

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by  
telephone with any department of the  
Deseret News, will save themselves and  
this establishment a great deal of an-  
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.

For Business Manager, 359, 3 rings.

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WAS IT WEAK OR WISE?

That there are different ways of  
viewing the same matter, and that  
opposing opinions may be entertained,  
with sincere conviction, on important  
points, is evident from the expressions  
of different persons on the action of  
the police department in reference to  
the mob movement on Friday night.As stated on the first page of the  
Deseret News on Monday night,  
there are some people who think the  
permission given to a number of the  
car men to look through the city jail,  
that they might be assured that Shock-  
ley the murderer had been removed,  
was a "bad feature of the murder cap-  
ture," and "a display of weakness,"  
on the part of the police. Others re-  
gard it as a mark of sound discretion,  
and a concession that saved a con-  
flict which might have resulted in tur-  
moil and disorder if not further loss  
of life.The crowd that gathered around the  
building was furious and bent on mis-  
chief. Was the surreptitious removal  
of the prisoner "a display of weak-  
ness" or a mark of wisdom? If it was  
wise to "sneak" him away from dan-  
ger, was it not also wise to let the  
wrathful multitude know that he was  
beyond their reach? We admit that the  
police had authority to arrest the men  
who came there demanding the pris-  
oner, and also to resist the mob, even  
to the extent of firing upon them if  
they attempted violence. But "discre-  
tion" is the better part of valor" in  
many instances, and in this case proved  
the most prudent quality to exercise.  
It is easy to find fault, and there  
is a disposition always to criticize pub-  
lic officials, but it is only fair to weigh  
well the motives as well as the acts  
of men, public and private, before we  
pronounce judgment upon them. There  
will be a difference of opinion on the  
subject in question if it is viewed from  
different standpoints. The result shows  
that the course taken to prevent a  
lynching and a riot was conservative  
and shrewd, and brought about the  
desired effect in the quickest and eas-  
est manner.

YET HARPING ON THE "OATH."

It was not to be expected that the  
answer of Senator Reed Smoot would  
please his enemies or satisfy the pa-  
pers that desire to unseat him, actuated  
by private malice or political in-  
trigue. Nor is it likely that those who  
have harped for years upon the charge  
that "Mormons" in receiving endow-  
ment ordinances take a fearful oath  
against the government of the United  
States, would feel very cheerful over  
the positive announcement that no oath  
of any kind is administered or taken  
in those ceremonies. And, further, af-  
ter they have reiterated the nonsense,  
which has been thrashed over so re-  
peatedly, about the "apostolic oath" to  
learn that there is no such oath and  
never has been anything of the sort is  
not very comforting or assuring to their  
cause.The Salt Lake Tribune, in its old,  
vindictive and vituperative style, ex-  
hibits its anger against the "News" and  
cites a decision of a court here in ter-  
ritorial days, which was based on  
statements of bitter apostates, some of  
whom were noted liars whose testi-  
mony was subsequently exposed as ut-  
terly false, and was contradictory of  
each other and disproved by an abun-  
dant testimony from reliable wit-  
nesses, whose word is good anywhere  
and some of whom were seceders from  
the Church.The value of that decision, on a hear-  
ing arranged for the purpose of pre-  
venting "Mormons" from naturalizing,  
so that they might not engage in the  
contest with the Liberal party for the  
election in 1890, may be determined by  
the fact that it was not effective af-  
terwards. "Mormons" were natural-  
ized in the District courts, as appears  
of record, and we do not know of a  
sane person in this State acquainted  
with the subject, who now believes the  
lurid tales and conflicting testimony  
worked up on that occasion for politi-  
cal purposes and now brought forward  
by our disingenuous contemporary.

