

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 2, 1900.

## THE SCHOOLS TO OPEN.

The action taken by the Board of Health, and subsequently by the Board of Education, will meet with universal approval. All the schools of this city can now be opened to pupils without any condition as to vaccination. The resolutions adopted by the Board of Education, although in some respects not exactly the form desired by the minority, reach to the end desired and therefore they are so far satisfactory.

All the public and private day schools, Sunday schools and other educational establishments, are now perfectly free to re-commence their tuition. Vaccination is now not a qualification required as a condition precedent to public education. This is very gratifying, no matter what may have been the causes that have produced the results.

The gentlemen composing the minority of the Board of Education need not think that any reflection, apparently cast on them by the resolutions adopted, will affect them in the least in the estimation of the masses of our citizens. The course they have pursued in trying to maintain the rights of the people is understood and appreciated. They are not responsible for the strife, ill feeling and litigation that have been the consequence of the action of the majority of the Board.

The desire on the part of the majority of the Board of Education to obtain something peremptory from the Board of Health, so that the responsibility for shutting out unvaccinated children from the schools which they were entitled and required by law to enter, might be shifted on to the shoulders of the medical authorities, is pretty well comprehended by the public. It ought to be remembered by the voters at the school election next fall.

The test case to determine the extent and limit of the powers of the Board of Health under the statutes of the State, has yet to be ruled upon by the Supreme Court. This will not necessarily affect the situation at present. The probability is that the schools will remain open to all pupils, irrespective of vaccination, no matter what may be the decision of the court of appeal. But we do not understand by this that any proper vigilance will be relaxed. Such quarantine rules and sanitary regulations as may be deemed necessary under existing circumstances, will no doubt be maintained, and good citizens will submit to inconveniences that may arise therefrom out of proper regard for the general welfare.

We congratulate the community on the healthful conditions which are now prevailing, and hope there will be no further occasion for alarm. It is very doubtful whether a number of cases that have been called smallpox were anything more than aggravated eruptions, resembling in some respects the dreaded disease, but lacking in some essential symptoms of the disorder. However, as the complaint appeared to be contagious whatever it was, too great precautions to prevent its spread could scarcely be adopted, so long as they were within the lines of the law. The prospects at present are that as the malady has been checked, it will soon become extinct in this city and throughout the State.

## THEIR FAME HAS GONE ABROAD

The Old Folks committee, who have accomplished so much good in Utah by providing entertainments for aged people of all classes, sects, parties and conditions, are to be congratulated, not only on the success they have achieved in this State and surrounding regions, but in the effect of their example upon other parts of the world.

In the Lowestoft (Norfolk, England) Journal of recent date, appears an account of a series of entertainments to old folks of the wards of that town. They were given by the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Johnson, who were assisted by a number of prominent ladies and gentlemen. A capital "tea" furnished by one of the chief caterers of the place, was enjoyed by the aged people, and a musical program, vocal and instrumental, was rendered for their amusement. An exhibition of dissolving views was given, speeches were made and some presents distributed. Each ward in the town was favored with a similar delightful Old Folks' party, and the proceedings were very much like the treats given to the aged people here in our country towns.

We were wondering how it was that the people in Norfolk had become acquainted with the movement which originated in this city; and when we learned that the same kind of thing had been taken up in Manchester, and then in Liverpool, our curiosity was still further awakened. But on receiving a call from Capt. R. F. Newell, we learned that on a visit to Lowestoft, his native town, he had conversed on this subject and also corresponded with some of the

leading men at that place, and by this means they had learned of the doings of the Old Folks' committee of Utah. The editor of the Journal is also an old friend of Mr. Newell's, and has been for many years very fair in his treatment of our people.

Thus the fame of good deeds goes forth to the world, and when the question is asked, "Can anything good come out of Utah?" the answer will be, before very long, "Yes. The kindness and encouragement given to the aged in that State, under the management of The Old Folks committee of the 'Mormon' Church are good enough for any nation, indeed the whole world, to imitate." Let the good work go on.

## THAT SCRIP DISPUTE.

The attempt to slander the Tithing department of the Church through the columns of the Tribune was a miserable failure, the primary charge having fallen to the ground. But the attack has been continued, nevertheless, the anonymous assailant having shifted his ground while still hurling his unsavory missiles.

The original accusation was that contractors, and others, were in the habit of taking cash to the Tithing Office and buying scrip therewith at a discount, and paying it out to their workmen at par. There was not any foundation for the charge nor any excuse for its fabrication. No such transaction has ever occurred at the Presiding Bishop's office, as proved by the testimony of every person connected therewith and by the records kept of all the business of that institution.

