

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 2, 1904

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 annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers:

For the Chief Editor's Office, 74-2.

For Deseret News Book Store, 74-2.

For City Editor and Reporters, 33-4.

For Business Manager, 33-4.

For Business Office, 33-2.

WHAT'S THE USE OF IT?

The protest entered in the City Council by Mr. Neuhausen, against the cutting down of sidewalks below the street level, will be endorsed by a very large number of our citizens. What nice, slippery pathways they are likely to afford for pedestrians in the winter time, when rain or melting snow runs from the roadways and then freezes for the travelers' feet! What is the need for that kind of grading anyhow? Why cannot the sidewalks conform, measurably at any rate, to the conformation of the locality? What necessity exists to run them on a railroad scale, leaving houses away up from them in some places and away down in others? What harm would there be in a gradual rise or descent of a sidewalk to correspond with the natural "lay of the land"? It looks to ordinary folks like a cranky and arbitrary way of running lines, without regard to symmetry, surrounding property or public convenience.

If this sort of method were to be carried out in some eastern cities, where the very undulations of the site are regarded as among its beauties, what a sight it would make of them! Our city is situated on a pretty level surface, but it has its little variations and they are by no means unsightly. To run lines on a given level without any consideration for those rises and falls, appears to an ordinary observer both unwise and unnecessary.

We do not wish to set up our judgment on such matters above that of practical and scientific engineers, who are supposed to understand that which is according to established rule. But we know that we are voicing the views of a large number of well-informed and rational citizens, who are firmly of the opinion that rigid observance of technical measurements is not to be followed in all instances, especially when it causes such lack of harmony with surroundings, as may be seen in many places where the sidewalk paving has been constructed. They can see no real sense in it and we are equally blind to its advantages.

MEET THE EVIL AT ONCE

It is reported that some persons who have contracted smallpox, and others who know they have been exposed to its infection, have mingled with the public, or at least with healthy persons, and by that means have spread the disease. In that way, it is stated, school children have caught the contagion and thus a scare has been created that is in many respects injurious to the public peace. This is a very serious charge and the guilty parties, whether the offense has been committed through carelessness or otherwise, are liable to prosecution.

It is very strange that people in this State, after all the precautions that have been taken and the care that has been urged, will break the law and endanger the health and the lives of others, by disregarding the sanitary regulations that have been enacted or adopted, and avoid the quarantine that is essential in cases of contagious disease. The lack of regard for the general welfare, the indifference to the safety of their neighbors displayed by some folks, is most astonishing and is highly criminal.

Through this careless conduct it is evident a number of cases of smallpox are now reported. The spread of the disease is, as usual, somewhat exaggerated, but that may be the means of causing proper care. It is not wise, however, to get up an excitement unwarranted by the facts. It will do no good at home and will have a bad effect abroad. Every proper and lawful endeavor should be made to confine the contagion within as narrow limits as possible.

The isolation of the patients and of persons who have been exposed, until there is no danger of their spreading the disorder, rational medical treatment, disinfection under the rules of the Board of Health, the careful destruction of excreta, cheerfulness and hope and faith instead of gloom and fear and fretting, will aid mightily in stamping out the disease, which at present is of a mild type and not dangerous although repulsive and actively contagious. Violations of the laws for the preservation of the general health should be proceeded against, and if the disease breaks out to any extent in a public school it should be closed until all danger is past. Rigorous measures should meet the evil before it has a chance to become epidemic.

## "IT ALL DEPENDS," ETC.

Anti-"Mormon" papers report in high glee that "an Idaho Congregational minister, who stated he was a Republican, said that he and his church would vote solidly 'in support of a certain plank in an opposition party platform, and that this 'meant a change of at least 300 votes.' The story may not be true, appearing where it does, but the narration of it shows how much the shouters against imaginary 'church influence' are sincere in their outcries, and what a difference it makes when it is used as they desire.

If some "Mormon" minister had made a similar boast of carrying his congregation "solid" for a given ticket, and thus "changing 300 votes" more or less, what better evidence would be wanted on which to base column-after-column of denunciation and abuse? The American eagle would be made to scream until the mountains would vibrate with the shrill shrieks, and the everlasting hills would echo the discord until it reverberated throughout the land. The Methodist and Presbyterian preachers can figure in politics, of a certain kind, both publicly and privately, and it is considered quite au fait. But let a "Mormon" minister of any prominence utter a sound of a similar kind, and the rumormongers would discount Babel in the very light of the confusion of tongues.

Pulpiters and their congregations will yell "church influence!" at the "Mormons," and while the sound still trembles in the air, will sign documents to influence legislation and to force United States senators to take official action, which they believe will be harmful to the "Mormon" Church. It is all very pitiful but it is also exceedingly humorous.

