

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 28, 1900.

A LIBEL ON THE "NEWS."

There seems to be a desire on the part of some rival or rivals of the Deseret News to depreciate it in the estimation of its advertising patrons. The purpose of this is not difficult to discern. The growth in the influence and subscription lists of this paper, particularly during the past year, has been remarkable. Success has attended our efforts in all directions. This perhaps is a cause of offense to some of our contemporaries in this State. The power wielded by the Deseret News and the constant increase of its circulation among the people in every county disturb some of our neighbors, and here and there a note of jealousy is heard and ungenerous and unjust remarks made.

But there is something more than this, of which we have cause to complain. We can pass by with a smile those little grumblings, which do not affect us at all. But we find in an Eastern publication, which is "a journal for advertisers," something that is evidently intended to do this paper a financial injury, and it bears the ear-marks of Utah manufacture. Here is an excerpt:

"The Deseret News is the only Mormon daily, and has dropped from an estimated rating exceeding 4,000 in 1896, to exceeding 1,000 in 1899. It seems, nevertheless, to be a prosperous paper. Doubtless it is more of a church organ than a mere news distributor."

Coupled with this are some remarks eulogistic of another paper, intended clearly as a sharp contrast between the two Utah journals. The object of this depreciation of the Deseret News is obvious. It is also execrable. Further, it is libelous and should be treated accordingly.

The truth is that the Deseret News, as is well known here, largely increased its circulation during the year 1899. Its daily edition increased 40 per cent during that year, and its Semi-Weekly edition, which at the beginning of the year was 10,250, is now 16,490 copies twice a week. These are the facts in the case, to which the business department is ready to certify.

It is possible that the periodical which thus misrepresents the Deseret News is vexed with this paper, because it does not advertise in the columns of either of the publications issued by the libeller. But this paper will not be black-mailed. While we believe in the benefits of advertising, we exercise our own choice and our own liberty as to the mediums by which we desire to reach the public. There is a way by which justice can be secured in this matter, and when there is evident intention to place this paper in a false light before the business world, we have the right to take such steps as are necessary to obtain fair treatment and proper vindication.

The prospects of the Deseret News are of the very best. Not only do the reading people in these Western States and Territories show their appreciation of this paper, but the advertising public recognize its value and make use of its columns. It is not merely the vehicle through which the authorities of the Church present their views and wishes on ecclesiastical matters, but it is known everywhere as a newspaper, containing intelligence concerning current affairs throughout the world and conservative comments on live topics of various kinds.

It does not pretend to be perfect. It does not expect nor does it aim to please everybody. It will not truckle to any party, nor yield to anything that appears to it to be wrong and adverse to the interests of this community. We are grateful to our numerous friends who support and applaud the course of the "News," and expect to increase its usefulness as time rolls on.

The great advance in the cost of material, the price of paper having gone up enormously, is the only present barrier in the way of its increased financial success. That obstacle we hope to be able to surmount. In any event, even if we are compelled to slightly raise the price of subscription, we expect, by the blessing of God, to make the Deseret News a power for good, not only in this western country but in every part of the civilized world.

CROWDED CARS.

The City Council in taking up the question of more efficient street car service is echoing a quite general sentiment, not only in this city but in every place where people depend on that mode of conveyance to and from the places of business. The over-crowding of street cars is really a serious matter, and not without danger to the public health. It is bad enough when done occasionally, at times of large gatherings, but then it is excusable, as the companies cannot reasonably be expected to keep a number of cars for such occasions, but what can be said when such over-crowding is a daily occurrence along some lines? Are not the companies supposed to have rolling stock enough for their regular traffic?

A case of overcrowded cars was recently brought before a London court with the result that the rights of passengers in that city were defined judicially. It appears that a lady entered a car in which every seat was occupied. One of the passengers protested against her standing in the aisle, whereupon she grew angry and used some rather forcible language. And not satisfied with this revenge, she told her husband about the occurrence, and he went forth to annihilate the protesting passenger.

This brought the matter before the court, and the judge in his decision ruled that persons in a car already full, had a right to protest against others entering and even had a full legal and moral right to prevent by force, if necessary, the entrance of more passengers than there were seats for. He also stated that if the company issued more tickets than there were seats the passengers thus inconvenienced had a right to demand the return of their money and could recover in an action for damages if it were refused. Even if passengers were willing to stand in the car, the judge held that they had no right to inconvenience and add to the discomfort of those who were seated, who were entitled to a reasonable amount of light and air.

