

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Salt Lake City, Utah.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - AUGUST 2, 1906

SUNDAY DESERATION.

The management of the Salt Palace theater announces its intention of opening that house for matinees on Sundays. This is, as far as we know, the first time in the history of this city that it is proposed to open a place of amusement on Sunday afternoons, and the fact should be made a note of.

We have repeatedly called the attention of the city authorities to the violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the statutes and ordinances relating to the closing of places of business on Sundays. There is law enough to arrest the evil of Sunday performances at the theaters. If those whose duty it is to look after such things were disposed to do so; and if there is not, the City Council can easily remedy that defect. But those in control have neglected their duty, for what reason is best known to themselves. They are not ignorant of the moral sentiment of this community, but they have defied it, until Sunday desecration has become a flagrant evil. In the case of the resort referred to, the Sunday "matinee" will be peculiarly offensive because of the additional fact that intoxicants are freely sold on the grounds and many other temptations are placed before the unwary.

It may be a case of "a voice crying in the wilderness" to protest against the demoralizing Sunday "shows" that are given in defiance of both law and public sentiment, but an effort must nevertheless be made to call the attention of the serious part of the community to the dangers to which the youth is being exposed by the neglect of the powers that be to regulate places of so-called amusement. We need not take a Puritanical view of the Sabbath. If we regard it only from a humanitarian and hygienic point of view, which indisputably is correct, it is evident that to permit the violation of the ordinances relating thereto is criminal negligence, just as the toleration of the accumulation of nuisances in the streets and thoroughfares of the city, would be.

There is some controversy between various factions of the sectarian world, as to whether the obligation to observe a day of rest is binding upon the people of the New Testament times. Fortunately, there can be no doubt in the minds of the Latter-day Saints regarding their duty in this respect. In the revelation given through the Prophet Joseph upon the subject the first day of the week is by the Lord designated as "My holy day," and "the Lord's day." The Saints are commanded: "Remember that on this, the Lord's day thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord. And on this day shalt thou do more other things, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that thy fasting may be perfect, or, in other words, that thy joy may be full." (Doe, and Cov. 57: 12, 13.) This is sufficiently explicit. When the Pioneers first came to these valleys, they were admonished to observe the day of rest, with the full understanding that this land would not be a Zion to them unless they would keep the commandments. Their duty is clear. They should not yield to the temptations to desecrate the Lord's day, whatever others may do, for, they cannot do that and retain the good Spirit.

It may be necessary once more for citizens of all creeds to combine in a loud protest against a regime that clearly has as little regard for the moral welfare of the community as it has for its financial interests.

CHINA AROUSED.

A distinguished Chinaman, president of the Chinese Reform association, has recently passed through New York on his way to Europe. He was interviewed and had something interesting to say of his country. The reporter quotes him as follows:

"China is no longer in the dark ages. She has already reached the point where Japan was only twenty years ago, after years and years of endeavor. This is not because the Japanese were slow in learning, but rather because they were not. They cooked, we ate. We have now, for example, more than twenty thousand Chinese students pursuing advanced modern courses of study. As to common schools, some five thousand have been started in the one province of Canton. There are now 4,000,000 Chinese who can speak English. Our courts are being remodeled after the English system. The number of books we have translated into Chinese—text books, technical books and treatises—mostly—indicates how extensively the 'progression movement' is spreading. We have thus appropriated to our use over ten thousand American, English and European works."

He added that China is no longer asleep. She is wide awake and fully able to take care of her interests.

It is well to be reminded of what is going on in eastern Asia, "West we forget." China and Japan both faced the western problem at the same time. But each met it differently. China felt that it could trust itself to the power of resistance that is involved in its huge mass. Japan could not. China could afford to allow some of its ports and cities to be occupied by foreigners without greatly feeling the hurt. Japan could not. However, Japan knew that unsuccessful resistance would mean the loss of everything. The "European peril" was much more acute to it than to China. The Japanese leader was to defeat itself by stealing the very thunder that threatened it.

It did so, with the marvelous results the world has witnessed the last four years. China, we are told, is now prepared to follow the example of Japan. In a few years all Asia will be fully awake, and strong. What that will mean to the rest of the world belongs to the future.

SUICIDE AND SCEPTICISM.

A correspondent asks the New York Mail if suicide is really on the increase, and if it is not true that this cowardly abandonment of life is becoming much more common with the losing of the ties of faith.

To this our New York contemporary replies that suicide has certainly been steadily on the increase in civilized countries in the last century, and particularly in the last thirty years. The Mail also admits that the relaxation of the ties of faith appears to affect the suicide wave. In support of this it is stated that the number of suicides is relatively low in Ireland and Italy, while it is highest in the great centers of scepticism, like Paris and Dresden.

That the rate of suicide should be highest in places where the Christian faith has been very nearly abandoned, is but natural. When man loses sight of the great mission for which he has been sent into this world, as taught only by the expounders of the Christian faith, what motive has he for continually keeping up the fight for existence, carrying burdens that at times seem to be overwhelming, and unceasingly striving against temptations and all kinds of difficulties? Is it any wonder, when faith is lost, that courage should give out also, or that individuals deprived of both faith and courage should seek an end to an unbearable existence?

