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DESERET NEWS' PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
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noyance if they will take time to notice
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3 rings.For Deseret News Book Store, 74, 2
rings.For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 2
rings.

For Business Manager, 359, 3 rings.

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AN IMPORTANT POSITION.

The Deseret News congratulates Vice-
President W. H. Bancroft on the de-
served recognition of his valuable ser-
vices to the Oregon Short Line, shown
by his appointment as General Man-
ager of the great railroad system which
comprehends the Union Pacific and
Oregon Short Line. The blending of
interests in railroad affairs in the
great west, is likely to result in more
perfect service and larger profits, and
further facilities in travel. It is
to be hoped that the rumor of Mr.
Bancroft's removal of residence from
Salt Lake to Omaha will not prove cor-
rect. We feel assured that unless the
increased business under his direction
requires it, he will prefer to remain
in the capital of Utah where the climate,
the surroundings, the society and
other inducements are so favorable and
pleasant. The combined companies are
also to be congratulated on availing
themselves of the experience and abili-
ties of a railroad man who is known
and distinguished in all railway circles
of the country.

AS TO "MORMON LEADERS."

The Cleveland Plain-Dealer of Jan. 11
has a very temperate editorial on the
answer of Senator Smoot to the charges
preferred against him, as furnished
to him by the Committee on Privileges
and Elections. It states that the denial
is "sweeping and places the burden of
proof squarely upon those who demand
the Senator's expulsion." That paper
goes on to show that the polygamist
part of the accusation is not seriously ad-
vanced, and argues that the point to be
decided is the alleged claim of the
"Mormon" Church, that it is "the only
legitimate power that has the right to
rule on the earth, and that the insti-
tution of the Church how to vote must be
observed."Of course the "Mormon" Church
makes no such claim, and does not tell
anybody "how to vote." The Plain-
Dealer, however, is under the impres-
sion that though Senator Smoot repudi-
ates the charge against the Church, the
"Mormon" leaders are not agreed
on the matter. In support of that no-
tion it cites a couple of paragraphs
from a paper which is not "Mormon,"
and the editor of which is in no sense
"a Mormon leader." Neither his opin-
ion nor the paper in which it appears,
is in the smallest degree authoritative
or representative of the "Mormon"
Church.The views of the paper supposed by
the Plain-Dealer to be from "a Mormon
leader" are most likely taken from a
partisan standpoint. It claims the po-
sition of a Democratic organ. On the
other hand, a Republican paper pub-
lished in the same town, speaks out
plainly from opposite grounds. The edi-
tor is not a "Mormon" and never has
been, nor is his paper an advocate of
"Mormon" doctrine. But it is just as
much of "a Mormon leader" as its op-
ponent, and certainly has much the
better side of the argument, which is in
part as follows:"Everybody in Utah was well aware
of the fact that Reed Smoot was a
candidate for the United States Sen-
ate before the Legislature that elected
him was chosen. The Democratic
press tried hard to convince the peo-
ple of Utah that Senator Joseph Rawl-
ins should succeed him in the national
Congress. Ex-Senator Rawlins
is a non-Mormon, or a Gentile, or an
anti-Mormon—take your choice, yet
Gentile Ogden and Gentile Salt Lake
as well as other non-Mormon com-
munities in Utah, voted for the can-
didate for the Legislature that every-
body knew would support Reed Smoot
for United States senator. Why did
they vote that way if they did not
want Reed Smoot in the Senate? If
the Gentiles of Ogden and Salt Lake
had voted for the opposition candidates
for the Legislature, then Ex-Senator
Joseph Rawlins, a Gentile, would
have been elected. The issue was
fought in the campaign, and the great
bulk of the non-Mormon vote in Utah
was cast for candidates for the Leg-
islature who were favorable to Reed
Smoot. Why not let the matter rest
there? Personally the Standard edi-
tor has no interest in the seating of
a Mormon in Congress, other than
the duty we owe to the Republicanparty and to the general welfare of
the State."As soon as the press of the country
get to see the facts about the "Mor-
mon" Church and its true position as
to governments in general and the per-
fect freedom exercised by its members
in political affairs, the errors into
which so many editors fall in relation
to these matters will lose their force,
and the intense feeling aroused through
misunderstanding will pass away. But
in any event, there is no disagreement
on the subject among the "Mormon
leaders."

