

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

ICEFNO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(SUNDAY EXCEPTED.)
CARE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.Charles W. Penrose, - - - Editor
Bernice G. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
One Year, in advance, \$2.00
Six Months, " " 1.25
Three Months, " " .75
One Month, " " .25
One Week, " " .10
Sundays, per year, " 2.00
Sundays, per year, " 2.00Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.
Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE.
R. A. Craig, - - - 41 Times Building.CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE.
Craig & Woodward, - - 81 Washington St.

SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 10, 1900.

RELIGION CLASSES.

Reports have been published in this city of alleged occurrences at Richfield, Sevier county, which the Deseret News has not until now commented upon. It was desirable to make sure of the facts in the case before expressing an opinion concerning them. Our correspondent at that place furnishes particulars which are here inserted:

Richfield, Jan. 8, 1900.

To the Editor:
There is considerable agitation in our city just at present over the establishment of a religion class here, which is held in the public school house, after the close of school on Thursday evenings.

The petition was drawn up and circulated by those who oppose the class. That was so misleading in its statement of the matter that quite a number of people signed it, believing its allegations to be true. The declaration of those who circulated the said petition, when in truth and in fact, a misstatement of the matter could have hardly been greater than that contained in the petition, which begins as follows:

"To the Honorable Board of Trustees, Richfield School District:

"The undersigned, citizens of Richfield, being credibly informed that you have inaugurated a religious class in the public schools of this city for the purpose of teaching school children the principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, do solemnly protest and object, and herein submit their reasons therefor." Following this the fourth subdivision of section 3 of the Enabling Act, article 10 of section 1 of the Constitution and section 1848 of the Revised Statutes of Utah are quoted, all of which are to the effect that our public schools shall be free from sectarian control and that "No atheistic, infidel, sectarian, religious or denominational doctrine shall be taught therein," and the petition concludes by asking the trustees to forthwith abandon the "religion class."

The Richfield correspondent to the Salt Lake Herald goes even further and states that the class was established by the public school teachers and trustees.

Now, the facts in the case are as follows:
The ecclesiastical authorities of the "Mormon" Church of this ward applied to the trustees to rent the school house one evening in each week after the close of school for the purpose of holding a religion class therein. After due consideration the school board, acting in accordance with section 1822 of the Revised Statutes, agreed to and did rent the school building for the purpose named as stated above. The section of law last referred to reads as follows, in speaking of the "Powers and Duties" of the school board:

"It may permit a school house, when not occupied for school purposes, to be used for any purpose which will not interfere with the teaching of other literature or property; and shall make such charges for the use of the same as they may decide to be just; but for any such use or privilege the district shall not be at any expense for fuel or otherwise."

It is the contention of the advocates of the class that the house is not "occupied for school purposes" after the close of school; and that the trustees have a lawful right to rent the same for religious purposes at that time as for any other purpose, and that a religious class held after school, even if it begin five minutes after, is no more "teaching religion in the school" than if it were held in the evening, on a Saturday or during the summer vacation, in the school house. The opposition to the class asserts that they are going to test in the courts the legality of the action of the trustees in permitting a religion class to be taught in the school house. Nothing will suit the friends of the class better. If the courts decide that the letter or even the spirit of the law is being violated by conducting such a class under the conditions named, those who inaugurated it, the ward ecclesiastical authorities—and not the public school teachers and trustees, will willingly discontinue the same, for if it is illegal to furnish facilities in a public school building outside of school hours for those to study religion who wish to do so, with no request or even desire for those who do not wish to do so to take part as pupils or teachers, the sooner we find it out the better and more pleasant will it be for us all.

There is a disposition, on the part of some people in this State, to stir up contention in reference to the "Mormon" Church. Anything to breed discord and place the Church in a false light before the world, seems to be their motto. An idea prevails abroad that "Mormonism" is taught in the public schools of Utah. It has been occasioned by the untruths circulated by sectarian ministers. It has been done in the same spirit and by the same methods which have caused the notion to prevail, that in Utah the Church and the State are united and that the Church dominates the State.

The public schools of Utah are kept entirely separate and distinct from Church authority. No "Mormon" tenets are taught or permitted to be taught therein. There is no desire or intention on the part of the Church authorities, to interfere in any way with the public school system. Every statement to the contrary is entirely untrue.

In view of the fact that no religious training of any kind is allowed in the district schools or in the State University, the authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints instituted what are called Religion Classes, for the instruction of the children of the Saints in the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They took the view that an hour or two in one day out of seven in the Sunday schools, was insufficient for religious training

of children who spent five or six days in the week in secular education.