But if this is true, what a fearful responsibility they have, who use their influence among their fellow-men in a direction opposed to faith! They attack the foundations of faith with all the weapons familiar to infidelity, and the result is an increase of self-murder. The true exponents of faith, not the champions of scepticism, are the real friends and benefactors of the human race. With precept and example they inspire faith, and hope, and love, and thus become helpful to those with whom they come in contact.

CO-OPERATION IN DENMARK.

It was a very interesting address Mr. Borghjerg of Copenhagen delivered the other evening in the Labor Hall. In describing the development of the material resources of Denmark the last twenty years, he showed what can be done by even a small state, when the people are working with an object in view, and co-operation is intelligently directed. Mr. Borghjerg is a prominent figure in the public affairs of his country, and he speaks with a great deal of detailed knowledge of the subject of his discourse.

After the war with Germany the country was, the speaker said, in a state of paralysis. From this condition it had gradually risen to its present position of prosperity and importance, because the people had understood how to conform to the ever changing conditions. As an illustration of this he referred to the hard times when the farmers found that their land had fallen about half in value. Grain and corn flowed into the country from America and the Baltic provinces, and the Danish farmers could not compete with the foreigners. It was a serious problem that confronted them, but they solved it. They adapted their agriculture to the new conditions, and changed the grain and corn that was imported, into butter, eggs, meat, etc., and now they have markets for these products and are better off than they were before. The cheap grain prices that threatened the farmers with ruin, are now their best ally in the production of wealth. In the same way, when Germany made the tariff on pork almost prohibitory, the farmers simply changed their methods and produced the article that was most sought after in the English market, and now they receive higher prices there than they did in Germany.

The result of co-operation, the speaker said, is now visible in every direction. Wages have gone up. The poor are being taken care of by means of old-age pensions, and many poor-houses are empty. The government has become thoroughly representative. Many public utilities are owned by the communities and administered for the exclusive benefit of the people, and steps are being taken for the insurance of laborers against enforced idleness. The country is being built up with almost American rapidity.

It is pleasant to hear of the results of co-operation in the old world, because it is an idea that was most fervently advocated by the Pioneers of this region, who also applied it with great results. Of late years it may have been lost sight of to some extent, by many of the people here. They have not realized the necessity of it, the resources of the country being so abundant. As Mr. Borghjerg said, this country is yet occupied with the great problem of producing wealth; the time will come, however, when it must take up the other great problem of distributing wealth, as we have had to do in our more crowded and less resourceful countries. This is true, and when that time comes, co-operation will be found to be the only method of procedure. Only in wisely directed co-operation will the world find the solution of many economic problems that now confront it, and others that may arise hereafter, to demand attention. The experiences of the people of Denmark are therefore of value to the world.

The speaker also dwelt briefly on the near future, and his views on the situation are of general interest. He said it was only a question of a short time when the Russian people would have the liberty they are now fighting for. That, he claimed, would take away the strongest support of the German military rule, and with this weakened, the German people would assert themselves. That would mean the reopening of the Schleswig-Holstein question, and the people would be given an opportunity to decide that matter. The speaker saw in the strong movements of the old world the beginning of an

era of liberty for the masses that have always been oppressed, and with liberty would come good will and fellowship among all nations.

The ice trust never disincorporates; it melts.

The nights always begin to get cooler in August.

The eight-hour law is often broken in the ninth.

By way of experiment the 'car might try reconvening the droum.

Secretary Root is having a regular Prince Henry time in Brazil.

Iowa's short 'Cummins' is more prominent than other states.

Mr. Rockefeller would court less notoriety by appearing in court.

It used to be 'Hold the mirror up to Nature's face' but now it is the kodak.

If Harry Thaw were really insane he could not be any more obstinate than he is.

There is one place where all, old and young, rich and poor, have an equal show—the circus.

Why doesn't Stolypin try soothing syrup on those Sveaborg mutineers? It might quieten them down.

Secretary Wilson appears to be full of surprises, as some of the eastern slaughter houses can testify.

San Francisco fire losers may yet conclude that three-quarters of a loaf is better than no loaf at all.

No doubt the mutineers at Sveaborg feel to say, "It fortifies my soul to know that though I perish truth is so."

The army is being seasoned. It will be thoroughly unseasoned by the time the next season for seasoning comes round.

Baron Komura says that Japan will fulfill all her promises in Manchuria. This is reassuring but lacks definiteness as to time.

Next winter when coal goes up the coal dealer will tell you the reason is that the government withdrew the coal land from entry.

Dollar subscriptions from voters to run a campaign are very much better than quarter-million dollar subscriptions from corporations.

Two gentlemen propose to make an automobile tour from San Francisco to New York. It is to be hoped they will find the walking good.

General Lee reports that he is prepared to begin to "round up" the rebellious Pulaskians of Leyte. It means they will soon round out their careers.

