DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

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THE WATCHWORD.

The lawmakers of Utah — and this includes also municipal and county authorities when they assume legislative functions—must be left to no doubt as to the feeling of the people with reference to official salaries and emoluments. The State, its leading counties, and its larger cities are heavily in debt, and their people are tax-ridden well-nigh to the limit of endurance. One of the arguments against Statehood was that the boon would be attended with vastly increased expense and heavier burdens upon the citizens. The News regarded the argument as unworthy, and still says so—for liberty is a treasure not to be measured by dollars and cents, and it is not to be considered too costly at any honorable price. At the same time we placed ourselves on record, and here reaffirm the position, as prepared to fight against extravagance, waste, high salaries and high taxation. The people cannot and should not stand it. Their eyes will be upon the men in the Legislature, in the county courts, and in the city councils who are so heartlessly indifferent to their constituents' condition as to plunge wildly into the expenditure of public funds. And the News will take especial pleasure in giving all such officials the notoriety they deserve, to the end that their names may be known in honorable official remembrance no more forever.

Retrenchment everywhere, in every salary, every disbursement and in every line to the limits of exact necessity carefully provided for—this must be the policy. And woe to the party or the person who fails to heed it!

EUROPE AND THE TURK.

There is likely to be more than mere rumor in the statement that an offensive and defensive alliance has been arranged between Russia and Turkey, by which the former will have access for her navy to the Mediterranean and will be able to enforce reforms in Armenia and other Turkish territory by means of the czar's troops. Russia could not be averse to such arrangement, since it would be another step in the national policy, followed with religious persistence, of bringing Constantinople within Russian control; and Turkey is perfectly willing to have the understanding in effect, whether or not there is a formal treaty, since it would be a means of paying off the old score against England for getting Turkey into the trouble of 1878. The agreement, however, hardly can be given the extreme construction placed on it by the Pall Mall Gazette, that of making Turkey a vassal of Russia; for the Turk is too shrewd a politician to throw away his opportunities in that fashion—he is figuring for a longer lease of national life.

All the recent events in Europe have combined to place Great Britain in a peculiarly isolated position. While combinations have been going on with other nations, Britain has been content to pull the wires, hoping thereby to maintain the balance of power in her own behalf; but European diplomats have not relished that situation and have succeeded in establishing a common understanding of antagonism to England in order to deliver themselves from her influence. As matters now stand, the hand of every great European power is against England in some form or other. In arriving at that point all treaty obligations have been disregarded, until every nation now has a casus belli, and each can go to war upon the ground of violated contracts if it so desires—but none seem in a hurry.

The rivalry against England in manifest in the progress of commercial matters. Of late years her manufactures have not increased to any great extent, and her markets for home goods have been restricted. Her position is approaching that of a carrier and dealer in the wares of others rather than in her own. As suggestive of the trend of affairs, in this regard it may be noted that German manufacturers have been pounding away at England on every side. The Teutons have driven the Briton from the Danube, and, in aid of the Austrian and Italian, from the markets of Italy and Austria; and he is holding his own in the commerce of Africa. Other European nations are following German leadership in this direction.

Connected with the Eastern question, there is no nation outside of Britain that can combine with the Turk except Russia. When the latter enters into such compact, others may protest, but will not attempt to prevent it by force; for all have learned in the history of several centuries that the power which assails the Muscovite in his own land always wishes it had not done so; they may beat him, but he is always the best off when the fight is over. He feels that his destiny is to extend his southern territorial line to the Mediterranean by way of the Dardanelles, and he is doing it. This program is sure to bring about a vast change in European affairs, and under present conditions is a menace to Britain, who is virtually without an ally in any protest against such encroachments.

But while there is an apparent development from Russia into the Ottoman empire, there is a not less important evolution from the standpoint of British destiny. The Colossus of the North may gain his point with Turkey, and make the Moslem a subject of the Romanoff dynasty; but the English will not be left out in the cold in any change that may take place in the Orient. Britain has vital interests there, and there is not the slightest suggestion in all her past or her present that intimates their relinquishment, although their maintenance is a new form is a possibility or even probability.

Whatever view we may take of a possible but extremely improbable conflict between England and the United States, wherein the former would be overmatched by a country superior in resources and situation, and in the physical strength of practically the same race of people, the relation between Britain and other European powers on war matters is unmistakable. Great Britain has the brains, the money, the resources, the courage and energy which hold her in the lead. No two nations combined can overcome her on her own soil, and against all comers she will maintain her autonomy so long as her people are united; and as far as an aggressive warfare is concerned, she is a very uncomfortable antagonist against any other European nation in its own borders. With Russia alone would she fall in making sad havoc, and even there she would leave a lasting impression in a conflict at sea; this condition will remain so long as Russia is practically a land-locked nation.

