

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY. - JULY 12, 1906

## FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.

There has been some squabbling over the question, Whose fault is it that the paving stones intended for a cross-walk on the corner of Ninth East and Second South streets have been lying there for nine or ten months, and nothing has been done with them? One paper stirs up the present City Council for the neglect, another blames it upon the last City Council. It does not matter to the people in that vicinity whether the present or the previous administration is responsible for the failure to utilize the material and make the crossing. They are more concerned about getting the work done while the weather is favorable, so that they will not have to stick in the mud again when wet days come. At grading time the sidewalk was put much lower than the roadway there, and great complaint arose over the inconvenience of getting to and from the streetcar lines, for in wet weather the mud was so slippery that, either up-hill or down-hill, folks had to slide through it and sometimes sink in it over their rubbers. A request for a remedy was followed by the piling up of stones for a crossing, but there they have remained, and all through the past winter and wet spring the nuisance described has had to be endured at that point, while every crossing from Eighth east to Main has been fixed. What is the reason that this neglect continues? It's a poor excuse to throw it on former city officials, and it doesn't help the matter at all. Will the present city officers get a move on them, use those rocks and pave the walk, or will the people of the neighborhood have to turn out and do the work and shame the party in control?

## TRUTH HURTS SOME FOLKS.

It is customary with some "yellow journals" to clip from papers that they wish to attack, references to statements made in other prominent publications, and then attribute them to the objects of assault and abuse. That is not the choice or more respectable kind of newspaper polemics, nor does it accomplish anything in the interest of general information or of public morals. But of such is the clique of the mudslingers.

On Monday evening the Deseret News gave some particulars from the New York World concerning the increase of crime in this country. The authority was considered trustworthy, and the statistics it furnished were from official sources. They were significant of the fact that in spite of all the educational, religious and moral agencies that have been at work in modern society, the graver offenses against the law such as murder, burglary, grand larceny and similar crimes were in excess of the minor offenses, and the whole showing gave alarming percentages of increase in 1905 over those of 1904.

The figures were not ours, the deductions from the facts were those of the New York World contributor. But one of these yellow journalists referred to above, endeavors to fasten them upon the "News," and with characteristic sophistry and serpentine twistings and turnings endeavors to put us in the position of attacking the Christian world and belittling "Christian principles." Of course we did nothing of the kind, and the remarks we made on the moral status of the times were based upon facts and figures that appear in current publications, and what we did say is so partially quoted as to entirely eliminate those authorities. It does not matter much, but simply shows the animus, unfairness and malignity of such saffron-hued papers.

the nations that are called by the name of "Christian," but which are as far astray from "Christian principles" as darkest earth is from heavenly light;

## A LAMENTABLE VERDICT.

Croftield, undoubtedly, was a very bad man. If only half of what rumor had to say of him was true, he was unfit to live. But though this is true, it is also true that the verdict convicting his slayer of the charge of murder is to be regretted, in the interest of justice and public morals. It was not the business of George Mitchell to act in the multiple role of accuser, judge, jury, and executioner. In doing so, he usurped power that every civilized community has found it necessary to delegate to regularly appointed agents of the state. Every act of kind is an attempt to turn society back to the state of barbarism from which it has emerged, and no amount of applause from an unthinking crowd can change that fact in the least. Every act by which individuals usurp power not theirs, is an assault upon the state.

The press dispatches are filled every day with reports of the taking of human life unlawfully. There is no prospect of any abatement in this evil, until the powers that be undertake to demonstrate the value of human life by suffering murderers of every degree of guilt to take the consequences of their acts. Lynching seems to have entered a stage of decrease in Southern states, as a consequence of the vigorous measures by some governors against the mobs. This proves the possibility of stemming, to some extent at least, the tide of manslaughter. On the other hand, as noted a few days ago in these columns, a New York magistrate, writing for the World, recently proved by statistics that the grave crimes are on the increase in that city. He proved that there were murdered, or slain, over ten persons each week, or nearly three every two days. This, we believe, is the natural outcome of the lax administration of law, by which so many man-slayers of both sexes are declared "not guilty" and let loose upon society.

## ROJESTVENSKY ACQUITTED.

The trial of Admiral Rojestvensky and fellow-officers, at Cronstadt, for the surrender of the torpedo-boat Bedovi to the Japanese after the naval battle that ended so disastrously to the Russian squadron, appears rather in the light of a finale to a farce, than a serious proceeding.

Rojestvensky sailed out of the Baltic with a fleet consisting largely of old ships, and some of them poorly equipped. With this force he was commanded to go to the other side of the earth and find, and annihilate the strong fleets of Japan, under the command of one of the greatest naval geniuses of our age. He was commanded to perform an impossible feat, merely to save the honor of the Czar and make a surrender easier. And he failed to accomplish his mission. After having risked his life in the service of the master, he returns home to be accused of being a traitor.

