DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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NO SIGN OF SILVER LINING, BUT—

The culminating point of the great struggle in Congress is close at hand, but one working day more being left to the combatants. A glance over the field is not reassuring to the friends of silver; indeed, many who have hung on and by their words and examples contributed toward bolstering up the cause, have now abandoned hope and are willing to concede that the gold champions as usual are masters of the situation. And truly that is the way the NEWS is constrained to view the case. Certainly no one will accuse us of having been uncertain of tone or wavering in purpose in advocacy of the right as we have been able to see the right in this matter; and while it may not yet be said that the game is lost—since while there is life there is hope—it is as well not to seek to buoy ourselves above the breakers by means of what we are forced to regard as a delusion. All the signs now point to a majority for unconditional repeal of 25 to 50 in the House and half as much in the Senate. That it is a pity is a circumstance which of itself does not alter the other one, that it seems to be true.

The West has made a gallant fight and made it almost single-handed. The South, which was expected to come to the rescue with a spontaneity amounting to practical unanimity, presents us with a very small majority if any at all; and there have been so many other defections in unexpected places that it is now seen that what was looked upon as an even combat on level ground has all along been a struggle against odds, with the odds at the top of a very steep hill. Perhaps it would not have mattered very much if this had been known at the outset, as it is a clear case that those who have marched under the silver banner have received no extraneous consideration for their work, unless the consciousness of having done their full duty as they understand it can be so considered.

With the downfall of the last great bulwark between the sturdy toilers of the West and the interest-gatherers of the East, what then? Silver production has already ceased except in a few places where work is still to a reduced extent going on in hopeful anticipation of favorable congressional action, and these will probably thereafter shut down. An industry by means of which a grand army of more than 100,000 men has been employed at remunerative rates, and through its labor twice as many more in other fields of employment have been kept busy, will be primarily in idleness until other places open to them—and what other places are there at present? There is general stagnation and cutting down everywhere which even the demonetizers do not claim the adoption of their plan will alleviate; so that it looks very much like, for a time at least, adding new recruits to the vast horde of tramps and giving to crime and vice a fresh incentive everywhere. Of course men cannot be paid in order that they may refrain from lawlessness, nor is it proper that the government consider the privations of a few when a great national purpose must be accomplished; but it does seem as though we ought to refrain from removing incentives to virtue and from placing stumbling-blocks in the way of those who are seeking the straight and narrow path.

With silver reduced to merchandise, business for a while may be duller than ever because of so many having nothing to buy with. Others who depend more or less upon such purchases will have to close up or curtail their transactions, throwing a corresponding number of people out of employment. Things are apt to narrow down and converge to a point rapidly, which point, when reached, will be the crisis. After that, by some means, the tension will relax and to some extent at least we shall retrace our steps and eventually may be as prosperous and strong as we ever were. Striking down silver does not by any means destroy us who live in Utah; it only cripples for a season. We have too much of everything that is necessary to man's sustenance and welfare to be hopelessly prostrated even if gold as well as silver were emasculated and denuded of its imperial function. We have what many nations and some parts of this nation have not—plenty of food of all kinds; in the mountains which overshadow us morning and evening are other metals in demand by commerce, science and art, as well as wood and coal enough to supply all the fuel needed for generations to come; we have cattle upon a thousand hills, an abundance of water, a matchless climate, a dozen natural sanitariums, and a hardy, thrifty, intelligent and peace-loving population. Can the mere incident of striking out one item of our vast resources—albeit a great and important one—utterly prostrate or even overcome us for any great length of time? Hardly. We, or a great many of us, have gone through conditions so much worse than anything that can befall us now at the hand of man that we ought to feel to rejoice that our situation is as pleasant by comparison, as desirable by contrast, with that of so many of our fellow men, while there is nothing that threatens life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness in the immediate future.

A CAUSE OF SUICIDE.

