DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING. (EXCEPTED SUNDAY.)

Corner of South Temple and Exchange Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

Per Year,	in advance	$9.00
Six Months,	"	4.50
Three Months,	"	2.25
One Month,	"	75
One Week,	"	20
Saturday edition, per year,	"	2.00
Semi-Weekly,	"	1.50

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

Address all business communications THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 7, 1899.

"MORMONS" AS EDUCATORS.

One of the very first efforts of the early settlers of Utah was the establishment of schools and institutes of learning. Naturally they had to explore the Territory in every direction in order to find suitable localities for settlements. This opening and colonizing work was a task beset with difficulties but little realized by the present generation.

But notwithstanding the constant battle against natural difficulties and savage hostility, for this was an Indian country, the Pioneers never lost sight of the importance of education. As early as 1847 school was taught in a tent in the so-called Old Fort, and schools were established in every new settlement as soon as it was founded. School houses were the first public buildings. Sunday schools followed the day schools.

One of the earliest legislative assemblies established the University of the prospective State, designating Salt Lake City as its location, and vesting the control of it in a chancellor and a board of regents to be elected annually by the general assembly.

Then attention was given to the selection of sites for primary school buildings, and money was appropriated for educational purposes. Provision was made for the establishment of a free school for orphans. All this was as early as 1850. The university was at first placed under the charge of Dr. Cyrus Dallin, a traveler in the city on his way to California.

In this way "Mormonism" at that early date found its expression on the question of school education. In the sincere belief that "intelligence is the glory of God" and that "no one can be saved in ignorance," the strongest incentive was found to almost superhuman efforts on the part of the first settlers to provide for their children the best education obtainable.

But today we are told that there is a "plot" to "capture the schools for the Mormons," and that the "better class" of citizens must "secure themselves against a flood of ignorance" which are threatened with grave peril. We know of no such "plot," and do not believe in its existence.

It is honorable that there should be such intense solicitude and fervent bigotry in the interests of men entrusted with educational and journalistic influence, as to entirely render their sense of justice and truth when anything "Mormon" is under consideration.

It is false to say there were no free schools until a comparatively recent date in Utah. It is false to say "the State University was a by-word before 1896." It is false to intimate that teachers cannot be found who are competent, honest, fully capable of filling any educational position open to competition. It is false to say that a large per cent of the teachers who have been employed in this city under the board of education are less than fair teachers. It is false to say that there is a desire on the part of the "Mormon" people to do anything which will lower the standard of excellence in school management, or exclude non-"Mormons" from positions in public schools or on school boards.

"Figures do not lie," but they are often used in a manner to foster and bolster up intentional falsehood. When teachers of a certain notorious class are employed, and are kept here because they are said "Mormon," who spend the greater part of their salaries outside of the State, and would at once return to eastern homes if not remunerated, it is a piece of pure deception to number them in the list of bona fide residents of Utah.

It is time that men selected to manage our educational affairs stop their misrepresentation of the good faith of the people here. The idea that the city would be in "peril" if trustees or superintendents or trustees who are not "Mormon" fairly were in the majority, is an insult to the community, and it cannot be allowed to pass without resentment or protest. Education would be in a poor state of progress in Utah if the "Mormon" people or their leaders were opposed to it. And while we do not wish to see any sectarian question raised in connection with school affairs, we have as much right to speak of it as those who are so intensely anti-"Mormon" in spirit and action, that they never fail to show it when opportunity arises.

When it is devoted with intolerance that "no Mormon need apply" for a responsible educational position in the city; when it is announced without hesitation that "Mormons" shall never obtain a majority on the city school board; when schemes are hatched and the aid of school teachers is obtained by all kinds of sinister influences to secure and maintain this condition of affairs; those who obtain this political end act in this manner, need not think it is unnoticed by the people whose they hate and traduce, for that they can continue that course unchecked.

Let it be understood that it is not the "Mormon" part of the population that has introduced this condition. It is their enemies who have taken a stand against them. If that is continued, the indignation felt will become so aroused that its promoters will find themselves unable to stem the flood of opposition to their course. All that we desire is peace, fairness and the promotion of education, especially on non-sectarian and non-political grounds.

CLEAR THE WATER COURSES.

The snow-fall during the past winter has been a great unprecedented in the history of Utah, at least in most parts of the State, and some anxiety is being felt that damage by floods may result, when warm weather sets in. But Utah does not generally have much rain to increase the flow and help swell the mountain streams, so the danger from floods is not so great as it would be in some localities still they have occurred and much property has been damaged.

