

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## AN ENEMY OF LAW AND ORDER.

In a very lengthy and rather hysterical communication to the Salt Lake Herald, Fisher Harris attempts to justify the mob in Colorado in the horrible crime of the burning of the negro Porter. He also attacks the newspapers of this city, because of their editorials condemning lawlessness and upholding law. As the morning papers have noticed his effusion, perhaps it is as well for the "News" to mention it also, although we thought at first it would not be necessary to do so, because of the absurdity of the position taken by the writer and the style of his criticism.

We were astonished at reading his advocacy of the right of personal vengeance as against public execution of law, of mobocracy as a substitute for legal procedure, and of "the bullet, the hangman's noose or the stake," to be used by any aggrieved individual or the infuriated populace against an accused person, in the place of a fair trial by a jury before a penalty is executed.

We were somewhat amused, and a little amazed, at the modesty he displayed, in assuming that he stood as the type of sincerity and all the writers who denounced the horrible and lawless act of the Colorado negro-burners, were "hypocrites" who, while penning "mawkish" and "maudlin sentimentality," secretly rejoiced over the "crackling flames around the body" of the victim of the Limon homicides. Also in his assertion that 90 per cent of our readers, with the men about us, "regret that they were not there to add a brand to the burning."

Who would have thought that the platform orator, whose set of pretty phrases sounded like tinkling silver bells when he wooed the verdant voter, and tickled the ears of the bacchic partisan, was really at heart an anarchist and a negro-burner, ready to roast a colored wretch accused of crime without waiting for judge or jury? And that his prayers, instead of being for the success of his party, to say nothing of his own aspirations associated therewith, will "ever be" that assassination may "always and everywhere" rise superior to the demands of law?

It seems that the sweet-voiced Fisher is as much "down" on legislators as on editors. While the latter are accused of writing "cold-blooded editorials," the former are called "impracticable and asinine theorists." Such choice epithets are employed against gentlemen whose only fault is their advocacy of the majesty of the law, and the denunciation of ruffianism, barbarity and mobocracy.

Fisher Harris assumes that the supporters of law and order "forgot the tender, mutilated and outraged body of the sweet little girl, who fell an innocent and protesting victim;" also "the desolation of the loving mother, the terrible despair of the doting father." There he is greatly mistaken. But what amelioration of the awful conditions, of the sufferings of the bereaved, of the horror evoked by the negro's crime, is effected by the perpetration of another crime? Did the crackling flames around the body of the negro restore the innocent and sweet little girl, take one pang from the heart of the bereaved mother, assuage the grief of the pangs father? The lawless burning of the guilty wretch added fuel to the fire of crime, and took nothing away from the infamy or the horror of the ghastly affair.

While we advocate swift and adequate punishment for such crimes as those of which the negro Porter was accused, we are opposed to mob law in any form and on any occasion. And we are sorry that any intelligent person, in the calmness of sober thought, will rush into print as the advocate of such defiance of law, order, civilized procedure and cultured humanity as the wild savagery of the mob at Limon, at the close of the enlightened nineteenth century.

## SCHOOL DISCIPLINE.

The following communication, of sufficient importance to occupy a prominent place in the "News," we suppress names and the locality, so that nothing personal may appear in reference to the matter. For the public welfare such cases as these ought to be inquired into and action should be taken to prevent their repetition. Whether the facts presented have been correctly stated we do not know, but there appears to be some foundation at least for the statements:

To the Editor:  
An indignant father the past week waited upon the school board of this place and asked for the removal of two public school teachers from this district—the principal and his first assistant.

Public opinion is with the father, for

these men have shown themselves unfit for the position of governing and training the young children placed in their charge. A number of instances have given evidence of this fact. Children sent to school are not allowed to leave the schoolroom for any purpose whatever between intermission periods. A number of unpleasant results have followed.

Fear—that worst of all incentives, is used as the main inducement to promote order in the schoolroom. Children are sent to the principal for the smallest offense and he frightens them into good behavior by means of the aids used in physiology, namely skulls and bones. They are also shut in what is called the dark closet of the schoolroom and frightened with many things of a similar nature.

A sensitive child of eight years was lately put through the torments and in trying to escape he was chased across the field by the two teachers. Had it not been for this latter fact, the details would not have come to light, for the children are dared to reveal anything done in the schoolroom under penalty of great punishment.