Two or three local experiences, and similar reports from many other places, have seemed to give additional force to the theory that suicides increase and become almost epidemic in times of financial depression. Looking at the thing naturally, it is difficult to gainsay this proposition; for, whatever may be the basis for the information, we are told, in four cases out of every five, that financial troubles were the cause of the victim's awful act. But now comes the Springfield *Republican* with statistics which show that the theory which seems so plausible is only a popular notion, and can be upset without difficulty. As every one knows, the greatest panic of recent years occurred in the year 1873, but the statistics show that that year did not witness any increase in the suicides—in fact, the rate both in that year and the next was generally low in all the New England states. In Massachusetts there were 122 suicides in 1871, 117 in 1872, 117 in 1873 and 115 in 1874. It is undoubtedly true, however, that suicides have even been uncommonly frequent of late, and in a good many cases the victims have been unfortunate in business; but the statistics of previous years of business depression are against the theory that suicides are multiplied by panicky conditions.

CONTENDING WITH CONTAGION.

Anything relating to diphtheria, whether as to its origin or pathology, possesses an absorbing interest for this community where its ravages have been so severe and widespread as in any other part of the country. No absolute specific for the scourge has yet been discovered, or at least made generally known, which does but make discussion of the subject the more important. We are advised that Dr. H. M. Biggs, chief of the bureau of bacteriology of New York, has lately made an interesting report to the president of the health board regarding true and false diphtheria. He applied the latest test for the detection of the true disease and found that 130 cases out of 431 reported to the board as true were not diphtheria at all, but one or other of several diseases of the throat and its membranes which closely resemble it. Dr. Biggs properly points out that whereas the death rate in true diphtheria is very high, in the false it is very low. Moreover, while true diphtheria is very infectious, the false is not at all so, or at most so slightly infectious that this aspect of it may be disregarded.

It may be frankly admitted, says the *Sun* commenting on the above, that the most skillful physicians may be mistaken in their diagnosis of diphtheria. Until the bacteriological test was discovered and made effective as a means of verifying the disease, authorities differed in their classification of the symptoms, or set of symptoms, which constitute true diphtheria. A young physician need therefore not feel ashamed of having termed a membranous disease of the throat diphtheria, when, in fact, it may have been something else; it is always better to err on the side of caution, especially as the true disease is so infectious and so fatal.

It does not follow, however, that this liability to mistake false for true diphtheria should be urged as an excuse for not recognizing diphtheria in a vast majority of cases without the aid of a bacteriological examination. An experienced physician, who has been diligent in the pursuit of knowledge, cannot always explain why he arrives at a particular conclusion in regard to the illness of one of his patients. Out of the accumulated fund of his former observation he is supposed to gain a kind of medical intuition, which is to him a valuable capital in dealing with a set of symptoms that would puzzle a younger man.

It is feared that a majority of students of today do not pay enough attention to the study of them and other contagious diseases. It is also a fact that too many heads of families pay too little attention to familiarizing themselves with sickness of any kind, as a result of which they are helpless if not prostrate when the common enemy enters the door. This is when they should be most self-reliant and most in possession of their faculties. It is not always necessary to send for a doctor any more than it is always necessary to call in a lawyer. We are supposed to have sense and stamina enough to grapple successfully with lesser ailments, and even with the earlier stages of more serious ones, ourselves. Let those who are in ignorance familiarize themselves with symptoms of any disease that is in our midst or likely to come, and keep simple remedies on hand. These, with faith and the ordinances of the Church, are always to be recommended and employed. Even when a doctor has to be called, it is sometimes of the utmost importance that we know what to do pending his arrival; it is often a case in which work that is done quickly is doubly well done.

OUR HAY PRODUCT.

Utah produces an abundance of hay and it usually commands a good price especially in winter and early spring. So far as heard from this year does not vary greatly from that of other years as to quantity or quality; in some places there is a great deal more than usual, in others somewhat less and in a very few none at all. Among the places which appear to take high rank in the former class is Tooele county, where great stacks of lucern, timothy and straw meet the eye wherever one may go. The price seems to be a little less than usual, owing no doubt to the prevailing scarcity of money.

