

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.  
(SUNDAY EXCEPTED.)  
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor  
Eugene G. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES:  
One Year, in advance, \$5.00  
Six Months, " " 3.00  
Three Months, " " 1.50  
One Month, " " .75  
Retail price, per copy, 25c  
Single copy, 25cNEW YORK OFFICE:  
In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign  
Advertising, from our Home Office, 117 Park Ave.  
Building, New York.CHICAGO OFFICE:  
In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign  
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Building, New York.

SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 8, 1903.

## SPARE THE TREES!

From reliable sources we learn that a great slaughter of shade trees, along the roads southward and on the lines of farming lands, is in process and there seems to be a mania for this kind of destruction. It is to be greatly regretted. The beauty of the landscape is marred, and that we believe without benefit to the land which is expected to be derived from this species of vandalism. We ask the farmers to stop in their limitation of some rash neighbors, until they learn the results of that which has been accomplished.

We presume the chief reason assigned for the cutting down of old trees, which have long been an ornament to the roads and farms where they have flourished, is the shade they cast upon tillable land and the partial exclusion of sun and air. There may be something in that, but we are of the opinion that whatever may be gained, if anything, by the destruction of the trees, will be lost in the decrease of attraction by the foliage to the humidity which is so greatly desirable in this arid region. Cut down the trees and the rainfall will be lessened. So too will those atmospheric influences which tend to health and a pleasant temperature.

The planting and cultivation of trees, both for use and ornament, for fruit and for shade, have greatly modified the climate for the better in every valley of these mountains. Each newly settled vale has become more habitable and its products more profitable, as its horticultural foliage has been increased. How flat and monotonous and forbidding is the scene in regions that are treeless! How beautiful is the contrast where the lives of farms and roadways are marked by trees, their leaves rustling in the breeze they appear to encourage, and their presence marking the work of civilized and progressive labor and cultivated taste!

Farmers, wait awhile! Don't be in a rush in this matter. Find out something about consequences before you join in the stampede against arborism. Trimming to a rational extent may be beneficial, but destruction of your trees will probably be a cause of future sorrow, and the evil results to the general health, the needed moisture and the appearance of our rural districts which when denuded of their lovely foliage will be dreary and uninviting to the eye, and will be a change that can cause universal dissatisfaction and regret.

## FORECAST FOR THE YEAR.

All sorts of forecasts have been made for the year that has just commenced. Astrologers have also spoken, but mostly in so general and ambiguous terms, as to render their forecasts entirely valueless.

The stars, we are told by one of the modern Magi, will fight for the betterment of mankind this year. Capricorn and Uranus as well as Aquarius are preparing to work many marvels for the world generally and for Uncle Sam in particular. But there will be exciting times, before the efforts of the stars are crowned with success. "The navy," the seafarer tells us, "will be unusually active—i might say aggressive—and a landing of troops will not be improbable. \* \* \* New territory will be acquired in the present year. There will be much tension in diplomatic circles during the spring and autumn quarters, while the summer months will witness favorable activity in all channels."

Too bad, that the united efforts of Capricorn, Uranus and Aquarius cannot prevent the aggressive activity of our navy, or the landing of troops, probably, nor relieve the tension in diplomatic circles! If planets and constellations, working together like Great Britain and Germany in Venezuela, are unable to keep this little earth straight, no wonder that things will happen during this year! But it is almost incredible that some astrologers can read their own predictions, without realizing that they are trying to trade in the credulity of their fellowmen.

One thing seems sure to happen this year, and that alone will make it memorable in the annals of men. We refer to the arbitration of the Venezuela affair. For that is the greatest triumph of the cause of "peace on earth," since the deliberations of The Hague congress in 1899. What the outcome of the case may be, is immaterial. The fact that arbitration in such a case is agreed on is all-important.

The fact is that neither Great Britain nor Germany has thought much of the arbitration idea. They sent their representatives to The Hague, to humor the Czar, not because they believed that anything could be done in the line indicated by the Russian invitation. Had they believed in arbitration, the Boer war might have been avoided, and some of the atrocities committed against China might not have occurred. But neither of the two powers believed in arbitration. Now they have consented to submit their quarrel with Venezuela to The Hague tribunal. That

is really so grand a triumph for peace, that the year will be distinguished on that account, even if nothing else of importance happens. It will be a precedent of the greatest value. The reference of this case to the court will contribute to the development of international law, and aid in a better understanding of what rights nations have in dealings with one another of this nature.