In many places where it is practicable these classes have been organized and the children of the Saints, after leaving day school, have been assembled in some convenient place and a short time has been occupied in their religious training. This has been entirely optional on the part of the children and their parents. It is not a requirement. It has no connection whatever with the public school system. It is designed, and purposely, and carefully kept separate and apart from the district schools. It has no more connection with them than have the denominational schools of the different religious sects in this State.

In the Richfield case, it appears the district school house was rented for the holding of a religion class, after the regular day school was dismissed. There is no more reason to associate the two together, than there would be to charge that politics was taught in the public schools because a political meeting might be held, by permission of the trustees, when the school was not in session. School houses are sometimes used for various public purposes which are in no way associated with the public school system. So long as they do not interfere with the proper conducting of the district schools, there is nothing unlawful or reasonably objectionable in such use of the buildings, under the sanction of the lawfully elected trustees.

We know it is not the desire of the Church authorities to mingle religion classes and secular schools. The most positive instructions have been given to prevent it. The utmost care should be taken to avoid even the appearance of the intrusion of religion into the district schools. It does not appear from the statement made by our correspondent that the line of demarcation has been stepped over by our friends in Richfield. The trouble seems to have arisen from over-sensitiveness on the part of some persons anxious to guard the schools from sectarian influences. We think they are mistaken.

The proper thing to do, in the settlement of this dispute, is, in our opinion, for the parties on either side or their representatives to come together and offer mutual explanations. In any event it should be understood, that religion classes have been instituted in this Church for the instruction of children whose parents desire them to attend, and that they are and must be kept entirely separate from the public school system of the State.

THE BURNING TOPIC.

We have numerous inquiries in reference to the opening of the schools and compulsory vaccination. In reply we have to say that the present expressed intention of the Board of Education is to open the public schools on Monday next, and admit all children who exhibit "signs of recent successful vaccination." That would signify that all others will be excluded.

We do not believe that this absurd and impracticable proposition, sustained by a majority of one only, will be attempted to be enforced. We are of the opinion that healthy children who have not been exposed to a contagious disease will be allowed to take their places with the children who have been inoculated with cow-pox, if the parents of the healthy children do not object to this association. We think the board in taking the doubtful action on this matter, was guided by the advice of the Board of Health and attached a little too much importance to that recommendation, viewing it almost as if it was mandatory, and that the board will not insist upon a rule that would keep a large number of healthy children from schools which they have a lawful right to attend, and which the law requires them to attend.

One thing is certain: if the ridiculous rule without color or authority of law is adhered to, there will be trouble in sight very soon. It must not be forgotten that the Legislature of the State not only declined, but absolutely refused to pass a law requiring vaccination. That body had authority, if such power is constitutional in any assembly, to frame a statute making the vaccination of school children compulsory. It decided against the measure and threw it out. The Board of Education does not possess that authority and cannot lawfully exercise it, either directly or by subterfuge.

The plan adopted by the Latter-day Saints' College was sensible. It required students, on the reopening of that institution, to show that they had not been exposed to any contagious disorder which would in any way endanger the health of themselves or others. How the presence of healthy persons, carrying no germs of infection in their persons or apparel, can be a menace to others, is a problem which we leave the majority on the Board of Education to solve. There is another nut which we would like that body to crack. It is, cannot a vaccinated child carry germs of an infectious disease into a school-room just as much as an unvaccinated child could? Or does the so-called preventive-vaccination extend to the hair and the clothing of the child? Is not a requirement that all children, whether vaccinated or not, before entering the school room shall give evidence that they have not been exposed to contagion, much more rational than a rule to shut out healthy children and admit those impregnated with cowpox?

We are aware that a great number of children have been vaccinated recently, because the parents are under the impression that it is compulsory, or, in other words, that the children will be shut out of the public schools if not vaccinated. Of course there are many people who believe in the virtues of vaccination. We do not allude to them. There are many others who are in trepidation. They hate the idea of injecting into the veins of their healthy offspring vile matter from a diseased cow, and yet they do not want them to lose opportunities for that education which are paid for by the taxes of the people. We say to them, send your unvaccinated children to that education which is open, and see whether they will be rejected. Then will be time enough to take this matter up in a popular way and test it in a lawful manner. American citizens have rights that cannot

be trampled upon with impunity. Laws must be respected but official authority must also be kept within legitimate bounds.

We hope the scare, which has been promoted by this attempt at compulsion, will subside more quickly than it has been aroused, and that in consequence this agitation will cease, and there will be no need for the heartburnings, indignation and litigation which will be the sure result of attempting to exercise unlawful power, and force upon a large number of intelligent citizens something that they reject and detest.

