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SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 20, 1901.

TAKE PROPER PRECAUTION.

We are pleased to note the interest which is being taken by Secretary Reedy of the State Board of Health, in the sanitary conditions of this city and the enforcement of quarantine regulations, which are absolutely necessary considering the prevalence of contagious diseases.

The Deseret News has repeatedly advised a general cleaning up and proper disposal of garbage and all kinds of disease-breeding and offensive matter, and also a strict compliance with quarantine rules and the disinfection of persons and places exposed to contagion. But there are many persons, it appears, who are either ignorant of the danger to the public health arising from the intermingling of people who have been thus exposed, with the general public, or are utterly indifferent to the welfare of others.

Dr. Beatty expresses his opinion that the chief cause of the spread of diphtheria and scarlet fever in this city, is the frequent disregard of quarantine regulations. He introduced a resolution in the City Council on Tuesday evening, that two additional inspectors be appointed whose duty it will be to see that those regulations are enforced. The resolution was adopted, and it will be not only right and reasonable for reports of cases of those diseases to be made promptly to the health department, but it will save much trouble and expense. Prosecutions will be instituted against the violators of those rules, and arrests will be made of persons who, having been exposed to a contagious disorder, will still mingle with the public.

All that is very proper. There is one view of the subject, however, that ought to be presented, and that is that there is much danger from the contact of an officer or a doctor with patients suffering from those afflictions, if he visits them in the same apparel which he wears in association with other people. It is just as necessary that a physician or an inspector shall guard against the spreading of contagion as for anybody else to do so. We have heard of professional gentlemen coming out of quarantined houses, boarding street cars and going about their business freely, when, at the same time, if some working man living in a quarantined house went forth to his labor, even though he may not have entered the sick room, he would be subject to arrest and punishment.

Careful physicians disinfect their clothing and take precautions which are necessary in visiting their patients. However, there are some who seem to think that because they do not themselves contract disease they are not likely to communicate it to others. But if these diseases are spread because persons who reside in the houses where they exist are not confined therein until danger is past, is it not extremely probable that contagion is carried by those who are considered to have a right to visit those houses, and who take no special means to protect the public from the danger of their own presence?

Some conscientious doctors and inspectors wear an outside garment of rubber or other material, which they put on when entering a place where contagious disease exists, and which they put off on emerging; and they also thoroughly disinfect their own persons and clothing, before mingling with the public or calling on other patients. We have no desire to find fault with the medical fraternity, but there is much comment on this matter, and there are thoughtful individuals who desire the public welfare, who cannot see why a business or laboring man who takes proper precautions so as not to carry infection, must be housed up for weeks, while a doctor or inspector may go in and out of the same house with impunity, and without adopting any special precautionary measures. Enforce needless quarantine regulations, by all means, but let them extend wherever necessary and to all persons liable to aid in the spread of those diseases which appear to be prevalent!

METEORS AND STARS.

Astronomers looking for shooting stars on the night of Thursday, Nov. 14, were to some extent rewarded for their vigilance. At the Harvard observatory more than 400 meteors were counted, and 250 of them were Leonids. A few of them appeared before 2 o'clock in the morning, but most of them were not seen until between 4:30 and 5 o'clock. The color was generally light green, but some of them were blue, and others red. One unusually large meteor left a trail visible for fifteen minutes.

At Northfield, Minn., students of Carleton college recorded and charted more than 1,000 meteors upon specially prepared charts. The climax was reached at 5:15:02, when a brilliant meteor of magnitude minus 2 was seen to enter the constellation of Hydra. By accurate determination the trail persisted for 22 minutes. Several thousand large Leonids were seen at Goodsell.

Eighty-four Leonids were noted at the University of Virginia, despite unfavorable seeing conditions, leading Prof. Oliver to hope that the great shower would yet come. They began to be numerous at 4:50 a. m., and after that averaged one a minute.

The brilliant display expected for two years did not occur; still, the spectacle must have been one of great magnificence, and the number of shooting stars seen was considerably greater than that of last year.