By estimating the average value of hay of all kinds at about $9 a ton, the statisticians of the census bureau have figured up a total valuation of the hay crop of the United States in 1889 at the enormous sum of $408,499,565. If any reliance is to be placed in census returns the hay crop greatly exceeds in value the cotton production, which in 1888 amounted to $292,000,000. In fact, Indian corn and wheat are the only two staples that exceed hay in value and importance. This leads the Philadelphia *Record* to remark that, notwithstanding the enormous amount of the production of hay, it has hitherto occupied an exceedingly small place in the foreign trade of the country. While the exports of raw cotton in 1891 amounted to $277,028,311 in value, and the exports of breadstuffs to $202,621,-[illegible], the value of the hay exports was less than a half million dollars. But, although for many reasons hay is not likely to prove a leading article of export, the general failure of the crop in Europe promises, for the present season at least, to afford a profitable market for the country's entire surplus production. What has chiefly interfered with the exportation of hay is the cost of freight on account of the ship room it requires. It cannot be compressed like cotton without greatly injuring its value as food for horses and cattle; and hence much care must be taken in packing it for foreign markets. Another important drawback to the exportation of hay is the consideration that it is a crop which, as a rule, can be most profitably consumed on a farm.

Notwithstanding the well nigh prohibitive tariff of $4 a ton imposed by the McKinley law, during the six months of the present fiscal year (ending June 30) the astonishing amount of 90,[illegible] tons was imported, averaging $9.14 a ton, $828,464 altogether; the duty is not counted in this, it making $[illegible] more, or $1,[illegible] altogether. Who would have believed that in a country so equipped in fields, prairies and meadows as ours such a thing could be possible?

EXPENSIVE HORSEFLESH.

An article recently appeared in these columns in relation to the great horse Ormonde, lately purchased by W. O'B. Macdonough of California for $150,000. Princely as this sum was, and reckless as many thought the purchaser, it seems the limit of valuation in the case was not reached and there are others who are more prodigal in the matter of horseflesh expenditure than was Mr. Macdonough. An English syndicate offered him fifty per cent advance on the price paid for his bargain; this means $225,000 in cash, and it was refused.

As with some great human sires of great human sons, Ormonde's progeny reflect increased honor upon him. Orme is one of these, and English breeders are beginning to find out that the son of Bend D'Or and Lady Agnes is destined to be one of the greatest if not the greatest sire ever bred in England. The realization of this fact prompted the English syndicate to make this offer. They were loth that Ormonde should again be taken from England's shore. Sires of race horses like Orme are scarce, but England's loss is California's gain. Yet it is said to be extremely doubtful if Mr. Macdonough would be tempted to part with Ormonde for $[illegible]. This may seem to be an exaggeration to many, but a man who would refuse $225,000 in gold coin for a horse is just as liable to refuse twice the amount.

In this connection the following list of the highest priced horses in the world will be of interest: Ormonde $150,000, St. Blaise $100,000, Axtell $105,000, Arion $125,000, Antevolo $[illegible], Bell Boy $51,000 and Stamboul $[illegible]. All the above are trotting stallions, except Ormonde and St. Blaise.

THE flimsiest argument yet advanced in favor of the extensive coinage of silver comes from a Chicago paper, which likes the white metal best because it cannot be hoarded. "A thousand dollars in gold," it says, "can be hidden in the knothole of a tree, but it is impossible to hide such a sum in silver; silver cannot be hoarded." Whereupon another Chicago paper cleverly observes: "If the value of a coin depends upon the facility with which it can be hidden, and hoarding is contrary to public policy, neither gold nor silver ought to be considered in this connection at all. The sheet-iron dollar cannot be hoarded. A dollar made of baled hay would come nearest the ideal perhaps."

THE RUMOR that Mrs. Vanderbilt paid $150,000 for a dog collar has stirred up popular ire, which pictures the good "that amount of money would do if put in circulation." People seem to think the putting it in a collar to go around a dog's neck is not something in the direct line of circulation.

THE FIVE MINUTE rule having gone into effect for the silver debate in the House, it remains to be seen how many Congressmen will have the temerity to claim that five minutes is not time enough for them to tell all they know.

HOW WOULD it do, in these perilous times of monometallic and bimetallic disputation, to rally one and all around the banner of the golden rule, and each side do to the other as it would like to be done by?

AN EXCHANGE says Mr. Jackson, the Iowa Republican nominated for governor, will "run like a prairie fire." It is evident the Buckeye state expects a match.

IF BREVITY is the soul of wit, some of the gents' bathing suits seen at the Lake this year must be excruciatingly funny.

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[illegible] a.m.	[illegible] a.m.	*[illegible] p.m.	*[illegible] p.m.
[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.
[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.
[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.
[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.	[illegible] p.m.
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