

DESERET 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 ManagerSUBSCRIPTION 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, \$2.00NEW YORK OFFICE.
In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,
117 Park Row Building, New York.CHICAGO OFFICE.
In charge of R. F. Cummings, manager
foreign advertising, from our Home Office,
117 Park Row Building, New York.SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.
In charge of E. J. Cooper, 36 Geary St.Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances to
THE DESERET 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, - NOV. 13, 1903

DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
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Deseret News, will save themselves and
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noyance if they will take time to notice
these numbers:For the Chief Editor's office No. 74,
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rings.For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 3
rings.

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PANAMA, NOW AND LATER.

Those who appreciate the blessings
American principles of government con-
fer upon all that come under their in-
fluence, cannot but rejoice that another
section of the western hemisphere has
come into closer contact with the great
representative of these principles. For
even if Panama never is annexed to
this country, the relations between the
two in the future will be such as to
benefit the people there immensely.The republic from which Panama
has seceded has an empty treasury
and an immense indebtedness for so
small a country—something over \$800,-
000,000. The government at Bogota
did not seem to take any interest in
the remote department of Panama.
There are few roads, and few means of
transportation to speak of.The lack of enterprise on the part
of the government, though a paternal
one, is seen in the general conditions
on the isthmus. It is said that, al-
though Panama is but nine degrees
north of the equator and is fertile be-
yond the powers of description, its
population does not increase, nor does
it wax in riches. Every tropical fruit
grows wild, yet but few kinds are to
be bought in the markets. Its only
exports are some bananas and an in-
considerable amount of mahogany, and
while a large part of the population
lives upon rice as a staple with thou-
sands of acres of ideal rice lands in
their midst, practically all of the rice
consumed is imported.The financial condition of the country
is identical with that of the re-
public from which it has just
severed its connection. And this
condition is described as extreme-
ly precarious. Gold is always at a
premium of several thousand per cent.There is plenty of paper which no one
will touch, and the medium of ex-
change is silver more or less debased.
For ordinary trading purposes it passes
current at about 40 per cent of its
face value in gold. This puts a pre-
mium upon most articles of import
and tends to depreciate the value of
the country products. Everything
which is worth taking is taxed in one
form or another. The sale of matches,
ice, opium, and many other articles of
necessity or luxury is farmed out in
the form of a concession. The two
most valuable of these concessions are,
as might be expected, that of gam-
bling and that of the lottery.The moral conditions can but be
judged of from the fact that marriages,
if reports are correct, are almost ex-
ceptional in the rural districts, though
in the cities, we are told, they are
"common enough not to be a matter of
comment."Now, all this is about to be changed.
As Panama enters into relations
with the United States and naturally
will follow the lead of her big brother,
she will be prosperous. Her resources
will be developed. Schools will be
established, roads built, mines opened
up, and ships launched. No doubt
many had characters will assemble
there, especially at the ports of the
canals, but good influences will also be
felt there, under the protecting folds
of religious freedom. A glorious era
is opened up before that little strip of
country, and it should be only a matter
of congratulation and satisfaction.

THE BIRTHRATE QUESTION.

The London Mail has taken up the
question of "race suicide," and collected
statistics which are said to show that
the English-speaking nations of the
world are approaching the zero point
in the birthrate. In reviewing these
statistics, the London paper says:"What are the explanations of the
falling birth rate in the English-speak-
ing countries? Mr. Coughlan sug-
gests in the case of Australia that it is
due to the love of pleasure and to the
deliberate limitation of families. His
argument seems to be borne out by
some very striking facts noted by Mr.
and Mrs. Webb in their work on 'In-
dustrial Democracy.' They state that
there are many indications that the
danger to be apprehended in North-
western Europe during the coming
century is not overpopulation, but adeliberate restriction of population by
the more prosperous, more intelligent
and more thrifty sections, brought
about by a rise in the standard of life
itself. That is the admission that the
superior race is too expensive to mul-
tiply; it means the suicide of that race
and its slow replacement by other hu-
man material."Another suggestion made by our
London contemporary is, that the con-
centration of the people in large cities,
and the difficulty of finding houses for
families with many children may have
something to do with the restriction
complained of. The Mail says:"Australia and England are both
states in which the huge city predom-
inates, and it is at least a note-
worthy fact that the marked fall in
our birth rate coincides with the col-
lapse of agriculture, which forced our
country population more and more into
the towns from 1875 onward. This may
be a mere accident, but country fam-
ilies are still generally larger. If only
because of the difficulty of housing in
the towns. No point is more painful
in Mr. Booth's great study of London
than his repeated reiteration of the
fact that large families are regarded
by landlords as a nuisance and that
the large family is too often refused
accommodation where the small family
finds no difficulty in obtaining it."The general complaint throughout the
civilized world of the decline in the
birthrate, should be proof positive to
all that civilized conditions, especially
as regards family relations, are not
what they ought to be. Here is a field
for reforms, and reformers. Only the
reformer who will appear in the
midst of the corruption of the world
and cleanse the sanctuary, may look
forward to his crucifixion. The world
is inimical to the truth, as it ever was.
It does not recognize truth, and it does
not love it, when it is forced to see it.