That anti-"Mormon" sheet also

speaks of the opposition of the "News" to  
a decision of another court on the  
subject of "sealing," though what that  
has to do with the matter at issue does  
not appear. But that is its common  
custom when desirous of evading a real  
point in dispute. The court in the lat-  
ter case founded its opinion on a mis-  
taken idea, derived from works giving  
but a partial exposition of the subject.  
The "News" pointed out this error, as  
it had the undoubted right to do,  
for courts are not infallible, their  
arguments are open to public discus-  
sion, and it is not wrong to point out  
their mistakes as to facts or to rea-  
soning. Our late contemporary asks:"But if the oath had been said to be  
against the 'people' of the United  
States instead of against the 'Govern-  
ment' what then?"Why, "then," the answer would be  
the same. There is no oath of any  
kind or against any people, or person,  
or government administered or taken  
by the "Mormons," or by any "Mor-  
mon" in any ceremony of the Church.  
Further, there is no covenant, promise,  
or obligation of that nature. This has  
been publicly stated many times out-  
side of the announcements by the De-  
seret News. President John R. Winder  
and President Anthony H. Lund, at the  
last October Conference in the pres-  
ence of thousands of Latter-day Saints  
who had received their endowments,  
made the most positive assertions to  
the same effect as those in this ar-  
ticle as to the alleged "oath" and their  
actual covenants, and called them to  
witness that what the speakers affir-  
med was true.As to the case against Senator Smoot.  
If there is anything in the incorrect  
utterances of the bearers of false wit-  
ness about "treasonable oaths," it has  
no special application to him. It affects  
every person who has gone through  
those ceremonies. But our contemporary  
and the other protesters against  
the Senator, declare they have nothing  
against him as a "Mormon." It is  
his apostasy to which they object.  
They do not protest against any other  
"Mormon," as a Member of Congress  
or Government official, who is not an  
Apostate and against Reed Smoot only  
on the ground of an alleged oath and  
higher allegiance which would render  
him unfit to be a Senator. And yet he  
has taken no oath or obligation of that  
kind and there is nothing of the sort  
that is specially assumed by an Apostate.The truth is, his opponents are "off"  
as to the whole matter. Their prej-  
udices run away with their reason and  
their assumptions are contrary to the  
facts. We may not be able to coin-  
vince them of this, but it is hardly  
to be expected that the United States  
Senate will be governed either by those  
assumptions without proof, or by the  
absurd ravings of a host of people who  
are as densely ignorant of true "Mor-  
monism," and of the legal aspect of  
the question involved as the dwellers  
in darkest Africa are of the glories of  
the celestial world and the attributes  
of Deity.

DEATH OF JOSEPH BULL.

In the demise of our esteemed friend  
and fellow laborer, Joseph Bull, the  
Deseret News has lost an old and  
valued worker who has been identified  
with it from the beginning. As a  
printer, pressman, foreman, advertis-  
ing agent and general utility newspa-  
per man, he was ever active, vigilant,  
anxious to advance the interests of the  
paper, and to serve the cause of truth  
as revealed from heaven in the nine-  
teenth century. He was a man of very  
strong convictions; firm almost to stub-  
bornness when sure that he was right;  
sometimes stern in his feelings when  
occasion required. He was an affec-  
tionate husband and father and a  
thoroughly reliable citizen and business  
man. In all the years of his associa-  
tion with this journal, in the different  
capacities in which he served so con-  
scientiously, we never heard of a  
breath of suspicion against his honor  
or honesty. He was sound at heart  
and sincere in his intent. He has  
lived to a good old age but his taking  
off was unexpected, for he was of a  
rugged physique and was able to work  
at his trade up to the time, but a few  
days ago, when he was seized with  
pneumonia and now he has gone to a  
brighter and better world, where he  
will meet with a loved and faithful com-  
panion and the good and just who have  
"gone before." He will be remembered  
long in this community as a man of  
strict integrity, an indefatigable work-  
er and faithful friend. May the con-  
solation of eternity rest upon the be-  
lieved!

THE JEWISH QUESTION.

Fortunately, the threatened massa-  
cre of Russian Jews at Kishineff on the  
7th of this month did not take place.  
The world was spared the horror of  
another outburst of fanaticism. But  
the Hebrew question is far from solved.  
It is claimed that massacres are of fre-  
quent occurrence in Russia, although  
only the worst cases are ever reported  
to the rest of the world.Mr. Arnold White has an article in  
the North American Review on this  
question. He is authority on it, for  
he has given it much patient study. He  
has investigated the condition of the  
Russian Jews, and had numerous in-  
terviews with them, and with the lead-  
ers of the Russian government. He  
is well qualified to speak on the subject.Mr. White considers the question one  
of international importance, for the  
persecution of Hebrews in Russia has  
its influence upon the cost of living in  
London and New York, where so many  
refugees yearly land. Russia, England,  
and the United States ought, therefore,  
he thinks, hold a conference on the  
Jewish question, and solve it. The so-  
lution would, in his opinion, be for  
Russia to furnish land and the other  
countries money for the emancipation  
and redemption of the race. Money, he  
thinks, would not be lacking, could a  
plan be agreed upon. There are the  
Hirsch millions. Many wealthy Jews  
would also contribute, and so would  
many "Christians" all over the world.  
The idea is practical. Only Russia  
has not now time for conferences. Her  
attention is occupied by the war cloudsthreatening to burst in the far east.  
But even if Russia could be prevailed  
upon to submit the question to a con-  
ference, which is not probable, it being  
an internal question, the result could  
not be satisfactory, on the proposed  
line of settlement. The redemption of  
the race is not to be brought about  
by the colonization of Russia, but  
Palestine. An international conference  
might be the means of bringing that  
about, and such a conference might  
consistently be called by the United  
States.

