

# The Deseret Weekly.

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IN ADVANCE.

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## OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

AN EXCELLENT opportunity is now being presented for judging of the condition of the judicial system of the United States. Before proceeding to the inquiry it would be well to remember that the only objects of any system of judiciary are presumed to be the enforcement of justice and the prevention and punishment of crime; and that, when any other aims than these are sought to be accomplished by the machinery connected with the courts, corruption exists in a vital region.

The Cronin case affords the opportunity we refer to. A study of it is a very instructive inquiry into existing phases of American life and civilization. For months the press has teemed with matter relating to this case, and the public wonder why it is not pushed to a finish. Why have not the accused been tried long ago? Why is every step taken characterized by such a cold molasses rate of speed? Certain men long in custody stand charged with murder; why is not either their guilt or innocence established with reasonable expedition?

Because many objects besides the vindication of law and justice are being sought in connection with this case; and the pursuit of these purposes has led many of the men entrusted with authority in connection with it, to constitute themselves committees on how not to do it. Associated with this trial is a labyrinth of conflicting interests. Ward politicians have ends to gain; attorneys seek to make fame and money; there are jealousies among the police; there is intense newspaper rivalry; there are Irish plots and plotters involved; national politics are tolerably certain to be affected one way or the other by the manner of procedure; guilty conspirators are striving to save their own necks, and their unsuspected backers, to prevent a knowledge of their connection with the murder from being divulged, are fighting hard in be-

half of the "suspects." Delay serves the purposes of all these interests.

An intricate mass of wickedness is embraced in this case. Bribery, jobbery, perjury, and conspiracy, surmounted by damnable murder, are the parts of a superstructure of crime, which American justice is nominally struggling to overthrow. But there is little hope that the blind goddess will achieve more than a small degree of success. She lacks the potency to shake off the meshes that have been thrown over her, and she is not able to hold out the scales with a firm and strong grasp in one hand, nor to wield the sword vigorously with the other. The plots and counterplots, the intrigues and conspiracies by which she is surrounded, are too much for her, and, fettered as she is, it can scarcely be expected that she will do her work thoroughly.

The procedure in this case shows too truly the condition to which our judicial system has retrograded. It proves that the machinery of the courts may be and is manipulated to secure the ends sought by individuals, and that the course of justice, which should be swift, straight and unerring, is made slow, devious and uncertain. The existence of such a condition, plainly proven, must soon destroy the confidence of the people in the courts, and when this is gone one of the main preventives of anarchy will be removed.

## NO NEED FOR IT.

It may be appropriately asked whether it is the right thing for a public journal to do to keep on making repeated claims of obtaining and publishing first and exclusive information upon popular subjects, especially when, in not a few instances such assertions are manifestly erroneous. When evidence of enterprise exists, the publication of the matter in question ahead of any other newspaper appears to us to furnish all the proof necessary. By letting that suffice, and thus giving the public credit for ability to perceive the fact of precedence in furnishing it with fresh information, mistakes—liable to occur in any newspaper office—are avoided, and injustice obviated.

As an instance—among many others that could be cited—in point, we observe a claim made by a morning cotemporary that it, several days ago, "published exclusive information to the effect that Secretary Windom had decided that Mexican lead ores could come in free of

duty." This was a mistake. The News received a special from Ivan C. Michels, Washington, D. C., on Thursday, Oct. 17th, giving the information. The dispatch consisted of but a few words and its purport and appropriate comment appeared in the issue of this journal of that date. A representative of the News also conversed with leading Utah men interested in lead mining on the subject, and their views were given voice in these columns. The rest of the local papers published the fact of the decision next day—Friday, October 18th.

It is rather a small matter for this journal to notice, but the excuse for advertizing to it now is that the matter complained of is as frequent as it is unnecessary.

## GOOD NEWS FROM PALESTINE.

BY PRIVATE letter from Elder J. M. Sjodahl, we learn of a very interesting incident that occurred at Jaffa, Palestine, on the 22nd day of September last. On that day two Arabian gentlemen were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. At the request of Elder Sjodahl this holy ordinance was administered by Elder C. U. Locander. Both these recent additions to the Church are young men. They had been asking for baptism for three months, but Brother Sjodahl doubtless deferred it until their preparation should be placed beyond all question. When they came up out of the water their joy was great.

We extract the following from the letter:

"After the baptism we proceeded to our little room in the khan and had a very good meeting. The two newly baptized members were confirmed, and we partook of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Brother Smart confirmed Salim and I confirmed Farez. The Lord's Supper was administered by Brother Locander and Brother Simmons. These are the first Arabs baptized in Palestine. Others are expected to join soon. But we are cautious. The Church was founded in America with six souls. There were six of us, namely: Myself, Brothers Locander, Smart, Simmons, Salim and Farez. The occasion was a solemn one. God was present."

## WORKING TOWARD A DANGEROUS POINT.

A SIGNIFICANT meeting was held the other day at Chattanooga, Tenn. It was a convention of colored Baptists, but the attendance, which was large, was not confined to people of that particular religious persuasion. Its object was the discussion of present issues, notably the wrongs