

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints.PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.  
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)  
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor  
Herbert G. Whitney, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.	
One Year,	\$2.00
Six Months,	1.00
Three Months,	.50
One Month,	.15
One Week,	.05
Sunday Edition, per copy,	.02
Single Copy,	.01

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Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,  
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In charge of J. J. Cooper, 36 Geary St.Correspondence and other reading matter  
for publication should be addressed to the  
EDITOR.  
Address all business communications to  
THE DESERET NEWS,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 22, 1902.

## HOW FALSEHOODS TRAVEL.

"The Mormon Church, through its official organ, the Deseret News, is becoming militant in the prosecution of one of its tenets or theories. The fundamental principle of its creed that 'it is not good for man to be alone' must be lived up to by the employees of the publication, it is said, or they must seek other means of revenue for continuing in single blessedness. Perhaps it does seem rather rough on the men employed by this utterance to force them to come with it before midsummer, but those outside the Mormon faith must concede that its latest edict is consistent if not considerate."

The foregoing paragraph is clipped from the Boston Transcript. The news it conveys has evidently been telegraphed from this point throughout the country, as a number of newspapers have touched upon the subject, some humorously, others gravely. It shows how deftly and extensively Dame Rumor gets in her work. It proves also how little foundation there is to many things given to the world, through means supposed to be authentic, but which are nothing but gossip, and even if true are of very little if any value to the reading public.

The comments of our contemporaries throughout the land on this supposed "edict" of the "Mormon" Church are wasted efforts, as there is nothing whatever of fact for their basis. On general principles the Church holds to the doctrine enunciated "in the beginning" that "it is not good for man to be alone," and the same rule applies equally to woman. But the Church has never sought to compel any individual to enter the matrimonial state. Its efforts in this direction have been and are by way of general advice and instruction. There are members of the "Mormon" Church who have reached old age and are still bachelors or spinsters, as the case may be. The causes for this are known to themselves and are their own business with which meddling ought not to interfere.

The "official organ" of the "Mormon" Church has not in any way endeavored to influence its employees or others to forsake the barren path of "single blessedness," in any such manner as that which is intimated. The whole story is a facetious bit of fiction, or rather a small sample of "yellow journalism." An "enterprising reporter," hard up for a "story," heard a feeble joke as to some of the "boys" on the "News" staff, and straightway rushed into print with a "fake" article stating that they had been required to marry by summer time or lose their job. Both the morning papers here gave place to the nonsense, which was treated by well-informed persons simply as a far-fetched joke pushed to an absurd extreme. But there was not even the slightest shadow of a thread of truth in the whole matter.

The annexed paragraphs are taken from the Spokesman-Review, published in Spokane, Washington, Saturday, January 18, 1902, and headed "Marry Or Give Up Your Job." "Utah by Mormon Church to Bachelors on the Deseret News."

"Salt Lake, Jan. 17.—There is considerable excitement among the employees of the Deseret News, the official organ of the 'Mormon' Church in this city, as the result of a matrimonial edict that has recently been issued. The 'News,' in addition to employing the usual force necessitated by the afternoon publication, operates a bindery, job offices and book stores, and employs, all told, 100 men. The edict is the result of a conference between President Joseph F. Smith, present head of the Church, and the manager of the News, at which it was agreed that all male employees of the News who were not married on or before June 30 next would be asked for their resignations."

"It is estimated that the order will affect about twenty-five employees of the paper, and some of the number who are not matrimonially inclined are in sore distress. Others fear that they will not be able to make a satisfactory selection within the time specified, while others fear that the girl upon whom they may decide may not be favorable to the proposition, and that their positions will go glimmering before they can settle upon some other maiden who is willing to leave her happy home on short notice."

We should have taken no notice of the story had it not been for its publication abroad. We think the manipulators of the news service could employ the telegraph to much better use than in the dissemination of silly gossip and fairy tales without profit. It seems that even in affairs of no moment to the public, erroneous notions about the "Mormons" and their ways have to be promulgated and scattered broadcast. If they were flavored with some real wit they might pass as apocryphal or more serious and worthy information. But this story, which was well known to be sheer invention before it was published here in the morning papers, and telegraphed throughout the country, has not the merit of humor to mix with its utter and senseless falsehood.

To put a quietus on the whole matter, we will say there has been no "edict" of the kind mentioned, no "conference" between President Joseph F.

Smith and the manager of the "News" or any person connected with the establishment in relation to it, no requirement, intimation or hint about it, given to any person engaged on the paper or either of its departments, no word or thought of the sort uttered or imagined. In or about this institution, contrary to popular opinion, the "Mormon" Church does not proceed by any such methods to extend its power or promulgate its principles. The utmost liberty of the individual, consistent with order and good government, is taught and maintained by the Church, which is a foe to oppression and tyranny and bondage of every kind. We believe that marriage is ordained of God for the benefit, happiness and increase of His children. But we do not believe that it should be forced upon them, for the doctrine of "free agency" is fundamental to the system that is commonly called "Mormonism." Will our contemporaries that have seriously promulgated the error be kind enough to correct it by telling the truth?

