

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sunday Excepted.)

Corner of South Temple and East Temple
St. George, Salt Lake City, Utah.

HORACE G. WHITNEY - Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
(In Advance)
One Year \$9.00
Six Months \$5.00
Three Months \$2.50
One Month \$1.00
Saturday Edition per year \$2.00
Semi-Weekly per year \$2.00

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Address all business communications and all remittances to the Editor.

THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - AUG. 25, 1909.

SLOT MACHINES AGAIN.

According to the reports the owners of slot machines obtained permission today to set up their traps again in which to catch nickels. Where the permission came from could not be ascertained. The saloon men themselves, who were interviewed, were strangely ignorant as to where the "orders" emanated. They only know that if they put out their machines for the illegal traffic now, it would be all right. Mayor Bransford was incredulous when his attention was called to what was going on in the saloons and cigar stores. He could hardly believe, he said, that any order authorizing the gambling had been given, and he would certainly look into it. The Chief of Police seemed to know something, but he did not know what to do about it. He thought his only course would be to consult the city attorney. Rumor has it, however, that about \$3,000 has been collected from owners of saloons and slot machines for the so-called "American" campaign, and that more will be contributed, and that the opening of the slot machines today is but an evidence of a bargain or some sort of an understanding relative to the fall campaign. Is this rumor true? Is the city again to be sold to gamblers and grafters? Are the citizens to be betrayed again for a few pieces of silver?

We hope the mayor will take the matter in hand and close the slot machines and enforce the ordinances regulating the saloons. He has it in his power to do so, against the ring. The citizens expect him to do his duty to them.

DRY FARMING.

On the 25th of October the dry farming congress convenes at Billings, Montana. Dry farming is the process by which crops are raised by deep and frequent working, whereby the roots of the plants penetrate to a damp under stratum of soil, attract moisture and create a condition independent of surface moisture. The congress will be devoted to a discussion of all questions relating to that made of farming.

Next after irrigation, dry farming is the most important step in agriculture. The process is said to have come from China. There everything in the form of agricultural experiments has been tried and large sections have first been allowed to become worthless from aridity and then restored by fine working. There is such an immense possibility in the dry regions of America if they can be awakened to life. By the means of dry farming millions of acres, now useless, will be restored to fertility and the manifold uses of mankind. Nearly all of this land is of a high degree of natural fertility. All it needs is more water or a higher utilization of water. That gift these new methods promise, and their promise has been borne out by many tests.

We need not say that the dry farming congress is of equal importance to all gathering of a national character. It should be well attended and the representatives should be men of ability and experience.

CHURCH STATISTICS.

A census bulletin about to be issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor gives the entire Church membership of the United States, for 1906, as nearly 32,000,000. That is, as will be seen, considerably less than half of the population of the country. Of this number less than half are males. In sixteen states the majority of the total Church membership is Roman Catholic.

The interesting information is further furnished that of the total number of members reported by the various religious bodies and classified by sex, 48.1 per cent were males and 51.9 per cent females. Among the Protestants the difference was greater, only 39.3 per cent being males. In the Roman Catholic church there were relatively more males, the number forming 49.3 per cent of the total membership.

Fewer males than females were found among the Latter-day Saints, the Lutherans, Disciples, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Protestant Episcopalians, the percentages of male members decreasing in the order shown, and there being but 35.5 per cent male among the Episcopalians. Among the Christian Scientists, only 27.6 per cent were males; and of the Shakers but 21.3 per cent; but, in the Greek Orthodox Church, 33.9 per cent were males, as practically all Greek immigrants have been males.

It is stated in the bulletin that the total number of members reported by the various religious bodies for 1906 was 32,836,445, of which number the Protestants were credited with 20,287,742, and the Roman Catholic with 12,079,142. Of the Protestant bodies the Methodists numbered 5,749,838; the Baptists, 5,662,234; the Lutherans, 2,112,494; the Presbyterians, 1,830,555; and the Disciples or Christians, 1,142,353.