PHILIPPINE DISCUSSION.

The discussion in the Senate of the Philippine question ought to result in a definite declaration, at an early date, of the future policy of our government on that question. It has been claimed that the insurgent leaders have kept their followers under arms, in the hope that Congress would reverse the course followed by the administration, and that the rebellion would collapse as soon as it became evident that the American people is supporting the government. There should be no unnecessary delay in reaching a definite conclusion. If the war can be put an end to by a congressional resolution, it should not last much longer.

Senator Beveridge of Indiana undoubtedly expressed the public sentiment when he declared that the American people will not repudiate its duty in the archipelago; that it will not renounce its part of the mission entrusted to it, to carry civilization to the world. This is exactly what a majority of the American people feel; it is the underlying motive of the policy sarcastically referred to as "imperialism." Nowhere is there a desire to trample upon the rights of other nations or races, or deviate from the path marked out by the founders of the Republic.

But even with the declaration solemnly made, that the Philippines are to be regarded from now on as territory belonging to the United States; that it is the intention of the country to retain them as such and to maintain such government as the situation demands, the struggle may not at once be ended. Some of the insurgents will lay down their arms, convinced of the hopelessness of Aguinaldo's cause, but a great many will continue a life of brigandage, as best suited to their taste.

The conditions prevailing in the island of Luzon are such that it will take many years to adjust them in accordance with the standards of American civilization. And the work is not to devolve upon the military entirely. No matter how many thousand soldiers, they are inadequate to the task. The pacification of the archipelago will depend ultimately on the engineer, the builder of roads, the farmer, the merchant and the mechanic. It is very doubtful whether the rebels can be starved into submission or brought into subjection by powder and shell, but there is no doubt that a liberal and humane government, entrusted mainly to the capable natives themselves, aided by a sufficient educational system, would in time make the conquest of the Philippines as complete and satisfactory as has been the "assimilation" of the western part of the United States into the Union.

The great trouble with many of the natives is that they view all the white people in the same light. They have transferred upon Americans the hatred they bestowed upon Spaniards. This will be changed when our people have had a chance to demonstrate that Americans are not Spaniards.

Some complaints have reached this country to the effect that American vices are commencing to become rampant where the Stars and Stripes float. If this is so, and if that cannot be prevented, it would be better to withdraw, for a nation that fails to establish in its steps truth, justice, temperance and purity, is not prepared to "take up the white man's burden."

"WHOLESOME NEWS."

The New York Sun of Jan. 9 has the following editorial reference to the Roberts case, as telegraphed from Washington to the Herald. On the constitutional and legal principles involved, the leading papers of the country have come to the conclusion reached by the Sun. What the special committee will do, however, is still an open question.

"A dispatch printed in the Sun brings the wholesome news that a majority of the House committee engaged in investigating the right of Roberts, the Mormon, to his seat as a representative, realize that a blunder has been committed in endeavoring to prevent Roberts from taking his seat. If this accurately describes the committee's state of mind, their proper course is one of extreme simplicity and ease.

"Assuming that Roberts is eligible so far as it concerns his citizenship, let him be seated, in accordance with the requirements of the federal Constitution. What the House should do then is not now a subject for consideration. What disappointment or mortification the committee may feel at not finding justification for excluding Roberts, as they had evidently set out to exclude him, is of no importance. For several years past the Democrats have been handing over to the Republicans the responsibility and the reputation for understanding the federal law and defending it. It would be inconceivable folly for a Republican House of Representatives to wantonly begin a reversal of this process. That it would do assuredly if it should bar Roberts from the House of Representatives on the grounds first advocated by the Taylor committee."

Collecting bills is dangerous business in Missouri, when payment is made by shotgun deposits, as was the case near Kansas City on Tuesday.

He health, with unlawful attempts to enforce needless fads. It is the duty of health officers to take vigorous measures to prevent contagion, and rational rules should be supported and obeyed.

Shall the Salt Lake City school district borrow \$30,000 to run the schools another month this year? Is the question the taxpayers are to pass on at the election on Saturday, Dec. 20. The property-owners should come out and settle the question by their votes.

Now the London papers are demanding that every trained man in Britain be called into active service. Mr. Chamberlain might be puzzled now to explain his having characterized the war as "a comparatively slight affair" when his diplomacy precipitated it last October.

When one member of the City Council calls another ignorant because there is a difference of opinion between them on a disputed question, as was done at last evening's Council session, the people will quickly make up their minds as to which is the ignorant, in reference to the rules of common decency.