MIGHT AS WELL BE RIGHT.

Some of our contemporaries who are
commenting on the H. Smith Woolley
case show much misunderstanding of
the matter, as it is supposed to have
been mixed up with the election of W.
B. Heyburn as United States Senator.
In the first place, the statement is not
true, as the record will show, that
"The Mormon" legislators in Idaho
were taken away from their first love
and delivered bodily to Senator Hey-
burn." The large majority of Idaho
"Mormon" legislators voted for his op-
ponent. It is as well to be accurate on
such points. In the second place, the
charges against Mr. Woolley are of a
totally different character to that sug-
gested. In the third place, the matter
is not ended, and as it turned on a
technicality, it is not impossible that
the opponents of Mr. Woolley may yet
find that they have not achieved the
triumph that has been announced over
the wires, and which is yet in the re-
gions of uncertainty. We have no
concern in the matter except that we
like to see the facts come uppermost,
and the result will not affect us one
way or the other.

ABOUT NEUTRALIZATION

The movement now on foot for the
negotiation of a treaty of arbitration
between this country and Great Brit-
ain should succeed. Once before, in
1897, such a treaty was defeated in the
United States senate, to the disgrace
of that body. Since then, however, ar-
bitration treaties have been entered in-
to between several countries, notably
France and Great Britain. Our coun-
try cannot afford to lag behind in this
matter. It is claimed that both Pres-
ident Roosevelt and Secretary Hay
strongly favor the proposed arbitration
treaty. There can, surely, be no valid
objection to it. The tendency of the
civilized governments of the world is
in that direction, and our country should
be among the leaders.In this connection it can be men-
tioned that Professor Martens, the
well-known international jurist, in the
Revue des Deux Mondes, advocates the
neutralization of Denmark, to be fol-
lowed by the neutralization of the
other two Scandinavian states. Neu-
tralization means that a country in that
status is practically out of international
politics. It is at liberty to devote all
its energies toward material progress
along the lines of industry and trade.
In case of war between other countries,
a neutralized state would have no need
to declare its neutrality formally. It
would simplify international politics, for
no suspicion would be entertained that
the neutralized state would intrigue on
either side, or make unexpected moves
on the international chessboard. To
neutralize, by common agreement, the
smaller states would be another step
toward general peace, as important as
the writing of arbitration treaties. For
the smaller states would be eager ad-
vocates of both disarmament and ar-
bitration.The neutralization of the Scandi-
navian countries should be declared with-
out delay. Possibly there is no danger
of a general war as a result of the com-
plications in eastern Asia. But some
statesmen have not hesitated to say
that there is danger of a general con-
flict. Should that happen, the land-
grabbing states would, no doubt, sel-
dom the occasion and appropriate any ter-
ritory handy. The smaller states would
suffer. It is not for the mere fun of
it that Russia has crushed the inde-
pendence of Finland, and removed all
obstacles to the march of a Russian
army toward the Scandinavian bound-
ary. It is, no doubt, done to facilitate
a struggle for land across the Baltic.
In the interest of Europe, the progress
in that direction by Russia should be
cut off while there is time to do so.

"MORMON" POLITICS.

