

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 14, 1900.

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY (7)

The morning papers publish special dispatches with heavy headlines and dated Dec. 13, announcing a wonderful discovery said to have been made near Dongola, Illinois.

"The ravages of time had apparently made little headway on the stone. A hole had been drilled entirely through the stone and at the bottom end red cedar plugs had been driven in.

"This stone contains the original manuscript of the Book of Mormon." "JOSEPH SMITH."

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book has more than 600 pages; the manuscript from which it was printed was placed in the corner stone of the Nauvoo House when its foundation was laid; the original characters were inscribed on metallic plates, fastened together in the shape of a book with flaps; and there is nothing about the stone and its contents that indicates anything to establish the contrivance in any way connected with Joseph Smith.

It is possible, however, that some one who had seen the few lines of hieroglyphics, copied from the original plates and taken by Martin Harris to Professor Anthon, might have made a copy of them and placed it in that stone, to create wonder and excitement among the country folks.

There is an impression that the canal ought to be built without any previous agreement whatever, with Great Britain or with any other nation, but in international relations, as in the internal politics of any country, everything is now-a-days done by compromise and if the question is of building an international highway of commerce, the rule cannot be ignored.

"The great objection of the anti-vaccinators is to forcing people to submit to the repulsive practice of putting disease into healthy bodies. They believe it wrong in theory. They are sure that it is not efficacious in practice. To the dogmatism of the faculty, they offer the evidence of the acknowledged errors of the past. The filthy inoculation system has gone, with other heresies of medicine such as bleeding for almost every complaint, calomel for all forms of disease, the denial of water to a fever patient, and other frightful blunders which were once like fundamental principles in materia medica."

It will be observed by the careful reader, that this extract states the position of a society organized here to fight compulsory vaccination. Such societies have the support of many of the foremost scientists in the professional world.

"The Deseret News stands for the rights of the people in this matter. While it does not admit that the opinions of medical men are conclusive on a question which is in dispute in the medical world, it has done nothing to prevent such persons as believe in the virtues of vaccination from adopting it."

Of course the Tribune did not quote these remarks. They would have disposed of the charge which it vainly seeks to fasten on the "News." We understand fully its purpose in these attacks. But they will utterly fail, for we were always careful when publishing the views of persons opposed to vaccination, to give them not as ours but as those of the writers, and to announce repeatedly that this paper was not fighting vaccination per se, but contending for the rights of the public as against the force-work of irresponsible and arbitrary officials who were attempting to compel people to bow to their autocratic will.

Unlike our contemporary we were and have been willing to give both sides a hearing, in a controversy over a public matter affecting the welfare of many thousands of people. But the views of each were given as their own. The "News" has not at any time endeavored to prevent voluntary vaccination or the publication of advice or arguments in its favor. The Tribune may keep on gnawing a file but that does not appear to sharpen its intellect or improve its utterances.

NEW YORK'S SMALLPOX.

The present outbreak of smallpox in New York renders some statistics on that disease, for that city, of interest. Dr. Roger S. Tracy says that a "high point" in the number of cases seems to be reached every sixth year. In 1875 there were 2,397 cases. There was a yearly decrease until 1878, when there were only five cases. In 1879 it rose to 55. In 1880 there were 64 but in 1881, 1,238 cases. In 1882, the decline again became noticeable, there being only 702 cases. In 1883 a further decline to 25 took place, and in 1884, there were only five cases. In 1885 the number rose to 98; in 1886, to 109, and in 1887, to 343. Between 1887 and 1893 there was a similar decline the first three years, but the number increased the next four years, and for 1894, 770 cases were recorded. In 1895 there was a decline to 41, and in 1896 to 5. In 1897 there were 73 cases, but in 1898 only 18, while in 1899 there were 99.

This, whatever the cause may be, shows a remarkable regularity in the rise and fall of this disease, as far as New York is concerned. It should be possible by close observation to detect the true cause of this fluctuation and to find the remedy. One theory that has been advanced is that it is closely connected with atmospheric and climatic conditions, and the statistics kept should be useful in ascertaining the merits or demerits of this supposition.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

The Senate, in executive session, has passed the amendment to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, favorably reported by the committee and proposed by the late Senator Davis. The amendment provides that none of the sections in the treaty, referring to the neutralization of the proposed Nicaragua canal shall apply to measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order.

The language here used is vague enough to meet the various objections raised against the treaty. The object of it is to reserve to this country the right to close the canal to any future enemy, but doubt has been expressed as to whether the reserving clause would have any legal effect, as long as

we have no possessions in the vicinity of either terminus of the canal. To make it effective, if this view is correct, we would have to acquire territory on both coasts. Senator Elikins seems to have had this in mind when he offered this further amendment:

"Nothing in this treaty shall be construed to prevent the United States from acquiring sufficient security and sovereignty, or to prevent it from building, operating, maintaining, controlling and defending the said canal (referring to the proposed Nicaragua canal), or for any other purpose that the United States may deem for its best interest."

The Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850, between this country and Great Britain, prohibits either of the two powers from extending its dominion over any portion of Central America, or from exercising "exclusive control" over any canal across the American isthmus. It stipulates that the two powers shall enter into a sort of partnership in the matter of protection of any such canal. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty lets the whole world into this partnership to some extent, by providing that "there shall be no discrimination against any nation or its citizens or subjects in respect of the conditions or charges of traffic, or otherwise."

Such considerations under the demands for the neutralization of the canal. The advantages of this are thought to be many. If the canal be neutral, this country would be relieved of the burden of defending it, and the people would be saved many millions which otherwise must be spent on ships and fortifications. It would lessen the chances of intervention in a future war, since neutral commerce would not be interfered with. It would prevent the construction of a competing canal, since there would be no discrimination against any other nation.