## THE LUCIN CUT-OFF.

The people of Ogden are highly elated over the movement in regard to the projected cut-off, from that point across the lake to Lucin. If the work, which appears to be started, shall be continued and completed, it cannot fail to be of great benefit to the Junction city. The people of Salt Lake have been led to believe that the building of a railroad on trestle work across the Great Salt Lake was chiefly a scheme on paper, emanating from a mind not altogether practical or familiar with the difficulties in the way, or with the advantages of a land route by the south end of the lake. There have been, too, so many assurances that the latter course would be pursued, that little credence was placed on the rumors about the work across the lake. However, if Ogden is to be thus favored, we shall rejoice in the prosperity of its citizens, and be glad that something has occurred to put more life into its business operations and real estate values.

Our neighbors on the north need not imagine that the vagaries indulged in by the flighty editor of the Standard, respecting the feelings of our people here towards their friends in Ogden, have any foundation in fact. Whenever the Salt Lake papers have published news that has come from legitimate sources respecting railway connections in this city, the Standard has been seized with convulsions, and has endeavored to agitate its readers with the notion that these reports were framed for the sole purpose of injuring Ogden. Such wild flights were taken that trip to the postoffice, which has made the would-be "Dr." Mayor editor a laughing-stock throughout the state. If the cut-off is built across the lake we shall heartily congratulate the people of Ogden. And with the prospects of connections with the Pacific coast on the west, and all the great Atlantic business centers by railroads to the east, Salt Lake City can well afford to rejoice with its friends in the north in all the benefits that can possibly come from them. Here's to the railroads, from the east and from the west; the more of them the merrier!

## GOOD WORDS FROM PROVO.

The Mayor of Provo city has delivered a very sensible and practical message to the City Council. Its application is, of course, principally local, and recommends itself to the public irrespective of party or creed. We reproduce only a couple of paragraphs from the message, and do so because they are worthy of general attention, and the sentiment which they embody is worthy of endorsement in every town and city of the State. Mayor Thomas N. Taylor says to the Council:

"In approaching the great responsibility before us as servants of the people, I feel we should allow no personal feelings, or personal motives to guide us in the discharge of this work that has been entrusted to us, but let our desire be for the welfare of all the people and for the upbuilding of our beloved city."

## OBJECTIONS TO IRRIGATION.

Congressman Sibbey of Pennsylvania, leading one in the opposition against the proposed reclamation of the arid regions of this country, stated about all there is of foundation for an objection, and in doing so, he revealed the weakness of the position of the opponents. He argued that members representing an agricultural constituency should oppose a measure involving "untold millions" to be taken from the taxes of all, and spoke of the decline of the value of farms in the east and south as a reason why the government should decline to aid in the reclamation of any more farming land.

By that logic it would be wrong to break new ground anywhere in this country, until that which is already under cultivation has attained a high value. The pioneers that pushed westward and founded new settlements, wronged the agricultural population they left in the old settlements. They should have stayed back east, until their reclamation of the west could involve no "competition" with the east or south. Immigrants should be kept in the Atlantic coast states, until the value of the land there is high enough to permit them to "trek" a few miles farther west. Such absurd conclusions are warranted, if the premises are true.

But fortunately they are not. The entire country has been benefited by the enterprise and industry of the settlers that went to redeem the large, uncultivated area of the western regions. Common sense led them in their choice of location, and the result is a country that is the pride of all its inhabitants, and a marvel among older nations. Mr. Sibbey, however, is not serious in

his objection to the kind of expansion contemplated in the irrigation bill. He admits, in fact, that it should be acted on, but not now. The whole question is for another generation. "Let us wait," he says, "until our increased population shall no longer expand that these lands shall be needed to meet the demand for a greater food supply."

This is contrary, though, to American methods. Here plans are laid for the future, and not for the present only. In laying out cities, constructing railroads, etc., future likely developments are always considered. Possibilities are created, as it were. If no expenditures had been made except to meet the actual, present demand, where would America be today? If the next generation will have to take up the irrigation question, it is not too early to make a beginning now, for it will take more than one generation before that gigantic work is completed.

The irrigation bill, as agreed upon and reported, is comprehensive and satisfactory. In the main, it takes a good deal of sectional prejudice, not to perceive that its adoption would be of immense general benefit. The money expended on reservoirs, dams, and ditches would finally come back to the interest to the public treasury. Much money would be put in circulation among the laboring classes, and the benefit thereof would be reaped by all classes of industry, since the greater part of the wages would be expended on food, clothing, and various necessities of life. And as the work proceeded, there would be an opening for thousands, and millions, to establish themselves in comfortable homes.