The New York Tribune has the fol-
lowing as an "Interview" with a well
known citizen of Salt Lake:Jacob E. Bamberger of Salt Lake
City, who went from Cincinnati to
Utah thirty-two years ago, is staying
at the Savoy. "The Mormons," said he,
"are an industrious, hard working peo-
ple, conservative and honest. There
is nothing in their manner of living in
the city specially to distinguish them
from other citizens, but in the country
they live largely within themselves,
buying little and wearing homespun
of their own production. Of course,
there is considerable art over the ef-
fort to unseat Senator Smoot, and the
people who are opposing him feel very
deeply upon the subject. Senator Smoot
is a general gentleman and a pleasing per-
sonality, and the fight would not be
made against him on personal grounds.
He is extremely popular and was a
great favorite when a younger man in
the church, in which his father was
prominent. If he were something less
than an apostle in the Mormon church
I am confident that Utah as a whole
would be proud to have him represent
the state in the upper branch of Con-
gress. He is really too big a man in
the church to be in Congress."The movement against the Senator, of
course, had its initiative and has its
chief support from outside the state,
among those opposed to the principles
and practices of the Mormon church. It
is, of course, notable that the strength
and influence of the church are being
extended in Idaho, Wyoming and Ne-
vada, as also to some extent in Colo-
rado. It is believed that if Senator
Smoot is allowed to retain his seat the
Mormon church will be an encourag-
ing and emboldened that, ignoring party
divisions, they will unite to elect a
Mormon successor to Senator Kearns
when his term expires.The Mormon church is the most per-
fect organization in existence. The
municipal election in Salt Lake City,
last month furnished an excellent ex-
ample of preference for a fellow
churchman. The city has a voting pop-
ulation of about 10,000 with a normal
Republican plurality of about 2,000.
The word was passed around the night
before election favoring Richard Mor-
ris, the Democratic candidate, who is aMormon, and he was elected by 2,000
plurality.We are of the opinion that much of
the foregoing which appears as the
views of Mr. Bamberger, was really
stated as the position taken by oppo-
nents of Senator Smoot and of the "Mor-
mon" Church. That the election of Mr.
Morris was accompanied by the election
of a number of non-Mormons," and
was brought about by a fusion of Re-
publican and Democratic elements in
which non-Mormons formed a very
large percentage, is as certain as that
two and two make four. The reporter
doubtless, credited Mr. Bamberger with
opinions that he is too well-informed
not to know are inaccurate, and which
are refuted by the election returns.