Gen. Butler was removed from command in South Africa because he thought it would take a big British army to conquer the Transvaal. He has been summoned to council, and may be sent back to Capetown as the only British general who has been in the field thus far who did not mistake the enemy's position.

The British claim that American flour was seized because "absolutely necessary for the maintenance of her soldiers and sailors," and will be paid for, makes Britain's shortage of food appear much worse than supposed; or that the claim is a subterfuge as evasive as it seems ridiculous to those who fancy that Britain has a good supply of food-stuffs for her army.

The deed of an insane physician at Hampton, Iowa, in killing a child which he was examining for some trifling ailment, sends a chill of horror through one who reads the account. The act was more horrible but had little difference in result to the crank-doctor who experiments on a child and causes its death by means less evident to the popular eye.

The duel in court at Oak Ridge, Miss., on Tuesday, indicates that the participants were good shots, else the court, in self-defense, might have required the parties to enter the room unarmed. Of course, the little matter of three men dead and two more so badly shot that they may die, is a small thing in the administration of law in some parts of Mississippi.

A friend of the "News" asks a certain gentleman, if he be correctly quoted in the Tribune this morning, to give chapter and verse, so to speak, for his elegant Shakespearean paraphrase, "babbling in a double sense." He suggests that one who can't quote Shakespeare better than that, ought to refrain from expressing an opinion on any subject, and go to school, or be vaccinated; perhaps both.

The organ of the crusade announces at the head of its first editorial column that "The Deseret News editor doesn't want President Snow to either muzzle or kill him." Well, who said that he did? The gentleman named is neither a muzzler nor a murderer. The author of that announcement has tried the muzzling part without success for some time. The other part has not yet been attempted, but has only lurked in the intent and cropped out in wishes and threats. Both, however, simply excite pity, when laughter has subsided.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

Boston Herald.
The British government has an interesting and complicated problem on its hands in the question of deciding on what constitutes contraband of war. Obviously arms and ammunition intended for the use of a belligerent may be fairly classed under this title, and the general usages of nations would appear to justify the English in seizing vessels which contained men on their way to the Transvaal for the purpose of joining the army of the Boers. To have permission to seize the guns which the men were to use in a fight against the English, and yet to be prohibited from seizing the men who were to carry the guns, would appear to be a one-sided or distorted construction of international law. But when the problem of contraband is presented the matter enters into a new phase.

Boston Transcript.
"In no case can our government or the British government afford to have flour bound to a neutral port held contraband." It is certain that Great Britain cannot afford to take that position in the long run. Nor can she afford to arouse the resentment or suspicion of the American nation. If she attempts sharp practice with respect to Delagoa bay there are other powers to reckon with. * * * England must not carry too high a hand, especially towards the United States, for cordial as is the sentiment towards her, it is not rock-bound and it can easily be disturbed if not reversed. Certainly we have a right to put a very strong interpretation point against these recent acts and call for a bill of particulars, and if, as reported, she proposes to patrol the waters of our coast, too, is a matter that will demand explanation.

Chicago Record.
Originally contraband articles were only those actually to be used in fighting. However, modern usage has enlarged the scope of the ban until it is fairly well accepted that distinctly military supplies may be construed to be contraband. The foodstuffs designed for the non-combatant people of a country that is at war are not generally accepted as contraband. Foodstuffs that are designed for the garrison and populace of a beleaguered city have much of the contraband aspect. This is especially the fact when there is a distinctive effort to reduce the beleaguered force by depriving it of its food supplies. At the same time it may be said that subsistence stores which by their nature are designed for a military supply station are fairly to be considered munitions of war.

Omaha World-Herald.
The seizure by the British of several ships loaded with provisions on the ground that they carried "property contraband of war," has revived interest in the term "contraband." General Benjamin F. Butler is responsible for the term, and he originated and used it in 1861. When the civil war broke out Butler was a brigadier general of militia in Massachusetts, his brigade included the famous Sixth and Eighth Massachusetts regiments. Butler did not go with the Sixth, and therefore was not in the Baltimore massacre. He went at the head of the Eighth. He was made a major general

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Men's all wool Suits that sold regularly for \$12.00, now—	\$9.00	Men's fine Overcoats that sold regularly for \$18.00, now—	\$13.50
Men's all wool Suits that sold regularly for \$15.00, now—	\$11.00	Men's fine Overcoats that sold regularly for \$20.00, now—	\$15.00
Men's all wool Suits that sold regularly for \$18.00, now—	\$13.50	Men's fine Overcoats that sold regularly for \$25.00, now—	\$19.00
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