AS TO PREMONITIONS.

A writer in the New York Press,  
speaking of the late Chicago dis-  
aster, says that some people  
have had narrow escapes from  
death, on account of "premoni-  
tions." He mentions one lady friend  
of his who says she has been in three  
theaters just before they burned down,  
but she had a forewarning of impending  
danger, and heeded it. She de-  
scribes the sensation in this way:"There was something in the air.  
A cold breath, as if a draught had sud-  
denly been created, indicated to me  
that there was approaching danger. I  
quietly withdrew long before there was  
any suggestion of flames. My mother  
was often influenced in the same way."Another instance is also mentioned.  
At the time of the Brooklyn horror,  
the first man to leave the theater re-  
mained outside. "What's the matter?"  
said an acquaintance, "don't like the  
piece?" "Very much," was the reply,  
"but I somehow or other can't feel  
comfortable. I feel like a haunted  
house. If I were superstitious I'd be-  
lieve something bad is going to hap-  
pen around here—an explosion, a rail-  
road disaster, a shipwreck or that sort  
of thing."Some would call this superstition.  
They always call every evidence of  
a spiritual world behind the curtain  
that limits our physical vision, super-  
stition. They do not want any such  
evidence. But it is nevertheless a  
fact that Socrates, a sage who can-  
not consistently be charged with su-  
perstition, firmly believed in the pres-  
ence on many occasions of an invisible  
guardian who warned him of im-  
pending danger. That much humbug is in-  
dulged in and advantage taken of the  
credulity of some people, cannot be  
denied, but it would be folly to character-  
ize all impressions evidently intended  
as warnings, as humbug. It is wise to  
acknowledge that there are more things  
between heaven and earth than philo-  
sophy has dreamt of.

Shockley's confession is shocking.

Is the January thaw about to be-  
gin?The Book of Snobs—the Book of the  
Four Hundred.It seems that General Reyes did not  
say "Adieu," only "Au revoir."The better the roads the easier it  
will be for the good roads movement  
to get along.Of course it is more blessed to give  
than to receive, but to receive is often  
more expensive than to give."The glaciers are passing" says an  
eastern exchange. Why shouldn't  
they? They have been on the move  
for many centuries.Statistics show that Chicagoans live  
longer than their grandfathers did. But  
they do not show that they live better  
lives.The trial of Shockley, the self-con-  
fessed double murderer, should be pro-  
ceeded with at once. Unnecessary delay  
will simply be an outrage on the people.If Mr. Schwab is wise he will not go  
to Colorado where they arrest men who  
are out of a job, and Mr. Schwab is out  
of a job according to his sworn testi-  
mony.Japan is very much alarmed over the  
report that Russia's Black Sea fleet  
may pass through the Dardanelles.  
Evidently she is afraid the battle may  
be to the fleet and the strong.There should be no mock sympathy  
for the murderer Shockley, and there  
probably will not be. His latest crime  
—murder—is but the result of a long  
series of crimes, all in the same line.Some good and eminent people of  
New Haven have forwarded a peti-  
tion to Senator Hoar asking that the  
Senate defer ratification of the Hay-  
Bunau-Varilla treaty. The petition  
will be received with respect and  
pigeon-holed with alacrity.The agreement as to the distribution  
of the rewards offered for the capture  
of the murderer of Gleason and Bright-  
on is a most meritorious act, and re-  
flects great credit upon the police and  
Prothero, the informer.Senator Morgan still wants the Spoon-  
er resolution carried out. The gallant  
old senator does not seem to realize  
that it is as dead as Julius Caesar; and  
that dead and turned to clay, "might  
stop a hole to keep the wind away.""It is not especially praiseworthy in a  
coroner's jury to gravely return a ver-  
dict in a murder case that the victims  
came to their deaths 'from gunshot  
wounds inflicted by a person or per-  
sons unknown to this jury,' when the  
confession of the murderer was before  
every eye," says a contemporary. Such  
criticism is mere captiousness and  
shows an utter lack of the qualifications  
required of a jurymen. The verdict was  
a perfect vindication of the law regard-  
ing the selection of jurymen.Today the remains of a good and  
faithful servant of the Lord, and an  
honest and trustworthy citizen have  
been laid to rest until the resurrection  
of the just, Patriarch John Tingey,  
formerly Bishop of the Seventeenth  
ward, has gone to join the blest, where  
pain and suffering are not and wheredeath cannot intrude. He made a good  
record and leaves here a fine and wor-  
thy family, who will perpetuate his  
name and virtues on the earth. We  
condole with them in their loss, but  
feel that all is well with him.Our friend and brother and former  
associate on this paper, Elder John  
Nicholson, has our sincere sympathies  
in his bereavement of his son Joseph,  
who has been relieved from suffering  
by the hand of death, which came to  
him tenderly and serenely and took  
him from further pain. Brother John  
has had some severe trials, but they  
seem only to make brighter his fervent  
soul, and stronger his great faith and  
energies for righteousness and the tri-  
umph of right. May God comfort him  
and his in their affliction!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Kansas City Star.

