, no definite prognosis could be made yet. In 32 cases the improvement was only temporary. Of those in which no improvement has been noted, 1 has died.

"LOOKING BACKWARD."

The interest the public once took in the scheme of Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward" is now about over so far as any thought of practicable application of his ideas is concerned. The closing incident which gives emphasis to this finality is reported from California, in the going to pieces there of the Altrurian colony, expressly organized to carry into effect the principles of co-operation set forth in Bellamy's work.

The colony was located at Mark West, Sonoma county, Cal. Its work began in 1894, and for about a year all seemed to run smoothly, to the outside world at least; then rumors of impending failure began to spread. The scheme was fully described in the NEWS at the outset, with the suggestion that one feature known to be lacking—that of religious unity under direct divine inspiration—was sufficient to cause disintegration sooner or later. Several hundred acres of fertile land had been secured, having with it an abundance of water, supplying all needs in the way of power for municipal and manufacturing purposes; a heavily timbered lumber tract was acquired, on which a saw mill of 10,000 feet a day capacity was put in operation; a big hotel was erected, cottages were built, and many other improvements made, involving a great deal of earnest, hard labor. But the colony has capitulated to an adverse fate, and the resolutions of disbandment state that the action is taken because of "lack of resources and disappointment in their expectations." There has been no charge or complaint that the members of the colony were other than good citizens; in fact their conduct has been exemplary.

Many are the reasons now advanced for failure. It has been shown that from the outset the colony has run into debt; and as its productive capacity was not sufficient to support its 100 members, the longer it continued the worse it got. Some of the members were less economical than others, and as the Altrurists were supposed to be equal in every way, this caused adverse criticism of each other, engendering animosities. Then many were inexperienced in cultivating the soil, and could not compete in the market with farmers and gardeners in the locality outside of their colony; the same was true with respect to the manufacturers. There was lacking in the organization the guiding hand that could bring even a small success to each department and unite the whole in the grand triumph which was hoped for but was not achieved.

Looking backward over the history of this State, one might suppose that the Altrurians had a hundred chances of success to one possessed by the early settlers of Utah. And so they had, from a material point of view. They had a fertile country and rich material resources with which they were acquainted; they had a good start in being well supplied with houses, implements and means to begin in a comfortable, effective manner. But they lacked two essential features to success: one being the necessity of getting along without incurring obligations outside of their own resources; and the other and principal one, that unity of faith which removes mountains when necessary and overcomes obstacles by means of power and light direct from the divine Fountain of intelligence. Had they possessed the latter qualification, the former might have been attained in the way of instruction in principle; but without both, the blind leaders and followers have landed in the ditch—their anticipations of applying Bellamy's principles are now regarded as imaginary at best.

A contrast has been intimated between the failed Altrurians and the successful Utah pioneers; and it has been pointed out that the latter succeeded because of their industry and applying the principles of irrigation to render fertile an otherwise desert soil. But these alleged causes of success were merely incidental to the real cause, which lay in the union and determined faith of the pioneers. It was the religion of the Latter-day Saints that made the Utah wilderness a fruitful field, and the deserts of this State to blossom as the rose. With that religion applied the Altrurians could have succeeded fully as well, and perhaps better than did the settlers of Utah; without, both would fall short of the special success which has marked the history of this State. The result of the Altruistic effort should be a lesson that the world has not yet learned all there is to know of the means for communal triumphs. By "looking backward" some day this will be more fully realized than at present.

TO SOME of our law-makers, law-interpreters and law-enforcers is commended the example of "rigid government" and "close construction" furnished by President Lincoln in his reminiscences of a certain judge, of whom it was said that he would hang a man for blowing his nose in the street, but that he would quash the indictment if it failed to specify which hand he blew it with.

CURIOSITY as to what the bear saw when he came out to look for his shadow on the 2nd of February is now supplanted by the query as to whether it is the lion or the lamb that is to typify the incoming of March.

IN THE New York markets last week black bass and carp were quoted at the same figure per pound. Is there a lack of appreciation in the East or a lack of taste in the West?

THE GIFT of language has heretofore been held to qualify its possessor for the law or for Congress. Latterly it appears to have found its most fitting place with alleged habitues of the prize ring.

Two Lives Saved.

Mrs. Phoebe Thomas, of Junction City, Ill., was told by her doctors she had Consumption and that there was no hope for her, but two bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery completely cured her and she says it saved her life. Mr. Thos. Eggers, 139 Florida St., San Francisco, suffered from a dreadful cold, approaching Consumption, tried without result everything else, then bought one bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery and in two weeks was cured. He is naturally thankful. It is such results, of which these are samples, that prove the wonderful efficacy of this medicine in Coughs and Colds. Free trial bottles at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

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For the first time here in 5 years.
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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, SATURDAY MATINEE.
Under the auspices of the
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An operetta entitled
THE SEVEN DWARFS
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Prices 50c, 35c, 25c. Matinee 25c.

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