

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.  
(Sunday Excepted.)  
Corner of South Temple and East Temple  
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

HORACE G. WHITNEY - Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES  
(In Advance)  
One Year ..... \$3.00  
Six Months ..... \$1.75  
Three Months ..... \$1.00  
One Month ..... \$0.35  
Saturday Edition, per Year ..... \$2.00  
Semi-Weekly, per Year ..... \$1.00

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.  
Address all business communications and all remittances to  
THE DESERET NEWS,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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

SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 31, 1907.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The address of President Roosevelt on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue to General Lawton is devoted chiefly to social and industrial problems that confront the American people today. The policy of the government on the question of public control of corporations is clearly defined, and as the address bears every mark of careful preparation, it is evidently intended as an answer to all questions as to what that policy really is.

The President holds that the rights of property "are in less jeopardy from the socialist and the anarchist than from the predatory man of wealth," and that the power of the nation must be exerted to stop "crimes of cunning no less than crimes of violence." In pursuance of this policy the government should exercise control over common carriers doing interstate business. And this leads the President to a further consideration of the railroad question. He recommends national supervision over future issuance of stocks and bonds; a national incorporation that would give the roads the seal of government approval such as national banks enjoy; criminal prosecution of any man who plunders others by issuing great masses of securities and sells them for fraudulent or selfish interest, instead of applying the money so acquired to the legitimate use of the road on whose property the securities were issued; protection of the honest railroad manager, whose aim is to maintain a high standard of efficiency in his road and seek an honest and legitimate return on the money invested; allowing railroads to acquire connecting lines, but forbidding them to combine with parallel lines; public traffic agreements in the interest of the people, subject to the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission; physical valuation of railroad property, such valuations not to be retroactive and present securities to be tested by the laws under which they were issued, and the divorcing of railroad management from stock speculation and also from politics.

President Roosevelt again and again disclaimed any intention of recommending legislation hostile to the corporations. "Let us," he said, "try as a people to show the same qualities as we deal with the industrial and social problems of today that Abraham Lincoln showed when with indomitable resolution, but with a kindness, patience, and common sense quite as remarkable, he faced four weary years of open war in front of calamity, destruction and intrigue from behind, and at the end gave to his countrymen whom he had served so well the blood-bought gift of a race freed and a nation forever united."

And again, speaking of the policy of the government, "Surely, it ought not to be necessary to say that it in no shape or way represents any hostility to corporations as such. On the contrary, it means a frank recognition of the fact that combinations of capital, like combinations of labor, are a natural result of modern conditions and of our national development. As far as in my ability lies my endeavor is and will be to prevent abuse of power by either and to favor both so long as they do well. The aim of the national government is quite as much to favor and protect honest corporations, honest business men of wealth, as to bring to justice those individuals and corporations representing dishonest methods."

It is fair play and a square deal to all that the President pleads for. Whether the policy of which he is an able spokesman is practicable or not, there can be no doubt that he is sincere; nor that he speaks the views of a great many American citizens of all parties.

## SAN FRANCISCO IN EARNEST.

San Francisco is in earnest about the purification of its moral atmosphere. That is evidenced by the formation of a committee of representative citizens to take the matter of reform in hand, and not leave this to politicians.

A great shake-up has recently occurred in official circles, and many prominent men have been indicted for their share in illegal practices. This is as well as it goes, but, as the Chronicle points out, the real cancer from which the municipal body is suffering is not cured by the indictment and conviction of a few officials and their pals out of office. The greater damage to the city is done by the minor hoodlums who are scattered throughout every department, and the parasites that expect to live upon the public funds without returning any adequate services.