It is always best to be on the safe side. People should look to the swell outlines and streams as far as possible all obstructions and make the necessary repairs of bridges and roadbeds. Should there be an unusual amount of precipitation in the spring the snow would melt fast on the mountain sides. Then the natural channels through which the water takes to the lower level ought to be cleared. If not damage is sure to result.

PRIMARY ELECTION LAW.

Special interest attaches to the new primary election law which went into effect on Saturday in California, because of the frequency with which such a law has been urged upon legislators here. There has been no particular effort put forth in behalf of the plan at the present Legislature, but on several previous occasions it has been strongly urged, though no measure of this character has been passed, and it is quite likely to come forward again in the future, when the California experience will be of decided value.

As in this and other States, Conventions were greatly displaced with the ordinary methods of choosing delegates to nominating conventions, because it was claimed that the respectable voting element were overwhelmed by "bummers" and "sluggers" who could not give fair expression to their preference for delegates who were not under the influence of one or the other "combine." The antisaloon delegate was much too in evidence in the Golden State when the feeling on the public channel for a change assumed such proportions that the California legislature was impelled to take action, which it did to the present law.

A brief explanation of the California plan will make it easily understood where the people are familiar with the workings of the Australian ballot. The new law provides that the State shall furnish the Australian form of ballot at primary elections, at which the voters of all the political parties appear. The voter, who must be duly registered before he can vote, goes to the polls, gives his name to the judges, receives a ballot, proceeds to the secret booth, and there expresses his choice for delegates to the convention about to be held, by writing or pasting the names of the delegates he favors underneath the general party heading. At the conclusion of the voting day ballots are counted, and at general elections, the judges certify the results to the board of supervisors of the county. No voter may vote for delegates for more than one party. All parties have the same time and place for holding their primaries, and one set of officials serve for all. These officials consist of two judges, two clerks and two inspectors, who are appointed by the supervisors from the ranks of two political parties receiving the highest number of votes at the last preceding election. Primaries for county, state and congressional districts are to be held on the second Tuesday of every other August, for municipal positions on the ninth Tuesday before the election to be held. The penal laws which apply to general elections are applicable to primaries, although it is stated that the object of the measure is not to penalize frauds, but to prevent them. Primary election days are holidays.

The first important test of the statute in California will come at the San Francisco municipal election next fall, where there will be at least sufficient Democratic votes to cause a hot contest between the Republican and Democratic conventions, and secure a better expression of the voters than heretofore. If it is conducive to the end in its practical workings in California, it is one step forward in a direction which is to be tried in this and other States in the West.

PROSPERITY COMING.

If omens are reliable the country is coming on era of great prosperity. The Commercial and Financial World in a recent issue says:

"Never before in at least a decade has the industrial outlook been so great, or the financial condition of the country so better. It is a pleasure to read of expansion where the old, and everything is looking at high tide. Let it be hoped that the tide will not ebb, but that each of these things shall be in correspondence for our account. Let it be hoped that the tide of affairs shall be of such a character as to make this year of 1899 a year of prosperity, such as the country has not enjoyed for many years, and such as it has not enjoyed for all those years to come, or at the further time when it comes, the tide of things promises to be more than continued in time to come."

From New England comes word of renewed activity. The Worcester Evening Gazette says the ball was set rolling at Fall River, where the Manufacturers' association has restored the wages to the figure of January 3, 1898, which means an increase of $25,000 in the weekly pay roll of the city. Then the New Bedford manufacturers followed suit, their increase of wages to take effect on April 3. Robert Knight, the huge Rhode Island and Massachusetts manufacturer, J. W. Danielson, treasurer of several large eastern Connecticut factories, and the Gothard firm, the second largest cotton manufacturers in Rhode Island, with mills all along the Blackstone Valley, are ready to increase wages. The Cory mills at Taunton will raise wages in conjunction with the increase at Fall River, and the president of the mills is quoted to the effect that the reduced Fall River schedule would undoubtedly be the basis for Bristol county with the exception.

The Springfield Republican, which does not worry into optimistic views of the situation, remarks that as these manufacturers led in the general wage reduction, their present course may be followed by a general restoration. It reasons in this wise:

"Activity and strength in the cotton goods market affords the best possible evidence that popular consumption of commodities is increasing, and that popular confidence in the industrial outlook is being restored; for this is a commodity which goes into every household in large quantity. And when that pay of a great popular consumer is the future to expend people buy more and more freely and ever-produce, which should be called under consumption, will largely disappear."

All this is encouraging, and the general predictions of good times will in self aid in bringing about that desirable condition. When the future finds that enthusiastic predictions and promises have a substantial basis, confidence will be restored, and with confidence will come prosperity.

