

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## THE USUAL CRY.

A senatorial campaign is a turbulent and exciting affair in a great many States of the Union. Perhaps it would be, if the choice was made by popular vote. But there is a general and rapidly growing belief that the only effective way to stop the scandals which attach to so many elections by State legislatures, is to let the people vote for United States Senators directly at the polls. This need not change in the least the constitutional plan of making the Senators the representatives of the whole State from which they come, and of giving to each State the same number of Senators, whether the State be large or small in population or area.

In Utah there is always a situation peculiar to conditions here. No matter who may appear to be likely to obtain considerable support, be he "Mormon" or non-"Mormon," the cry is raised at once that he is the candidate of the Church, and for that reason, if for no other, opposition is invited against him. This is urged with increased emphasis if it can be made to appear, that some prominent Churchman has expressed his desire to see the candidate elected, or has been seen in conversation with him or his supporters.

It looks as if there would be no end to this everlasting drone about "Church influence," nor to the variety of its intonations. It appears to us that it is about time the dread of this charge should utterly cease. Men of stamina ought not to be affected by it in any way, except to despise it. Legislators, who are supposed to be exceptional citizens, selected for their honorable position because of their ability and good sense, ought to be entirely indifferent to the intimation that they have been "ordered," or "counseled," or "directed" to vote for a certain man or measure by influential Church officials.

Suppose it were true that the Presidency of the Church, or some other dignitary in high position, had expressed their preference for a senatorial candidate. What of it? Have they not as much right to a choice as any other private citizen, a lawyer, a merchant, a banker, an editor, or, to take another class, as a saloon-keeper, a gambler, a speculator, or another such as a dealer in stocks or bonds or anything else? If not why not? To go further. If they believe that the election of a certain individual would be beneficial to the interests of the State, or of the Church, or of both, why should they not have the privilege of entertaining and expressing that conviction? Why should they be deprived of free thought and declared from free speech?

The leading splits of the "Mormon" Church are, most of them, men of long experience in the affairs of Utah. Many of them helped to lay the foundations of the State. The people they preside over compose the majority of its population. They have the right to engage in anything and everything that relates to the welfare of their followers. And the people have the right to consult them, if they so desire, in reference to every measure that affects them, temporally or spiritually. What sort of bondage is that which would deny them the freedom of choosing their own advisers?

We are of the opinion that there is not a candidate for the office of United States Senator, who would refuse the support of the Church authorities or would not be very glad if he could obtain it. Why, then, should it be considered a reason for a man's defeat that the Church is said to be supporting him? And why should any "Mormon" member of the Legislature feel any trepidation at being charged with having received advice from prominent Church authorities, in reference to a public matter within the line of his duty? We think every public man should take the stand that he has the right to listen to suggestions from any and every source that he chooses, to seek and to act upon them if they appear to be sound and suitable.

As to Church "orders" in political affairs, the suspicions concerning them are without basis, and everybody who knows anything about "Mormon" doctrine and Church government, knows that no such orders or edicts are ever issued. The stories about them are sheer fabrications. The Deseret News does not know of any councils or intimations of choice from the Presidency in the present scramble for office. We do not believe the presiding authorities are engaged in it, in any manner whatever. It is only their rights in the premises that we contend for, coupled with the right of every person who so selects, to accept their advice when it is tendered.

The intimations which are being thrown out about bribery and the influence of money, we hope will have a little effect as the cry about Church influence. We believe the legislators of this State are as free from such contaminations as any men in America. They ought not to be deterred from casting their votes freely for the candidate of their choice for fear of being

charged with bowing to the golden calf, any more than they would be swayed by the power of wealth. A legislator who would sell his vote should be covered with infamy. A legislator who is afraid to vote as he wishes for fear of being charged with doing it for money, may properly be branded as a coward. The Deseret News has no interest in this matter except the welfare of the State. It has no candidate to support nor enemy to fight in this struggle. But we repudiate the idea that a man should be cast down because he is rich or because he is poor, because he has friends among high churchmen or otherwise. And we repel the notion that legislators must be under censure or suspicion because they visit the Church leaders, or consult with them, or even accept their advice.

We are for free liberty in these as well as other matters, and we hope the men who have assembled to legislate for the State, and to choose a United States Senator, will rise above all care for their would-be censors and attempted dictators, who howl "Church influence" whenever their own schemes and plots appear not to receive the support they denounce, but which they secretly covet and would do anything and everything to obtain.