The Chronicle presents this illustration: "The other day a lady living on an ordinary street desired a governess connection with her lot. That work is done by the city and applicants are required to make a deposit estimated to cover the cost. The lady does the work and returns any overplus. The usual deposit has been \$20. It may cost a little more just now. This lady was required to deposit \$50, when, upon her making a vigorous protest, was reduced to \$40. The work was done and when the lady asked for the return of the surplus she was told there was nothing left. Upon reporting the facts to one of the Commissioners of Public Works, the lady states that his reply was that it was an outrage on the face

of it, but that he could not interfere because he had to stand in with the boys. And for the last two years cases of that general character have been the rule and not the exception in our city administration whenever there was some one who could be taken advantage of. And it has been a very powerful person who could not be taken advantage of."

It is evident that the very spirit of graft must be driven out from the public service, like an unclean demon, before better conditions can be expected to prevail. And what is true of San Francisco in this regard, is true of every other American city, our own not excepted.

Those who have traveled in the Turkish empire have been struck by the almost universal corruption that prevails in the official world. The hands of all are stretched out, like those of beggars, always ready to receive. And between the acceptance of bakshish, they are not above taking whatever they can lay their hands on. In fact, in some instances officials are known to have stolen the stamps off the letters in the postoffice. Nothing is too small to some of those officials. The excuse is that they are underpaid, and have to make a living as best they can.

It seems that in some of our communities a similar spirit prevails. Public offices are represented as "spoils," belonging to the "victor." And with "spoils" is not always meant the legitimate salary that belongs to the office, but whatever can be obtained by whatever means the office furnishes for graft. If such conditions are to be abolished, the decent citizens must act in concert, as the people of San Francisco now propose to do through a representative committee.

## GET GOOD ADVICE.

If the County Attorney's office will pardon us, we take the liberty of suggesting that the very best legal talent obtainable be secured in the prosecution of the unsavory case in which the police department is interested. It appears that "the attorneys for the defense" are determined to prevent, if possible, the case from coming to trial, and they have been fairly successful so far, owing to circumstances and influences that need not be pointed out now. No slur on the County Attorney is intended in the suggestion that the best legal talent obtainable be consulted. Eminent doctors and eminent lawyers hold consultation when exceptionally difficult cases are entrusted to any of them. This is an exceptional case. It is one in which party influence seems to weigh more than impartial justice.

It is true that public opinion is pretty well formed as to the case, and this is not likely to change whether the prosecution is "beaten by the attorneys for the defense" or not. Even the personal friends of the Chief of Police have, we believe, fully made up their minds. But the continual gloating of a corrupt press over the failure of the District Attorney to obtain a judicial investigation of a notorious criminal case, owing, as alleged, to technical blunders of the prosecution, cannot but have a bad effect upon public morals. This should be prevented, if possible. Besides, a circular performance, like that of a dog chasing its own tail, is not edifying, if it lasts too long.

## ROME CONTRADICTS RUMORS.

The Rome correspondent of the Boston Transcript says that if the Vatican should contradict all the false rumors that are being circulated concerning the policy of the church and the Holy See, the papal secretary could do nothing else. So numerous are the canards sent out broadcast and published in the papers of Europe and America. It is asserted that many of these stories have their origin in France.

Among the reports contradicted is one, which looked suspicious on the very surface of it, to the effect that the French clergy, or many of them, had petitioned the Pope to abolish the rule that makes celibacy compulsory upon the clergymen. No such petition, it is said, has ever been received at the Vatican, and this may well be believed, since no Pope would be at liberty to establish a rule contrary to the decisions of the councils. If we understand the Catholic doctrine on this point correctly, it is this that the Pope, as the head of the church is preserved from error in interpreting and applying the doctrines of the Scriptures and the councils, but that if he should command anything at variance with those authorities, Catholics would not be under obligation to obey. If this is the case, we do not see how a Pope could abolish a rule that may be traced, perhaps, as far back as the fourth century, and has the sanction of all subsequent authorities.

Another story contradicted is one to the effect that the Pope has ordered learned scholars to revise the version of the Bible known as the Vulgate. It is admitted that the text of that venerable version contains some errors, but the Vatican, it is explained, shrinks from assuming the responsibility of revising because all the missals and liturgical books of the church follow the present text, and these would all have to be reprinted were a revision of the Vulgate to be accepted. Scholars, it is said, know that the errors in the text of the Vulgate are but minor ones and that they do not affect the sense or the original.