As stated before the Roman Catholics form the majority of church members in 19 states, and the Protestants in 29. Utah not included, where the Latter-day Saints are in the majority. The Catholics have sixteen states and the "Mormons" one, and yet the Know-nothings of today are declaiming against the "Mormon" peril.

It is sometimes charged, we believe, that "Mormon" missionaries go out into the world and induce women to embrace the Gospel. It is charged that women are being imported in great numbers to Utah. The statistics disprove this. Among the Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Protestant Episcopalians the proportion of women is greater than among the Latter-day Saints. The Christian Scientists have a greater proportion than any except the Shakers.

HOMES VERSUS BATTLESHIPS.

The greatest American partnership is undoubtedly that which exists between the farms and the railroads. The real American crisis is the choice which the nation makes as between her homes and her battleships.

Mr. B. F. Yoakum, chairman of the executive committee of the Rock Island-Pacific railroad system, in a notable address before the farmers of Oklahoma at Shawnee, showed, among other things, that the farmers and the railroads are so closely related in business that the first inquiry of railroad investors in a new line is: What kind of country will this road help to develop? On the other hand the first question asked by a farmer seeking a new location is: What are its railroad facilities?

The mutual need of farmers and railroads were declared to be "better acquaintance and closer working relations"—conditions that can readily be brought about by the farmers dealing more directly than they now do with these public carriers.

A striking feature of Mr. Yoakum's address was the statement that "this country now needs what our forefathers used in laying its foundation—a lot of old-fashioned common sense." He declared that good judgment and fair dealing are found more generally among the farmers than in any other occupation, and that when farmers shall earnestly take hold of public questions they will occupy a place in our political structure that will make their good judgment and fair conclusions felt more and more in solving the relations of the Government and its institutions.

As a proof that good sense is really lacking in our national affairs, the speaker referred to the construction of the Illinois and Mississippi canal commenced seventeen years ago by the government. It is a waterway just seventy-five miles long, yet it has cost to date \$9,000,000, or \$90,000 in interest for the taxpayers to make up each year. This great construction which ought to be a most useful aid to commerce, is really useless, since no freight boat has ever yet passed through it. In like manner, the government has expended approximately \$225,000,000 on the improvement of the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and yet the tonnage handled over the waters of the Mississippi last year was one-third less than it was twenty years ago.

In striking contrast with the dismal and almost incomprehensible failure on the part of our national and state governments to make the rivers and canals work for the good of the country, is the example of nearly every European country.

In France, for example, the lower Seine, a small river like our upper Connecticut, is alive and busy with dozens of towns, hundreds of laden barges, thousands of tons of heavy merchandise, pulled up and down by puffing tugs. At Charenton, where the Seine and Marne unite to make Paris possible, is to be found a vast entrepot of waterborne freight and further south a complicated system of little canals which have set the rivers to work all the way across France.

In Germany, the rivers and canals carry more freight than even the excellent system of railroads that operate there. The Prussian rivers flow northward sluggishly through a level plain; canals cut them at right angles, making Berlin itself almost a seaport; and the Kiel ship canal cut a short line from the Baltic to the North Sea.

In England, the Thames has innumerable locks hard at work carrying goods far above Oxford, where it is so narrow that racing shells cannot be rowed side by side. Britain has a complete network of waterways, and from Liverpool to Manchester one ship canal leads to the heart of the most compact industrial population in the world.

All over Europe the water routes are working as aids to the railroads, not as rivals, relieving them of slow and heavy freight. An immense labor is performed there by even the smaller streams, and the rivers are not despoiled of their beauty by being commercialized. The trouble in our own country seems to be that the railroads and canals are rivals—the former being private and the latter public properties. Heretofore the railroads have sought to destroy the river traffic—a bad policy, as some railroad men now perceive.