In this careful exposition of this very  
important case, President Roosevelt  
has left his critics no tenable ground  
for their opposition to the ratification  
of the Panama treaty. His argument  
must convince any fair-minded reader  
that his course has been in accordance  
with United States precedents, with in-  
ternational law and with the demands  
of civilization, and that the administra-  
tion was actuated only by the highest  
convictions of national duty. But sev-  
eral facts are made especially clear in  
this statement of the case, and because  
of this elucidation the message is one  
of exceptional importance.

Portland Oregonian.

President Roosevelt's message on the  
Panama proceedings makes something  
like 14,000 words. We make room for  
less than 5,000. It is enough. It is too  
much. The country, we are satisfied,  
does not need this mass of explanation  
and evidence to convince it that the  
administration's course on the isthmus  
has been correct, commendable, honor-  
able. For the curious, and for those  
whose official position requires detailed  
information of every step in the his-  
tory, the record is there. It is well  
enough to have it for reference. But  
the people will not read this message.  
Their minds are made up. They have  
no inclination to change them.

Pueblo Chieftain.

President Roosevelt, in presenting  
this message, speaks to an audience  
of Americans that is thoroughly on his  
side. The Republican party is prac-  
tically unanimous in its approval of  
what the president has done, and only  
a small minority of the Democrats are  
sincerely opposed to it.

Kansas City Times.

The president's positive denial that  
the United States government incited  
the revolution in Panama or had any-  
thing to do with it removes that issue  
from the consideration of the Panama  
canal treaty. It is a tremendous satis-  
faction to have as president a man  
whose word inspires such absolute  
confidence that even his political op-  
ponents would not dare to call it in  
question.

San Francisco Call.

As the canal is a work of such stu-  
pendous importance to the world, and  
as its completion will be so conspicu-  
ously honorable to this country, why  
can we not have a truce to partisan-  
ship in the matter? It is evident that  
the Democrats in the senate will ratify  
the treaty. Why not do it graciously,  
take their share of the credit and seek  
partisan issues elsewhere than in this  
purely external and inter-world mat-  
ter? The whole country knows that  
President Roosevelt will enforce hon-  
esty in the work, will curb extrava-  
gance as far as oversight and foresight  
can do it, and every one knows too that  
any president would do the same. So  
let it stand at that and curb this bad  
and unpatriotic tendency to defame  
a man and gentleman and countryman  
because he is president.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

President Roosevelt's Panama mes-  
sage to congress is in one respect like  
the traditional woman's letter—the im-  
portant part is in the postscript. In  
the closing paragraph the president re-  
minds Congress that "the question ac-  
tually before this government is not  
that of the recognition of Panama as  
an independent republic. That is al-  
ready an accomplished fact. The ques-  
tion, and the only question, is whether  
or not we shall build an isthmian canal."  
The Democratic minority in the  
senate should keep that fact well in  
mind and govern their action accord-  
ingly.GRAND THEATRE  
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