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DESERET NEWS' PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
this establishment a great deal of annoy-
ance if they will take time to notice these
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For the Chief Editor's office, 74-4.
For Deseret News Book Store, 74-3.
For City Editor and Reporter, 359-2.
For Business Manager, 359-3.
For Business Office, 359-2.

IT SHOULD BE GRANTED.

We hope that the application of the
Utah Light and Railway company for
an extended franchise will be favorably
considered and acted upon by the city
council. The terms offered by the com-
pany for the privilege requested are
very liberal to the public, and this in-
stitution should receive municipal and
general encouragement. The company
has been laboring from the beginning
under great difficulties. It was in-
sured as a public benefit by enter-
prising citizens of this State, who were,
however, compelled to seek for the aid
of outside capital in order to make the
project successful. They have labored
against great obstacles and have estab-
lished an excellent system which should
be supported by the public.

It has been the fashion when any
little defect has occurred, for some
people to sneer at and find fault with the
company. It is not generally known
how small a defect will paralyze a
whole circuit and sometimes the en-
tire lighting system. An electric storm
will often do damage in a moment,
costing thousands of dollars. It has
been found that lightning arresters,
supposed to be a perfect safeguard in
such storms, have been actually re-
duced to a cipher. Sometimes a crack
in an insulator not thicker than a hair
will cause a complete extinguishment
of light and immediate investigation
will fail to disclose for a long time the
cause of the trouble.

The long distance from which power
has to be transmitted when the ma-
chinery near at hand gets out of order,
has been found inadequate sometimes
to the requirements of the emergency.
Every possible effort to overcome these
difficulties has been and will be made,
and the company is laboring diligently
to make the system secure against all
accidents that are likely to occur, and
has the assurance of complete success
in that particular.

The street railway part of the in-
stitution has also been subjected to
many hindrances and costly expendi-
tures. Requirements have been made
from time to time, like the changes of
track around the monument at the head
of Main Street and the lowering of the
track on East South Temple Street,
involving the outlay of many thousands
of dollars, in some cases without good
reason, but which have had to be com-
piled with that the company might keep
its franchise.

The fact, which everybody interested
may become convinced of by investiga-
tion, that the company is not mak-
ing any money so as to be able to de-
clare dividends, but is only meeting
expenses, ought to close the lips of
people who are making attacks upon it
and trying to prejudice the public
against it. The franchise now asked for
is necessary to give a proper feeling
of security to capitalists outside of the
State, as well as to the home investors
who are public spirited citizens, engaged
in promoting the welfare and interests
of this city and State. No obstacle
ought to be placed in their way, but
every assistance that is legitimate and
consistent should be extended to the
organization known as the Utah Light
and Railway company.

A DOUBTFUL PROPOSITION.

A proposition has been presented to
the city council by the building inspec-
tor in reference to buildings on the
Main street of this city. He claims that
the business line on the east side of
the street from a given point to some
distance south, extends nearly a foot
beyond the property line and encroach-
es on the sidewalk. He recommends
that the buildings be ordered moved
back to the property line. We have
heard of similar statements in regard to
the sidewalk line in front of property
in some other districts of the city. Be-
fore any action is taken in regard to
this matter, it would be as well for the
committee on streets to investigate the
right and power of the city in reference
to these encroachments.

Apart from the non-necessity of re-
quiring stores and other buildings on
Main street to be moved backward a
foot, or to tear down their frontage and
rebuild the same on the line designated
by the surveyor, involving great ex-
pense to the owners and but very
small advantage to the public, if any,
it is very questionable whether the
change can be legally enforced. The
same may be said as to fences in front
of outside property.

The right of possession has been held

by the proprietors of those premises
for a good deal more than seven years.
To an ordinary reader of the statutes
in reference to this subject, it looks
as though no one can disturb them in
that right. There may be some techni-
calties bearing upon the question with
which we and the general public are
not acquainted, but if the city has the
right, at this late date, to make a new
survey or to enforce an old survey
about which nothing has been said or
done for more than the seven years
provided for by law, after the expira-
tion of which no legal action can de-
rive the possessor of his rights, then
there is a screw loose somewhere that
ought to be adjusted.

