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DESERT EVENING NEWS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sundays excepted.)

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

Charles W. Penrose - Editor.
Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
(In Advance):

One Year	\$3.00
Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.75
One Month	.25
Saturday Edition, Per Year	2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year	3.00

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

Address all business communications and all remittances to:

THE DESERT NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 24, 1906.

THE NEW MOVEMENT.

The "See-America-First" movement, originating in this city, has attracted wide attention and has met with general favor, particularly in the Great West. There is no reason why it should not obtain universal support on this whole continent. Our own land teems with interest throughout its wide extent. There is no country like it under the sun. Its broad prairies, its grand mountains, its magnificent lakes, its mighty rivers, its wonderful healing springs, its geysers, canyons, forests, fields, farms, mines and numerous natural marvels; its startling antiquities, prehistoric relics and ancient ruins, to say nothing of its growing cities, and towns, its manufacturing industries its railroad and electric achievements, are of a character to enchain the interest and elicit the admiration of all beholders, and should be known and to some extent at least understood, by the dwellers on its prolific soil.

A general and popular endeavor to "see America first," or at any rate to become acquainted with it first or last, will increase the enthusiasm of all Americans over their splendid country, its remote past history and its certain glorious destiny, and intensify that patriotism which should glow in every loyal heart. And this will spread abroad the flame of desire to visit this continent, and will induce our brothers and sisters across the sea to come and look at us as we are and see what a country is ours.

It is very gratifying to note the interest that is being taken by prominent and practical men from different places, in this praiseworthy movement. They are flocking in to take part in the conference that has been convened for January 25th. They are cordially welcome. The Desert News, in union with the rest of the press of this city, hails their advent with gladness. The freedom of our establishment is tendered to them. We join with them in support of the good work now starting.

There must be "something doing." Talk is necessary but action must follow. Every practical measure that can be devised and set in motion to accomplish the end in view should receive favorable consideration, and that which is decided on ought to be upheld and pushed forward by every man and firm and company interested in general progress. The interest in this project must not be allowed to flag. It must be kept up and enlarged. The Old World has its time-worn attractions, but the New has greater wonders and still older remnants of past civilizations for the inspection of the scholar and the scientist. Let them be known, and invite the tourists of the world to view them in their night, and let an example be set them by our own countrymen. All the world is worth a visit, but Americans should see America first.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

The nomination of William Spry for the office of United States Marshal for Utah seems to have occasioned much comment. That is not surprising just now, while there is so much agitation in religious circles over the case of Senator Reed Smoot, reaching to the upper house of Congress because that is the center to which all the streams of prejudice flow against the Utah Senator. While this furore is kept up, (although it rages in very limited spheres, for the great masses of the people and the business men of the country take little or no notice of it,) anything relating to Utah affairs is likely to be made as much of as possible.

But why should there be any hubbub over the appointment of the nominee for United States Marshal? Is he not qualified for the position? Who and what is he? William Spry is chairman of the Republican party of Utah. He has been an active worker in that party for many years. He is an ex-member of the Legislature. He was a straight Republican when the party divided on the silver issue. At the time that the majority in Utah joined the Bryan movement, Mr. Spry kept within the McKinley ranks, and he was chairman of the McKinley convention at Mount Pleasant. He has been a consistent partisan from the first, never turning or swerving, but working in the ranks or as a leader, steadily and devotedly. He is, by virtue of his present position, in line for any appointment in the gift of his party.

As to his personal character, no one can fairly offer a reproach. He is known for a clean, honest, business man of correct habits and gentlemanly bearing, free from haste and ill-temper, and not easily moved from a purpose. His political opponents regard him as an extreme partisan, but cannot deny his worth as a citizen. That he will do his duty as he understands it in any position, he may be called upon to fill, there can be no reasonable doubt. What is the reason, then, for raising a rumpus over his nomination? Political adversaries, of course, will offer

some objections, but it is because Senator Smoot has urged his appointment that the antagonism at home has been aroused. It has been asserted that the Senator is without influence at Washington, that he has lost prestige among his own people, that his cause is lost, and so on. Of course that is all foolishly false, and the fact that the President has made the nomination at the request of both the Utah Senators seems to act like gunpowder thrown into the local fire of hate.

The special from Washington to the Herald this morning, stating that Senators Burrows and Dubois, the leaders in the fight against Senator Smoot, will not offer any opposition to Spry's confirmation adds to the fierceness of the little local flame.

Whether the appointment is confirmed or not, there is no good reason why it should be turned down, and the entire Utah delegation in Congress being in its favor it is likely to prevail, and whatever Mr. Spry's party opponents may feel about that, it is sure that none but irrational and venal disturbers who aim at the control of all Utah affairs will dispute that he will fill the position justly, honorably and to the best of his abilities. There is no valid objection that can be urged against his confirmation by the Senate.

PANAMA INVESTIGATION.

