

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, \$0.75
One Month, \$0.25
Saturday Edition, Per Year, \$2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year, \$2.00NEW YORK OFFICE.
In charge of B. F. Cummings, Manager
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,
1127 Park Row Building, New York.CHICAGO OFFICE.
In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager
foreign advertising from our Home Office,
27 Washington St. Represented by E. S.
Webb, Room 315.SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 35 Geary St.Correspondence and other reading mat-
ter for publication should be addressed to
the EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances:
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, OCT. 13, 1903.

OPENING OF THE SEASON.

The time has arrived for the reopening of the meetings of the Mutual Improvement Association, which are generally closed during the summer season. With the exception of the joint gatherings of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' associations in the wards on the evenings of fast days, the regular meetings for consideration of the subjects specially arranged for them, are discontinued during the heated term. Now, however, the season has opened for resumption of those studies, and it is expected that they will be taken up with renewed zest and vigor, and that the winter of 1903-4 will prove the most profitable that the associations have ever experienced.

The good that has been accomplished by these societies cannot be told by mortal tongue or pen. It will take the unfoldments of eternity and the opening of the heavenly archives to proclaim it fully. But much of it is known and seen in the lives of members of the associations. The trend of them is towards virtue, sobriety, chastity, order, unity and peace; in the direction of intelligence, useful knowledge, mutual improvement and the general welfare. Worthy citizenship is promoted as well as religious faith, and truth is manifested in association with cheerful entertainment.

The associations should be encouraged by all our people. Parents and guardians ought to use their kindly influence in their support. They should urge young people to attend the meetings and be faithful members of the societies. Young men and boys who do this can usually be distinguished by their superior manners, accomplish-ments, every grace and gift that makes their sex charming, and that endows them with the powers of chaste womanhood.

It is a fitting occasion to press this subject upon the attention of the Latter-day Saints. If our young men and maidens commence attending at the beginning of the term, so as to take up the manuals at once and follow on with the lessons prepared, during the entire season, their interest will be engaged and kept up, and they will be able to master the subjects presented in a manner to benefit them intellectually and spiritually, with profit for all time to come. The opportunities afforded in this direction are really invaluable.

We congratulate the presiding officers of the Young Ladies' and the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations, on the auspicious commencement of the fall and winter's gatherings. We hope they will continue their diligent labors of the past, search out the young people who ought to attend and invite and encourage them to do so, and then seek to make the meetings both interesting and profitable. They will thereby accomplish much in the building up of Zion and the improvement of her youth, and, verily, they shall not lose their reward!

WE AIM TO BE RIGHT.

The Deseret News has not run off on a tangent after any of the wild rumors sent forth, concerning the escaped convict, James Lynch, and his alleged capture at various points. Every purported clue to the whereabouts of the jailbreaker that was in the air on Monday, was quietly but persistently followed up by patient inquiry and found to be fallacious. We therefore made no sensational statements about any expected capture, and those that appeared from other sources tended only to excite the public mind. They were "hot air" stories, "gas" without any light.

After the "News" went to press a story was circulated and put in print, that Lynch had been caught a couple of miles up Parley's canyon, and the "News" was "jolted" by some persons about not having the news. Careful inquiry proved that the pretended discovery was one more "fake," and that the policy of this paper to aim for accuracy instead of agitation, and to inform rather than startle the public, is the right course for a reliable newspaper.

We give the news on all important matters, and as far as possible in the brief time afforded on an evening journal, sift out the false from the true. Our readers may depend upon this paper to obtain accurate tidings on public matters from every point of the compass. But scores and hundreds of sensational items are not in our line. While we try to be sure, at the same time we endeavor not to be slow, but to give the news promptly, while we exclude that which does NOT happen.

IN THE FAR EAST.

The situation in the far east appears less satisfactory again, and yet it is hoped that a clash of arms will be averted. Russia is evidently taking advantage of the political situation in Great Britain, where the cabinet crisis necessarily is unfavorable to a firm foreign policy, and she is correspondingly aggressive. Japan is jealously watching her progress, but if Korea is not interfered with, peace may be maintained. The danger is that popular pressure in Japan may, at any time force the government to hostilities. Japan needs room to expand. She has selected Korea for her "sphere of influence." She is invading that country by means of railroads, and she is determined to protect her interests there.