PLANTING TREES.

The New York World is urging the residents of the great city in which it is published to adorn the streets with trees. It is seconded in its efforts by the tree planting association, which is supplying free information as to trees best suited for that purpose. The World already sees in the future the arid thoroughfares transformed into shady lanes as a result of these efforts, and the city "a town beautiful."

New Yorkers might profitably take a trip west during the hot season, and learn by actual experience in some of our growing cities, Salt Lake for instance, of the sound sense of the World's advice. They would learn not only esthetic considerations, but also sanitary reasons could be urged in its support. Incidentally, it might be shown that rows of trees in the residence part of a city, are a good barrier against decorating flames, preventing the destroyer from hopping easily from one side of a street to another.

There has been a tendency of late years in the business part of this city, to destroy the beautiful trees planted along our magnificent street by the Pioneers. That tendency should not be permitted to prevail further. Living trees are the best ornaments of any city.

CHRISTIANITY AND CRIME.

A correspondent of the "News," Mr. Eph. Ainsworth, sends in some statistics relating to the number of criminals in the United States. He believes a close scrutiny of those figures ought to give the preachers of the various denominations something to think about between alleged riots and short-comings of the "Mormons."

Mr. Ainsworth writes:

"The United States census reports for 1890 show that there were at that time 82,329 persons confined in prisons and jails. In 1896 the number would be increased to 100,000. According to writers on crime, only one crime in sixteen is discovered. This vastly increases the number, and on this will be 1,600 preachers to look after the spiritual and moral welfare of the people.

"In 1895 the State of Ohio had 842 convicts in her penitentiary. Of that number 528 belonged to various churches, and 316 were non-religious.

"In 1895, in the prisons of Florida, there were 11,519 convicts for various offenses. The religious denominations were: Church of England, 1,621; Methodists, 1,424; Presbyterians, 1,400; other sects, 1,; atheists or no religion, 1,; Catholics, 1,.

"The biennial report of the Kansas penitentiary for the years 1895-6 makes this religious classification of the inmates: Methodists, 341; Presbyterians, 41; Campbellites, 41; Evangelical, 1; United Brethren, 1.

"The report of the Michigan State reformatory at Ionia for the two years ending June 30th, 1896, classifies the inmates as follows: Methodists, 126; Baptists, 81; Episcopal, 11; Congregational, 28; Lutherans, 11; Catholics, 139; Presbyterians, 64.

"In Cambridge, Maryland, is the state home of reformation for colored boys. The report for the year ending June 30, 1895, is as follows: Methodist, 134; Catholic, 35; Presbyterian, 1; Baptist, 41.

"From an inventory taken from the Tennessee state prison, out of 575 convicts, 576 were of the Christian faith, while three refused to commit themselves.

"Does nonchristianed Christianity begat good language, either?

"Cousins Wachtmeister recently said in a lecture in stocking of missionary work in India, that people who seek servants for companion in households are careful to inquire whether they are Christians, and those Indian servants who have been Christianized. They prefer those who hold to their native faith. The reason assigned was that all the servants who had embraced 'Christianity' would invariably lie, steal and get intoxicated, while those holding to their native creed were sober, veracious and trustworthy. If Christian religion makes men better and reasons critic, but is it there are so many of them in Jail?"

Sensation appears to be on tap in the Lexington murder case. Robison turned the other today. Next!

The House should promptly pass the Senate bill to turn over the wood-covered public lands to the Hickman Young memorial fund.

The Deseret News "hounds" nobody. It gives the news and holds itself responsible for all its utterances. It will injure no one intentionally, but is not afraid to criticize public officials fairly.

California having a fourth prospect should be sure of a fifth, and Los Angeles is the place to make it. At Los Angeles $1,000 has been subscribed already, and as the sun is sure to produce moisture, strong hopes of success are entertained.

The sightseers in Richard Kleiber's family at the centre of the famous author from death in almost elevator accident, are not in the doubt of his brightest little daughter. From the same disease that came near closing the career of the father.

Queen Marie Henriette of Belgium, whose death was looked for a couple of days ago, is now reported as improving, with a fair chance of recovery. Even the physicians confessed that she had passed beyond the reach of their skill, but her careful habits of life gave a vitality that bids fair to triumph over death for some time yet.

Admiral Dewey, who made Spain upset yesterday by chasing up and down the Mediterranean with his fleet for summer, is made minister of war in the new Spanish cabinet, which Cuba, Porto Rico, Luzon, and Mindanao are left to contend.

While the steel and iron mills are running reverse and increasing wages, it is worthy of note that the big woolen trust just raised wage that clothing is too cheap now, and proposes to put the price on half mines, with a view of reducing the stock on hand and increasing prices, the wage-earners to bear the burden accordingly.