The study of the stars is very fascinating. Nothing gives a better idea of the power and wisdom of the Omnipotence that rules the entire system, or systems, of worlds. It has been calculated that there must be perhaps 200,000,000 stars visible through the best telescopes, and by photography the existence of other millions is revealed. But it is known that there are but a small part of the worlds that are circling in space, since planets that shine by reflected light in the far away depths of the infinite abyss are visible neither through the telescope nor the photographer's plate. To form an idea, then, of the vastness of the universe, one must consider the millions of worlds that flash their brilliant light to us through the telescope; the millions more that only photography reveals, and the millions that are dark, or too small and far distant to be seen at all from our earth. What infinite wisdom to construct and guide this vast machinery! The thought that forces itself upon one's mind at the contemplation of this vast creation, was perhaps never better expressed than by the Hebrew poet: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

It is curious to contemplate too, that while the best informed pagan astronomers of antiquity counted but a few over a thousand stars, in Genesis their number is compared to sand on the shores of the sea. Those who make so much of the alleged "mistakes of Moses," have never satisfactorily accounted for this significant fact.

AMENDMENT TO LAND LAWS.

Grouse Creek, Boxelder Co., Nov. 18, 1901.

Editor Deseret News:
In your Semi-Weekly of Nov. 14, in answer to a question by "An Old Subscriber," you state if a person wishes to relinquish a homestead and purchase of the State, a payment of 25c per acre is required at time of application. If this is not a mistake, will you please inform us how recently this rule has been made by the State Land Board, and oblige
P. P.

There is no mistake in the explanation given by the Deseret News in the article referred to by our correspondent. Under the law passed by the Legislature of 1901, the payment of 25 cents per acre is required in the relinquishment of a homestead or desert entry, and the purchase of the land from the State. The statute making this provision will be found on page 23, Laws of Utah 1901, as follows:
"The state board of land commissioners is hereby authorized to contract with occupants who have filed upon lands in this State under the laws of the United States, whereby said occupants can relinquish their said entry to said land and be permitted to purchase the said tract of land from this State after its selection by the State board, at private sale, at a price to be fixed by the board, which price shall not be less than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; provided that at the time of making such contract twenty-five cents per acre shall be deposited with the board, to be applied as the first payment on such land after the same is patented to the State, and the remainder of the purchase price shall be paid in not to exceed ten equal yearly payments."

This section of the amendments to the State land laws will fully answer the question propounded by P. P.

WINTER IS COMING.

After a long and unusually mild fall, the signs of approaching winter are now in evidence. Some snow has fallen in the mountains and the nights are chilly. There have as yet been no real winter storms, and no heavy frosts, but the heralds of the coming frost giants are unmistakably here. And the coming of winter will be hailed with joy in these regions. It is hoped that its cold blasts will kill off the germs of sickness that seem to flourish during temperate fall weather, with the slowly decaying vegetation; and it is depended on for its deposits of snow which when descending from the towering hills to the valleys below will bring back to life the fields and the meadows. It is in vain to speculate on whether the coming season will be mild or severe. Weather prophets do not agree on that point. Some hold that an extraordinarily hot summer generally is followed by a very cold winter. Others think that the causes that operated to make the summer unusually warm, will most probably produce a mild winter. Some sign-readers agree with this view. They hold that the slowness with which the trees are shedding the leaves indicate a moderate winter season, and also that the comparative indistinctness of the appearance of the Milky Way during the fall months, points in the same direction.

But weather prophecies are not a success. Signs very often fail. All that is known is that the winter season is approaching with its bracing and beneficent influences. It is a good time now to clean up thoroughly, burn rubbish, and look after the sanitary conditions generally. The public need to be reminded of the fact that no matter how favored a locality may be, with regard to its climate, unless the strictest cleanliness is observed, sickness will prevail.

THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY

The new Hay-Pauncefote treaty was signed yesterday. If it shall be ratified by the Senate the question of the relative rights of the United States and Great Britain in the Isthmian canal will be finally settled. Just what the treaty provides is all matter of conjecture, but it abrogates the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The chief provision of that treaty was article I, which provided that the governments of the United States and Great Britain will never obtain or maintain for itself any exclu-

sive control over the said ship canal; agreeing that neither will ever erect or maintain any fortifications commanding the same, or in the vicinity thereof, or occupy, or fortify, or colonize, or assume or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito Coast, or any part of Central America. Both governments agreed that neither would take advantage of any intimacy, or use any alliance, connection or influence that either might possess with any state or government through whose territory the canal might pass, for the purpose of acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, for the citizens or subjects of the one, any rights or advantages in regard to commerce or navigation through the canal which should not be offered on the same terms to the citizens or subjects of the other.

CORONATION AND WAR.