RUSSIAN CONDITIONS.

The report from eastern Asia indi-
cates that Japan and Russia are, slowly
but surely, reaching an understanding
about affairs there, and that the threat-
ening war clouds have dispersed. This
should be agreeable to Russia, for that
country has enough internal troubles,
and should hope for the maintenance
of peace with neighbors.Among the visitations which at present
occupy the attention of the govern-
ment are famine and epidemics. It
is reported that large districts are
threatened. The harvest, it is said, was
a complete failure in large areas of
the central and eastern provinces.
Cases of typhus and scarlet fever
among the adults, hunger, typhus and
skin diseases among the children be-
lieve to show with alarming frequency.
In numerous districts the peasants have
disposed of all their cattle, so their
children will be deprived of milk. In
forty-one districts, the reports say, the
summer wheat was destroyed. In 105
others the rye was a total failure. In
twenty-eight there was no harvest at
all. From numerous districts in Siberia
come similar tales of distress,
owing to the grain having been har-
vested before it was ripe, rendering it
unfit for food. So serious is the con-
dition said to be, that fears are enter-
tained for a repetition of the terrible
scenes of 1891.Russia needs peace to grapple with
its own internal problems. It also
needs more truthfulness in its diplo-
macy and more liberal views on many
questions. Recurring famines and ep-
idemics in a nation are but reminders
that certain eternal laws are broken,
just as sickness is a reminder that nat-
ural laws have been, or are being,
transgressed. National transgressions
bring their penalties as surely
as do individual trespasses against
the laws of nature. The blessings of
Providence do not go with the persecu-
tion of Jews, or any other race, and
the breaking of sacred covenants, as in
the case of Finland. National calamities
are the voice of warning, for repen-
tance.

ANOTHER SERPENT.

One of the latest discovered intoxi-
cants is cordite. It is not supposed
that it will become a general menace
to the public, but it may become a
danger to the armies of the world,
more threatening than the other intoxi-
cants.Cordite is a modern kind of powder,
composed of glycerine, gun cotton, and
vaseline, and it comes in the form of
cords. During the war in South
Africa, the soldiers discovered that it
had an exhilarating effect, when eaten.
An officer who heard of this, tasted it,
and he says that he found it sweet,
pleasant and pungent, but that the in-
dulgence produces very severe head-
aches lasting twenty-four hours. When
taken dissolved in tea this stimulant
excites "almost demoniacal actions,"
and if beer is taken after the cordite
tea a rapid intoxication is produced
which takes the form of a quarrelsome
and destructive mania. Eight cases
of the cordite habit fell under the ob-
servation of Major Jennings, and he
concludes that the symptoms and ef-
fects produced by the drug are suf-
ficiently forcible and unpleasant to pre-
vent any but the most depraved from
resorting to it as either a cerebral stim-
ulant or sedative.New kinds of intoxicants are the very
least need of the world. The use of
alcoholic liquors, morphine, opium and
cocaine is said to be increasing at an
alarming rate. What is needed is some
remedy against the drug habit and
drunkenness, not another drug.

Colombia is the game of the ocean.