Of what benefit to the public or to the
municipality would be the enforced re-
moval of the buildings designated a
foot to the rear? No inconvenience that
we know of has been occasioned by
their occupancy of the ground now
claimed for the sidewalk. We do not
believe there has been any complaint
about it from the public, and it looks
absurd to make this requirement after
all the years of occupancy by the pro-
prietors of those buildings. We do not
believe it is lawful, and it seems very
sure that it is unnecessary and unjust.
However, we have no doubt that the
committee and the city council will
thoroughly investigate the matter, both
from a legal and a moral standpoint.

RELIEF TO THE FAIR SEX.

A short time ago the Deseret News
called attention to the custom that has
prevailed, of requiring applicants for
marriage licenses to give their ages,
and also requiring applicants for regis-
tration as voters to do the same, while
the laws of the State make no such de-
mand as a condition precedent to ob-
taining a license or registration for
voting. All that is necessary as to
obtaining a marriage license, so far as
age is concerned, is to declare that the
prospective bride is eighteen and the
bridegroom twenty-one years of age
and upward, and for registration that
each voter, whether male or female, is
twenty-one years of age and upward.
There are many people who are averse
to declaring how old they are, most of
them being elderly ladies, who feel a
delicacy in regard to the matter. We
notice that County Clerk Eldredge has
decided to conform to the law in re-
gard to this matter, and a new applica-
tion blank and marriage license form
has been adopted by him, so that pub-
licity as to the actual ages of brides
and bridegrooms when applying for
licenses need not become public
knowledge. This is a small matter per-
haps, but the step taken is on the right
line and will prove satisfactory to a
great many people, and we hope it will
result in a considerable increase of
marriages in this county and that the
example will be followed in other parts
of the State. The same rule should
apply in the future registration of vot-
ers. Let the law be fully complied
with, but let the custom of requiring
something more than the law provides
for be abolished.

BE REASONABLE!

There are many people who appear to
under the impression that the editors
of newspapers keep in mind the time
and texts of publications of articles on
various subjects extending over a pe-
riod of many years. This is evident
from letters of inquiry received con-
stantly, asking for copies of papers con-
taining some article or communication
that has appeared in our columns,
without giving any clue to the period
when it was published. We wish our
readers would have a little considera-
tion for us, and perceive the impossi-
bility of our keeping track of items, or
letters, or editorials in the "News" dat-
ing back to remote periods, or even if
published within a comparatively short
time. A moment's reflection, we think,
would show that we have not the time,
even if we had the information, to hunt
up such matters and that when any
publication of the kind is desired, the date
of publication or some time approximat-
ing to it should be furnished by the in-
quirer, otherwise the time of both the
interrogator and the editor is utterly
wasted. We do not wish to be churlish
about this, but it seems to us that
intelligent people ought to understand
that writers on a daily paper are fully
occupied with their daily pursuits, and
cannot pore over back files to find
something that may or may not have
been published at some indefinite time,
that no mortal can designate without a
memory possessed by beings who are
perfect. Hereafter, when any copy of
the Deseret News is wanted by an in-
quirer, his request should be accom-
panied by the date of publication and
be addressed to the business depart-
ment.

ABOUT SANTO DOMINGO.

The present agitation about the lit-
tle island republic, Santo Domingo,
recalls the fact that once before that
feverish country kept the United States
statesmen busy with proposed treaties.
That was while Grant was president.
The Dominican government at that
time offered the country as a gift to
the United States, and Grant was fa-
vorable to the proposition, while the
Senate rejected the treaty made.