But the escape was witnessed by a lady who inquired of the parents of the child the cause for such proceedings. The parents could not understand why who had been sitting through some cause unknown before—and the above facts were elicited, although the child's vitality suffered greatly by the telling for he seemed to believe the principal would kill him for revealing matters. Numerous children bear witness to the facts of the case and it is likely to go hard with the teachers before the case is ended.

Yet this same principal boasts that he has never whipped a child in his life. It seems impossible to believe that a man of ordinary ability and who has taken the training necessary to become a teacher can fail to recognize that greater harm is being done to the sensitive nature of children by such proceedings than could ever be inflicted by the rod.

Above all, training the children to withhold confidence from their parents. People here could not understand why their children disliked school so much, in many cases parents have had to use force with their children to get them to attend.

When called upon by the parent to give explanation of his conduct, the principal laughed and said he could not be held responsible if a case of fright resulted fatally, as it would be a result of the child's temperament, not of the method employed.

## A CITIZEN.

We are aware that school teachers are frequently embarrassed by the opposition which they encounter from stubborn or vicious children, whose parents resent any extreme measure, however necessary, for the restraint or punishment of the refractory. But, from the story told, it appears that in this instance most extraordinary methods have been resorted to and apparently without sufficient cause. It has therefore occasioned much excitement in the district where it occurred, and will no doubt be thoroughly and impartially investigated.

Fear, it is true, is not the best instrument wherewith to promote discipline. And yet nothing else will answer in some instances. Love, kindness, patience, forbearance, will sometimes utterly fail, and only the fear of punishment act as a deterrent or corrective. That, however, is to be used with moderation, and in such a way as not to injure the erring one, and must always be governed by discretion and desire for the improvement of the offender.

School government is an art not yet made perfect. Order and discipline are necessary to a certain limit. But they do not constitute the summum bonum of educational methods, as some seem to think. There must be a certain degree of liberty allowed, even in school regulations, and the great point to be reached is the development of the pupils in the direction of useful knowledge. This should be made pleasant as well as profitable, and the successful pedagogue is he, or she, who can interest and instruct and at the same time maintain the respect and obedience of the students.

Since the foregoing was written, we learn that an investigation has been had in the case referred to, and the accused persons have been exonerated by the board of trustees. There are always two sides at least to a question and a dispute, and we are pleased to know that the result in this case is favorable to the teachers, who as a class deserve the support both of parents and of the public, in their onerous task of training the youth of our community.

## CHINESE SITUATION GRAVE.

It is now claimed that Washington officials admit that no reliance can be placed in the declarations of the powers as to their intention of preserving the integrity of the Chinese empire. Their real purposes are commencing to appear in the probable claims for indemnity. Germany places her expenses at \$50,000,000, without counting damages for property lost or the murder of her ambassador. Russia's claims will, presumably be twice that amount on account of her operations in Manchuria, and the other powers will approximate Germany's figures. The scheme seems to be to place the indemnity so high that payment is impossible and that a plausible pretext for seizure of territory may be found.

This turn of affairs is not surprising. Some of the European powers went to China with the ultimate object in view of obtaining new territory. Their policy, after the rescue of the ministers, has been one of delay in the negotiations, in order to gain time and wait for something "to turn up." In the meantime they have moved their troops, like so many pieces on the chess board, ready for the final bold stroke at any time. Russia has already secured a firm foothold in Manchuria, and she is not in the habit of giving up what has once come within her grasp. She was set the precedent. Germany and Great Britain have reserved the right to decide, later, what their course of proceeding will be.

It is well for the United States to keep away from the European coalition against the Chinese. If our government cannot secure a settlement on a just and honorable basis, the only dignified attitude is one of protest and withdrawal. We cannot afford to become parties to an international injustice.

China has done a grievous wrong, but justice demands that alleviating circumstances, where they exist, be given due consideration. And never before was a nation more provoked than that country has been.

The opium trade—the curse of the

people—has been forced upon them by so-called Christians. They have been robbed of territory without semblance of excuse. Europeans have trampled Chinese civilization under foot, because, forsooth, it is not moulded in occidental forms. Speaking generally western powers have violated every rule of international comity, in their dealings with the Mongolians, and for that very reason they are barred from executing judgment.

The chief point now is to take the measures necessary for the prevention of repetition of the recent outrages. Beyond that retribution is absolutely without meaning. If the policy of revenge is carried out to the bitter end, the consequences may be far beyond present calculations. The situation is as grave as it is perplexing.