It is very doubtful whether Donald MacKenzie Wallace and Le Roy Boleau understand the present situation in Russia. And if they do not, nobody does.

The present English government could not do a wiser thing than to grant the Transvaal a constitution and base the electorate on manhood suffrage. It is genuine statesmanship.

TRAIN ROBBERIES IN RUSSIA.

Pueblo Chieftain.
Train robberies in Russia have a political as well as a criminal significance. Money is as necessary for the promotion of a revolt as it is for the defense of a government. To loot a treasury train at the present stage of affairs may be of greater value to the revolutionists than to win a battle against the czar's soldiers or policemen.

THE THAW CASE.

San Francisco Chronicle.
A dispatch says that Thaw is putting himself in a position of grave peril by insisting on conducting his defense in his own way. Thaw can perform no greater service to mankind than by persisting in his wayward course. Anything he does calculated to lead him nearer to the electric chair will be a positive social benefit. The indications are becoming decidedly strong that the woman he lived with ought to be in the box with him, despite the slobbering sympathy wasted upon her because of her good looks. The more the nasty mess is stirred up the clearer it becomes that she worked upon the weak-minded fool with whom she consorted to do the deed which it would be a crime to call an attempt to defend conjugal honor.

ROCKEFELLER ON RICHES.

Kansas City Star.
From midecean comes the word that John D. Rockefeller does not believe in hoarding money; that he thinks large fortunes should be spent in the interests of mankind. This is very cheering, especially as it comes from "the richest man," whose income is vastly bigger than his output. And if it is true that wealthy men should spend their money in the interests of mankind, then it is not true that mankind would be benefited still more if men would not seek to acquire vast money than they can use in their own affairs? It is blessed to give, but it is also blessed not to take away. The benefits of mankind are best conserved by helping others to help themselves, not by taking away from others the opportunities they should have, and have a right to enjoy. Mr. Rockefeller's pleasing precepts leave no room for surprise at any paradoxical utterance that other men may choose to make.

HOW NOT TO LIVE.

A Physician in the Journal of Public Health.

Fully three-fourths of the people who come under my care for treatment are personally responsible for their illness. They have lived too fast. Men attempt to acquire fortunes in a few years which should require a lifetime of honest business methods to accumulate. They "burn the candle at both ends." After working like slaves during the day, they spend the good part of the night in drinking, smoking and dining. Women in their efforts to keep up with the demands of society, overtax their nervous system, and resort to stimulants, narcotics and hypnotics. Our mode of life is all wrong. We are in one great procession of hustling, restless men and women, who are rushing rapidly toward economic invalidism or premature death. It is all wrong. The artist thus speaks of the hustle and push of the nineteenth century life: "Man's business requires haste. The average business man and professional man sits in a hurry, and gets dyspepsia. He walks in a hurry, and gets apoplexy. He talks in a hurry, and

gets the lie. He does business in a hurry, and becomes a bankrupt. He votes in a hurry, and produces corruption. He marries in a hurry, and gets a divorce. He trains his children in a hurry, and develops spendthrifts and criminals. He gets religion in a hurry, and forgets it in a hurry. He makes his will in a hurry, and leaves a legal contest. He dies in a hurry, and goes to the devil. And his tribe steadily increases."

JUST FOR FUN.

"Try out coffins and you will use no other," is an advertisement of a Kensington undertaker.—Philadelphia Record.

Hi Tragedy—Did they call for the author?

Vii. Ayne—Call for him! Why, they came up on the stage after him.—Judge

"Do you suffer much with the humidity, Mr. Flanagan?"

No, mum, sure, the doctor sez as 'tis the dyspepsia.—Baltimore American.

Fisherman (beginner)—Don't you think, Peter, I've improved a good deal since I began?

No, mum, sure, the doctor sez as 'tis the dyspepsia.—Baltimore American.

"There is no such eloquence as we used to have," remarked the legislator.

"No," answered Mr. Dustin Stax. "A time has arrived when a man is expected to back his opinions with his pocketbook. People are more guarded in their expressions."—Washington Star.

"Hang it!" angrily exclaimed the unsuccessful contributor. "I don't suppose there's anything I could write that you'd accept."

"I reckon not," replied the country editor. "I don't s'pose you could write a check for a year's subscription, could ye?"—Philadelphia Press.

Mrs. Smithson-Brown—I am told that Mrs. Jones-Green-Grey has been expelled from her club.

Mrs. Clark-Devoris—Served the horrid thing just right! Was her offence serious?

"Positively heinous, my dear. She was giving rebates on her alimony."—Puck.

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Josephine Spencer of the Deseret News; Mrs. Hattie C. Jensen of Salt Lake City; Ruth May Fox of Salt Lake City, and Mr. Walter Juan Davis of the Denver Post.

The publisher believes that the Mormon people will give their kindly support to this work, as it is sure to appeal to friends in the east or abroad, that are interested in Utah's scenic attractions. A hitherto unpublished portrait of Brigham Young in sepia tint is one of many full-page illustrations.

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