A contributor to the Boston Herald
minutely describes that interesting
episode of our history. He says that
soon after the opening of President
Grant's term in 1869, a steamer with
a United States commissioner on board,
reached Santo Domingo from New
York. One afternoon the Secretary of
State, or Premier, Gautier, called upon
the commissioner with an invitation to
dine with President Baez at his resi-
dence. The invitation was accepted,
and after the entertainment, President
Baez spoke freely about the financial
and political conditions of the country,
and ended by urging the commissioner
to take charge of an official document
and convey it to President Grant. He
did as requested. The letter was de-
livered to the president in the presence
of the secretary of State, Hamilton
Fish, and when it was opened it was
found to be a tender of the annexation
of Santo Domingo by the Baez govern-
ment to the United States. President

Grant at once sent for Gen. O. E. Bab-
cock, and on July 17, 1869, the latter
started for Santo Domingo with the
President's answer and instructions.
Gen. Babcock returned 40 days later
with a memorandum of the points
agreed upon, and with the assurance of
President Baez and his cabinet that the
people were favorable to the transfer
of the island.

In Nov. 1869, Gen. Babcock, accom-
panied by Gen. D. B. Sackett, a Span-
ish scholar, and Gen. Rufus B. Ingalls,
both of the army, returned to Santo
Domingo on the United States steamer
Albany, with the treaty of annexation,
prepared for official signatures. The
treaty was signed by Gen. Babcock and
Secretary of State Gautier. It provided
for the annexation of the whole island
and a lease of Samana bay and penin-
sula for a period of 50 years at \$150,000
a year. When Gen. Babcock returned
to the United States with the docu-
ment it was accepted by the President
and sent to the senate. Senator Charles
Sumner, then chairman of the commit-
tee on foreign relations, bitterly op-
posed the treaty, accusing Baez of be-
ing an adventurer held in power by the
American navy. The treaty, on a di-
rect vote on June 30, 1870 failing to re-
ceive the necessary two-thirds, was re-
jected. This resulted in Senator Sum-
ner being removed by a vote of the
senate as chairman of the committee
on foreign relations.

President Baez, on learning the fate
of the treaty said: "The measure will,
nevertheless succeed in the end, for it
is a necessity in the progress of human-
ity, whose unseen agent is Providence
itself." And General Grant, when urged
to make another effort, replied: "I
have done my duty. I am entirely
willing to let the judgment of posterity
determine between the senate and me
as to the wisdom of adding such a
splendid possession to our national do-
main and of securing such a strategic
position for our protection at home and
naval prestige in the islands of the
West Indies."

The question this time, however, is
not of annexation. The agreement be-
tween the governments merely pro-
vides for the collection and disburse-
ment of certain revenues, for the pro-
tection of creditors. Something, it
seems, had to be done without delay,
to give European powers no excuse for
sending warships, landing troops, and
perhaps annexing Dominican territory.

THE BALKAN SITUATION.

Perhaps one of the most significant
utterances of King Edward in his ad-
dress opening the British parliament
was the passage referring to the Bal-
kan situation. According to the report
from London, he stated that this situa-
tion "continues to give cause for anxie-
ty"—an expression that would indicate
that the condition of affairs is more
grave than the general public is aware
of. The King assured parliament that
the reforms already carried out had
resulted in some relief, but he added
that "radical reforms," especially of
a financial nature, were needed. This
sounds almost as a warning to the
Turkish government, especially as the
King also stated, that negotiations are
now pending concerning the Balkan sit-
uation.

If this question is thoroughly dis-
cussed by the interested governments,
they will arrive at the conclusion that
no reform that does not liberate the
so-called Christians of the Turkish
empire from the Mohammedan domi-
nation, is of lasting benefit. The Turks
overran Europe and virtually made
slaves of all nations that refused al-
ligiance to their faith. They have
always considered themselves as "mas-
ters," to whom their subjects were a luxu-
rious existence in idleness. That is the
Balkan problem in a nutshell, as well
as the Armenian problem. And it can-
not be solved by "reforms." An en-
tire re-adjustment of the political af-
fairs of southeastern Europe, and Asia
Minor is needed, and there will not be
peace, until justice is blotted out,
and each nation recognized.