The statements of Japan have very wisely been bending all their energy toward the formation of a treaty, by which the rights of the two countries would be clearly defined. They certainly know that treaties are of no value, with a power that is accustomed to interpret them as it suits its own purposes, but the adoption of such a treaty would nevertheless have been of some use. It would have delayed hostilities until a more opportune time. And the breach of faith would have furnished justification for a declaration of war. Should the efforts at treaty-making have failed, through Russia's greedy demands, war is the only alternative. Both powers have been preparing for war, or at least for a grand display. For three years Russia has been increasing her fleet in Asiatic waters until it is now stronger than the combined naval forces of any two European powers. The Russian naval force is said to be complete in every detail. It includes transports, which could be used in an invasion of Japan by carrying troops from one of the terminals of the Trans-Siberian railroad. Russia, it is further said, has demanded protection of the Korean government for her lumber interests, and to have threatened to send troops over the border, until this request is granted. This is, perhaps, the most fateful step so far taken, for Japan will hardly tolerate Russian invasion of the "hermit kingdom."

The interests of the United States in the far eastern situation is variously estimated. A war between Russia and Japan would, in all probability, increase the demand for many articles of export from this country. It would be an aid to our manufacturers and shippers. The complete Russianization of Manchuria and Korea, should that be the outcome of the war, is also regarded as favorable to American interests. Mr. Sergius Friede, some time ago, in an interview in New York, discussed the Manchurian question, as far as this country is interested in it, from a somewhat new point of view, and what he said of Manchuria, is applicable to Korea, wherever that peninsula shall be aroused from its lethargy, to activity. He said:

"Knowing Manchuria as I do, from the pioneer days of '96, when I crossed it alone at the peril of my life, in tiny native wagons along trails that could never be called roads, until I saw the country transformed by the expenditure of Russia's millions, cities springing up in waste places, railways racing across mountains and plains more rapidly than I ever saw railways built before, and the whole land brought under the civilizing influences of the American locomotive and the Yankee electric light, I cannot but feel that the time has come for Americans to look at Manchuria with our own eyes and not as we have always done—through British glasses. Russia, with America's aid, has made it what it is. We are the nearest to Russia's possessions in the Far East, and we always will be the ones to receive the greatest benefit by Russia's prodigious expenditures. She has built her railroads to develop trade, not stifle it; she gladly buys our flour mills to grind wheat grown in Manchuria; pays hundreds of thousands of Manchurians wages that enabled them to get out of their native land. In our first flush of excitement we must not forget that if we urge her to withdraw, under Chinese rule our merchants would not be permitted to remain for a moment, except in the open ports of which we ask for two, one of which, Moukden, the capital, is a straggling city of twenty thousand persons, hundreds of miles away from the sea coast and reached only by a Russian railway. Americans are welcomed in Manchuria, the Russians taking up eagerly our new inventions in labor-saving devices; in fact, it was the adoption of one of these, the American steam rock drill, that brought about the first strike known in Russian Asia. I had induced the engineers to order a sample lot, and on their arrival at Moukden they had been accustomed to chipping away the rocks and boulders by hand, suddenly watched the Yankee machines thumping away, and then the touch of a button the charge of dynamite sent the boulders flying in every direction. It was more than they could comprehend, so they threw down their tools, refusing to work with the white man's spirit devil. The engineers were annoyed, but, thoroughly convinced that they could complete the railway perhaps years in advance of the time hoped for by use of the American steam rock drill, they refused to give way; the Manchurians returned sullenly to work, and from that day to this Russia in the Far East has looked to us to help her out of many difficulties. She has raised the commerce of Manchuria from nothing to millions."

What is true of Russian occupation of that part of Asia, is also true of Japanese occupation. Either country would need the assistance of the United States in the work of redemption. No matter, then, how the war turns out, for years to come the results would benefit the great manufacturing nations. But for all that, it is hoped that war may be averted. For the results ought to be gained by peaceful means. A war between Japan and Russia would be a barbarous affair. It would arrest the progress of humane civilization for a long time.

In the New York political game the Fusionists are dealing for Low.

It would be interesting to know if there are any secret drawers in that new British cabinet.

The buckwheat crop is said to be the largest on record. But what of the maple syrup supply?

There was a great silk sale in New York the other day. But it took the "velvet" to buy any.

The Boston Beacon talks about false standards in colleges. It is to be hoped there are no false weights in them.

They have had a terrific storm and

flood along the Atlantic coast and now it is being followed by a great tide of immigration.

The primaries have been held and delegates to the city conventions chosen. Now let the delegates put up the very best men in their parties and all will be well with the city.

President Butler says that the school of journalism will need ten million dollars more. Such being the case it is very apt to be a long felt want.