None of the opponents of the educational bill have yet ventured to show, that the election of county and State superintendents of schools introduces politics in the schools to a great extent, "peril." It is proposed to elect the city superintendents in the same way. Why should that put the city schools in jeopardy? The reason is—because it will, or else—

The British Railway association has decided to send a committee to this country to ascertain the basis upon which the United States law compels railways to use automatic car-couplers. The British railway employes have realized that the automatic coupler is so much safer and superior to the hand coupling system that they demand its introduction, even if parliament has to enact laws to assist it.

The American government having conducted a first class war, so far as the fighting of both army and navy goes, now proposes to have a first class official record thereof. For this purpose all the phonographic talks of soldiers and war scenes are to be published in the government report, and as there was a host of snap-shot cameras used in the campaign there is no doubt that the work will be greatly illustrated.

President McKinley says he does not expect to have any need for the provisional volunteer army of 35,000 now arranged for by the army law. In view of improved conditions in Cuba and Porto Rico, and the prospective early settlement of the difficulties in the Philippines, the army of 65,000 regulars is expected to furnish sufficient force, while the volunteers in those islands are to be called home as soon as their places can be filled with regulars. The President's decision is a strong indicator that Admiral Dewey and Gen. Otis have reported that the Filipino insurrection is easily within the scope of their ability to handle it.

The German societies in Chicago are going to hold a mass meeting to protest against an Anti-American alliance, and are being urged on thereto by leading men in Irish societies. While an Anglo-American alliance might not be advisable, it would be in better taste if those who antagonize it would proceed in another way than an nationalities foreign to this government. The U. S. national policy is for Americans, wherever they come from, not alone for those who make themselves clannish as Germans, Hibernians, Caledonians or otherwise. Such societies are all right in their places but not as divisions of the body politic.

THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL.

New York Journal.

Looked at from a purely human point of view, not a benevolent world would welcome a reminiscence. The papacy is the most remarkable institution known to man. It is centuries older than any nation in Europe, and while the power of every civil government is limited or entirely abandoned, the power of the pope extends to every seat on the globe on which a Catholic lives.

The Independent.

Protestants have a great advantage in that they do not have to go to Rome to fight it out there and worry an old man to say what will help them and hurt their opponents. They can accept new light even on matters of faith that have gone into the philosophy of creeds. Of course, in these days, the Catholic church must change the emphasis she puts on her various tenets, and some teachings of the fathers, which took themselves to superstition, must fall into the background, and where that do anything but utilitarian and say nasties will supervene, and a greater liberty must be given to thought and discussion, and this will be done sooner in America than in Spain, and will but more favor in republican France than with the royalists.

New York Evening Post.

The pope declares that "Americanism," so far as it comes before him for review, is the doctrine that "the church in America is to be different from what it is in the rest of the world." He recognizes no legitimate influence of our practice in broadening doctrine, or of our ideas of diluting it. The fatal one delivered in the same thing in Rome Pills that it is in Rome. This will be a hard saying for those who are trying to set up different standards of art and literature and private and public morality, and music and custom-houses as well as of religion from those that prevail in the rest of the world. The very peculiarities, the eccentricities, the rise and bleeding crucifixes which are the boast of our most Spanish American only draw from Pope Leo a mild smile to the erring beloved sons who labor under those delusions.

Colorado Catholic.

Of course, the pope will receive the respectful attention of American Catholics, but it will come in the nature of a surprise to some of them, who will look, as we do, "Where is this Americanism against which the holy father protests?" It is to be found in the pernicious teachings of Father Hecker, and others, who seems to have been the father of the "Americanism" of which the pope speaks. The Paulist fathers stand for eternal vigilance against the doctrines of the church misinterpreted, and stand in a compromising manner, but they are men of ability, high character and pleasing to the people. They have made the church respected in the United States.

THE ARMY BILL.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The bill as it has passed the Senate and House is in the form indicated on by the Democratic members as a compromise measure, and which was at least practically agreed by the administration, congressmen and representatives. It provides for all the men asked for by the President, but limits the life of the increased army to July 1, 1901. But the Fifty-sixth Congress may possibly pass a new army reorganization bill because of the number.

Chicago Times-Herald.

The force anticipated by this measure must be reduced in the old peace footing of 25,000 men by July 1, 1901. Congress is to assume that the son of a president, is so dead that the United States army will never again be reduced. Hence, with the exception of the provision contemplated in senator Carmack's amendment, we are embarked on other adventures beyond the domain of the republic, without from Maryland.

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