

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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DESERET NEWS' THOUGHTS

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
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if they will take time to notice these
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STORIES REPUDIATED.

Readers of the News will remember
that we made some comments a few
days ago on an atrocious statement
made by one Albert N. Hoxie of Boston,
and copied into a Salt Lake morning
paper, in which he advised that Joseph
Smith, leader of the Reorganized church
be called to Washington as a witness,
alleging that "he knows of persons
escaped from the endowment house
and the terrible fate that awaited them
and who fled from the State, barely
escaping with their lives." He said
further: "The practice of sacrificing human
beings I have reason to believe is
going on now, only in greater secrecy
than ever."We expressed our doubt that the
leader of the "Reorganization" although
greatly opposed to the Church in Utah,
would countenance such statements as
Hoxie's, but that he would disclaim
any participation therein. We are
pleased to see that the gentleman takes
occasion in "The Saints Herald" of
January 4, 1905, to repudiate all
connection with this "unwarranted
interference with the affairs of the
Committee on Privileges and Elections,
so far as the Reorganized
church is concerned." He
announces that "The church has not
authorized anyone to advise the senatorial
committee as to the conduct of
their investigation, nor has the Re-
organized church by its constituted
leading authorities ventured to inter-
fere in any wise with the investigation
by suggestion, or any offer of evidence."President Smith of the "Reorganization"
refers to some action taken by
members in reference to the investigation,
but denies that this is to be taken
as the action of the church. Some
of its leaders, acting under his instructions,
he says, have attended sessions of
the committee but simply to obtain in-
formation. He says further that, "The
statements made by Elder Hoxie, if he
is reported correctly, were unauthorized
and cannot be productive of any good, but
may and probably will do harm." The
gentleman also denies that he has any
evidence of the nature of that stated
by Hoxie, and adds: "We are in serious
doubt in regard to such evidence being
in Elder Hoxie's possession, and in-
clined to believe that what he thinks is
evidence are but idle and vicious stories,
gathered from the awful files of ter-
rible tales told about the Mormons by
those who are at enmity with them."We think the "Reorganized" church
and its President should be absolved
from any blame that may have been
attached to them because of the abomi-
nable stories told by Hoxie and copied
into anti-Mormon papers. And we
wonder whether these will have the
grace to publish the repudiation of
those gruesome stories, set forth in the
organ of the "Reorganization."

A GOOD TESTIMONY.

The "Mormon" Church as it is viewed
by the people who think they know all
about it, but whose information (?) is
derived from anti-Mormon literature,
is once more among the current topics.
Truly history does repeat itself in this
particular, that the Saints, as in the
days of the early Apostles are a people
"everywhere spoken against."While on a visit to El Paso to attend
the Irrigation Congress, we heard of a
discourse delivered by Rev. Robert
Bruce Smith, which made very plain
the fact that he knew little or nothing
of the "Mormon" people or the "Mor-
mon" religion, which formed the subject
of his harangue. We did not take the
trouble to give it special attention, but
we find that it has been replied to by
friends, and among them the editor of
El Progreso, a paper published at
Cancun Grande, Chihuahua, Mexico.The gentleman is not a "Mormon,"
but he is thoroughly acquainted with
the people of the "Mormon" colonies in
that region and has studied to some ex-
tent the principles of their faith, while
their lives, condition, industries and
prospects are familiar to him, for he
lives among them and is in daily com-
munication with many of them. His
comments on the preacher's dis-
course, and we clip the article out of
respect to Mr. Fred E. Eldredge, the
writer, and as the testimony of a non-
"Mormon" who knows whereof he
speaks. He says:

"Some time ago a sermon of Rev.