The difference between the two parties claiming the reward for Haworth's capture is this: One claims that they caught him napping while the other claims they caught him badly.

Much is being said these days about the degeneracy of the muskmelon. It is noted by the people of mature years and impaired digestive organs and not by boys. Who in age ever tasted such gingerbread as he ate in youth?

It is to be hoped that the law regarding prisoners who escape will be enforced to the very letter and that those who escaped Friday and are amenable to it will be punished. The effect would be most salutary. The taking off of "copper" has little deterrent effect.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in a recent sermon to the Young Men's Christian association, commended generosity. It is a splendid precept, but example is better than precept; and he can afford the example so much better than most men.

We congratulate our old and esteemed friends, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Jones, of this city, on reaching the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day. They have had a long residence here and formed many fast friendships, and their children and grandchildren are joined by a host of acquaintances in wishing them continued life, pleasure and prosperity, and that every day and hour from henceforth may be "golden."

In the matter of the reward for capturing Haworth, people generally will be of the opinion that the men who went down and took him and notified the officers and turned him over to them are entitled to it, and no effort whatever to capture him. Those who saw him first, so far as the newspaper accounts show, made no effort whatever to capture Haworth. If they thought it was he why didn't they try to capture him?

Some have made unjust criticism of the penitentiary officials, saying that breaks never happen in well regulated prisons. It is a very grave mistake. A very bad break was made at Folsom prison only a few weeks ago, and all the escapes have not been captured. At the United States prison at Leavenworth last year there was a very bad break. And other instances might be cited. There may have been some laches prior to the break, but when it was made the guards at the penitentiary behaved in the most splendid manner.

The following story of Senator Dubois of Idaho is going the rounds of the press. It is good if not quite up to the highest standard of truth: During the days when the senator was practicing law in Boise City, he was on a certain occasion sternly reprimanded by the judge of a court in that city because of alleged contempt of court, and in addition was fined in the sum of fifty dollars. The next day, according to a custom followed in the Idaho courts, the judge called upon Mr. Dubois to occupy the bench for him during the transaction of some comparatively unimportant business. After the judge's departure from the courtroom Mr. Dubois exhibited an instance of that remarkable presence of mind for which he has ever been noted. The future senator said to the clerk of the court: "Turning to the record of this court for yesterday, Mr. Clerk, you will observe recorded a fine of fifty dollars against one Frederick T. Dubois. You will kindly make a note to the effect that such fine has been remitted by order of the court."

THE BRITISH CABINET.

Boston Transcript.
British policy seems today to be in a state of almost unprecedented chaos. It is hardly too much to say that they are the sport of empiricism. They plainly show the absence at the helm of state of the pastmasters in the formulation of a national policy. The new cabinet, as now announced, is not taken seriously by the British public. It brings into positions of the highest responsibility some men at least with reputations still to make in the science of government. It looks as though the premier had found it impossible to bring to his support in the important positions left vacant in his cabinet men of established statesmanship, and that in his somewhat feverish experiments he had been compelled to rely upon those who in a less degree would find it necessary to reverse declared and well-known principles to adjust themselves to his tentative policy.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
The one fact that stands out clear from amidst the political confusion, is that Joseph Chamberlain thinks his hour is soon to strike. He left the Gladstone administration with the hope of wrecking it when it became evident Mr. Gladstone hesitated to make him his political heir. He joined the Conservatives in the hope that with the retirement of Lord Salisbury he would be his successor as the head of a Conservative administration, but was again disappointed. Now by a shrewdly devised stroke he has made all the world see that Balfour lacks the boldness and firmness necessary to a successful political leader. He has maneuvered so as to himself make the issue of the next election and the consequent discredit of Balfour as a party leader. Then, after a short term of Liberal administration, he expects to rally around his personal standard a new party, made up of disorganized Conservatives and dissatisfied Liberals, and go into office as premier on the issue of Fiscal Federation versus Free Trade. It is possible his ambition may at last be gratified.

New York Sun.
The fact of the matter appears to be that the Duke of Devonshire disinterestedly tried to save Mr. Balfour's government from smash. He gave him aid, comfort and advice to the Premier. At last his patience evaporated, and it was impossible to save his dignity and continue in a government dominated from without by Mr. Chamberlain. Instead of receiving thanks for what he had done, the head of the Cavendishes is accused by his late abashed chief of a lack of candor. A strange charge

this to come from the tricky sophist who the other day jockeyed Mr. Ritchie and Lord George Hamilton out of the ministry by concealing the fact that he had the resignation to Mr. Chamberlain in his pocket.

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