## A FERTILE REGION.

The Idaho Register published at Idaho Falls is doing good work for that section of the State by publishing facts and figures in the experiences of new settlers, and who have been highly successful in wheat and potato growing, in sheep breeding and particularly in raising sugar beets on land not long since covered with wild sagebrush. We have not space to spare to even synopses the testimonials of farmers as to the productivity of the soil in that region, but we clip the following as a sample. It is from a young German farmer who went there four years ago to visit his brother; he says:

"I came here four years ago from Cornell Bluffs. I did not come with the intention of purchasing land, but after looking around I came to the conclusion it was a good place to locate. I had two thousand dollars in money and purchased 80 acres at \$20 an acre, also some farming implements and horses, and went to work. Two years ago I purchased an adjoining 80, paying for it \$35 an acre. Last year I sold \$2,400 worth of grain and hay besides keeping enough for feed and seed. This year I threshed 3,600 bushels from 80 acres. I have 16 acres of potatoes, but the yield will not be large as the ground upon which they were planted was run-down stubble. Three years ago I raised 2,300 sacks of potatoes on twenty acres of ground. I find that it does not pay to plant anything on poor ground. When land gets the least bit run out it should be planted to lucerne and then turned under when the third crop is ready for cutting. I would not trade my land here for the best 160-acre tract in Iowa. I would like to see a young man start in in Iowa with only two thousand dollars and pay out and own a farm in four years' time.

WM. MEPPEN.

Here is an extract from a letter written by the brother who preceded him in making a home in the Snake River country:

"Six years ago last month I arrived with a car of household goods and machinery at Idaho Falls, and moved out on an 80-acre patch of raw sagebrush land two and one-half miles south of the Old Fellows' Home. The first few nights were spent in the open air, until we could build a little shack. We lived in that about three months, then moved into our house where we now live. Two years ago I built an addition to it, and now we have a pretty comfortable home. I have 160 acres of land, for which I paid \$10 and \$15 an acre. Today I consider it worth \$80 an acre. Our land is a fine loam mixed with sand, a splendid soil for sugar beets and spuds. My beets averaged about 18 tons to the acre this year, and at that rate there is more clear money in beets than anything I have ever raised. I have also raised spuds from three to five pounds each, and as high as 200 sacks to the acre, about 400 bushels.

Yours truly,

AUGUST MEPPEN.

"Idaho Falls, Oct. 20, 1904."

It is often said that "money talks;" we are of the opinion that the crops in the Snake River valley talk even louder than money, and leave no room for doubt as to the fertility of that part of the country when industry and perseverance are brought into active exercise.

## SUMMONED FOR COUNSEL.

According to a brief dispatch from St. Petersburg, the new minister of the Interior in Russia has summoned the presidents of 34 provincial zemstvos to the capital, to confer with them regarding reforms. This step would seem to indicate a desire on the part of the successor of the ill-fated von Plehve to recognize the principle of representative government, to some extent at least. Were the zemstvos really representative local governments, their presence in St. Petersburg might be hailed as the beginning of a new regime, but they are not. They are merely the tools of the central government. In print the item about summoning these presidents for counsel looks well, but it is safe to say that they meet rather to receive commands than to give counsel.

## THE BALTIC FLEET.

The Baltic fleet which has made itself famous is said to be one of the largest armadas that ever went to sea. It consists of the following vessels:

Seven battleships, \$5,000,000...	\$45,500,000
Two armored cruisers, \$5,000,000...	10,000,000
Six protected cruisers, \$2,500,000...	15,000,000
Twelve destroyers, \$250,000...	3,000,000
Nine auxiliary cruisers, \$1,000,000...	9,000,000
Two repair ships, \$500,000...	1,000,000
Three colliers, \$500,000...	1,500,000
Hospital ship	750,000

The idea of the Japanese government sending two torpedo boats around the world to fight this formidable enemy,

may commend itself to the Russian mind, but it will surely not gain general credence.

In this connection it is interesting to notice that the Russian admiralty states that there were seven torpedo boats with the Russian squadron. The Russian admiral at first said there were no torpedo boats with the squadron, and that if the fishermen had seen a vessel of that description, it must have been one belonging to the enemy. There is contradiction somewhere.

The Russian officers, however, who are expected to give testimony in the North Sea incident have been summoned to St. Petersburg first. It is safe to say that when they have seen their superiors they will not contradict one another, no matter how much they may deviate from facts.

## NEW GROUND FOR DIVORCE.

Grounds for divorce are already plentiful, but a new one has been added to the list. According to the Kansas City World, a Mrs. Stevens is suing her husband, a wealthy man of Detroit, for divorce, on the ground that he is "plebeian." According to the complaint he, at one time, actually worked in a sawmill!

That lady ought to be given a divorce. She is not fit to be the wife of an honest American, or the mother of American children. She is too aristocratic for a simple country like this. She ought to be given a chance, before the leap year is gone, to seek her affinity, far away from sawmills, among the patricians.

But she should not be insulted by being offered any alimony. She is suing for several thousands of dollars; but that must be a mistake. The court can rectify that, by explaining to her that money earned in a sawmill is altogether too plebeian for patrician fingers. She ought to leave her plebeian husband and shake even the dust of his house from her shoes, as she goes.