Robert Bruce Smith was printed in an
El Paso paper, and it contained the
most outrageous statements against the
Mormon people and the Mormon re-
ligion. Statement after statement of
that quoted sermon is absolutely un-
true. Most of the statements are the
opposite of truth. The proper way to
answer such an article is to print the
whole of it, so there is no chance for
mistake, and then in reply, show just
where the writer of the article is in er-
ror.""This we intend to do, as it is an in-
jury, a great wrong, to misrepresent the
people who in their colonies form a
large part of the English speaking peo-
ple of this section of country.""It takes time and considerable type
setting to answer Rev. Smith in de-
tail."
"But we say now, that after living
seven years among or near the Mor-
mon people, and doing business with
them continuously, we know them and
their teachings to be directly opposite
in most particulars to what Rev. Smith
has stated. We know the Mormon
people to be a class, peaceable, in-
dustrious, honest, temperate, law-abid-
ing people. The Mormon people in the
United States are among the most loyal
to that government, and the Mormon
people in Mexico are sincerely loyal to
the government of Mexico."

TOO MANY LAWS.

If there is one thing legislators should
remember, more than any other thing,
it is this, that the tendency is to make
more laws than are actually needed—
more, even, than can be enforced, and
that this superabundance of statutes is
a detriment, and not a help to public
morals and the government of states.
Somebody has gathered statistics on
the subject and ascertained that in one
year (1903) no less than 14,394 laws
were passed by the various States and
Territories, not counting those passed
by Congress. Legislators are tempted
to try to impress their importance upon
their constituents, by introducing
bills. They are apt to imagine that
that is the only way to make a record.
And as a consequence the statute
books of every State are inflated with
all sorts of enactments. Laws cross
and criss-cross until their interpretation
is the despair of the courts. "Ignorance
of the law excuses no man." And yet
no man knows precisely and fully what
the law is. The consequence is lawless-
ness. Legislators might make a splen-
did record by carefully sifting all
measures that are introduced, and
promptly opposing all that clearly can
have no general value. Reforms can-
not be brought about by legislative
enactments alone. These may be a
valuable aid to the prevailing senti-
ment, but the sentiment must first be
created, before this aid to it is framed.
Otherwise legislation becomes tyranny,
just as despotism that does not count
public opinion, is tyranny.

THE OREGONIAN.

We have just received the New
Year's issue of the Portland Oregonian.
"Better late than never." It is a great
paper. It is always newsy and forcible
and it treats on popular subjects in a
popular way. This number, however, is
exceptionally fine in every respect. It
is clearly printed, its topics are timely
and its views and cuts and general me-
chanical work are artistic and striking.
Of course its chief theme, literary and
illustrated, is the great exposition to
be held at Portland this year, in com-
memoration of the Lewis and Clark
centennial. It is a subject worthy of
the paper and of the State it repre-
sents. The front page gives a view of
the vision of the great explorers who
opened a new region to this republic.
Cuts of prominent men and scenes and
buildings follow in rich profusion, and
a double page scene in the first section
of the paper shows the fair grounds as
seen from Willamette Heights, with
Portland in the background and Mount
Hood in the distance. This will give
some idea of the entire paper of 52
pages, replete with attractive pictures
and interesting data. The Oregonian
announces that the year 1904 was the
most prosperous in the history of the
State and we should think that with the
great exposition and the Irrigation Con-
gress in sight for 1905, the new year
will outrank the past and give an im-
petus to Portland and to Oregon which
will "push it along" on the road of
wealth and fame. Utah is interested in
the Lewis and Clark fair and will aid
every way to make it a success. The
Oregonian is worthy of credit for its
newspaper enterprise and the work it
is doing for the city and the state in
which it is published.

WILL THERE BE PEACE?