## OLD AGE PENSIONS.

A royal decree takes effect in Belgium, from the first of January next, by which a new era will commence, with the new century, for the workingmen in that country. For after that date all needy laborers, over sixty-five years old, will be entitled to a yearly pension of 35 francs. Those who at the date mentioned, are fifty-eight years old, will, on reaching the pension age, be entitled to their annuity, but all others must first pay into the public funds for a period of three years, not less than three francs. The pension is small, still it will be a help to many an aged workman when his capacity of earning a livelihood is decreasing with the advancing years.

The idea of governmental care of the working classes is spreading. In the French Chamber of Deputies a bill has been introduced providing for compulsory insurance. The expense of the insurance, it is proposed, shall be divided between the employer and the employee, and if the combined contributions fall below a given sum, the government is to make up the deficit.

In Germany, it is said, that no less than \$12,000,000 was paid out three years ago to laborers under the pension law of that country. New Zealand pays \$30 a year to citizens over sixty-five years of age, who have been in the colony for twenty-five years. In some other countries laborers who have been connected with certain institutions for a number of years, are entitled to old age pensions.

In all countries those engaged in military service are more or less liberally provided for, when they can serve no longer, and the question is whether those who have been engaged in the pursuits of peace all their lives, have not performed a service as valuable to the country, and as important, as those who have been identified with the army or navy. To be sure, there are private insurance societies, and the State is under no obligation to provide for those whose earnings have enabled them to secure the benefits of such. But what about those who are unable to lay by a competence notwithstanding their hard work and economic habits? It is the better way to leave them to the care of charitable institutions? Such questions underlie the efforts at legislation, in behalf of aged workmen. The movement is one characteristic of our age, and indicates the extent to which socialistic influences are being felt at the present time.

China's days may not be numbered but those of the turkey are.

The country should be pretty clean now. At least it has been thoroughly storm swept.

It seems much easier to reduce the war taxes than to reduce Aguinaldo and his warriors.

Crocker's trip to Europe is spoken of as a "flight." And this is not because he owns and runs fleet horses.

"Many are called but few are chosen," is a saying that senatorial candidates would do well to remember.

"A smile is the reflection of a light heart," says an exchange. Not always. Frequently it is a mask for hypocrisy.

Eugene Debs says he is going to keep on running for the presidency. There is nothing like having an aim in life, and sticking to it.

Indiana contemplates introducing the voting machine. This will be a great improvement on the "blocks of five" voting system.

There is far more patriotism in doing one's duty quietly as a citizen than in going about and telling other people what they should do as patriots.

How can there be anything but friction at Pekin when two such dissimilar bodies as the Occident and the Orient are continually rubbing up against each other?

Squire Smalley condemns the Chinese policy of the United States. This is pretty good evidence that it is all right, for George has a way of condemning all things American.

Athletics are far inferior to politics. The best acrobat has never succeeded in turning more than three somersaults in midair. The poorest politician can easily turn a dozen before finally coming to a standstill.

The British government is still buying mules in the Kansas City market and shipping them to Capetown. During the past eighteen months its purchases have been about three hundred mules a week. This would amount to 23,400.

In Ohio Mr. Bryan's vote this year was precisely the same as his vote there in 1896. This is a very remarkable coincidence, and shows the stability of his supporters there, as much as anything else.

At the close of the International Press congress in Paris the Orangerie in the Tuileries gardens was illumined with alcohol. That is nothing. Many and many a man has had his nose turned into an illuminant by the inordinate use of alcohol.

We notice that the managers of the Pan-American exhibition to be held at

Buffalo next year have rescinded their original decision to admit both European and American works to the art department, and will admit only American works. This should spur American artists to put forth their best efforts.

There is small occasion to get alarmed about cutting timber at the head of City Creek canyon. There is very little there to cut. But on the mountains between the Seven Mile mill and the first lake there is springing up a new growth of pine and balsam; the young trees reaching a height of from three to five feet. These should be guarded and protected most jealously for in a few years they will reach a size that will afford much protection to the snow in spring and will permit the ground to retain the moisture and prevent its rapid evaporation.

There died at Bruceville, near Waco, Texas, the other day, a man whose name, fourteen years ago, was as widely known and as often uttered as that of the President of the United States, yet his death was not announced to the country and now his name is almost forgotten. This man was Martin Irons. In 1886 he was the leader in the great strike on the Missouri Pacific and for a time his word was more potent than the law of the land. He was an agitator by nature, of a class superior to Dennis Kearney. By birth he was a Scotchman, having been born in Dundee, October 7, 1832. As a rule the Scotch are not agitators, the Irish being facile principals at that business. Irons goes down to the grave unknelt if not unknown.

