

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.
Alfred G. Whittley, Business Manager.
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES (in Advance):
One Year \$2.00
Six Months \$1.00
Three Months \$0.50
One Month \$0.15
Saturday Edition, Per Year \$2.00
Retail Weekly, Per Year \$2.00

NEW YORK OFFICE
In charge of B. E. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office.
121 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 12 Geary St.
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, - DEC. 9, 1904

DESERT NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department of the Desert News, will save themselves and this establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers:

For the Chief Editor's office, 71-3.
For Desert News Book Store, 71-3.
For City Editor and Reporters, 337-2.
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ALL FOR THE CHILDREN.

The result of the school election on Wednesday means that the taxpayers of this city are determined to keep the schools out of the partisan maelstrom into which the anti-Mormon chiefs endeavored to steer them. It means that the schools are not to be given away as rewards for partisan services, but that the high standard of efficiency hitherto maintained in appointments and everything else, is to be continued, and, if possible, raised still higher. It means that the educational system of this city is not to be transformed into an anti-Mormon machine, as was the apparent intention of its enemies.

The gentleman elected on the so-called "American" ticket is considered to be a business man of ability, and there is no reason to believe that he is inspired by the virulent anti-Mormon sentiment that has been in evidence in some quarters. Dr. Proust, the candidate defeated in the Fifth precinct, is a man thoroughly educated. He has been a resident of this city for many years, and he is said to be liberal in his views, and very practical. He would, it is thought, have been a very desirable acquisition to the Board of Education, but there is no reason to believe that Mr. Oberndorfer will not also do creditable and acceptable work in the position to which he has been chosen. There is no reason to assume that he will not perform his duties conscientiously, and work harmoniously with his conferees for the best interests of the schools.

One of the questions that will, we believe, shortly be brought to the attention of the Board, by the health authorities, is that of medical inspection of all school children, with a view to ascertaining defects in eye sight, hearing, etc. Such inspection has been introduced in several of the larger cities in the east, with excellent results. There are eye defects that, blackboard exercises, bad posture, and other causes, seem to be the result of a medical standpoint, slight speech and crippled child in many ways; imperfect hearing that makes a child sensitive and backward and unable to keep up with its fellows. The innumerable forms of spinal trouble, many of which are not manifest in early stages unless brought out by weariness from sitting in the hard school seats might be set down to mere "fidgets" unless the symptoms are studied. All these, and many more, are seen by the teacher, and very often remedied can be found, when the trouble is observed in time.

Our schools are far advanced, but improvements are always in order. We hope the Board will work harmoniously together for the best interests of the growing generation and believe this will be the aim of its members.

WHO IS 'OPPOSED'?

Somebody in Denver is quoted as having said that the "Mormons" in Utah are opposed to the opening of the Uintah reservation. The item appears in the anti-Mormon spokesmen as a dispatch from Colorado's capital, and there is nothing to indicate that it is not an Associated Press dispatch. But as it has not been sent to the other papers in this city that avail themselves of the excellent Associated Press service, the inference is almost irresistible that it was manufactured by somebody in the local service of the anti-Mormon organ itself, as some of its "specials" have been. But, no matter as to that. The purpose is to hurl another charge against the "Mormons."

All the shells so far thrown have either fallen short of the mark, or refused to explode. So, there is another: Opposed to the opening of the reservation!

The argument, as given, is, that an influx of non-Mormons will, in a few years, result in "swamping" the Mormons. That is the point. Of course, there is no anti-Mormon sentiment in that, or in the effort to enlist the aid of heaven, earth and hell for those who have sworn to deal the Church a deadly "body blow." The work of annihilation, whether by "swamping" or by pugilistic skill, is entered upon in the spirit of angelic kindness, and, with the greatest concern for the purity of morals and the prevalence of American principles! That is what we are asked to believe.

Now, as for the statement that "Mormons" are opposed to the influx of non-Mormons, it rests upon an assumption that is entirely false. It presupposes that every non-Mormon who comes here, will join the despicable little clique of agitators who, defeated in

their ambitious plans, banded themselves together to take revenge upon an innocent party—the Church. Nothing is further from the truth. Thousands of non-Mormons here are conservative, liberal-minded, progressive citizens, and they are no more the tools of those agitators than are the "Mormons." Those who come here will soon discover the true character of the chief strife-brewers, and of their tools, and the presumption is that the honorable among them, the home-builders, will know enough to take care of their own interests, and not follow the leaders of a suicidal agitation. There is, then, no possible ground why there should be any opposition to the opening up of land for home-builders. In fact, the influx of settlers might as soon result in "swamping" the anti-Mormons.