Another lesson from Europe was brought out in the Yoakum address. He argued that the controversies in England, the recent troubles in Spain, the unrest in Russia, the quarrelling over military taxes in Germany and the struggle against new taxes in France should strengthen our faith in the proposition that it is better to grow more farm products and make prosperous the man who sows and harvests than to build more battleships and new guns.

The speaker showed that a forty-acre farm of irrigated land will comfortably support a family of five. It costs \$55,000 to make a twelve-inch gun. The money that goes to pay for this gun would reclaim 1,571 acres of land, providing homes for 196 people. When all the guns on all the battleships are shot one time the government blows off in noise and smoke \$150,000. This would reclaim more than 4,000 acres of land, giving homes to more than 500 farmers and their families. The money consumed in powder is lost to all future. The farmer who buys the reclaimed land must pay the government back in ten years, so that it does not cost the government anything to build up the country by helping the farmer.

The choice before the United States is simply that between more homes and more fighting machines. The two plans are mutually hostile to and destructive of each other, and happy

may our country be if her statesmen will choose wisely in this matter.

What's a juvenile court without a home?

Omega should be the very last name to be given a girl.

Strunge what big rents they get for such little flats.

At Rhelms the aviators are also having their race problem.

Just now McKees Rocks seems to be a hard road to travel.

A railroad weighman is a man who does things on a great scale.

Put a man in a hole and he soon realizes that he is not the whole thing.

No man was ever able to drive a pig in the straight and narrow path.

To the organ of the anti-"Mormon" or "American" party—Read Matthew 5, 22.

It will soon be time to stop a few coal teams and see if the coal is all there.

The "average person" is made up of the rather inferior qualities of human nature.

The cry for pure food laws is louder, longer, and more distressful than the cry for pure food.

Mr. Harriman has returned and the stock market is not quite so nervous as it thought it would be.

If Mr. Harriman could only gain what President Taft loses! Then would he have all the flesh he wants.

It used to be said, "No excellence without labor," but now it is said, "No excellence without an automobile."

When a politician nurses his grievances it is generally because he has not received all the "paw" he expected.

Europe may be the land of conventionalities but America is the land of conventions. And the thing grows.

Gifford Pinchot has burned his bridges behind him. But he should be careful that the embers do not start forest fires.

"How much should a husband endure?" has been discussed by a Kansas debating society but not settled. If he shall endure until the end, he'll be all right.

The interstate commerce commission has been permanently enjoined. People had begun to think that it was almost above amenability to the law.

Aug. 25 is the day set for the convention of the Associated Advertising clubs of America, to be held at Louisville, Ky. The romance of advertising will be told there by leading business men.

President Taft is prepared to defend the administration's record on the recent tariff legislation to the last ditch.

AS A FREETHINKER SEES IT

Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 23, 1909. To the Editor:

I notice that the "American Party" has held its first convention for the coming city campaign.

It is with regret that I see their entire platform comprises an attack on the "Mormon" Church.

In many countries, and in many states, I notice that any appeal to religious fanaticism, is nothing but an appeal to the worst instincts of an uneducated crowd, given out by certain interests, in order that they may obtain a following that they could get in no other way.

The sheriff's office in Colorado Springs, obtaining deputies to fight the Cripple Creek strike by giving out that the strike was originated and supported by the priests of the Catholic church.

The Polish laborers' strike, in Milwaukee, was put down by a mob of religious fanatics, who were led to believe—by the priests interested—that the Polish priests were at the bottom of it.

Wherever the cry is put up against any religion, or religious organization, with a view of bringing out the worst features of religious fanaticism; you may be sure that there is some ulterior motive in view.

The motive here is only too apparent. The turning over of the City's resources to a clique of politicians who are anything but American in their actions. The official of the Catholic church, the most by this "American Party," has repeatedly refused work to American laborers and hired foreigners.

The Tribune, the official Organ of this party, seems to be the worst feature of this fight. Its bitter and uncalculated attacks seem to be motivated by more than a simple desire to back the interests of the contractors and the party. There seems to be a religious hatred behind it that can come from no honest source.