Poultney Bigelow has evidently said more about the alleged bad management of the Panama Canal construction, than he was prepared to prove. For his testimony before the Senate committee does not establish the charges made. Mr. Bigelow took occasion to speak quite glibly about himself and his public work, but when it came to the chief question, he had little to say. And that is no wonder, when it is remembered that his stay on the isthmus did not cover two days. How much could he learn, by personal observation, in a few short hours? No doubt, he could hear a number of sensational stories, such as are told by chronic grumblers everywhere, but no responsible journalist bases his judgment on such gossip, particularly when, as in this instance, most important interests are involved.

Mr. Bigelow, in an article in the Independent, charged gross mismanagement there, because of the physical when pinned down to particulars, he seemed to have only one. He claimed that many eminent engineers had declined to accept government employment there, because of the physical condition in the Canal zone. Pressed by the committee for names, he declined to give them, on the ground that to do so would be to violate confidence and subject these persons to embarrassments. He intimated that the displeasure of the administration would be exhibited in such manner that their reputations would be worth nothing after the official replies had been concluded. Finally, he mentioned one engineer, but as soon as this gentleman was approached for a statement, he contradicted Mr. Bigelow. He had, he said, had a conversation with him concerning the engineering work of the canal. He had made the remark that those who had the proposition in hand had the entire sympathy of all engineers. He meant by that, that it was a hard job, and there was a deal of uphill work before the engineers who were engaged upon it. But he made no reference to objections based upon the physical conditions of the men or their sanitary surroundings. So this disposes of the support Mr. Bigelow hoped to get from him for his arraignment of the administration.

Mr. William E. Curtis, in a letter to the Chicago Record-Herald, suggests that it is probably merely a coincidence that the attack of Mr. Bigelow was published in the New York Independent, and that when Mr. Bowen was removed from the mission to Venezuela he threatened President Roosevelt with the vengeance of that authority. It is also, according to this authority, a coincidence that Arthur Sherburne Hardy, who was removed from the Spanish mission in what he considers an unjust and arbitrary manner, is also a brother-in-law of Clarence W. Bowen, the editor of the Independent. Anent this incident, Mr. Curtis relates:

"Mr. Hardy was a very competent and acceptable minister, and the president and Secretary of State thought so highly of him that he was tendered by cable the position of first assistant secretary to succeed Mr. Loomis. When he received this offer Mr. Hardy inquired if he could be restored to the diplomatic service and given an embassy of a higher mission after serving as assistant secretary of state. The President considered this impertinent and rebuffed Mr. Hardy. He was not in the habit of making bargains of that kind. Whereupon William M. Collier of New York was appointed to succeed Mr. Hardy as minister to Spain, and both his family and the Bowen family, which are influential in New England, have had 'bad hearts' toward the administration."

The entire story is illustrative of the sources to which, in many instances, attacks upon men and institutions can be traced. Gossip is taken up by persons who fancy they have a grievance to avenge. The tales of scandal-mongers are set forth as facts, and false rumors are circulated in the hope that they will be established as truths, if repeated often enough. Impartial investigation is sure to expose such little schemes and place the originators thereof in their true light, or rather shade.

FOR THE SOUTH POLE.

Mr. Walter Wellman has been commissioned to go to the North pole in a balloon, and now a Frenchman, not to be outdone by an American journalist, has projected a trip to the South pole, also in a balloon.

The Frenchman referred to is Dr. Jean Charcot, leader of the recent French Antarctic expedition, and associated with him is an experienced aeronaut, Count Henry de la Vaux. It appears, then, that both the northern and southern unknown regions will be invaded simultaneously. Has aeronautics, since the days of Andre, really advanced so far as to justify these attempts? The two French scientists

intend going as far south as possible by steamship, and then proceed by means of automobile sleds to a point where the conditions will be favorable for embarking on the balloon voyage. The type of balloon to be used has not yet been decided upon.

Mr. Charcot points out the difficulty of ascertaining the location of the Pole, even if the balloon passes over it. The explorer, he says, might pass immediately over the Pole in his airship without suspecting the fact, since the compass would be useless in such a situation. The highest mathematical and astronomical skill will be necessary to determine the approximate locality. We fancy that the chief difficulty will be in reaching the Pole. If that difficulty is overcome, some way of ascertaining the fact will be found.

Let her slide—the snowslide.

What is worth doing is worth doing well.

The ill wind that blows nobody good is a blizzard.

"Yellow dogs" delight, more than any other kind, to bark and bite.

Russia suffers from undigested manifestoes granting political rights.

"What fools these rich mortals be!" is the way Col. W. D. Mann puts it.

England's leisure class has very largely been transformed into the "also ran" class.

Morocco hasn't got an open door yet, but the powers are at work at Algiers as trying to make one.

Justice Deuel says that he read Colonel Mann's galley proofs. Sort of a galley slave, as it were.

If Senator Tillman would create a genuine sensation let him make a speech in praise of the President.

Mohammed el Torres is acquiring a reputation that bids fair to be second only to that of the Moor of Venice.

"The borrower is servant of the lender," says the proverb. But it is not so in the case of the Town Topics lenders.