A London paper makes the statement that the coronation of King Edward will be postponed "until the war is over." But in all probability that is only one among the many absurd stories printed by persons who know nothing of the plans of the king, but who want to make it appear that they are well informed. The coronation would certainly be an appropriate celebration of the termination of the military operations in South Africa, but if the end is not yet in view, the ceremony will not be postponed indefinitely on that account.

When the conflict commenced, the Boers had an immense store of rifles and ammunition, accumulated for years. Much of this was concealed in the mountains. The British, on entering Pretoria, found very little war material, though it was known that the Boers had enough stored away to enable them to carry on a guerrilla fight for years. Besides, they have all along been capturing railroad trains loaded with ammunition and supplies. And as long as they have munitions, they can carry on the kind of warfare in which they are now engaged.

It would be a gracious act, though, on the part of King Edward, if he could, in honor of the coronation, inaugurate a new South African policy, looking toward the establishment of peace and tranquility. There can be no question of the re-establishment of the defunct republics, but the entire South Africa might be organized into a federation under the British flag. The Boers then would have practical independence, though under another form, and Great Britain's honor would be vindicated. Some such arrangement should not be impossible to bring about. As long as the Boers are offered no alternative but national annihilation or fight to a finish, they will choose the latter. What they would do, if a policy of reconciliation were adopted, can be ascertained only by a practical test.

Light from decayed meat will naturally come "high."

The Danish apple crop is a partial failure. There must be something rotten in Denmark to account for it.

And now a scheme is on foot to raise the price of bread. It is a fortunate thing that man lives not by bread alone.

Novelist H. G. Wells asserts that genius is always desyncetic. Is it to be inferred from this that dyspeptics are always geniuses?

About the highest idea of a striker on strike is that he must strike and abuse those who take the place he has voluntarily quit.

Perhaps the brigands intend to free Miss Stone on Thanksgiving day. It would be an added cause to America's already numerous causes for thanksgiving.

There is every indication that reciprocity will hold the congressional stage this winter. And as the night follows the day so will the tariff question follow that of reciprocity.

Secretary Hay's address on American diplomacy was very diplomatic. It was pleasant, made his hearers think they were being taken into the confidence of the state department, and yet told them nothing new.

In America the test of popularity is to have a clear named after one. In France it is to have one's face and figure produced in gingerbread and sold in Champs Elysees. But just imagine a half of fame filled with bad cigars and indigestible gingerbread!

At a sale of a naturalist's collection in London a few weeks ago, an egg of the great auk fetched £22. But the highest price was paid for one about eighteen months ago, it being £315. Surely the great auk was the goose that laid the golden eggs.

General Lew Wallace wants to fight the battle of Shiloh over again. The battle of Shiloh was recently fought again for forty successive days and the people do not care to go on with another battle just now. "Let us have peace" as the hero of Shiloh said.

Unionizing miners in Indiana means for five big burly brutes to jump on one man and beat him until he is unconscious and almost lifeless. It is a cowardly, brutal thing to do, but it is a common argument with union men when they cannot order things all their own way.

A letter from a violent anti-British Boer woman held in a South African concentration camp, says that Kaffir women do all the work and that the Boer women can play tennis all day if they choose. Playing tennis all day long in a South African concentration would become a bore after while.

Now that nearly every State in the Union has in some sort of fashion adopted a State flower, a movement has been started by some eastern florists to get the national government to adopt a Union flower and the carnation has been suggested as a good one, says an exchange. Why not the chrysanthemum?

The little shake-up experienced by Salt Lake City a few days ago, seems to have affected quite a number of our contemporaries a good way off. Some of them will be surprised, perhaps, to learn that our earthquake was so terribly

severe that not one person in a hundred knew anything about it. Only a very few individuals experienced even a tremor, and away in the South, where the shocks were most severely felt, no one received any personal injury. Salt Lake is all right, thank you, and visitors may come here safely and without fear or trembling.

"Mayor-elect Low still persists in misquoting Shakespeare. He put a remark of Mercutio's into the mouth of Hamlet at the complimentary banquet to him the other night, and Dist-Atty-elect Jerome was cruel enough to hit the mayor-elect up on it," says the Boston Herald. And this from the president of one of America's great universities. Had such a slip occurred by the head of an institution of learning in the wild and woolly West, how the learned men and papers of the East would have cried out about pretense to familiarity with Shakespeare.