In this country no street car passenger would protest against accommodation, within reasonable limits, but it would be just as well to have an all-round understanding of what rights the occupant of a paid-for seat in the street car has. If the debates of the City Council on the question could dispel the haze that seems to hover over this subject, they would not be lost. There would be more courtesy in the public conveyances with that matter clearly understood.

FOR A NEUTRAL CANAL.

The current number of the Engineering News considers at length the proposed neutralization of the Isthmian canal, and arrives at the conclusion that it would be a serious mistake to spend money for fortifications at the termini of the waterway. Some of the reasons advanced for this position are of general interest. They corroborate the view that a strong fleet is as essential for the coast defense as forts.

If, for instance, a great European power were to declare war against the United States, the hostile fleet would first endeavor to destroy our navy. Only when that had been accomplished would it be possible to blockade the seaports, or undertake other military movements. Hostile ships would not sweep the coast and shell hotels and bathing resorts, for the simple reason that it would cost more to do so than the damage would amount to, and also because it is contrary to the rules of civilized warfare to destroy towns not fortified.

The present experience of Great Britain is considered a revelation as to how difficult it would be for any European power to undertake a hostile expedition against the United States, in case we have anything like the naval strength we ought to have. England in this war against two small republics, notwithstanding her wonderful naval equipment, has been compelled to charter additional transports from the merchant marine to the number of 214, representing a total of over a million tons. What transports would be needed, were an expedition against this country contemplated? And could any power protect such a fleet of transports against the cruisers of the country to be attacked? The entire British navy would be needed for the protection of the transports on their way across the Atlantic. It would not be possible to land any such expedition here until the navy of the United States had been destroyed.

On these presentations it follows that the eventual canal would not tempt any European power to pass through there in an attempt to reach our Pacific coast. As the Engineering News argues:

"Any hostile fleet which comes over here will have for its business the attack and destruction of the United States forces on the seas, and it will not seriously undertake anything else, until that is accomplished. If it is defeated in this attempt, the Nicaragua canal will do it no good. If it succeeds, it will not undertake a voyage of one to three thousand miles to our Pacific coast, but will immediately proceed to blockade some of the most important Atlantic seaports as the best means of bringing us to terms. If it follows this move by a military invasion (which it would be most unlikely to do) it will conduct it from some point on the Atlantic coast and would never dream of going round to the Pacific, two or three thousand miles farther from its home base."

In other words, no hostile fleet would seek to attack our coasts, but would aim at the destruction of our fleet, and for that purpose the canal would not be of any assistance. But it will aid the United States whenever the concentration of our forces is desired. The enemy will effect his concentrations at some point so far distant that the canal would be of no use to him, and even if it would be a convenience for some of his minor moves, passage through it would involve too many risks to make it worth attempting.

These, briefly stated, are the views of the journal quoted, expressed in reply to the demand that the United States build the canal, take charge of it, and fortify it against all the world. There seems to be no two opinions on the proposition that this country should have the control of the proposed high-road between the oceans, but it is believed by many that a powerful fleet is more effective for the exercise of that

control than land forts which cannot be moved about and which no enemy would care to attack.

The Isthmian canal, if built by us, will be an enterprise in the interest of peace-commerce, not of war. The United States do not, like Russia, plan trans-continental roads for purposes of wars and conquests. It is needed for the trade of the world. This is the great reason why the canal should remain in the hands of this country and be held by us. With European influence in it, there is no telling how soon it might become a subject of dispute. Whatever is needed to defend the canal against those that perhaps would destroy it, and to maintain it as a highway of commerce, should be entrusted to this country. That alone will secure the permanent success of the great enterprise.

CRONJE AND ROBERTS.

The story of the capitulation of Gen. Cronje reveals the fact that the Boer leader was required to present himself in person at the tent of his conqueror, as a suppliant for the boon of unconditional surrender. The incident is now most severely criticized by military authorities.

Friends of and sympathizers with the British cause in South Africa cannot but read with a feeling of depression and disappointment of the humiliation Gen. Cronje was submitted to in surrendering to Lord Roberts. Both sides of the story have not been told, and it would perhaps not be fair to judge from partial reports, but there can be no doubt that the "lion of South Africa," as Cronje has been called, deserves all the honor and respect a victorious general can bestow upon a brave but conquered foe.