Furthermore, there is really no conflict in Utah between "Mormons" and non-Mormons," notwithstanding the frantic efforts in some quarters to make it appear in that light. Socially, "Mormons" and non-Mormons" mingle together without regard to religious belief, or absence of belief. Politically, the people are divided as in every other state. We have Republicans, Democrats, Socialists, and what not, and everyone votes as he pleases. In business, people also mingle freely with one another, as in every other part of the country.

Everyone who lives here—the agitators not excepted—knows that these are the facts. Why, then, should there be any opposition to the immigration of home-builders? There is none, as far as we know.

There can be only one motive for the attack, to which some attention is paid in these lines, and that is, to discourage settlers and home-builders from coming here. The continued wailing of the red rag will certainly have that effect. How does that strike the conservative business men of this city, and of Utah? Is it not time to let the strife-brewers know, in some emphatic manner, that they have gone just about far enough?

When a wild animal breaks its show cage and sallies forth on an excursion of destruction, tearing, breaking, trampling down all in its path, united effort is speedily brought to bear to return it to its proper place, where it is harmless. Similar united effort is called for in a community, when its best interests are threatened by disappointed ambition running mad.

CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT.

Brief reference has previously been made in these columns to the very interesting work on "The Russo-Japanese Conflict," for sale by the Desert News Bookstore. The author is a Japanese scholar, Dr. Asakawa, and he writes graphically on the subject, setting forth the causes of the conflict from a Japanese point of view.

The author shows that Japan has had a very rapid increase of population, since it commenced to adopt western civilization. The population in 1878 was estimated to be about 27,000,000. Nearly fifty years later it was found to be 34,000,000—that is, in about half a century there had been a growth of 7,000,000. In 1903 the census enumeration gave the population as 46,360,000, a gain of over 12,000,000 in 25 years, with a present annual increase of 400,000. But there is only a small amount of arable land in the empire, taking everything into account, less than half an acre to each inhabitant, a smaller sustaining area than even in England. The consequence is that Japan must expand, or commit race suicide.

But the natural route of expansion is over the neighboring districts of Korea and Manchuria. Here are found a relatively sparse population and enormous areas of undeveloped land capable of cultivation. Quite three-quarters of the entire trade of Korea is trade with Japan. Ninety per cent of the exports of Manchuria go to Japan, and nearly half of its imports—that is, prior to the war—consisted in merchandise sent from Japan.

These two countries produce what Japan greatly needs and almost must have, while they offer in exchange markets which Japan can readily supply. The Russian policy of aggression and territorial extension is therefore considered a death blow to Japan.

Of course, it can be said, that Japan has no business on the mainland, but if the question of room is one of national existence on the part of Japan, she undoubtedly has a right to occupy land that her neighbors do not need, and cannot utilize for years. Russia has more land now than she can take care of to advantage, and her policy of the dog in the manger is not justified. That is the general view of the causes of the conflict. The Japanese now in the field are giving their lives, in order that their posterity may live and prosper. And that will, in the future, furnish another strong argument for the religious belief in Japan known as "ancestry worship."

CRIME AND FOLLY.

Speaking of the increase of crime in this country, the San Francisco Call points out that crime is decreasing in all the European countries which are sending a large immigration to the United States, and that the decrease there is complemented by a corresponding increase here. If this were so, the conclusion would be inevitable, that we are importing criminal material, to the relief of Europe and to our own embarrassment.

We expect this conclusion, however, would not be justified by the facts. But if it were possible, there should be a thorough investigation of this subject. Our annual murder list exceeds the losses in the Spanish war, in spite of courts and juries.

The increase of crime can be accounted for on the ground that crimes are not punished as they deserve, except in comparatively few cases. Let us consider a few instances at random. One man confesses manslaughter and is sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Another is convicted of the theft of 50 cents and is sentenced to

three years' servitude in the pen. What will the effect be? Here is another case. A man in a western city is held on the charge of having murdered his father and mother, one sister and one brother. A woman who knows him only through newspaper reports, is writing letters to him, and sending him flowers, as tokens of sympathy. What can be expected, when a criminal of this kind awakens tender passions instead of abhorrence? Is not a natural consequence of this, the increase of crime?

Some rail at women for this kind of folly, as if similar foolishness were not as common in the opposite sex. But it is, as is evidenced by the fact that nearly every criminal woman in the hands of justice is described as "beautiful," in the daily reports. What is that but throwing flowers on the altar of vice? It is also evidenced by the fact that jurymen nearly always acquit thieves and murderers of the gentle sex, whenever it is possible to do so. We mention this only because it is customary to judge harshly the women who permit themselves to be carried away by tender sympathy for criminals. That weakness is not an exclusive characteristic of one sex. But, that it is not restrained, is one of the great causes of the increase of crime in this country.

There is no remedy for it, either, except in the impartial administration of the law.

At any rate Mr. Oberndorfer is not a sectarian.

The government landed the land fraud sharps in fine style.

What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and puts it in an Oberlin bank?