If anyone has any doubts in the matter let him or her submit to the Tribune any article criticizing either the contractors, the city officials, or a certain church, and he will see that, no matter how friendly the criticism, it will not be noticed.

Notwithstanding the fact that all sensible men agree that "Comparisons are odious," the Tribune went to some length to make vicious comparisons between a high official of the Catholic Church. I do not care to make any comparison but will say in this connection, that the official of the Catholic church, once asserted, that it were better for the child to know the Catholic catechism and know nothing else than to acquire all other knowledge, and not know the catechism.

Will this last ditch be the Panama canal or the deep waterway from the Lakes to the Gulf?

The Pure Food convention, now in session at Denver, has been convened by a rather sharp tilt between Mr. Emery of Wisconsin and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson. It was in a way a new departure, being over the Remsen referee board and not over the Pinchot forest policy. The change is welcome.

At the World's Prohibition conference held at South Kensington, London, on July 31, a resolution was proposed by Mr. Charles R. Jones, delegate from the United States and seconded by Mr. Wavinsky, from Sweden, as follows: "That a World's Prohibition Conference be established to better amalgamate the forces in various countries working along their respective lines towards the one common aim of the total suppression of the liquor traffic." The resolution was passed unanimously. Mr. William E. Johnson of the United States Indian service, of this City, was appointed as one of the vice-presidents of the organization.

PAPERS AND ADVERTISERS.

Sacramento Bee.

Large advertisers sometimes make the mistake of assuming they are entitled to influence editorial policy because of their business relations with a newspaper. But this is an unfounded notion. The advertiser gets the worth of his money in advertising space, if he uses good judgment in placing his advertising—where it will do the most good. The newspaper is no more under obligations to him for the advertising indispensable to his success than is the railroad which carries his wares. The truth is that a newspaper which would allow itself to be materially influenced or controlled in its editorial policy by advertisers would soon cease to be of much value to them or anybody else. It would lose whatever confidence the public might have in its honesty and independence, and so would lose the circulation which is the basis of advertising value.

TOWN AND CITY.

New York World.
Gov. Hughes at the Greenwich centennial advised town dwellers "not to look with envy at the great cities." Why should they, in fact? They have their home interests, and when these fail there is the city for diversion and recreation. In Gov. Hughes' words, "When the up-state people become restive they go to New York and squeeze the pleasure out of it as they would squeeze the juice out of an orange." It used to be thought that the squeezing was otherwise administered. But the proposition is generally true. It has been said that one of the advantages of living in Boston is the facility with which New York may be reached, and the conditions apply with even greater aptness to nearer towns. In a two weeks' stay in New York the visitor can skim the cream of metropolitan life. He can see more of the theaters and restaurants than the average resident sees in a year, observe the newest fashions and catch the latest note of city development, and all for a comparatively small outlay. His enjoyment is not procured at the expense of high rents, heavy taxation and dear living. The town dweller more than the city man preserves his social identity. He is generally a more important factor in civic affairs. With his local activities to occupy him and the city near of access for his entertainment and radical use, he has no reason to envy those who make a city great so long as he can enjoy the usufruct of their labor.

The political party is easily dealt with. Overwhelm them with an adverse vote in the coming campaign, and their fight dies. They are only in it for what they can get out of it. With the paper it is different. It seems to be actuated by a religious hatred, and that might keep it going even at a financial loss.

The voters of this City will have themselves to blame, if this fight is continued farther. They should combine prospective of party affiliations, and put out of power the party that is the aggressor in this uncalled for fight.

Many people voted the "American" party ticket two years ago, with the idea that thereby they were tending to keep religion out of politics. They have since seen their error, and realize now that they have to vote the "American" party out of power to accomplish this much desired end.

That the ordinary citizens of this city—irrespective of religion—will combine in one party, and put up a ticket pledged to good government in the interests of all, they will buy the "American" party so deep that it will never resurrect itself.

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