Speculation is rife as to whether
Russia is about ready to consider peace
terms. Japan has repeatedly hinted at
her willingness to negotiate, but is the
Russian government willing?
On the surface it appears as if there
was a firm determination to carry on
the war to the finish. There is increas-
ed activity in mobilization of troops
and the transportation of men and war
material to the front. Prince Khilkoff,
the dispatches say, is working night
and day in the double-tracking of the
Trans-Siberian railway and the work
already done has added largely to the
capacity of the road. The very best
troops in the Russian army are going
to the front, their places in the gar-
risons being taken by the less active
reserves. In the Baltic shipyards there
is also renewed activity and no effort
will be spared in preparing the ships
now there to join the fleet. The
squadron, it is generally understood,
will not go forward until the third Bal-
tic squadron joins him. His time will
be occupied in whipping his men into
shape, in perfecting his officers in fleet
evolutions and in improving his gun
practice. Such preparations, it is
thought, indicate a determination to
fight to the bitter end.On the other hand, the internal con-
ditions of the country are said to be
extremely critical. The newspapers are
attacking the government. The czar
has been warned that the empire is onthe verge of a bloody revolution. The
wave of popular indignation is spread-
ing to all the great cities of European
Russia. It is particularly strong at
Moscow, where a great demonstration
of citizens marched to Grand Duke
Sergius' palace, stoned the windows and
shouted "Down with the war."The presidents of the zemstvos are
joining the general agitation. One of
them has written a letter to Prince
Sviatopolk-Mirsky, minister of the in-
terior, declaring that the empire is on
the verge of a revolution. He says:"Russia is now in a state of anarchy.
The revolutionary movement now pro-
ceeding is not a simple disturbance by
the youth of the country. It is a move-
ment which reflects the attitude of
public opinion dangerous and even ter-
rible, not only for the people, but for
the emperor. Therefore it is the duty
of every true Russian citizen to do what
he can to prevent the impending calami-
ties. Recently I had the happiness to
see the emperor. I reported to him truly
in all sincerity the present state of
public opinion. I tried to explain to
His Majesty that what is now proceed-
ing is not a simple enrage (riot), but a
revolution. The Russian nation is be-
ing dragged into a revolution which it
does not want and which may be pre-
vented by the emperor if he shows con-
fidence in the people. My strong belief
is that if the emperor will himself unite
the national forces around him he will
relieve Russia from the terror of an
impending bloody revolution. If he will
do so the nation will support his auto-
cratic power."It is argued from the state of turmoil
in which the country has been plunged
that the government will be compelled
to make temporary peace with Japan.
In order to set things in order at home.
This may be a too hasty conclusion.
For, it may be as dangerous to end the
war in disgrace as to continue it. But
the time should be opportune for the
friendly powers to offer their good of-
fices in the interest of arbitration and
peace.

AS TO PORT ARTHUR.