Let it be supposed that that which now appears a possibility will come to pass, and Turkey be permanently arrayed against Britain. This would mean a great conflict in which British mastery of the seas on the coasts of the eastern hemisphere at least would play an important part. Her navy can overwhelm the combined navies of Europe on the Mediterranean, and in any readjustment of territorial lines there she will take her share. Her way to India by that route must be kept open. In the event of trouble that threatened interference therewith, she would place the way with such unmistakable signs as would be sufficient warning to all other powers to leave that road clear. With control of Egypt on one side, and with Syria on the other, either as a neutral power with English support or under English sovereignty, she would maintain her interests, financial and otherwise, with none to say her nay. There is no combination which European powers are in a position to make that will keep Britain out of the eastern Mediterranean as a dominating influence, at least until there is a complete readjustment of national affairs which does not appear in sight at present; she will hold her place, and it may not be necessary to fight Russia to do so, either.

All the comments telegraphed on the Russo-Turkish alliance seem to regard it in a serious manner as against Great Britain, and in doing so appear to forget the characteristic infidelity of the Turk. The whole history of his nation is that he is true to no alliance and abides no compact when he sees a chance to break it for his own advantage. He is a wily, unscrupulous politician, playing for his own ends. In the arms of Russia today, he would sell out in any other power tomorrow if a higher price were offered. The Russian trusts him no more than does the Englishman; and in this very fact is the probability that he will soon reach the end of his rope that ought to be near, and between Russia on one side and Britain on the other will be carried through the milling process that will open Syria, with the Holy Land, to a more liberal and enlightened government than it has known since the Roman yoke was placed on the neck of Judah.

LYNCHING.

To the horrible details, and to the number, of lynchings committed during the year 1895 in the United States, more newspaper attention was directed and more public indignation excited than toward the same class of crimes in any other year in our history. This is fairly to be regarded as indicating a proper and desirable condition of public sentiment, for the record shows that, at least in number, cases of lynching have been steadily decreasing during the last three years. There were ten less in 1894 than in 1893, and nineteen less in 1893 than in 1892, the number last year being 171.

But past experience unfortunately reveals that periods of decrease in this form of murderous lawlessness have generally been followed by the other extreme; in 1892 only 127 lynchings are reported, but the next year there were 192 and in 1892, 235; and those who argue from analogy are therefore disposed to regard it as reasonable to expect a jump to 200 or over next year, quite as much so, at least, as a drop to a lower number than last year's record shows. The total number of mob murders in the United States in the years beginning with 1885 and ending with 1895 is 1,877, which is a startling comment on our civilization.

As to the record of last year, it is worthy of note that in twenty-three of the forty-four states there were no lynchings at all, and that the only states north of Mason and Dixon's line in which mob law ruled were California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, South Dakota and Washington. Utah was then classed as a Territory, but happily did not contribute a case of the twelve lynchings charged against the territories. Still more notable is the fact—and it ought to be borne in mind by and modify the expressions of lecturers and writers who discuss this great national disgrace — that in what are called the northern states there has been an increase in lynchings of ten over those in 1893 and of three over those in 1894, the number for 1895 being 27.

Language is not faintly capable of expressing the horror and the shame with which law-abiding people regard these outrages upon order and civilization. They constitute one of the darkest blots upon American history; and much of our boasted advancement will properly excite a sneer from foreign observers until we shall be able to eradicate the hideous fact that each year an average of two hundred human beings are lawlessly murdered by infuriated mobs of their fellow citizens.

READING AND PROGRESS.

The last issue of the Denver Field and Farm gives the agriculturists of the West a lecture on the reading habit. It points out that farmers as a class, and in proportion to their numbers, do not provide themselves with reading matter relating to their special vocations like professional men and those engaged in other callings. The lawyer takes the law journal, the doctor a medical review, the preacher his church organ, the merchant a commercial paper, and the miller and mechanic papers published in the interest of their particular business; but the great majority of farmers in the United States, satisfied with their present knowledge, unmindful of the wants of their own families, or their own need of mental development, do not take any farm paper. There is much force in the Field and Farm's statement, not only as to papers particularly devoted to their avocation but those who fill the still more important place of giving current news. The people who read the papers are the van of civilization; and "not a reading community" is a term synonymous with "not a progressive community." There are many people besides farmers who could learn this lesson with advantage to themselves.

Since Utah was admitted as a state, Congress seems to be illustrated somewhat. The same board from that direction is a motion from a Michigan representative to admit Hawaii as a State.—Peoria, Ills., Journal.

If Congress would include Arizona and New Mexico in the list of new states the "illustration" would be in proper form.

CONGRESSMAN CHANDLER JOHNSON of California is one of those men who believe that eastern congressmen should make a trip west to learn how big a country this is; and where they have not done so, he insists on telling them something about what exists west of the Mississippi.

THE NAME of Ollie Dyons, the schoolboy hero of Omaha, should hold a place of honor in the history of the public schools of this country. Such incidents are lessons of sublime devotion to duty that ought to be impressed upon every school pupil.

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N. S. JONES, President and Acting Secy.

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L. M. WADDELL & THOS. ADAMS, Attorneys-at-Law and Land Attorneys, 317-318 McCornick Block, Salt Lake City.

N. V. JONES, Attorney-at-Law. Office 303 McCornick Block.

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