Possibly Mrs. Chadwick is Madame De Vere. But she is not a De Vere of the De Veres.

"Mrs. Chadwick has confidence," says an exchange. Her creditors say that it is a confidence game she has.

In the late school campaign there was no mud slinging. And it wasn't because the streets are dusty either.

The Circus trust is the latest trust. It was bound to come to this. The circus has always been in the ring.

Senator Hale declares that he will do all in his power to defeat tariff revision during the Fifty-ninth Congress. Hale to the Chief.

In all that long message there were nothing but soft words except those referring to Russia's harsh treatment of American Jews.

Mr. Carnegie says that he has not made and signed a note for many years. He has done better. For many years he has made money.

Russia proposes to send to the Far East a third Pacific Squadron. Probably on the theory, "First the worst, second the same, third and last the best of all the game."

Secretary Loeb makes official denial that the President's Thanksgiving turkey was chased by the children until it was almost exhausted. But he cannot deny that it was roasted to a turn.

How will it help negroes in the South to obtain their rights as voters, to cut down Southern representation in Congress? It will only anger the southern people and cause them to vent their anger upon the negroes whose lot is already hard enough. What is wanted is the recognition by the southern whites of the negro's political rights and freedom, without fear, in the exercise of them. The Crumpacker and the Platt bills do not secure or guarantee this.

The Crum case is one to test the real manhood of the Senate. His nomination to be collector of the port of Charleston, S. C., has been before it now for nearly two years. Direct action on it has been defeated one way or another. The real objection to him is that he is a negro. Why doesn't the Senate recognize publicly the fact and flatly refuse to confirm him, if it is going to refuse to confirm him?

"The Mormons gave the Republican state ticket in Idaho their solid vote. The Republican majority on the state ticket was the Mormon vote of about 20,000. If the Mormons had voted the Democratic ticket we would have elected our state candidates by about 20,000. If the Mormons had not voted at all, or had divided their vote evenly between the two parties, our candidates for governor, Henry Helfield, would have been elected and the balance of the state ticket would have been carried by the Republican nominees by a small majority," says the "Tiger of the Jungle," speaking of the Idaho election. What keen logic that! How could "our candidate for governor" have been elected if the "Mormons" had not voted? The argument would bear scrutiny, but it is as good as could be expected from the Wildcat of the Lava Beds.

WHAT EDITORS SAY.

Boston Transcript.
Probably Mrs. Gilbert died in just the way she would have asked for had she thought it desirable to choose the manner of her final exit. It was "in harness," for in spite of her years, she was still in her "career." Only loving hearts were about her, only willing hearts were ready to do her bidding and interested themselves in the country over were looking for the day when she would bring her "Granny" to a playhouse where they could conveniently see it. Perhaps the stage will never have another such remarkable woman to bless its history, but her story, and the wholesome view she took of all things, should lead many both sides of the footlights to attempt at least to accomplish something she would have thought worthy of life and of the profession.

Detroit Free Press.

The wholesome respect for the law that once prevailed has disappeared and instead of seeking to uphold it every effort is devoted to defeating the ends of justice by fair means or foul. Men guilty of crimes against society

are sentenced to short terms in prison if not free altogether; the murderer and the thief are treated with the utmost consideration, and succeed in eliciting the sympathies of those who should be first to condemn them. Even when punishment in some degree commensurate with the offense is inflicted a lenient governor or a pardon board adds its mile toward the general disorganization by shortening the sentence. On every hand there is apparent a disregard for the law, an indifference to consequences, an implied realization that the punishment will be light, that is the most potent factor in the increase in lawlessness which endangers the future of the nation.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Col. Scott, who is in the United States on leave of absence from the islands, has been telling a Kansas City paper about the late Filipino leader. It appears that Aguinaldo is now all that a "pacifist" should be. So far from having feathered his own nest with the funds once at his disposal he is, according to Col. Scott, practically dependent upon his relatives and works a small farm not far from Manila. The officer describes him as a "dethroned and discredited leader."

Springfield Republican.

Refreshingly sound and strong have been the recent utterances of southern men of influence and authority on the lynching question. It is, of course, a libel on the south to suppose that the law-abiding and law-respecting elements constitute a minority, but formerly the apologists of mob law were permitted to enjoy a monopoly of public talk. The result was an unfortunate impression in some quarters that the south had no desire to suppress lynchings and resented criticism of such practices.

Springfield Republican.

The seventh term of President Diaz of Mexico began the first of this month with an inauguration ceremonial of much impressiveness. It is to be hoped that sometime Mexico will be able to change presidents every few years without disturbance, as the United States does, but meanwhile there is no doubt that the lengthening of the Diaz regime has been beneficial in training the people in good order and stability. It is not the most highly developed form of self-government yet it is self-government just the same, because the Diaz system is Mexican, was developed from within, and is satisfactory to the people themselves.

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