## AID FOR FILIPINOS.

President Roosevelt is very anxious, it appears, for Congress to enact the measure recommended by the Philippine commission for the betterment of the conditions in the islands. Among these are the adoption of a better monetary system and increasing the limit of government land that can be sold, or leased, to one concern. Secretary Root specially recommends that \$2,000,000 be appropriated for the relief of distress in the islands, and suggests that the money be entrusted to the Philippine government, to expend at its discretion in the purchase and distribution of supplies, or furnishing employment in the construction of roads or other public works. The solicitude shown for the Filipinos is most commendable.

The United States is morally bound to take care of them, and as the best policy is to help those dependent on others, to help themselves, the furnishing of means for public works must commend itself to the American people. The islands cannot be developed without modern means of communication, and that means the investment of capital. But private capital is not likely to seek investment that way, because of the length of time that would go before it would yield profitable returns. It seems necessary that government aid be accorded to help with, in order to hasten on the development of the country's resources.

But in whatever measures are taken for the benefit of the islands, the needs of the people there, should be kept in view—not the needs of adventurers that may have gone there in order to get rich. The islands belong to the people, and not to strangers. Our obligations are to the natives that were transferred to us by the Paris treaty. Their welfare should be the first consideration.

## DECIMAL MEASURES.

We have received a communication from Mr. W. M. Cowley of Delta, Colorado, on the subject of weights and measures. The metric system having been strongly advocated by many writers in England and America, our correspondent shows up some of its disadvantages, and in its place offers some excellent suggestions as to a decimal system, which would be much more simple and likely to come into general use. We will not attempt to enter into particulars further than those he explains, but give place to the greater part of his letter on the subject as follows:

A great deal has been written on the subject of the metric system, but this word does not convey a proper idea of the subject, as this word does not necessarily mean a decimal system. A decimal system increases and decreases by tens, which is all that is needed to introduce to the people to replace the old unreasonably styles we see in the arithmetic of today. Everyone is aware that the French decimal system has been before the world nearly a century, but it moves with a small gallop among the Anglo-Saxons and Anglo-American peoples.

I don't see why we should follow the French system of weights and measures more than we should wish to follow the ten-day week that they undertook to establish after their revolution. It is generally believed that the basis of the French meter (39.3708 inches) is not correct and never can be determined or measured, but a measure based on the inch which has been in general use 20 thousands of years, is in every way practicable, and easy. And, as Mr. Joseph Silver some time ago pointed out the fact is that nearly all the tools in machine shops all over the world are based on the inch and its divisions into halves, quarters, eighths, etc., while the change onto the base of the French meter would require an entire new division, and would require millions of dollars to introduce such new tools. Then it would require an endless amount of trouble and money to change the millions of books now printed in the old systems in the English language.

By using a meter of exactly 40 inches, and subdividing into tenths of 4 inches each, we have a simple system that every man could remember. We would call the 4-inch division a hand, and as commonly English use the foot and yard, Ten decimal hands would be 40 inches while a semi-chain (4 rods) would be 20 inches and within 4 inches of the 40-inch meter; and indeed, a well worn surveyor's chain would be found to measure 40 inches to the two rods or half chain. Then 16 semi-chains would be a semi-furlong, etc.

A box or can 1 inch cube would hold a quart of 64 cubic inches; a half pint 16 cubic inches, and a gill would be a measure 2 inches cube, or 8 cubic inches, etc. What could be more easy to remember and use out?

Sixty-four cubic inches of commercial alcohol (1 quart) will weigh almost exactly 2 pounds avoirdupois, a point, 1 pound, etc. This is a very convenient unit for weight. Forty inches or one meter cubed will measure 1,000 quares and 2,000 pounds of commercial alcohol, one ton measure, or one ton weight.

When we take into consideration the numerous names used in the French system, it is enough to frighten common people. Then the fractional divisions are so very similar to the multiples. For instance, we have deciliter 1-10 liter and decaliter, 10 liters and measures. It is a hard matter to have people follow the decimal system of money; dollars, dimes, cents and mills; we hear two-bits, four-bits, six-bits, instead of two dimes and five cents, five dimes, and five cents; and even we have the old-fashioned shilling of New York state thrown at us occasionally, but one-bit is probably common in California and the glory of New Orleans. When prices are so hard to give up their old bad habits in decimal money how can we expect people to drop their old weights and measures and take up near 100 Greek and Latin words to fill their places?