Castro should note that Uncle Sam does not consider a naval demonstration by France against Venezuela an infringement of the Monroe doctrine.

It was a sorry subterfuge by which Senator Burton was made to make his appearance in the Senate chamber that he might draw his mileage. It was worse than a "constructive recess."

Senor Ybarra, the Venezuelan foreign minister, treats the Taiguay affair lightly. Which proves anew that fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

It would pay some enterprising publisher to get out a new and revised up to date edition of Mrs. Grant's "Domestic Manners of the Americans."

The Colorado supreme court is four years behind in its business. It must be trying to get ahead of the United States supreme court in getting behind.

Wouldn't a samovar instead of a punch bowl have been a more appropriate gift from M. Witte and his Portsmouth colleagues to the Mayflower?

Had the Senate committee on inter-oceanic canals undertaken to make Mr. Poultney Bigelow answer where he "got it," it would have made of him a hero. By ignoring his obduracy it has made him a nonentity.

FRANCE'S NEW PRESIDENT.

San Francisco Call.

The new president, Louis Loubet, is fond of his old home and neighbors. Loubet went for rest to his mother's garden. Fallieres goes back to the soil on which he was born and watches his vineyards and cares for the vintage, finding his highest pleasure in the simple life of the country. In that Bordeaux region of France, watered by the Lot and Garonne, and inhabited by a stout peasant people, in whom thrift and an independent spirit have produced a generation of men like the President, full of natural dignity, wise in the ways of justice and devoted to liberty.

New York World.

One thing that M. Fallieres' election makes clear is that France is really republican at heart. It is not only a government for the people, but a government by men of the people. M. Loubet, the son of a humble peasant, gives way to a President, M. Fallieres, who is the grandson of a blacksmith.

New York Mail.

The world contemplates with no little wonder the fact that so radical a nation as France has become a man, to speak paradoxically but quite truly, he is so conservative. M. Fallieres was supported in this election by the most radical and socialistic elements—by the men who, under a monarchical regime, were considered the most dangerous of rebels and disturbers. But internally the country was never in its history more calm and peaceful—probably never more prosperous—than it is at this moment, and M. Fallieres' election augurs no disturbance.

Pittsburg Times.

To the outside world there is less of importance in the personal success of the new President than in the fact that his election has been accomplished without a bitter fight and evidences of popular dissatisfaction. Especially in republican countries there more concern as to the permanency of the French republic than as to who shall be its ruler for the time being. It was proclaimed September 3, 1870, the day after Sedan had sealed the fate of the Second empire, and has outlived many of those who predicted its speedy downfall and exceeded the hopes of those friends who saw it born amid disaster.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Every presidential election in France, held in the majestic Versailles, abode of the "great monarch" who spoke only the simple truth when he remarked "I am the state," emphasizes the changes wrought in France within little more than a century, and which have wiped out every vestige of the old regime personified in the fourteenth Louis, of the royal line that was never to break. Did over the whirling of time bring in more fantastic revenges than the crowning of a German emperor in that

same Versailles and the successive elevations of men of the people to the seats of the Bourbons?

Portland Oregonian.

It will be remembered that, under the existing republican constitution, the President holds office for seven years; has command of the land and sea forces, but cannot declare war without the advice of the Chamber; makes treaties of peace, alliance, and commerce, and can dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, with the sanction of the Senate. He wields, therefore, at the head of the nation ostensibly, holds a position of recognized dignity, but has not the power to direct, and not very greatly to influence, the policy of the nation.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The report of the proceedings of the Lake Mohonk conference of friends of the Indian and other dependent peoples, held last October, has now appeared. It deals with many subjects of great interest to the American public. Among the topics covered are: "Problems Raised in Indian Territory by the Statehood Bill," "Use of Indian Funds for Schooling," "Need of a Compulsory Education Law for Indians," "Need of More of Christian Work Among Indians," "Free Trade with the Philippines," "Federal Aid for Education in Porto Rico," and "Labor Problem in Hawaii."—H. C. Phillips, Sec., Mohonk Lake, N. Y.

The February Century is called the midwinter fiction number, and it is a number beautiful in its color and tint pages. Madame de Pastourelle is the dominant figure in the February chapters of "Fenwick's Career." The first of the new novel by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, "A Diplomatic Adventure," opens in Paris with a mystery and promise of a duel. Elliott Flower has a lively tale in "The Bribe That Went Astray." There are half a dozen other short stories. W. S. Harwood writes about the problem of "Saving California's Fruit Crop." Charles A. Prosser, a member of the interstate commerce commission, writes of "The President and the Railroads" from the point of view of those who favor the extension of government control over railway rates. There is a third installment of Frederick Trevor Hill's study of "Lincoln the Lawyer." Pathetic interest attaches to the authoritative article in the number on "The Portraits of Keats," by William Sharp, editor of "The Seven Memoirs," announcement of whose death reached this country just as the article was going to press. Twelve portraits of Keats are shown, the "standard portrait" by Joseph Severn in that, besides some other features of interest.—New York.

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