The rumors, however, that seem to annoy the Pope more than any others are those relating to the financial affairs of the church. It is pointed out that anti-Catholics have been busy lately telling the world about the large sums of money received by the Holy See from various sources, and that these stories are circulating for the express purpose of creating the impression among generous Catholics in all the world, that the church is not in need of any contributions. It has been said, for instance, that the Italian government had recently paid to the Holy See \$1,800,000 as compensation for the suppression of the head-houses of the religious orders. According to another false the government and the Holy See had entered into an agreement whereby the Pope was to receive from the government an annual income of \$750,000 as his personal salary as bishop of Rome, and that on his part the Pope was to renounce all indemnities granted to him by the laws of guarantee because of the loss of the temporal power. Still another report had it that the

American bishops had guaranteed to provide the Peter's pence fund with \$1,000,000 annually. And thus numerous false rumors are started on their round of the press, for the evident purpose of rendering the policy of the Pope suspicious and crippling the Vatican financially.

We mention these facts as an illustration of the tactics of the enemies of religion. Catholics who suffer under such unfair attacks, cannot fail to appreciate their true value the tactics of anti-Mormons, for they are similar, and their aim is the same. There is a wide difference between the position of the Catholic church and the Latter-day Saints on questions of doctrine and practice, but all who love truth can unite against those who, shunning the light, make their attacks under the cover of falsehood.

Exhumation has unsexed Nicholas de Raylan.

The special venues in the Haywood case beat sixty every time.

The Chinese famine has been broken. This will mend matters.

It is to be hoped that the President will cut this Long controversy short.

Queen Victoria took her first stroll since the birth of the Prince of the Asturias, yesterday. A stroll in Spain is always pleasant.

The President insists that the nature stories writers shall hold "the mirror up to nature," while the Rev. Mr. Long insists that he does.

Strange as it may seem, there is less "grafting" in the citrus fruit regions of California than there is in San Francisco, where no citrus fruits are grown.

Memorial day witnessed no more graceful act than the placing of a wreath upon the Abraham Lincoln monument in Lincoln Park, Chicago, by General Kuroki.

No Memorial day orator suggested that there should be a repeal of the fifteenth amendment. That day is sacred to the memory of those who died that the Union might live and the fifteenth amendment be.

The President's speech at the unveiling of the Lawton monument makes it perfectly plain what will be the great issue in the next presidential campaign. It will be the railroad question.

A Pittsburg clergyman says that Pittsburg is not so bad as it might be. Of course not. No city has reached the nethermost depths of the bad. But Pittsburg should let bad enough alone.

"John Doe" complains about the new order that street cars shall stop on the near side of the street. Personal experience has taught us that sometimes they will stop on neither near nor far side of the street.

The statement of the Japanese view of the recent assaults committed against Japanese in San Francisco is moderate, and seems fair and conservative. That they are very largely due to race prejudice is probable, which fact neither excuses nor palliates them. They are an outrage on the subjects of a friendly power and a disgrace to the United States. The remedy is to punish as severely as possible those who commit them. The effort to make them appear as the result of temporarily peculiar conditions is foolish and an insult to Japanese and American intelligence.

Unfortunately there is but too much truth in what U. S. Judge William J. Wallace said at the dinner in his honor at the Waldorf-Astoria on the occasion of his retirement from the bench—that the leaders of the great political parties have entered into a mad race "to capture the votes of the discontented, the prejudiced, the unthinking and the fanatical believers in socialistic theories." Political rivalry in our country seems almost to have degenerated into a contest of pandering to prejudice, hate and the baser and more sordid instincts of man's nature. Such pandering cannot but have painful results.