A man that has an opportunity of laying the foundation for a large fortune today, would generally be considered an imbecile, if he postponed taking the necessary steps to do so until a later date, on the plea that his bank account was big enough for his needs at the present week. But that is just what the representative from Pennsylvania would have Uncle Sam do in this matter. In the arid west, an empire lies within his reach. But he is asked not to touch it, because for a generation he does not really need it. Surely so important a matter cannot be disposed of in that manner.

## THE STONE AFFAIR.

What appears to be a authentic dispatch from Constantinople states that the money subscribed for the release of Miss Stone and her companion, has been forwarded to the persons negotiating for the release of the captives, and they will, consequently, be given their liberty in the near future. It has taken a long time to bring the negotiations so far, but this is only the beginning after all. When the captives are released, and the brigands have disappeared, the question of responsibility will remain.

The secretary of the American legation in Constantinople is now on his way to Washington, to make his report on the facts in the case, and it is believed that there is enough evidence to make Turkey share the responsibility with Bulgaria. From the latter country an indemnity cannot be collected with the approved aid of warships, as the Dardanelles are closed to foreign gunboats, but for all that Admiral Crowswell is said to have orders to take his squadron to Piræus and other points in Turkish waters, and their presence there may give proper emphasis to whatever diplomatic representations it may be necessary to make, either in Constantinople or Sophia.

A question of as much importance as that of reparation for the outrage committed, is that which relates to the future. Turkey and Bulgaria should be induced to take the necessary steps for the protection of foreign citizens who may be in those countries lawfully. Unless the governments can put down anarchy within their own borders and protect, to a reasonable extent, life and property, they have no business to exist, that being the very purpose for which they are given authority. Neither robbery nor other crimes can be entirely suppressed, but when brigandage boldly defies governments and presumes to treat with them for plunder and immunity from retribution, something is wrong with the government under the jurisdiction of which the outbreaks operate and flourish. Then it is time that the government itself be called to account, before the bar of civilization. It may not be the business of this country to appear in the role of judge in Balkan affairs, but the European powers are interested, for lawlessness that scores success in one country is apt to spread across the border into other countries. Like epidemics, it must be properly restricted, and if one government neglects to do so, it is the duty of others to step in. That is a principle generally recognized among nations.

If the report that Theodore Braemer of Cincinnati has misappropriated \$400,000 be true, Mr. Braemer would have to be hydra-headed in order to satisfy the Koreans, if their country were the scene of his operations.

The latest amalgamation talk refers to the match-making industry—not of the matrimonial, but of the "lucifer" variety. There are some men who believe there are instances wherein the latter name fitly applies to the first designated "industry."

C. A. Morrison of Dawson ought to consider himself very fortunate. Mrs. Morrill rode 1,500 miles, 500 miles of the distance in a sleigh, in order to marry him. A woman who will do that must certainly prove to be a worthy wife.

Little Venezuela is irritating France in the Secretariat, refusing that gentleman permission to land at La Guayra, although a demand for such privilege has been made by the French government. Venezuela may find that there is a possibility of going too far in this case.

Germany is very careful to dispel any idea that she ever tried, or had intended to try, to intervene in the war of the United States with Spain. A desire to have the coming visit of Prince Henry to America a decided success, from a friendly view point is sufficient cause for an announcement of Germany's attitude.

It would seem to be a good idea to

have all penitentiaries situated upon islands. The other day eleven convicts escaped from the Washington state prison on McNeil's island, but on account of a strict water patrol they were unable to leave the island and were consequently recaptured. Had the prison been located upon the mainland, there is no doubt that at least some of the desperados would have been able to bid an effective and permanent good-bye to the institution.

In Fruitvale, California, a man and his wife have been arrested for making bogus dollars. They were popular in social circles and were consequently counterfeited in more than the matter of coins. It is difficult to think that a woman would lend herself to such criminality, but her contribution to the fraud is stated to have been principally in assisting to pass the "queer" money. There is little wonder that at times humanity has small faith in itself when represented by another person.

Seventy million acres of western lands would be reclaimed and brought under cultivation should the proposed arid land bill become law. The argument of eastern congressmen, as against the bill, that this land would come into competition with the eastern farmer is a surprising one to come from persons supposed to be familiar with and believers in American principles. Out here in the arid states we build no steamships—that picking belongs to this same east. The moment we want a little help in furnishing the "stiff of life" for the nation, a mighty eastern howl rends the air and predictions of all sorts of consequent calamities are paraded before us. The fact is that most of the industries of the east are already subsidized by duty protection or otherwise, and it is high time that it should either all be stopped or something be extended to business in which the west is interested.