The number of amendments proposed in the Senate indicates the importance attached to the treaty. There should be no false step taken at this time. Unless everything is perfectly clear and above board now, future complications are sure to arise. Great Britain and France have had much friction over the Suez canal. The Nicaragua canal should not be made another so-called "problem," bringing to mankind, like the gifts of Prometheus in the myth, both the blessings of industry and the horrors of war.

China may be expected to offset the indemnity bills of the powers by wash bills.

Prince Tuan is reported to be feeling, dressed as a Buddhist monk. "The wicked flee when no man pursueth."

Mark Twain is making his mark as a political thinker and speaker. And his mark is a blaze on the path of progress.

Andrew Carnegie has just given the city of Chattanooga \$50,000 for a library. It isn't a very bad man who goes about the country giving away libraries.

In Canton, China, it only costs twenty-five cents a piece to beat people. China will find that it costs infinitely more than that to execute foreigners.

This continual holding up of railroad trains is stealing from the country its good name and robbing the railroads and passengers of their trash, or cash.

Judge Gibbons has been giving the Chicago police a terrible arraignment. A Chicago policeman cares no more for an arraignment than a duck cares for rain.

That Carbondale, Ill., man who claims to have found the manuscript of the Book of Maroni is a Sucker, but he must not try and play the people of Utah for suckers.

A petition has been filed in behalf of the State of Indiana asking that a receiver for the Order of Chosen Friends be appointed. Another case showing that "most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly."

The "News" published, some time ago, an article on the collection of old Bibles in the national museum, giving some particulars of biblical curiosities. We have since received inquiries from people having peculiar editions of the Bible as to where they can apply to dispose of the books. We can only give them the advice to write to the Librarian, National Library, Washington, D. C., who will doubtless impart all necessary information, freely.

The granite canopy that covers Plymouth Rock has been badly damaged by vandals or relic hunters, the terms being synonymous. There is no other civilized country in the world where such work goes on to the same extent as in America. What is the reason? Is it a wanton desire to destroy or a positive lack of appreciation of things historic and artistic? No matter what the reason, the regrettable fact exists. And this vandalism is a positive discouragement of public enterprise by private persons, and justly so.

At present the country seems to be suffering from an epidemic of train robberies. It is really surprising how frequent these are and how extremely rare the cases when the robbers are apprehended and brought to trial. It requires a bold and cool headed man to successfully hold up a train, but possessing the qualities of boldness and cool headedness the task to the robbers seems quite as "easy as falling off

a log." So almost universal are these crimes that it would seem that there should be some remedy for it. In Spain a few years ago (it may be the case now) every train carried an armed guard, detailed from the army. Once more shall America be under the necessity of following Spain's lead.

English press comments on the Davis amendment to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty are by no means gracious. Some are hostile and bitter, but others more conservative. Speaking of obligations under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty the Post says that when a nation refuses to carry out its treaty obligations the only thing left is compulsion, but that compulsion in the present case is out of the question. That is sensible talk. It seems evident that the Senate does not intend to be hampered by the terms of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and that it will be thrown overboard if necessary. International obligations should be observed, and the proper way to set them aside is through diplomacy. American diplomacy may be relied upon in the present case as in so many others to accomplish the desired end.

ARMY LEGISLATION.

Springfield Republican.

Secretary Root's army bill gets reported to the House military committee "with many changes." That was to be expected. Under the rigid rules of the House and the strict discipline of the majority, the bill may go to the Senate as it now stands, but no one can foretell just the shape the bill will be in when it leaves the Senate. On this account, detailed analysis of the army legislation at this stage seems, in the old grandiloquent phrase, to be "a work of supererogation." There is every indication, however, that while the army will be made as big as possible, it will be reformed as little as can be.

Kansas City World.

The bill for the reorganization of our standing army is the first measure that will come from the present Congress. It is the hope of the administration that it will pass both houses and become a law before the end of the present week. The bill in its present form does not differ much from the which failed of passage at the last session of Congress in regard to the regulations of the service, but the present measure authorizes the increase in the strength of numbers so as to permit a maximum of 100,000 and a minimum of 75,000 men. It provides for fifteen full regiments of cavalry, thirty regiments of infantry and an artillery force of 18,000.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Secretary Root has shown in his new army bill that he can sacrifice the less to the greater object even at the cost of his own opinions. Not to mention considerable differences in the distribution of the army and the details of organization, the new measure which he has prepared, and which will probably be but little changed by the military committee, is different from last year's measure in several respects that encountered the opposition of powerful influences within the army. The provision for promotion for merit on recommendation by a regimental board, which was to apply to every third promotion, has been eliminated, as well as the provision for the immediate abolition of the permanent staff.

New York Journal.

That army is to be of 100,000 men, of which Mr. McKinley thinks that 60,000 will be needed permanently. He reduces the estimate of the number required in the Philippines to a force of from 10,000 to 20,000 men. Whether that guess or MacArthur's 75,000 prove more nearly correct will probably depend upon the spirit in which the commission's instructions to settle the land question and disputes over the religious orders are carried out.

Boston Herald.

Congress is making good progress with the business of the session. Already the House has passed the army bill, a measure of such great importance and so contentious in its character that in the days when the House was a "deliberative body" several weeks would have been required for the debate of its various features. It was adopted yesterday by a vote of 165 yeas to 133 nays, being aided in its progress by the knowledge on the part of the opposition that it could not be opposed with any prospect of success or discussed in any adequate way under the rules. In the Senate, however, it will have a far more trying ordeal to meet, and will doubtless be amended to a greater or less extent, so that its reappearance in the House for some further consideration is very probable.

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