As to the order system which for many years was a necessity in mercantile affairs, and which is now used to some extent, we have nothing further to say than this: It is a matter between store-keepers and persons doing business with them, and sometimes between employers and employees. If it is conducted according to contract and a fair understanding, it is a matter that belongs to those parties alone.

On general principles, however, we believe that it will be for the benefit of all classes of the community, when every business transaction of a financial character shall be conducted on a cash basis, and the money of the country shall be the only circulating medium employed. Tithing affairs, as we have explained, have to be regulated according to payments. While they are received "in kind," they will probably have to be paid out largely "in kind," and the scrip system will have to be continued. When it is satisfactory to the individuals who are chiefly interested, it does not matter what others may have to say about it, as it is none of their business. It is a Church concern entirely, and is of vast benefit to many thousands of people.

## WHO IS TO BLAME?

It is but natural that the British people should endeavor to fix the responsibility for the misfortunes that have befallen their troops in South Africa. It is as natural, perhaps, that the reverses should be ascribed to bad administration, or defective generalship. But it will be extremely difficult to point out in what respect either could have been improved upon.

The troops were mobilized and sent out with a dispatch that speaks well for the administration. The commissariat has been admirably managed. The medical corps has been efficient. The soldiers have done their duty. They have given even to sure death with the fortitude of heroes.

As to generalship, it is easy to say after a lost battle what could have been done, but it is by no means certain that a course different from that actually pursued would have brought a different result. Battles sometimes are turned by apparently trifling circumstances, and very often, it looks as if contending armies were moving according to the dicta of fate. The victory is not always to the strong, nor the race to the swift.

The battle of Magersfontein, that was lost notwithstanding the greatest bravery of the British, is an illustration. It is now stated that Lord Methuen in an address to the Highland brigade told how he lost the day. The advance, he said, was made exactly as he had ordered, and the British were within an ace of carrying the position. "Every thing depended on one word: 'Forward!' But at that moment somebody shouted, 'Retire!' The command was obeyed. A soldier gives this account of the incident:

"The Black Watch came to a wire entanglement six feet high, and the front rank were doing their best to climb over, and we were just getting enough light to see, when thousands of rifles spoke out at once from the enemy's trenches. Some one shouted 'Retire,' and the whole brigade fled for their life, and in that retreat several hundred men have fallen. We tried to form up in a decent fighting line, but it was impossible. When we could return the fire we crept forward among the bushes, but it was like fighting nothing but bullets. After ten hours' fighting we could not get near the enemy, and we had had enough of it. Our hearts, I think, were broken after the reception we got at the start."

It has not been ascertained whether the fatal command was uttered by a British officer, or by someone in the Boer trenches. There is a suspicion that the latter may be the fact, for an account in the London Times of the capture of eight officers and ninety-four men of the Suffolk regiment on January 6 says:

"At midnight last night four companies of the Suffolk regiment occupied a position on a hill northeast of Colesburg. The movement resulted in considerable loss. Two companies charged the enemy on a kopje. A report states that the cry 'Retire' was raised by the Boers, whereupon many men fell back. About a company stood fast. This company fell into the hands of the enemy."

The use of Colesburg may have been repeated at Magersfontein.

We do not believe the British generals deserve the censure bestowed upon them by critics at home. They are fighting an enemy about whose strength, equipment and tactical skill, the outside world was ignorant. They are operating in an exceedingly difficult terrain, and it should cause no wonder if the commencement of the campaign is a series of reverses, until sufficient experience is gained.

The retreat of General Buller can hardly be regarded as a disastrous de-

feat, for there are some indications that he has again commenced an advance by another route for the relief of Ladysmith, although news of his latest doings is exceedingly scarce. It is felt in Great Britain that some decisive advantage must be gained by the British, in order to avert possible complications. Rumors of Russia's advance toward Herat are heard with alarm. A great deal depends on the immediate occurrences in South Africa. The entire civilized world is interested in the outcome.

## ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

The rumors, conveyed in a dispatch, of plans for another Armenian massacre are disquieting at this time. Great Britain has her hands full elsewhere and cannot pay close attention to the affairs of Turkey. The time is opportune for a rising that possibly might justify Russia to interfere, as she did at the time of the rising in the European provinces of Turkey.

There is no improbability in the rumors. The policy of the sultan seems to be to permit the Kurds and other semi-barbarous Asiatics periodically to kill a number of Armenians and appropriate their belongings. Excuse for a massacre can always be found. It is no secret that some officials in the empire of the Turkish government do not hesitate to plunder the people, and submit the women to indignities. Whenever victims have the manhood of resisting such tyranny, perhaps by mistreating, or even killing, an official who may have outraged virtue, the cry of "rebellion" is raised, and the incident is made an excuse for a general massacre. Fanaticism is let loose to revel in gore.