The story of the humiliation of Cronje sounds all the more strange when contrasted with the chivalrous and gentlemanly conduct of the American admirals and generals during the Spanish war—a conduct that was so much admired by all the world. Cronje may not be a "nobelman," but a warrior who with a few thousand farmers is able to stand off for ten days a vast army with modern equipments is no "common" man. He is entitled to the treatment of a distinguished soldier.

The capitulation of Cronje is the first serious reverse the Boers have suffered in the entire campaign. It may mark the beginning of the end, and if so, the English generals can well afford to display that magnanimity for which the Anglo-Saxon race should be distinguished in war and in peace.

"NEWS MONOPOLY."

The New York Times holds that the decision of Judge Phillips against the Associated Press may work a hardship upon the small papers of the country. It argues that in declaring that the Associated Press is a common carrier and cannot lawfully limit its news service to its own members, the court has laid down principles of law that will have the effect of establishing a monopoly in news. The Times argues as follows:

"We think it must be apparent to every intelligent person who will take the trouble to think about the matter that if the primary effect contemplated by this decision is produced, that is, if demands are made upon the Associated Press all over the country for its news service for newly established journals or for existing journals not now receiving its dispatches, and if under Judge Phillips's decision it finds itself compelled to sell its service to all comers, then a secondary result will presently appear. The large and rich newspapers of the country, discontingent the Associated Press service, and perhaps dissolving the corporation, will make an agreement among themselves for an exchange of news. The newspapers of New York will supply their news to the newspapers of Chicago in consideration of a like service of Chicago news from the press of that city. One newspaper in New York will collect the news obtainable in London, another will attend to the continent of Europe, a third will take care of the Orient, and a fourth will look out for Cuba, Porto Rico, and Central and South America; and all this news will go into the common pool. In addition, of course, each newspaper will maintain its own special news service as usual. This news establishment for the common supply will necessarily be tremendously costly. No newspaper in any small city, indeed none but the largest and richest newspapers of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco would have the ability and the resources to join in the agreement and secure its priceless advantages. The small papers would not be able to do their share in the collection and furnishing of news to their associates. The consequence would be that instead of receiving the news of the entire world every day, as they now do from the Associated Press at the trifling cost of from \$25 to \$50 a week, they would have to expend a great deal more money for a narrow, local, meagre and comparatively worthless news service."

PREJUDICES BREAKING.

Once in a while the voice of the press is heard in appreciation of the self-sacrificing work of the "Mormon" Elders, who go out into the world with the Gospel message. The Brookville, Ind., Monthly Visitor of Feb. 21, for instance, comes with this editorial notice of the labors of two "Mormon" missionaries:

"Elders Joseph Smithers, of Heber, and James Anderson Jr., of Fairview, Utah, 'Mormon' missionaries, who have been stationed in Brookville since last September, left on the 15th inst. for Terre Haute, to attend the conference of the 'Mormon' Church of southern Indiana, which was held at that place February 17 and 18, 1900."

The last of January, Elder Hugh Harvey, of Heber, Utah, president of the conference, and his assistant, Elder Oren B. Packard, of Burlington, Wyoming, visited them and Elders Harvey and Smithers spent a very pleasant hour at our home.

"The stationed missionaries have frequently called at our home and we highly enjoyed their visits and acknowledge a present of a copy of the Book of Mormon from Elder Anderson."

"During their stay in Brookville they have proved to be courteous, affable gentlemen and as ministers have labored earnestly and zealously for the cause that to them is right and dear, neither asking, receiving or anticipating remuneration in this world, but patiently awaiting the future reward of those who conscientiously and faithfully do their duty here."

A new pipe trust has been formed in the East. It will soon be in shape for another Supreme court anti-trust decision.

Gen. Buller reports a British victory at Pieter's Hill, near Ladysmith, but

the English public refuses to call a victory anything short of relieving Ladysmith.

The big machinists' strike to be inaugurated in Chicago will stop the turning of a great many wheels of industry. Something in the way of arbitration should be made to reach such an unfortunate situation.

Those Americans at Yuaymas who resisted Mexicans when the latter wanted to correct a mistake they had made in a Washington's birthday flag-raising in a Mexican town were sadly deficient in courtesy though not in courage.

Lon Curry, one of the noted robbers who held up a Union Pacific train in Wyoming last July, has been killed in Arizona. The officers took only one chance when Curry began to resist arrest, and that was to settle with him quick.