The clouds, as well as the trusts, are
having the water squeezed out of them.It wasn't hot air that blew the trees
down last night, but a genuine north
wind.Thus far the extraordinary session
of Congress has developed nothing ex-
traordinary.Which will come first, the enlarge-
ment of the Erie canal or the comple-
tion of the Panama canal?The governor has issued his Thank-
sgiving proclamation, thereby signing
the death warrant of the turkeys.The Bogota government has learned
that Uncle Sam's axiom is: Millions for
the canal, but not one cent for tribute.Being unable to get a stay of pro-
ceedings Sam Parks had to be content
with a stay in Sing Sing.Since Mr. Murphy carried Greater
New York he has ceased to be small
potatoes and has become some pump-
kins.When the canal is completed the ti-
tle will remain in Panama but the
usufruct will be in Uncle Sam in per-
petuity.The strike of the union employees on
the city railway is having the effect of
teaching the people of Chicago to walk
and to wait.Up to date there is less than a half
crop of football fatalities, though of
course the season doesn't end for a
couple of weeks yet.The University of California has a
fossilized egg. There are plenty of
eggs on sale in this town that are old
enough to be fossilized.The petition presented to Congress
by our representative for the annexa-
tion of the Arizona strip to Utah, should
prove a Howell-ling success.Germany approves of the course of
the United States in the Panama af-
fair. The rich and powerful nation,
like the rich and powerful man, never
lacks for friends.The coal barons give the miners
twenty-five cents more, and to reward
themselves for their virtue they put
up the price of coal fifty cents
a ton, a net profit per dem on their
twenty-five cents investments of sev-
eral dollars. The magnanimity of the
coal barons passeth all understanding.Mr. Thomas Barclay is the name of
an English gentleman who is trying to
ascertain the sentiment in this country
as to an eternal peace treaty between
the United States and Great Britain.
The sentiment is strong here for such
a treaty. War between the two coun-
tries should be impossible, whether a
treaty is formally signed or not.Adjutant-General Bell of Colorado
has tendered the services of the na-
tional guard of his state to the Presi-
dent, for service on the Isthmus if the
federal troops need any aid. The tender
properly should come from the Governor
of Colorado if it is to be made. But
why the tender at all? Isn't it a bit of
silly jingoism to gain a little cheap
notoriety? "There's nothing foolisher
than military glory except militia
glory."That United States commissioner in
San Francisco who has just held that a
Chinaman who is a manufacturer
or but who does the least
manual labor, such as instruct-
ing his employees how to do things,
is a laborer within the meaning of the
exclusion act, and liable to deporta-
tion, is a great jurist in embryo. His
proper place is on the United States Su-
preme Court bench. He would undoubt-
edly hold that a Chinaman who washes
his hands is guilty of manual labor and
liable to deportation in consequence.What Switzerland gains every year
by the tourist traffic is set forth in
statistics gathered by a well known
Swiss statistician. He says that 300,000
persons visit that interesting country
annually "for curative or recreative
purposes," besides many thousands of
"other travelers." These spend for hotel
and traveling accommodations \$22,-
575,000 and send \$500,000 a year addi-
tional in the way of "gratuities." The
little republic contains 1,836 hotels, pen-
sions and private lodgings-houses for
the sole accommodation of visitors.
That is a pointer showing the effect
of judicious advertising of the advan-
tages of a country, and ample prepara-
tion for the accommodation of visit-
ors. Utah has much to learn in this
respect.An item that has appeared in Ger-
man, and other, papers, is to the ef-
fect that "men of a singular race have
been discovered in New Guinea, and
the governor, it seems, has promised to
send some specimens to London. Living
as they do in the marshes, these
men have no need to walk. On the
other hand the marshes are covered
with a growth that prevents naviga-
tion in canoes. The men have built
in trees and as organs of prehension
alone are useful to them, their lower
limbs have almost atrophied. These
natives have only feeble and withered
legs and feet, while the chest and arms
are of normal development. They can
scarcely stand upright, and they walk
like large apes. They thus give the
impression of cripples who have been
deprived of the use of their lower ex-
tremities." The report needs corrobora-
tion before any conclusions can be
based upon it, but if it is true, it sug-
gests the question whether it will not
be as easy to prove that apes are de-
scended from men, as the other propo-
sition that men have descended from the
apes.