Emperor William is said to be the greatest living jingo, yet when what he has done on many occasions is fully analyzed, it will be seen that he is one of the most conservative of men. For some time past a very considerable portion of the German press has been engaged in the not very laudable business of nagging and baiting the United States, a most unwise policy for nations as well as individuals. And now the Kaiser says it must cease. Such a course may savor of tyranny but it is conservative and shows eminent good sense. It should be the part of the press everywhere to promote friendship rather than enmity.

A Chicago professor of materia medica, speaking of that dread disease—cancer, and its cure, says: "We are in the beginning of an era when cancer will have no more terrors for anyone. In the last year and a half I have treated over fifty cases of cancer, including many forms of the disease, and have yet failed to find a single one that would not yield readily. I am of the belief that the disease can in the future be broken down quickly and surely, even when treatment does not begin before the disease is well advanced." For humanity's sake it is to be hoped that a cure for cancer has been discovered, for no other disease has such terrors for mankind as this, and he who suffers from it usually regards himself as doomed.

The New York Mail and Express is kind enough to say, ament our recent earthquake:

"The Utah earthquake will evidently supply an interesting problem for the men of science. Severe disturbances of this sort on the great plateau and in the coastal lands are almost unheard of, though they are common enough on the Pacific coast. A convulsion in this region which causes landslides, blocks railroads and changes the course of streams is a serious matter. The Mormons are probably as well able to meet a calamity of this sort as any other community in the country, for they are not only thrifty individually, but have a well-organized scheme for helping one another. Salt Lake, for that matter, does not appear to be harmed, and Sevier, the county where the principal damage has been done, is to the south of their best settled and most productive region."

NEW YORK AFTER THE ELECTION.

New York Evening Post.
It is gratifying to observe how the election of Mr. Low to the majority has raised the level of men who are now regarded as within the range of choice for heads of departments. Everybody realizes the type of man who put Col. John F. Fairchild in charge of Brooklyn's police force, nearly twenty years ago, would not for a moment consider any ordinary politician for the police commissioner of the greater city; and that the type of man who so excellently personified in the late Ripley Hopes, whom Mr. Low made superintendent of public works in 1882, is the type which we may count upon seeing in charge of other departments than that of police. The "cabinet" of New York's mayor-for Mr. Low will undoubtedly again treat his heads of departments as constituting such a body—should be composed of eminent citizens, and it is clear that the public expects the new executive to choose only such.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.
At the session of the New York legislature which will open next January, a strong effort will be made by reputable people to secure a modification of the Raines law. The intention of the Raines law was to diminish the liquor evil. The effect of it was to put into the hands of Tammany the power to tyrannize over and blackmail keepers of drinking places—a power which resulted in the demoralization of the metropolitan police force to an extent never equaled in the most corrupt cities of the period before the enactment of this law.

New York Mail and Express.
When earnest, energetic men can be found to undertake the work of redeeming from Tammany such a territory as the "house" district—from Fourteenth to Twenty-third street and from First avenue to East River—they have the right to expect co-operation for the good they accomplish rather than condemnation because they have not done more.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.
Sometimes even the Tammany machine gets out of order and does a pile of damage before it can be stopped. Down in the notorious "red light" district in New York the Tammany men are trying to explain that the narrow margin by which they won was the result of a peculiar kink in the wheels. According to their story, the "orders" to the voters were that they should vote under the first emblem on the ballot. But those who gave the instructions forgot that a large proportion of the voters in the district read and write Yiddish, and consequently, though the district "meant to" vote the Tammany ticket, a large part of it voted under the last emblem, which happened to be anti-Tammany. Unfortunately for this ingenious way of accounting for defeat, there are other straws to indicate that the Jews knew what they were doing when they voted to throw off the Tammany yoke.

New York Tribune.
Mr. Low is confronted by an extremely difficult problem in selecting heads of departments for the incoming administration. It is highly important at this time that the city departments be entrusted to officials not only of character and ability, but of such prestige as to command universal confidence and respect for the whole government machine of Tammany. The city departments in their several spheres be comparable with himself. Men are wanted to whom the offices mean nothing—politically or financially; who would make sacrifices in serving; who would consider an appointment not a favor bestowed, but a draft to service for which no reward was possible; but the consciousness of a patriotic duty done. Such men would keep aroused the public spirit of this city and consolidate it for the perpetuation of non-partisanship.

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We have some very choice patterns in Carpets, not full rolls but sufficient to cover ordinary dwelling rooms, and will dispose of these Carpets at less than cost. To clear out the entire stock. They are this year's goods, and the very latest patterns. This clearance sale affords the

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