Russia has generally kept the other
European powers from taking up the
vexed problem, in earnest, in the hope
of getting a chance, some time, of solv-
ing it herself by assimilating as much
as possible of the Turkish empire. And
the other European powers have, there-
fore, jealously watched Russia, and
prevented her from advancing upon
Constantinople. And between these
jealousies and quibbles the Turks have
been permitted to oppress their unfor-
tunate victims in every way imagin-
able, and even kill them by the thou-
sands. Russia is just now not a very
important factor in international polit-
ics, and the time would seem oppor-
tune to take up the discussion of the
Balkan problem from a practical point
of view. Is, perhaps, the King's ad-
dress on the Balkan situation to be re-
garded as a notification to Turkey
especially, that the powers are about
to take some action?

Hoch is still "In hock."

What a wildcat scheme for making
money the bounty frauds have been.

The assassination of Grand Duke Ser-
gio will but retard the progress of re-
form in Russia.

Sherlock Holmes' last appearance is
getting to be about as numerous as
Patti's farewell tours.

A public official whose accounts are
straight should welcome an investiga-
tion; and at any time.

The customary revolutions in San Do-
mingo will be postponed while Uncle
Sam is collector of customs.

Jones' confession in the bounty
fraud cases shows that there are more
ways than one of skinning a cat.

Dorothy Russell says that the idea
of a divorce is repulsive to her; still she
must have one. A clear case of atav-
ism.

So smelter fumes are not detrimental
to health. Well, well! Now let some "ex-
pert" come forward and show that they
are conducive to it.

All that is necessary to establish

more cordial relations between Colom-
bia and the United States is for Col-
ombia to get over the sulks.

European creditors of Central and
South American republics should send
their accounts to Uncle Samuel, Wash-
ington, D. C., for collection. Prompt
remittances. Terms moderate.

"Woman's right to be hung does
not seem to be the question at issue in
Vermont and Pennsylvania so much as
woman's right to commit murder." Is
the brief comment of the New York
Mail on the two notorious murder
cases.

The promptitude with which Presi-
dent Roosevelt ordered Commissioner
of Corporations J. H. Garfield to be-
gin the oil investigation, called for by
the House resolution, must have almost
taken the breath of the Standard Oil
company. There was no standing upon
the order of going.

The president's message, transmitting
the San Domingo protocol to the Sen-
ate is a momentous event in American
history. It is the putting in practice of
the pronouncement of Secretary of
State Olney, made at the time of the
Venezuelan controversy, that "the flat
of the United States is law on the
American continent." It is a note of
warning that must be heeded by South
and Central American republics. How
European nations will rejoice.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Sacramento Bee.
The Los Angeles Express favors Mc-
Cartney's bill authorizing the use of the
Bible in the public schools, but antici-
pates that the opposition will be too
strong to enable the measure to pass.
In conclusion it remarks: "Meanwhile
every child in the public schools of
California is deprived by so much of
receiving a complete education." The
Bee agrees with the Express that no
education is complete which does not
include a knowledge of the Bible, if
only in a literary way. But the objec-
tion remains that the public school is
not the place to impart that knowledge.

Health Culture for February has an
interesting list of contents. Among
the subjects are: "American Adven-
tures of a Japanese Traveler," Chap. 1;
"Red Lights—Danger Signals on the
Road to Health," by a practicing phy-
sician, what the doctor sees in the
tongue; "Physical Development," "A
Rational Method of Tonic Production,"
"Economy in Food," "Benefits of
Laughter," "Dangers in Celluloid
Combs," and others.—The Health Cul-
ture Co., 151 West 23rd St., New York.

TEA

It is absurd to tell you over
and over again to go to your
grocer for money; it is your
money.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like
Schilling's Tea.

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were going to run us out of
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ladies and misses just received. (When we decided to
close out our shoe department, all shoe orders were can-
celed. This online we were compelled to accept, as
they were manufactured and put up with out imprint
especially for us. Notwithstanding their being the latest
models from these famous makers, they will be closed
out at actual cost.)

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