The Maya Indians appear to be making things lively for Mexican troops, and their method of fighting makes extremely difficult the effort to reduce the rebels to submission. With two Indian wars on hand, Mexico is in a peck of trouble.

A former Utah man has been arrested in Washington on a charge of violating the Edmunds law. The bigamous marriage was performed in Baltimore, and the accused also is charged with having deserted his wife and children to enter the new alliance.

The comments on the British victory at Paardeberg come very close to establishing the accuracy of Timothy Healey's statement, that Turkey is the only nation of importance that sympathizes with Britain in the present war.

The smallness of Cronje's force causes surprise in London. When the war is over it will probably be found that the entire Boer force was smaller than made to appear by many estimates, and that in this was the real cause for not planning more offensive operations than were attempted.

A contemporary which flippantly refers to a "News" comment on South African affairs, makes mention in the same article of the British General French playing hide and seek around Colenso." Since Gen. French's operations were in Cape Colony south of the Orange river, that flows into the Atlantic ocean, and Colenso is in Natal, on the Tugela, which empties into the Indian ocean, our critic's acquaintance with South Africa can be easily measured.

IMMORAL PLAYS.

San Francisco Chronicle.
The arrest of Olga Nethersole and her manager in New York for the production at Wallack's Theatre of Clyde Fitch's adaptation of Alphonse Daudet's "Sapho," is a sign that there is a limit to the eastern metropolis' toleration of the lewd and the vulgar beyond which it is not safe for any one on the stage to venture. Daudet, who was usually circumspect in his style and only hinted at the salacious, allowed himself a free rein in "Sapho." When the story was written an American publishing firm made a large bid for the rights in this country under the misconception that it was a story like "Kings in Exile" or "Jack" or "The Nabob." The firm put up a substantial deposit, but after perusing the manuscript decided to forfeit the money rather than carry out the contract.

NEW YORK JOURNAL.

We say to Miss Nethersole and the others: We are aware that sewers are necessary. We do not think that women need explore them. You have found that men and women of vicious temperament will pay to see a woman, presumably clean, walking through sewers. You choose to do the walking and take the pay for it. All right. Go to perdition in your own way. But please do not bore us with the why or wherefore.

NO HERESY TRIAL.

Boston Transcript.
So Dr. McGiffert can stay in the Presbyterian church if he desires to, and teach young men fitting for the Presbyterian ministry, but he is to be no longer an accepted exponent of Presbyterian doctrine. Still he is hardly likely to suffer in reputation or usefulness, though lacking this special authority. He is persona grata in the congregational circles of New England which are as orthodox as the Presbyterians, but have thrown off the hierarchical shackles. Only a few weeks ago he preached before the Amherst College students and has received invitations in other places. This disposition of the case appears to mark a change in the attitude of one of the most conservative denominations toward the advanced religious thought known as higher criticism.

WORCESTER SPY.

Dr. Asbury McGiffert will escape the trial for heresy. That is good news to the vast majority of churchgoers of other denominations who see neither amusement nor profit in one of the New York Presbytery's trials. The trial of Dr. Charles Briggs savored more of the dark ages than of the nineteenth century. Dr. McGiffert is to be congratulated on having escaped this particular manifestation of the odium theologium.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

New York Mail and Express.
To Susan B. Anthony, who today completes her eightieth year, the American people will join in a tribute of sincere affection and respect. For more than half a century this venerable figure has stood before the world as a noble exemplar of American womanhood. Her character, courage and attainments have been an unfailing inspiration to her sisters throughout the Union, and her devotion to the cause of woman suffrage has made her name a synonym for faith and hope. Her fellow-Americans salute her with hearty admiration on this happy anniversary and bespeak for her many sunny returns of the day.

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER.

With the official passing of Miss Susan B. Anthony, ripe in years and honors, the woman suffrage forces are deprived of their most energetic and tireless worker. Her name has become synonymous with the work; her personality towering above all the co-workers in the cause. The unprejudiced masculine mind cannot help but admire the earnestness, the vigor, the commanding ability she has ever displayed. It is true that at times her zeal was marked by bitterness and by intemperate expressions that suggested the soured old maid, and yet as long as it was Susan B. Anthony who said them they were passed by with the feeling that she had earned the right to abuse the common enemy to her heart's content. Great generals are not expected to treat the foe with Chesterfieldian politeness, and Susan B. Anthony, in her way, was a great general.

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