Left to her reflections she might possibly remember that the Lord, when peopling this world, did not make an aristocratic and a plebeian class. That is an arbitrary distinction that has been made afterwards. It might also be brought home to her that a great many aristocrats now living are the degenerate descendants of plebeian ancestors. Ennobling qualities do not always go from parents to children. All may attain to the only nobility that counts, by earnestly striving to do right. Class distinction, on any but moral grounds should be foreign to this country, and those who are endeavoring to introduce it, deserve contempt.

## SOCIALISTIC EXPERIMENT.

An interesting municipal experiment is said to have been undertaken by the city of Zurich. The city fathers of that place propose to levy a small tax, about 5 cents, for the support of forty physicians, who will be paid for attending to the ill of the people and devote all their time to that task. Approximately one hundred thousand dollars will be collected and distributed, so that each doctor will have an assured income of about twenty-five hundred dollars—enough, it is believed, to guarantee the devoted performance of his duties. The advantage of the plan would be, that it would do away with unnecessary competition among physicians, and the evils that go with such competition. But just how it will work, remains to be seen. The experiment will be watched with interest, though few places will be prepared to follow the example.

Look out for reports of the fall of Port Arthur.

A quiet campaign does not mean a campaign without anxiety.

Campaigns may come and campaigns may go, but the trusts go on forever.

Just now England is getting its burglar alarms from Gibraltar.

It is easier to "finger out" a victory, than to achieve one at the polls.

If Great Britain wants that Pacific squadron, she can easily catch it from Malta.

Lamsdorf and Lansdowne are conducting an international correspondence school.

By a "safe majority" in the lower house of Congress is meant one that will "stand pat."

A week from today it will be all over. No more guessing or prognosticating; only, "I told you so."

Thus far in the negotiations regarding the North Sea incident neither party to them has fumbled.

"The subway and the scrubway," is the way the New York underground and elevated roads are designated.

If the Russian Second Pacific squadron causes so much war talk and war preparation, a third Pacific squadron would probably bring war itself.

Just now Gibraltar is the cynosure of all eyes. With the red coats running over it, it must look like an ant hill. And it is just about as busy.

For their little flaze fight, Britt and Gans got over eleven thousand dollars apiece. This is more than they could have earned in eleven years of honest work.

A Chicago physician says that it does people good to sit in a draft; that nobody ever caught cold from doing so. This sounds very much like the spider's talk to the fly.

Mothers used to say to their little boys, "Let the flight of the eagle be thine, my son." Henceforth they may say, "Let the flight of the Arrow be thine, my son."

It is claimed that Russia desires to obtain permission to send her Black

Sea fleet through the Dardanelles. In view of the performances of the Baltic fleet, the other squadron is better off bottled up. Some naked Syrian fishermen might throw the entire staff of officers into a panic, causing nervous prostration.

There is a superstition (it can scarcely be called anything else) that crime is largely the result of illiteracy. Statistics, at least in Greater New York, show the contrary. Last week the City Record published the quarterly report of the police. From it it appears that out of 45,443 persons arrested only 453 were unable to read and write. Not quite one per cent were illiterate. These facts go to show that the three R's need to be supplemented with moral education.

## THE BALDWIN AIRSHIP.

Kansas City Star.

With due credit given to Captain Baldwin and Mr. Knabenshue for the achievement of their airship the other day, it must be confessed that the feat gives no encouragement to people who have hoped the dirigible navigation would supplant rapid transit by land. The successful airship is little more than a scientific toy, and there is no prospect that it will ever be anything else. The Baldwin vehicle, like others of the same general type, is composed of a huge balloon, 34 feet long and 17 feet in diameter, driven by two large wings propelled by a gasoline motor. Such a machine must be exceedingly fragile, and from its extreme bulk must be at the mercy of a stiff breeze.

New York Evening Mail.

If the flight of the Baldwin balloon was hampered by accident, it was also favored by accident. It was a happy chance that it did not collide with the "aeroplans," or starting shed, and another that it was able to make a successful landing. This is a new demonstration that the dirigible balloon is the creature of accident. It will be "try again," of course. But how many such blundering trials will it take to convince the aeronauts that never will the trick of navigating the air successfully and at man's will be mastered by a gas bag.

Boston Transcript.

It is true that most of the experimenters announce what they are going to do with their machines rather than show what they have done. For instance, Santos-Dumont proposes an "eight days' levitation in midair in the near future." He has not yet accomplished any such record-breaking feat and perhaps never will, but he has done some things that a quarter of a century ago would have been regarded as impossible. He is handling the problem from his own point of view and is developing data which may help him or others to make progress. It is a good thing that not all who are engaged in evolving the means of flight have the same starting point. Great inventions generally result from the convergence of many lines and the sifting of many different experiments.

St. Paul Globe.

The advance in practical aeronautics should now be rapid on this side of the water. American inventors have not hitherto been actively successful in solving the problems of aerial navigation. Some of them, like Langley, have overshot the mark by aiming at a machine that would support itself without the aid of gas—an actual flying machine. Baldwin went about his work like a practical man and he is entitled to great consideration as having gone far on the road to success in navigating the air. The world will wait with some impatience for a test of the Baldwin machine under conditions which will obviate the likelihood of a recurrence of the accident of Tuesday.

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