AS TO PENSIONS.

Boston Herald.

We see no reason to suspect that the
reported outbreak has been in any man-
ner instigated by the United States for
its own purposes. If it were con-
ceivable that the administration would
stoop to such an intrigue against a
state with which we are at peace, it
would be reasonable to presume that a
strong naval force would have been
concentrated in the immediate vicinity.
It may not be our duty to directly aid
Colombia to suppress the revolt, but it
is our duty to take care that the rail-
road is kept open to commerce under
all conditions.

Chicago Record-Herald.

If Panama makes good in fact her
claim to complete independence the
United States will at once give her the
recognition that is always given to de
facto governments, and it will maintain
order and freedom of transit across the
Isthmus in fulfillment of its treaty ob-
ligations. Subsequent procedures will
be short and simple, and the world will
be on the way to speedy possession of
such a waterway from ocean to ocean
as the world commerce requires.

New York Evening Post.

It would be an international scandal
of the first magnitude if any American
officials or officers should have had ahand in fomenting this foreshadowed
and heralded revolution. Even the
giving of a quiet hint that a new re-
public would be welcome we should
have to unhesitatingly avoid, if we wish
to preserve our reputation among for-
eign nations. The United States has
colonial troubles enough on its hands
without helping to bring to life a new
state with which it would have most
important and most delicate relations,
particularly if it should prove to be,
like most overnight growths, lacking
in vigor and stability.

Portland Oregonian.

Perhaps the most comforting feature
of the whole situation is the awkward
dilemma in which we shall see certain
senators who have openly professed to
favor the canal but have secretly con-
spired to kill it. It will be hard for
them to serve their railroad masters
here without exposing their duplicity.
The senators of Oregon let us say
here, have a straight record on this
question; but the man who gets up on
the floor of either house and proposes
an inquiry into the apparently hostile
attitude of the administration toward
our dear and faithful friend, Colombia,
should by that action be condemned in
the eyes of all the discerning and the
state with which it would have most
important and most delicate relations,
particularly if it should prove to be,
like most overnight growths, lacking
in vigor and stability.

San Francisco Chronicle.

In Europe the situation is regarded
with about the same concern which we
have for the disturbances in the Bal-
kans. That is a European affair. This
is an American affair. We should not
be welcomed to the Balkans. Europe
would expect no welcome should she
interfere on the Isthmus. In fact, Eu-
rope has plainly turned over that pe-
pery spot to us and seems delighted to
be rid of responsibility. The maritime
nations recognize us as the proper
builders and guardians of an isthmian
canal, and only wish we would set to
work and build it, incidentally protect-
ing their citizens resident in those
parts. There is little doubt that Eu-
ropean governments expect and desire
that the revolution in progress shall
result in the formation of a new neu-
tral republic virtually, if not formally,
under the protection of the United
States. It is not unlikely that this may
be the result.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the North American Review for
November, an Anglo-American has "An
Indictment of the British Monarchy,"
as the leading article. "The Preliminary
Wireless Telegraphy Conference" is the
subject of a paper by John J. Water-
bury. "How Western Canada Regards
the Chamberlain Scheme" is explain-
ed by R. P. Roblin, and Vernon Lee
gives "A Postscript on Ruskin." Other
subjects are: "Putting China on the
Gold Standard," by Charles A. Conant;
"Our National Congress Representa-
tive," S. J. Barrows; "The United
States and the Late Lord Salisbury,"
Mayo W. Hazeltine; "Augustus St.
Gaudens, Sculptor," Royal Cortissoz;
"A Mohammediat," by Dr. G. E. Mer-
rill; "A Unique Municipal Crusade,"
Frances W. Carruth, and "The Tramp
Woman's Tragedy," Thomas Hardy-
New York.The Red Book for November opens
with a series of photographic art
studies of "American Types of Beauty."
Then follows a number of short stories
by well known writers.—153 State street,
Chicago.EXPOSURE to a sudden climatic
change produces cold in the head and
catarrh in apt to follow. Provided
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against Nasal Catarrh. Price 50 cents
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