I believe it was Gladstone who made the remark that the Anglo-Saxon gave the most stubborn people in receiving up old customs and taking up with new-fangled ones in the civilized world. I believe he was very right. Indeed the English-speaking people are a stubborn lot of folks, and the Anglo-Americans are not far behind in some things.

## KLIPING AND WILDENBUCH.

Mr. Klipping's recent effort against the so-called German-British alliance, has called forth a savage reply, also in verse, from a German poet, Herr Ernst von Wildenbuch. Of course Klipping was wrong in referring to the Germans

as wild Huns, but it is a habit of his to say unpleasant things. "The bear that walks like a man," and "the islanders," testify of this. But neither the Russian nor the British poets have cared to reply.

The incident suggests that future international hostilities may be considerably aggravated by poets hurling bad verse against one another across the borders. Stanley speaks of African tribes who carried on warfare, by assembling and calling one another names across a creek. Something similar might be done. Poets might attack one another in numbers, and carry on the wars of the nations with pen and ink. Klipping and Wildenbuch should be encouraged to demonstrate how far invective when put forth in rhyme can be utilized in international disputes.

## THE DIVIDED POWERS.

Great Britain protests against the permission granted by Turkey for Russian torpedo boat destroyers to pass through the Dardanelles. It is supposed that Austria and Italy will also protest, while Germany and France will remain silent.

This is very significant as an indication of the general European political situation. In the Venezuelan matter, Great Britain and Germany have been called allies, but in the Turkish question their interests are divided. In the same way, Germany, Austria and Italy are united in the Triple alliance, but the two last mentioned countries in this matter side with England and not with Germany. Old-time lines of sympathies and antipathies are evidently being obliterated and new combinations are being formed.

One of the significant features is the rising antagonism between Russia and Germany. Recently a Russian high official called attention to what he termed the rising wave of pan-Germanism and declared it to be a menace to the Slavs. He urged vigorous action to prevent Russia from falling a victim to what the writer calls "the merciless self-seeking in politics and commerce" of the Germans.

Formerly it was Russia against Great Britain. At every point their interests seemed to come in conflict. At present Germany seems to appear as a "menace" to Russian plans. The absence of a German protest against the permission to send Russian ships through the Dardanelles, would appear to contradict the Russian fear for Germany, but the motive is clear enough. Germany does not wish to embarrass the Sultan. It was friendship for Turkey and not for Russia, that prompted the silence. And that itself is ominous. It may mean that if Russia should entertain any designs upon Turkey, it would have to deal with Germany, too.

Can it be that Castro's enemies desire him to write a book?

The yellow journals are making a great deal of the "purple mother."

When it comes to southern politics Mr. Roosevelt prefers black tulips to Lilly Whites.

Dr. Lorenz says that pie is injurious in the extreme. That may be, but it isn't always injurious in the stomach.

Many politicians are now building up their own fences by advocating the pulling down of fences on the public lands.

What with Congress and so many legislatures in session enough laws will be enacted to cure all the ills to which flesh is heir.

Senator Hoar has introduced another anti-trust bill. The senator is dealing with the question on the alternative writ plan.

General Greene's new broom in New York sweeps very clean. If it will do this in the green what may be expected in the dry?

Hoston claims to be the wool center of the United States. And the people there pull a good deal of it over the eyes of the people elsewhere.

Chicago society just revels in the accounts of the great durbur in India. It cannot help feeling that in a measure the Indian empire belongs to it.

There is comfort for the people of the blizzard swept states in these lines:

"Blow, blow, thou winter wind!  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude."

Gen. Villon denies the statement that there will be any general exodus of Boers to this country, or to Mexico, or anywhere else. Some may seek new homesteads, but they will be few.

Governor Stanley of Kansas testifies that his office has cost \$1,000 a year more than it has paid him, which shows that bachelor apartments are more expensive than housekeeping for two.

The ministers at Peking have signed a note to China warning her that failure to pay the indemnity on a gold basis, would entail grave consequences. The consequences would probably be the grave of China.