## ILLNESS OF THE QUEEN.

Not only throughout the vast British empire, but the entire civilized world, the news from the Isle of Wight is anxiously expected, that may at any moment convey the intelligence that Queen Victoria shall have passed beyond the veil. With the exception of King Christian of Denmark, and two rulers over small German principalities, she is the oldest sovereign of Europe, and the one whose reign extends over the greatest number of years. She has always enjoyed good health, and her sickness at this time, at her advanced age, is naturally looked upon as the final call.

There will be deep mourning in Great Britain at the departure of one who, during the greater part of a century has represented the nation, and under whose reign it has gradually ascended the summit of glory and power. But the government will go on, on the lines already laid down. Her demise will cause no immediate change in the policy of the country, or the attitude of foreign powers toward Great Britain.

Singularly enough, although Queen Victoria has been opposed to war, her reign has been characterized by an almost continuous series of wars and military expeditions. And even while the shadows of the valley of death are deepening around her at her castle at Cowes, her armies are shedding their blood on Africa's soil. Could the queen have prevented that war, she would have done so. But even the mightiest sovereigns are, after all, but the subjects of circumstances. They but play their part in the great world drama, that is being written by another hand than theirs. They may hold the center of the stage for a while, but their entrance and exit are marked by One mightier than they.

The Queen will be succeeded by Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales. But it is not believed that he can fill her place. Victoria has for years been the counselor of European monarchs, who have been largely influenced by her advice and personal wishes. Her personal influence has been the strongest tie between the various parts of the empire. The Prince of Wales can never become what his mother has been. His habits and preferences are so different, and his insight into the political mysteries of cabinets is not believed to be great. Still, the empire is ruled by the people, and where popular government prevails the departure of the head of the government is less serious than where autocracy prevails.

## ON A MISSION OF PEACE.

The projected visit of a delegation of Cape Colonists to London, is well worth some attention. It is another phase of the great African contest. These delegates come as loyal British subjects, but they come to protest against the destruction of the independence of the two Boer Republics, and also to present to the government some grievances of the loyal inhabitants of the Cape Colony. A great deal may depend upon their reception in London. The report says the delegates will allege that the Cape Dutch are denied every liberty guaranteed them under the British crown. They will state that the press has been muzzled and political autonomy made extinct and that personal freedom no longer exists.

It cannot be pleasant to the British government to hear these charges, or the proofs by which they will be substantiated, but wisdom suggests that the delegates be heard patiently, and that the grievances be investigated with impartiality. If they are denied a respectful hearing, the result is sure to be a general rising among the Dutch Afrikaners. If they are hoisted out of the country, Dewet will have no difficulty in enlisting a large force for his cause in the Colony. And in all probability the people in other British dependencies will make a note of the event. They, too, may at some time have business with the government, but if colonial delegations are not to be heard, they will prefer a settlement in some other way.

The gentlemen now on their way to London are Messrs. Hofmeyr, Merriam and Sauer. The time of their arrival may not be the most opportune, but they should nevertheless be given a hearing, and if peace is desired, the abuses under which the Afrikaners may suffer should be removed.

## THE DEATH PENALTY.

Attorney General Hosea M. Knowlton, of Massachusetts, is one of the latest additions to the ranks of the opponents of the death penalty. In his annual report to the legislature he states that his views on the matter are based upon a close observation of the existing laws, and upon his extensive experience in the prosecution and trial of capital cases.

As a result of his observations he states that the death penalty does not tend to diminish or prevent murder, because a man who is so far lost to rea-

son as to conceive the commission of murder with deliberate and premeditated malice, does not enter into a discussion with himself about the consequences of this crime. He says the infliction of the death penalty is not in accord with present advance of civilization, but is a relic of barbarism, which the community must outgrow, as it has the rack and the stake. He believes that the majority of those who have experience in the trial of capital cases share in these views.

It is undoubtedly true, that popular sentiment is tending in the direction indicated by Attorney General Knowlton's argument. This is shown by the growing difficulty of convicting for murder in the first degree, and the practical abolishment of the death penalty in the case of women accused of murder, although it is retained by the statute. But the arguments given do not appear convincing. If it is a fact that some criminals are so far gone that they do not even consider the consequences of their crimes, the question naturally arises, whether they have a right to live at all.