## ILLNESS OF THE CZAR.

New York Evening Sun.

There is considerable anxiety about the Czar's illness. But it is doubtful if his death would have any very important results. The Russian ruler is two-sided. Personally he is gentle and a lover of peace. As an emperor he has to continue the traditional policy of his country. He proposed a peace congress, but the Russian press on toward the Pacific. The men who do the work of the Autocrat, while supposedly his creatures, are really independent of him in practice. The Kaiser has far more initiative, so far as national policy is concerned, than the Czar.

New York Mail and Express.

Surprise and a vague sense of disquiet will be felt throughout the world at the announcement that the Czar of all the Russias has been stricken with the dangerous malady of typhoid fever. The young ruler of the expanding Slav empire has merited the good opinion of civilization by his enlightened and progressive qualities, and his labors in bringing about the international peace conference have made it clear that with all the vast resources of his people behind him he wishes to be known among his brother sovereigns as something better than a mere "war lord." His personality is regarded as a substantial guarantee of the tranquility of Europe and of the Far East, and its untimely disappearance from affairs would profoundly affect the serenity of the nations.

Boston Transcript.

Should the Czar die, his brother, the Grand Duke Michael, a very young man, would succeed him. His course as an autocrat is at present a matter of guess-work. That is the case with all despots, and that is what makes them such risky neighbors to constitutionally governed nations. In a nation like Russia there is no public opinion of volume and power enough to check the monarch, and the monarch may be delicate and amiable, averse to war, like the present Czar, or he may be suave, shrewd and enterprising both in arms and diplomacy like several of his predecessors who might be named. Again, there is present in the thought of all other nations, strong as in those that neighbor Russia, the belief that the present political condition of the Russian masses cannot much longer be maintained, and that whether it is changed by revolution or by gradual reform the operation must be attended with risks to Russia which may become risks to European peace.

Springfield Republican.

The illness of the Czar from typhoid fever is a serious matter, in view of the character of that disease and his majesty's frail physique. His taking away would be an ominous event to the divided world, in view of the delicate situation in China, for it is universally admitted that personally the young emperor's influence is steadily upon the side of peace. He has no heir by the empress, and consequently his successor at this time would be Grand Duke George, his brother. It is encouraging that thus far the Czar's illness has run a mild course, yet there will be some anxious days in certain quarters until he is pronounced entirely out of danger.

Baltimore Sun.

The death of the present Czar would excite no little solicitude among the friends of peace, for the reason that his attitude of opposition to the aggressive tendencies of the Russian military caste is well known, whereas that of his successor is uncertain. Like his father, the Czar Nicholas II is averse to war, and has no military tastes or ambitions. His love of peace was signalled by his call for the conference at The Hague, designed to effect, if possible, a reduction of armaments and the settlement of international disputes without recourse to force. No doubt the movements of Russia in eastern China have been extremely aggressive, but they were carried out in pursuance of a policy of railroad extension adopted long before the present Czar came to the throne.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Modern Culture for December has a new cover design emblematic of Christmas. Its first article is "The Centennial Anniversary of Washington as the Seat of Government," by Rudolph De Zapp, with illustrations from old prints. Of curious interest are the customs of the "posada" and "pinata" described and illustrated by E. de G. C. Terry in "Christmas-tide in Mexico." "Drifting on the Mediterranean" is the title of an article by Calvin Gale Horns. Mrs. Ellen Olney Kirk's "School for Lovers" reaches its conclusion in this number. A Critical Estimate of Nineteenth Century Literature is presented by Frederick Lynch. Admiral Roe gives us a brief history of the Chinese empire and its relations with the Western powers. The solemnity of the midnight mass inspires the Christmas Story from the French of Adolphe Ribaux. The few words descriptive of the Cedars of Lebanon from the pen of Rev. H. W. Hulbert suggest a store of information about an interesting subject. A study of James Lane Allen from the pen of a Kentucky poet and a glimpse of the "Historical Background of the Reign of Louis XVI" by a student of the novelist are timely. The "Quiet Corner," the "Literary World," the "Reading Club," "Around the Table" and the other departments are replete with interesting material. Caxton Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

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