According to the laws of Russia, or rather customs of that country, the last duty of a naval commander is to destroy the ship he is in charge, when he cannot save it from capture. To surrender it to the enemy is to risk a trial by court-martial. He is not supposed to remember that the ship holds many precious lives that should be saved rather than sacrificed to no purpose. It is pleasant to notice that Rojestvensky was acquitted. His own ship was destroyed and he was, by friends taken to the Bedovi, wounded and unconscious. When accused he pleaded guilty, but his condemnation and execution would have been murder just the same.

Rojestvensky's great blunder was committed when, passing the fishing boats in the North Sea, he permitted his men to fire upon the fishermen. That was an inexcusable blunder, for which the only plausible explanation offered is that the officers were drunk and knew not what they were doing. After that deplorable outbreak Rojestvensky proved himself a real hero. He went to what appeared to be his inevitable death with a determination to do his full duty, that entitles him to all honor in his own country.

## TUBERCULOSIS IN FRANCE.

According to a report by a U. S. consular clerk of Paris, the French people have found it necessary to commence a vigorous campaign against the great plague of modern times. The Academy of Medicine has ascertained by statistics that 150,000 persons die every year in France of tuberculosis. This represents 33 deaths from this cause of every 10,000 inhabitants. And it is believed that these figures are rather below the actual facts. Many deaths, it is pointed out, are reported as from "unknown causes," and these include, on doubt, some cases of tuberculosis.

The facts and figures presented by the French statisticians are of interest to every other country, because they represent conditions that are more or less prevalent all over the civilized world. Tuberculosis is an enemy against which mankind must make a combined and intelligent defense. It is therefore of the greatest importance to have correct information on every subject relating to the disease.

What has been done for the purpose of gathering data is set forth in the consular report before us. In reference to the subject of the effect of insanitary dwellings, 80,000 houses were observed, and it was found that the disease was more prevalent in houses where there was little light. This is a pointer that should be of particular value at this time of tenement houses. Many apartment houses now-a-days are built with a number of dark, or nearly dark, rooms, because of the immense value of the ground and the consequent necessity of utilizing every inch. It stands to reason that a room but imperfectly lighted and aired—a room where the rays of the sun never enter, must be a congenital rendezvous for cockroaches and all kinds of vermin, including disease-carrying germs.

People who rent houses cannot be too particular about the hygienic conditions of rooms for which they are asked to pay a high rent.

Another fact proved by the French in-

vestigations is this, that some occupations are more dangerous, as regards this disease, than others. Professor Landouzy found lamentable conditions prevailing among policemen and postal employees, who are provided with very unsanitary offices, and also among laundry workers. Also among 237 workmen, carefully kept under observation by Professor Landouzy, consisting of carpenters, joiners, floor layers, and packers, all living under practically the same conditions, the mortality from tuberculosis amounted to more than 30 per cent.

Laundry workers, however, were found to be the most seriously affected. From statistics made at Billancourt, Boulogne-sur-Seine, etc. (districts in the neighborhood of Paris, where laundries abound), the mortality from tuberculosis reached the total of 75 per cent. So deadly is the handling of soiled linen, that young women succumb after an average of 15 years, while men last from eighteen to twenty-two years.

There is, we presume, no remedy, but the education of the public to the necessity of the strict observance of hygienic rules. The bakers of Paris, the consular report says, have just formed an organization for the improvement of the unsanitary conditions under which they have to work, and this seems to be highly necessary, for, it is stated authoritatively that despite the governmental inspection of bakeries and the most modern hygienic apparatus, out of 400,000 bakers in Paris, 20,000 suffer with tuberculosis.

The French government is now considering the establishment of special hospitals for tuberculosis both in Paris and throughout the country, where patients can be properly isolated and given special treatment. Already at Bligny a model hospital or sanitarium has been erected at a cost of 1,500,000 francs (\$28,500), the annual cost of maintenance being 180,000 francs (\$3,740). Its present capacity is 126 patients, so that only a very small percentage of the applicants for admission were successful. This is probably the final solution of the problem. As long as patients are left to roam about and take care of themselves, or to die without any care at all, the plague will spread and crave its victims in ever growing numbers. To fight the disease successfully, the patients must be taken care of by experts.

Plannells may now be left off with safety.

The sheriff is going after Hope. Hope gets him.

Mayor Rose of Kansas City has a thorny path to tread.

With many people first principles simply mean "get there first."

The flesh pots of Egypt are preferable to the jam pots of England.

Death doesn't love a shining mark half as much as an anarchist does.

Russia today affords a splendid example of a representative government in the making.

Few things are more dangerous than certifying to the credentials of unknown people.

Do Mr. and Mrs. Longworth think that they do things in the social line better in France?

Professor Ross pleads in the Atlantic for a new method of grading sinners. Grade them up instead of down.

In the eye of the law, Bernard Shaw's "Mrs. Warren's Profession" is a pure play. But then the law, or justice, is blind.

Mr. Bryan's reception at his homecoming can scarcely be more enthusiastic than it has been at his old homecoming.

Alfred Harmsworth says that Englishmen make better husbands than Americans. Alfred forgets that "self-praise is no praise."

Thaw insists that he is not insane. For a man charged with murder to insist that he is sane is almost proof positive of insanity.

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