## TO AID CUBA.

Whatever is done to help Cuba must be done quickly. She has another sugar crop of over 300,000 tons on her hands and no way of selling it except at a loss unless Congress lets down the bars. In the words of Secy. Root, "The same considerations which led to the war with Spain now require that a commercial arrangement be made under which Cuba can live."

Gen. Wood, quoted by Boston Herald.

We are facing, not a theory, but a fact, and we are called upon now to deal with Cuba on general broad issues which will produce results in the future as important to us as to her. It is not a question of whether producers of 175,000 tons of beet sugar, who have declared that they do not need protection, are to be indefinitely protected, or the producers of 375,000 tons of cane sugar. It is a question of whether our intervention in Cuba is going to be to her benefit or to her ruin. We have assumed the responsibility of establishing her as an independent, stable government, and we are certainly in honor bound as a people to see to it that she is given a reasonable chance to maintain such government. This can be given to her by benefit to ourselves as a people and without imperiling or injuring any of our industries. She can grant in a reciprocal arrangement, favors to United States products which will fully equal in money value the reduction which may be granted to her sugar and tobacco.

## Chicago Record-Herald.

There are good economical reasons for the concessions, none against them, and they are re-enforced by higher considerations. The proposed "treaty" that "the Platt amendment, proposed by us and accepted by Cuba, certainly imposes upon us a moral obligation to see to it that Cuba is justly treated by us and not left to live up to its requirements." We expect the island to maintain a proper system of sanitation for our protection. We demand things, in fine, which Cuba can never perform unless we assist her in the manner of crippled industries in accordance with her prayer.

## Chicago News.

If the island is able to consume but a small fraction of its own products, it is practically dependent upon imports for almost every other necessity of life. As Secy. Root has shown in his annual report, Cuba now imports \$27,000,000 worth of merchandise annually from countries other than the United States, and virtually all these articles could and would be supplied by the United States under a reciprocity arrangement.

## Chicago Tribune.

If the day after a Chicago fire, a Charleston earthquake, or a Galveston tidal wave Congress were to be applied for relief for the sufferers, a bill for that purpose would not be referred to a committee to spend half a month in hearings while the people who needed help were passing rapidly beyond the reach of aid. In such a case as this "hearings" would be a mockery. So, too, will they be as regards this question of the reduction of duties on the two great products of the Cubans—the words of the United States.

## New York Evening Post.

The tobacco-growers of New England have broken away from their president, Mr. H. S. Frye, who was willing to concede something to the Cubans in the way of duties on tobacco at the annual convention. Mr. Frye favored a reduction of the duty on Cuban tobacco wrappers from \$1.35 to 25 cents per pound. The convention voted unanimously against this proposal. Mr. Frye as their representative in Washington, and appointed a committee of three to take his place and work against all concessions to Cuba.

## ABOUT WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia Ledger.

In a recent magazine article W. T. Stead reports interviews had by him with Cecil Rhodes, Andrew Carnegie and Hiram Maxim, in which each of these gentlemen, independently of the others, expressed the opinion that the United States and London, was destined to be in the near future, the metropolis of the English-speaking world. Mr. Stead adds his own reasons for thinking that the British colonies are being drawn by force of circumstance away from England and in affiliation with the United States, to which country they will eventually be united. It is a singular confirmation of the view that the British West Indies are even now talking of withdrawing from the British dominion and seeking annexation to the United States.

Washington Times.

Notwithstanding the birth of many obstacles to the new Washington program, there is every reason to be encouraged. The main problem may be delayed in the performance of things to be done; on the other hand, it will have the progressive impulse of the community. The compensation for what will be the near future, concentration of energy, the motive power that will eventually carry the capital

to the place where it belongs. The way to get Washington forward is to keep hammering away at the conservatism and the hesitancy and the indifference that stand in the pathway of improvement. Half-heartedness never built anything or won anything; it will neither build the more magnificent Washington nor win the laurels to which the capital city is entitled.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the February number of the American Boy, a story begins which will be read with interest. It is by Will Livingston Comfort, who is said to have been the youngest newspaper correspondent in the Philippines at the time of the death of General Lawton. The hero of the story was the first of the newspaper correspondents to cable to America the news of the death of General Lawton at the hands of the insurgents. By an extraordinary effort the boy correspondent, who was with the army at the time of the shooting, made his way through the enemy's country to the cable office and flashed the news to America three hours before any of the other correspondents got possession of the cable—Sprague Publishing Co., Detroit, Mich.

The January number of the Mayflower contains much of interest to the reading public. The magazine is devoted to the cultivation of flowers and home adornment in general.—Floral Park, N. Y.

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