The question what to do with Port
Arthur is answered by a Japanese pa-
per in Tokio, in the only way imagin-
able. That paper advises the country
to keep it. "We ought to keep Port
Arthur in our hands," says that paper,
"so long as our empire exists." That is
undoubtedly a correct interpretation of
public sentiment in Japan. The Japa-
nese have taken the place twice, each
time at an enormous expense of blood
and money. The first time they were
compelled to give it up, by Russia.
The second time they will probably not
surrender it on compulsion. No Euro-
pean power, and certainly not the
United States, would ever give up such
a fortress, after such an experience as
Japan has had. Still the war is not yet
over, and it is premature to speak
about what to do with this place or
that, until the combatants have laid
down their arms. The fortunes of war
are changeable.Among diverse good causes is a wo-
man's cause.Americans stealing Napoleonic relics
in Corsica looks like imperialism run
road.The Second Pacific squadron is mak-
ing for home, sweet home. Turn about
is fair play.It begins to look as though we were
going to have a January thaw with
nothing to thaw.Mr. Loesser says that Mrs. Chadwick's
assets have been overestimated. Her
creditors can testify to this.Strange that the Black Hand has
been showing itself recently in New
York, yet no one has seen it.The California prune crop reaches a
total of 125,000,000 pounds. Pity the poor
people who live in boarding houses.The coolness of Marie Wainwright
during a fire scare in a Nebraska
theater averted a disaster. Sweet
Marie!The Japanese located some mines in
Port Arthur harbor before the Russians
surrendered, and without the aid of
their maps."Will Platt be as generous as the
Mikado and order military honors for
Odell?" asks the N. Y. World. Well,
he'll accept his parole.Colonel Bryan and his son-in-law
have become reconciled. Now he may
hope to reconcile successfully and per-
manently the factions in his party.Dr. Parkhurst again is engaged in at-
tacking the forces and sources of evil
in New York. He will find enough to
occupy his time no matter how much he
puts in.Governor Folk of Missouri hits the
nail squarely on the head when he
says in his message to the Missouri
legislature that party loyalty is some-
times good, but that patriotism is al-
ways better.Some good people down East are dis-
cussing the question whether or not
Adam did eat the apple. If he did it
wasn't the seedless variety, for look
at the crop of evil that grew up in
consequence.The Scranton, Pa., board of trade
wants the National Board of Trade
convention to adopt a resolution ask-
ing that President Roosevelt join the
other powers in a determined effort to
compel Russia and Japan to submit
their differences to The Hague tribunal
for arbitration. Wouldn't that be ad-
ding fuel to the flame rather than
pouring oil upon the troubled water?THEODORE THOMAS.
Boston Herald.
For a full half century, Theodore
Thomas has been one of the culturing
forces in this land. We suppose that
no one has done more to incite and
spread the love of music in its best ex-
pression. Although he held no public
office, he has been one of the golders
of the nation. His influence has been
vast, useful, beneficent, and it may besaid without exaggeration that he has
bettered the life of America by his
large and uplifting labors. Before his
coming this American civilization was
a barren field in respect of music, the
high and entrancing art that exercises
a charm over the intellect and the soul
that no other art does in a similar
broad and lofty degree. He is one of
those to whom the nation owes a debt
of admiration and gratitude for large
educational service. He has helped to
exalt it. No history of music in this
country can be of much worth which
does not pay high tribute to his devo-
tion to the education of the people to
appreciation of lofty and subtle har-
monies of expression.New York World.
It was an irretrievable mistake that
New York suffered him to go west for
want of a suitable hall for his per-
formances. But his triumphs at the
Cincinnati and Chicago festivals and
his regular annual series of concerts in
Chicago held new words to what the
New York lost much by his removal,
but on the whole the average standard
of musical taste was greatly elevated
by the work of education that he did in
the West. His achievements are per-
manent contributions to the advance-
ment of music in America.

PANAMA AND CONGRESS.

Chicago Record-Herald.
It cannot be doubted that it is the in-
tention of the national administration
to construct the isthmian canal without
any unnecessary delay. But there is
such a thing as making haste slowly,
and in view of the number, variety and
complexity of the problems presented
by the greatest project of the sort ever
undertaken there is little ground for
the complaint occasionally heard that
not enough progress has been made
since the conclusion of the canal treaty
with the little republic.

NOT IN FAVOR.

Law Notes.
Notwithstanding the advocacy now
and then of the rehabilitation of the
whipping-post, that form of punish-
ment is losing rather than gaining
ground in civilized countries. It is now
inflicted in England and in only a few
of the continental countries of Europe.
In the United States it is used only in
Delaware and Maryland. And perhaps
it still obtains to some extent in Aus-
tralia. The punishment is not inflicted
upon women in England, Delaware or
Maryland. In England there is an in-
creasing reluctance on the part of the
judges to inflict the punishment.

TEN-YEAR MARRIAGES.

Kansas City Star.
The man—or the woman—who has in-
duced Senator Smith of Kansas to draft
a bill providing for 10-year marriages
in that state is not more unreasonable
than lots of other people. No doubt
the bill, if it is ever introduced, will
be treated as a farce by members of the
Legislature. But on the other hand
those persons and creeds that do not
recognize divorce under any circum-
stances would make averaging a trag-
edy under some conditions. The one
extreme is about as bad as the other.GRAND THEATRE
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MONEY.

Hooper, Utah, Dec. 18, 1904.
Mr. Luke:Kind Sir:—I will write you a
few lines to thank you for col-
lecting that sum of money for
me, and I have told others
about it and they are intending
to place some of their claims in
your hands.Yours truly,
MRS. W. G. PARKER.The above is one of many appreci-
ative letters we are receiving from sat-
isfied clients.Send in your claims. Money comes
to those who seek it. We are always
ready. Are you? Why wait till to-
morrow?

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