## COLLEGES EAST AND WEST.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. As a matter of fact practical America, and especially the practical fathers of the middle west, is growing constantly to set less store by "atmosphere" and "tradition." These things do not contribute materially to an education. The western institutions pay as good salaries and secure the services of as efficient teachers as do the older universities of the east. When for all practical purposes the home schools are as good as those at a distance, parents will come more and more to the conclusion that it is a good thing to patronize the home education industry. Sentiment will continue to influence Harvard and Yale men to send their sons to the universities which they claim as alma mater. But these form a small proportion of the whole.

## SMALL VARIATION IN BRAIN.

London Outlook. The human brain has not steadily increased since prehistoric times, and as Professor Lankester tells us, by way of concrete illustration, the brain of Isaac Newton was not much larger than that of an Australian black.

## STOP AT THE SAFETY LINE.

Louisville Courier-Journal. The constant renewal of equipment is a heavy tax upon the resources of a railroad, and here enters the matter of the anti-railroad agitation that has been going on of late—but which apparently is waning. The agitators should be slow to hamper railroads to such an extent as to render it impossible for them to obtain the proper outlays for the newest and best of its equipment. Such a policy reacts upon the traveling public. It will not pay to do anything which may render railroads less safe than they are at present.

## THE TIPPING PRACTICE.

Detroit Free Press. While agitation and protest for the quickening of public sentiment have gone on for years, the tipping practice has grown steadily worse. It is as firmly fastened on great areas of America as the European custom, which is used to be held up as an example of its irritations and expense. Indeed in some portions of America it may be said to be more firmly fastened. A

law would at least present an instrument to which the small majority that Hicks might resort in an effort to bring the practice into disrepute.

## IN BEHALF OF INDUSTRIES.

Minneapolis Journal. The universities of Germany are full of specialists in chemistry working along various lines of original research, developing principles and processes for direct application in German industry. The advantages thus gained by German manufacturers are beginning to be appreciated by Americans, and scientific men, particularly in the field of chemistry, are going to cut a large figure in the future development of American manufactures.

## JUST FOR FUN.

## His Mother-in-Law Was Dead.

An Irishman who was just over from Old Erin and who apparently had brought most of his family with him when he came across entered an undertaking establishment yesterday and inquired for the manager. When this personage had been presented to him he asked: "Sure, and what is the badge of death in the family in this country?"

"Well," said the undertaker, "when your mother or wife dies you wear a wide black band around your arm or hat. If it is a son or daughter you should wear a smaller band."

"Sure and give me a shoestring," said the mourning Irishman, as he fumbled in his pocket for a coin: "me mother-in-law just died."—Philadelphia Record.

## One Such Warning Enough.

"One wretched, blustering day," said a Pittsburg iron man, "I had a cap with ear tabs on when I met Mr. Carnegie on the street. He joked me about my ear tabs. He said there was an old Scot who always used to curl—you know the game—in ear tabs, but one bitter day he appeared on the scene minus the tabs and a friend said: 'Hello, Charlie, you said you were warm.' 'Oh,' was the reply, 'I've never worn them since my accident.' 'Accident?' 'What accident?' 'A man offered me a drink and I let the damned flaps I didn't hear him.'—Chicago Daily News.

## A Burst of Sentiment.

"I've got a good notion," said Plodding Pete, "to join the forestry association."

"What for?" "I want the trees preserved in all their venerable beauty. I want to see the monarchs of the wilderness left undisturbed in their peaceful majesty. It's time this practice of handing a man an ax an' telling him to chop wood was stopped."—Washington Star.

## A Hoarse Honk.

Lawyer—And you say the noise made by this defendant, with his motor caused your horse to take fright and run away? What made the noise? Farmer—I dunno, but it sounded like a sawmill with the grin.—Baltimore American.

## A Graceful Compliment.

Miriam was entertaining the clergyman until her mother returned from a drive, and presented him with a smooch, which suggested, "Thank you, my little girl," said the clergyman, much pleased at the attention. "Thank you," Miriam screwed herself up on to a chair. "It was pink once," she said.—Chicago Tribune.

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