It is not above five years since the outrages were committed that sent a thrill of horror through the civilized world. They were preceded by the same kind of rumors that are now heard. Turks told their friends among the victims that they expected an order from Constantinople, and that when it came blood would flow. This time they are giving out that no Christian males will be spared, while the women will be reserved for the harems of wealthy Mohammedans.

Great Britain has guaranteed the religious liberty and the safety of the Armenians, but there can be no doubt that Russia would welcome an excuse for assuming the role of protector and continue the work which was interrupted, when British protests halted Russian troops on the march toward Constantinople. An Armenian massacre would probably furnish such an excuse, and in that case serious complications would surely arise.

Russia cannot have forgotten that in 1878 Turkey ceded to her Kars, Batoum and a large part of Asia Minor, and that Great Britain, taking advantage of Russia's exhausted condition, refused to consent to the terms of the Stefano treaty, and virtually forced her to give up the fruits of victory. Nor can she have forgotten that a secret treaty with Turkey was produced afterwards, of which the signatory powers had no knowledge, at the time of the Berlin treaty. Russia's policy never changes. It is one of constant aggression, and what cannot be acquired today may be obtained a century hence. For this reason it is but to be expected that whenever the opportunity is deemed favorable, Russia will tear the Berlin treaty to pieces and proceed towards her goal.

The attention of the world is riveted on the events transpiring in South Africa, but the wise watchman will not neglect to look to the signs appearing on the Asiatic horizon. Could they be correctly interpreted, they would furnish the surest indication of the approach of the new dispensation.

## "PARCELS POST."

The subject of the introduction into this country of the "parcels post" system used in London, has been thus adversely, and as appears sensibly, commented upon by the Lawrence, Kansas, Daily World:

"A movement is on foot to have Congress pass a law admitting parcels of merchandise to the mail at a very low rate of postage. Among the arguments used is the fact that in Great Britain the postage on parcels is 6 cents for the first pound and 2 cents for each additional pound up to eleven pounds, which is the limit, thus making the cost of sending an eleven pound package 36 cents. The postal service of the United States has a deficit now of \$9,000,000 a year for operating expenses, and that deficit would be two or three times larger if such a law was enacted, and the people would pay the shortage. It is a scheme of the big department stores of the larger cities to ruin the trade of the country merchants."

## COAL SUPPLY.

Some scientists think that at no distant day the diminution of the world's coal supply will be so great as to materially interfere with the free use of that fuel. Within fifty years, it is thought, coal will be much more expensive than now, on account of its scarcity, and the industrial operations of the world will consequently be interfered with.

The enormous consumption of coal is seen by a comparison of the figures giving the total production of various countries. For the year 1896 the table is as follows:

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| United States   | 24,581,275  |
| Great Britain   | 220,000,000 |
| Germany         | 110,000,000 |
| France          | 30,000,000  |
| Belgium         | 22,000,000  |
| Russia          | 12,000,000  |
| Austria-Hungary | 12,500,000  |

It is not unreasonable to suppose that with such an enormous annual consumption of that particular fuel, the earth's supply must some time become exhausted, and that the diminution must be felt long before exhaustion occurs. Still, there are as yet vast regions of the earth to explore, and coal deposits may be found from which the supply can be replenished. It is believed that on Spitzbergen and elsewhere in the Arctic regions will be found rich coal fields. And then there are the Antarctic regions, only waiting to be opened up to the outside world by some scientific genius.

It is probable also, that the consumption of coal will diminish, as electricity is being more generally generated by

water power and distributed by means of wires to industrial centers.

Those that speculate on the probable time when mankind will be suffering on account of the lack of one thing or another, forget that there is a Providence always caring for God's children. When one commodity is about to give out, there will always be something else to take its place, as long as man has a mission to perform on earth. The resources of nature are practically unlimited, and human genius, moved upon by the divine Spirit, will find what is needed for life and enjoyment.

Weather-men who follow the moon's indications promise several weeks of excessively wet weather, to commence in a few days.

Winston Churchill compares the British troops in conflict with the Boers at Spion Kop to "a flock of sheep." It had been thought they were an army of lions.

According to a dispatch from the City of Mexico, alcoholism is threatening the national life there. With a people like Mexicans liquor-drinking is about the greatest road to downfall.

President McKinley says he will not interfere in Kentucky, further than where it may be necessary to preserve the peace. The settlement of the controversy there is to be left to the usual method, in the courts.

Aside from the merits of the woman's suffrage agitation in Boston, it will be conceded that in the controversy Thursday between Dr. Lyman Abbott and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, the lady proved herself the "better man of the two."

There is talk of putting in force the militia ballot act in England, making all unmarried men between 18 and 30 years of age liable for military service. This will be a great chance for unmarried maidens, so far as there are young men to go around.