Governor Van Sant of Minnesota is so deeply interested in crushing out trusts, and makes them the burden of his message to the legislature. His views will generally be accepted but when he says, speaking of the suit brought by Attorney-General Knox: "Whatever the result there need be no apprehension, for there is a power greater than corporate wealth, greater even than the supreme court of the United States and that is the power of the American people and when once aroused no evil can resist this mighty force," he enters the domain of demagoguism. Apparently he forgot that he was in a legal fight and not a political campaign.

The death of a human being at the hands of his fellow man is always a regrettable matter, but all right thinking people will justify Mine Manager J.A. Traylor of Keystone, near Ely, Nevada, in his killing of three miners and wounding of three others who came to his office with the avowed intention of

running him out of town. He merely acted in self-defense and vindicated his rights. Strikers all over the country have become more or less imbued with the idea that they are a law unto themselves and that others have no rights they are bound to respect. Twelve strikers in Keystone determined to run Mr. Traylor out of town and they got left, some forever.

## THE DELHI FESTIVITIES.

Springfield Republican.  
The gorgeous spectacle at Delhi is calculated to impress India with the splendor of the power that rules; but to outsiders nothing could be more symbolical than the ride of Lord Curzon on the back of the elephant in the first day's festivities. That was England riding India.

San Francisco Call.  
To Americans the great ceremony is of interest because Lady Curzon, the vicereine of that vast empire, is an American woman. Strange are the courses of fate and fortune that have brought this Chicago girl to such conspicuous part in a ceremony the most brilliant in all history. That her royal part was so royally borne is evidence of the adaptability of the American woman to the duties of any exaltation to which her beauty and her virtues may bring her. Our fierce democracy, in its plain political clothes, will gallantly salute our American daughter, Lady Mary Curzon of Kedleston, Vice-Empress of the Mogul empire, more worthy of the Taj Mahal than was Nourmahal, the favorite of Jehan.

Kansas City Star.  
The cost of the demonstration at Delhi, India, in honor of the coronation of Edward VII is estimated all the way from \$50,000 to two millions, and it will probably be nearer the latter sum. In splendor it will far surpass the real coronation ceremony in London. This enormous outlay in the way of official publicity is in strange contrast to the Indian famine with which Great Britain was unable to cope only a very short time ago, and the ravages of which must still be apparent on all sides.

New York Mail and Express.  
All these years, from 1629, when the English merchants acquired on the Indian coast a strip of land six miles long and one mile wide, until now, Englishmen of some sort have ruled over India or a part of it—and never touched the real India. They do not touch it now. They have an elaborate and on the whole very useful system of government. It is an absolute rule, permitting to the Indian peoples no participation whatever. Do the people themselves care very much because they are so ruled? Do they resent it at all? Sometimes there are indications that they do. There are occasional mutinies and threatenings of a life storm. But these are slight and transitory.

MASAGNI.  
San Francisco Call.  
People are trying to console Masagni by telling him that his bad luck in this country is not due to any lack of hospitality or appreciation of genius on our part but solely to the vicissitudes of his profession. They inform him that the road from Maine to California is strewn with the wrecks of musical ventures and advise him to brace up.

New York Mail and Express.  
Masagni has found many misfortunes in America, and Americans are certainly sympathetic. They are certainly not conscious of having done him any wrong. It is apparently a case of Masagni's biting off a larger amount of commercial talent than he was qualified by nature to masticate.

## BAD FOR PUGILISTS.

St. Paul Globe.  
The plight in which the prize fighting profession finds itself at this time offers another illustration of the truth that crookedness and dishonesty never win in the long run. The pursuit of gain on our part but solely to the vicissitudes of his profession. They inform him that the road from Maine to California is strewn with the wrecks of musical ventures and advise him to brace up.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. George S. Morison, member of the Isthmian Canal Commission, has the place of honor in The Engineering Magazine for January. His article, entitled "Lake Hoohe, the Summit Level of the Panama Canal," is an admirably clear statement of the American plans for the building of the Isthmian Canal.

The Panama and Darien routes were Mr. Morison's special study. There are two finely illustrated articles one by Mr. Robert Buchanan on foundry management and the other by Mr. D. R. Moses on electric plants. There is also a good article on mine management by Albert Williams Jr., and a suggestive review of "frank engines" by E. F. Watson. In addition to the above is a review and index of the world's engineering press—New York.

The January number of Black Cat has the usual amount of fiction in the shape of short stories. Among them are two prize stories, but all are of the kind for which this little magazine is famous—Short-story Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.

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