The central point in this discussion is the effect of the death penalty upon the community that inflicts it. Does it tend to cleanse and purify it morally? Is crime diminished by it? Experience and history should furnish the answer to these questions.

## AN EPIDEMIC OF SALT.

Some time ago, two scientists, professors in the Chicago university, Jacques Loeb and Dr. Byron Cookley, announced that rhythmic contraction of the heart can be produced by the action of a single salt solution. This was seized upon by the sensational press, and in flaming headlines it was stated that the "elixir of life" had at last been found.

The sequel is now said to be that what is called an "epidemic of salt" has broken loose in Chicago. The doctors there find numerous patients who take salt in large doses, for all kinds of ailments, and one of the physicians thinks that unless the misunderstanding caused by the press announcements is removed, half of the population of the city will in a short time be suffering from scurvy and allied symptoms of blood impoverishment. Thus much for the mischief of a press edited without regard for facts.

Dr. Elmer E. Prescott, in the Chicago News, tells of the following case, which is only one of many. He says:

"I was called some days ago to attend a woman suffering from scurvy. She had been complaining for several years from a nervous trouble; had become depressed and despondent, when some time ago she read of the discovery of the elixir of life in the common table salt or chloride of sodium."

"She immediately began putting salt into her drinking water, eating salted meats and using it in every conceivable way, in the hope that the alleged great discovery would prove a panacea to her ills."

"She began to get weak rapidly, her limbs became very tender to the touch and finally the hemorrhagic stage of the disease made its appearance under the skin and into the connective tissues of the body having very much the appearance of the black and blue spots following an injury."

He then warns the public against the excessive use of salt. "If the people would like," he says, "an example of its terrible ravages let them read the sufferings of a ship-wrecked crew at sea with nothing but salt water to drink; let them ask the boys who went to the front in Cuba how they felt after use for six months of the meat dried and cured by the alleged elixir of life."

The warning may be needed even outside of Chicago. For when people are ailing, they are often tempted to try all kinds of experiments, forgetting that a mistake in the treatment of the human body sometimes is as fatal as is the rough efforts by an unskilled musician to produce melody on a delicate musical instrument.

Embezzler Neely now knows that Cuba is a foreign country and that it is a hot place.

It is proposed to enact an inheritance tax law. Isn't the white man's burden already sufficiently heavy?

The Nebraska senatorial contest has reached the deadlock stage. These legislative deadlocks all seem to be time-locks.

When good Queen Victoria shall have passed away, it would be a graceful and proper thing to place the Stars and Stripes at half mast throughout the land.

By voluntarily agreeing to abolish hazing and not to call out four classmates, the West Point cadets have made themselves first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of their countrymen.

West Point certainly is a good military school and turns out men who are masters of the art of war. Just see how easily those cadets outgeneraled the congressional committee when they unanimously agreed to abandon hazing.

And now another clerk in the Havana postoffice has gone and stolen a lot of money. The Cuban climate is terrible; and its effects on the moral nature of the American officials seems worse than the effect upon their physical nature.

There may or may not have been some foundation for the story told at Yonkers of a plot by Greek anarchists to murder prominent Americans, but these same anarchists will be made to realize that when Greek meets American then comes the tug of war.

Rev. Dr. Theodore T. Munger says there are moments when one almost wishes there were in New York an absolute ruler who would crush his bosses. Too much absolute ruler has been New York's great trouble for a quarter of a century past.

The first edition of Mr. Bryan's "Commoner" will be run off tomorrow, he himself feeding the paper for the first number. Wednesday it will be published. The first issue will number about 30,000. It will be awaited with more interest than a presidential message.

The Georgia father who was buncoed out of \$300 in the hope of regaining his

kidnapped boy is deserving the sympathy of all honest and right thinking people. These who played upon his parental love for his son are as heartless and wicked as those who stole away his boy.

Speaking of a proposed new apportionment of the city, a contemporary says that "a citizen of the Fourth municipal ward has more than double the power in the council than a citizen of the Second municipal ward has." It may be, but it has often been thought that all the citizens of all the municipal wards had little or no influence in the Council.

Dr. E. B. Andrews predicts that the British empire will gradually go to pieces upon the demise of Queen Victoria. She has been a great and good queen, beloved by her subjects, throughout the earth, but the foundations of the British empire are broader and deeper than the life of any of its rulers. It has survived the death of infinitely bad sovereigns and it will survive the death of infinitely good ones. Dr. Andrews has had too erratic a career to be a good predictor.