SPEAKING OF SENATOR SMOOT

Life and Health is a monthly pub-
lication issued at Langren Inn, Barber-
ville, Volusia Co., Florida. The Janu-
ary issue contains several items relat-
ing to the missionary work of the El-
ders in Florida, and also an editorial
on the agitation against Senator
Smoot. In this the editor says:"At the union Thanksgiving service in
Sanford, Fla., the worshippers turned
aside from the legitimate observance
of the day to do a little of the persecu-
tion business and adopted a petition to
the United States Senate requesting an in-
vestigation to be made of the charges
against Senator Reed Smoot, the Mor-
mon member from Utah. The DeLand
churches also forwarded a similar pe-
tition to settle the question. The Senate
presented these petitions to the Senate in Decem-
ber. All such petitions are absurd and
silly, evincing ignorance of the Mor-
mon question on the part of all those
who get fidgety or go into hysterics over
this matter. There are no charges
against Senator Smoot further than
that he is a member of the Mormon
Church, and there is no ground what-
ever for his exclusion. The Senate
might as well exclude a Methodist,
Presbyterian or Catholic because of his
religion. Senator Smoot has already
been admitted to the Senate, and that
ought to settle the question. The Con-
stitution makes Congress the sole judge
of the qualifications of its own mem-
bers, not outsiders. Senator Smoot, we
understand, is an able, upright and use-
ful citizen of Provo City, Utah, where
he owns an interest in a woolen mill.
He is the husband of only one wife.
For the Senate to engage in an absurd
discussion of this question would be
to impair the dignity of that body, be-
sides consuming valuable time which
should be devoted to other questions.
The misguided people throughout the
country who are sending in these silly
petitions might as well cease, for the
Senate will probably pay little or no
attention to such requests."The Oakland Enquirer briefly re-
marks:"Senator Smoot in his defense admits
that he is a Mormon, but says that he
is not a polygamist and that nothing in
his faith prevents him from being a
good American citizen. To disprove his
statements will require an investigation
of Mormonism, and to have the Senate
pass upon the relative merits of var-
ious religious sects will be a danger-
ous thing."The Pueblo Chieftain, an enterprising
and influential publication of our neigh-
bor state on the east, comments as fol-
lows:"It must be admitted by any fair
minded person that Senator Reed
Smoot of Utah has made a very able
and a very logical defense to the charge
that he has been lodged against him
in the senate in support of a demand
for his expulsion from that body.""There were two accusations made
against Mr. Smoot: the first being that
he was a polygamist and therefore a
lawbreaker; the second, that he was a
member of the Mormon council and as
such bound by an oath inconsistent
with his allegiance to the United States
and his duty as a senator of the United
States. Other minor matters have been
charged against Mr. Smoot, but it
could hardly be claimed that they were
of sufficient importance to warrant his
expulsion from the senate.""In regard to the two principal
charges, Mr. Smoot makes a positive
denial. He declares that he is not a
polygamist and that he is not a mem-
ber of any oath-bound body of men
whose purposes are inconsistent with
loyalty to the national government.""Under the circumstances, with all
due respect to the excellent people who
from the best of motives have been try-
ing to get Mr. Smoot out of the senate,
it looks as though it was going to be a
very difficult thing to accomplish. In
fact it would appear from Mr. Smoot's
defense, as well as from the reputation
that he has been able to establish for
himself in Washington, that he is by
no means the least of his colleagues
either in intellect or moral character.""There may be a question as to
whether any Mormon should be admit-
ted to the senate, and a question as to
whether Utah should be a state, and a
question as to whether Mormons should
be permitted to vote in Utah. But those
questions were settled some years ago
when the matter of Utah's admission
was being considered, and the discus-
sion of them has nothing to do with the
present case. With Utah a state and
with the Mormons having as much
right to vote as any other religious sect,
it would appear that Mr. Smoot is en-
titled to his seat in the senate, and
that he is a much better representative
of the people of Utah than would be
some of those who are seeking his ex-
pulsion."As the days grow longer the cold gets
stronger."A fair exchange is no robbery."
Only a cinch.Oblivion is the best vindication some
people can have."It's a cold wind that blows nobody
good," says the ice-man.Eggs are as expensive this winter as
egg coal was last winter.The school children should be given
fire drill as well as mental drill.Chicago intends to give those respon-
sible for the Iroquois fire blues.There is far more fighting in the Sen-
ate over Panama than in Panama it-
self.The Iroquois theater disaster should
make the real-water-tank play popular
again.Japan and Russia are both in hot
water but as yet it hasn't reached the
boiling point.Governor Cummins in his inaugural
address officially declared the Iowa idea
to be reciprocity.The New York World keeps calling
for Mr. Cleveland, and he obdurately
refuses to answer the call.By forming a new combine the live-
stock growers expect to make the beef
trust go the way of all flesh.It would be a real kindness if some
one would cut the cables until Japan
and Russia actually get to fighting."How to Identify Old China" is the
title of a book just out. It will be
needed before Russia gets through with
her.Panama could very properly and con-
sistently assume part of Colombia's
foreign obligations. "Pay as you go"
should be her motto.It must be a small concern that ad-
vertises by hiring small boys to stick
small posters on people's fences instead
of advertising in the daily press.The old single turret monitors are to
be sold. They were real old ironclads
but there is no Holmes to sound their
praises and save them from destruction.Kaiser Wilhelm has completed all ar-
rangements for the compilation of popu-
lar songs that he promised last June.
Happy the monarch who can make the
laws for his people and also write their
songs!It is quite likely there will be several
annual conventions of the National
Livestock association before the Pan-
ama canal is completed, thus giving
several opportunities for thanking the
President for his efforts in that behalf.What a fine tribute to the memory
of General John B. Gordon was the
presence of a battalion of the Sixteenth
infantry, U. S. A., in his funeral pro-
cession. He was a gallant and true
man, beloved of all the south, respected
of all the north! A reunited nation
mourns his loss.War between Russia and Japan is
inevitable. That is the verdict of as-
trology. No matter what diplomats
may do. Astrologers have already sent
forth the decree. We find the predic-
tion made in a magazine devoted to
astrology and published in England.
The war, it seems, was due, according
to the stars, last fall, but it has been
delayed. According to the same au-
thority the Japanese will "win hand-
somer and astonish Europe." This is
guaranteed by the fact that the "vernal
equinox, early in the coming year at
Tokio, is a most glorious one, Venus
exactly culminating in her exaltation in
Pisces, and the sun in conjunction with
Jupiter in Aries." That settles it.Walter Wellman, in a "special" to
the Chicago Record-Herald, discusses
the question whether a certain, am-
bitious newspaper man in New York can
buy the nomination for president. The
gentleman is said to have now about
400 agents in his employ, who are paid
for securing delegates for the National
convention, and to be prepared to spend
two million dollars on the campaign.
Mr. Wellman seems to incline some-
what to the conviction that the nomi-
nation, if not the election, can be
bought. If this is a fact the sooner
the voters throughout the country know
it, the better, for then "popular govern-
ment" is a farce indeed.SALT LAKE THEATRE
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