In Baltimore the other day a negro died and her attending physician issued this death certificate:

"Maggie Miller died from Gallipoli Consumption 1 tend Her on 27 of Nov 1900 and stop Saturday tended Her on Jan 3 1901."

"Prof. John C. Nolen  
"Spiritual Doctor  
"1224 Carlington St. near Paterson."

That such a death certificate could have been issued in the first year of the to-be-glorious twentieth century seems almost beyond belief. Evidently the world "do not move" as rapidly in some portions as in others.

The suggestion made in the State Board of Education that the law should provide for uniformity of questions in the examination of teachers throughout the State, is a good one and should be adopted. The test of fitness and the standard of attainment for teachers should be the same throughout the State. Moreover, the standard should be high with a constantly increasing tendency to become higher. In the matter of qualified teachers the children of the remotest settlement are entitled to the same advantages that the children of the richest city of the State are.

A few days ago Lord Rosebery set all England a-thinking and worrying by making the assertion that America and Germany were outdistancing England in the commercial race. A correspondent of the London Times, writing from a large measure the cause of America's great commercial growth and growing world-wide supremacy. The chief cause he believes to be the putting into places of responsibility and trust of young men, a thing never thought of in the old country. He also notes that fathers are in the habit of talking over their business affairs with their sons, another thing never thought of in the old world. Another important factor, he finds to be technical education. Technical schools in England are equal to those in the United States, but they have not the same prominence as the old or classical schools. In fact those who attend them are rather looked down upon. He says that the placing of great responsibility upon young men often results in grave mistakes, but that corresponding grave mistakes are made by placing these same responsibilities upon old men. He makes out a very good case for his side, a case that seems to bear close examination.

## THE HARMSWORTH PAPER.

Chicago Times-Herald.  
The chief difficulty in the way of the Harmsworth idea of a trust in "capable" journalism lies in the impossibility of getting a corner in brains in this country. It is easy enough for clever and foresighted manipulators to corner the bean crop, but no man in this or any other country has money enough to corner the crop of ideas.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mr. Alfred Harmsworth wanted comments on his twentieth century newspaper. He wanted a great many comments and in order to secure them he offered a prize of \$50 to the comment writer whose inebriety happened to be the first one that Mr. Harmsworth's hand touched when he reached blindly into the mail heap. Mr. Harmsworth's reach brought forth a plain business envelope that he eagerly tore open. And there the chronicle becomes misty. Mr. Harmsworth read aloud a few words of the comment, and then abruptly stopped and finished it in silence. Mr. Pulitzer's paper throws no light on the contents. Some other paper claims that the writer began by saying there was nothing in the tabloid World, and that Mr. Harmsworth's voice then sank to an untranslatable drawl. The man got the prize, and Mr. Harmsworth got the comment.

Chicago Chronicle.

It is undeniable that most of the new departures in journalism have been in the direction of retrogression. Each new product of the new journalism has made some additional surrender of dignity, trustworthiness, completeness or decency. In too many instances the appeal has been made without shame to the vulgar and the dishonest. When this has not been the case the characteristic of the new newspaper has been brevity, sensation, inaccuracy and folly. The fact that readers have been found for publications of this class here and abroad does not signify that there has been any loss of readers on the part of the newspapers of the highest grade which have been in existence for many years.

## NOTES ON CHINA.

Chicago Times-Herald.  
At a time when we are promised a book which shall tell how the women in the legations at Peking were taught the use of the pistol that they might commit suicide to save themselves from the hands of Chinese soldiers, and when the story of the actual self-destruction of poor Chinese women, who took this method to escape from white ruffians and beasts. To be sure, the subject is a revolting one, but if there is such a thing as a right public sentiment in Christendom it ought to be stirred by the recital and it ought to make itself heard. Can it do otherwise when it is compelled to realize that every horror which was pictured in the lying accounts of an imaginary massacre of foreigners in the Chinese capital, was surpassed by the crimes of the foreign soldiery?

Chicago Record.  
It is to be presumed that in arranging for the settlement of the Chinese question, the envoys and other diplomatic agents of the powers have done the best they could to secure a compromise in the face of conflicting interests and demands. That they were not able

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