Those people who yet believe that the United States is not the foremost industrial nation, should note the fact that whereas thirty years ago the manufactures of this country about equaled those of Great Britain, today they equal those of Great Britain, France and Germany combined.

If it be true, as asserted from London, that Lord Roberts has called for 90,000 more men to be sent to South Africa, there is more in sight there than the Orange Free State and Transvaal forces. Nothing but an upheaval in Cape Colony would require such a force in addition to the stupendous army now there.

Our vituperative morning contemporary says, "The News" is an all around daisy." Thanks. That is better than the usual compliments bestowed by that paper. The modest flower, however, does not harmonize with the blossoms of vulgar invective that usually adorn (?) the pages of our extinguished contemporary.

The Spaniards in Mexico look on the situation in Kentucky as civil war, and thereupon make ironical comments concerning Yankeeedom. Those Donkeys have not yet learned that the present performance in Kentucky is merely political pastime that does not approach war, though it depends on assassination, just as lawless Spaniards do.

Group eight of the New York Bankers' association have learned that there are occasions when a display of allegiance to the gold standard is unlawful. Their sacrilegious transformation of the national motto, "In God We Trust," to "In Gold We Trust," will bring them condemnation socially and morally as well as their proposed ice-boxes did legally.

According to the government statement in the British House of Commons Thursday afternoon, Great Britain will have 212,000 troops in South Africa within two weeks, while the total Boer force to oppose these was placed at \$5,000. That makes 367 British soldiers to each 100 Boers—a number that surely ought to decide the war in a short time, unless European intervention enlarges the area of action.

The predicted contemplated massacre of Armenian Christians in Turkey may be thought by many to be more of a scare than a real probability, but it will be remembered that there were just such prognostications before the butcheries of four years ago. It is time that a strong hand be placed on the sultan's murderous minions that control in the Armenian districts.

According to the New York Journal, Dr. Parkhurst believes New York's tax law should be amended so as to permit the sale of beer on Sundays. The Rev. gentleman given as one reason for this recommendation that this would enlist the German and Hebrew vote for the defeat of Tammany rule, and he seems to think that it is lawful to do evil, in order that good may result.

The President is said to contemplate the advisability of issuing a proclamation offering general amnesty to all Filipino rebels who will lay down their arms within thirty days. Sixty days of grace will be allowed further, but after that time, those who offer armed resistance to United States authority will be treated as outlaws. If this is true, it is an evidence that the government considers the insurrection virtually at an end. That accomplished, Uncle Sam can afford to be magnanimous.

Chief Fire Marshal Swenlie, of Chicago, had a stern reminder today that men are not always young. He has been a heroic and successful fire-fighter for over fifty years, but came near losing his life in a situation where a younger man would have suffered no inconvenience. Chief Swenlie's experience and ability as head of a fire department are sufficiently valuable for Chicago to insist that he direct operations and leave most of the physical work to younger men.

An exchange says the latest is a Bible trust, formed for the purpose of raising the price on Bibles from 15 to 20 percent. At a time when religious bodies are preparing for the "Christianizing" of pagans on a large scale, it seems particularly mean to raise the price on the Scriptures, unless it is done to ex-

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# Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Supt

clude the poor pagans from the knowledge contained in the sacred book. There is a great difference between the Christianity taught in the Bible and that practiced in this country—in Kentucky, for instance.

We hope the "Mormon" people who read the extracts from the libels upon them uttered by Mr. Landis, of Indiana, will note that the Tribune endorses them all as true excepting what he said about Mr. Alma Eldredge and that, the Tribune says was started by Democrats during the campaign. If any Democrat, Republican or Populist revived the old exploded slander about "Danites carrying on the murderous work of the Church," and that Mr. Eldredge was a "Danite, a Blood Atoner" and that as such he had "murdered his man," we never heard of the atrocious slander. Let it be understood that the Tribune reiterates its full endorsement of all the vile attacks on the "Mormons" which the Landis effusion contains except the personal remarks about Mr. Eldredge. By this they may know what a good, kind patronage-seeking friend that paper is to the "Mormons."

## THE PLAGUE.

Worcester Spy.  
The plague, according to dispatches, seems to have broken out in earnest in Honolulu. The people of that island seem to have learned nothing from former epidemics, which have been driven out only after much sacrifice of life. There has been no such thing as a sewer in the city of Honolulu. Deaths last month were at the rate of 68 per 1,000 per year. Eighty per cent of these were from bubonic plague. One of the doctors said that, in his opinion, all of the recent deaths attributed to pneumonia, of which there is a great deal, were due to the plague.

Sacramento Record Union.  
With the near approach of the plague to this coast, it having become dangerously frequent in the Hawaiian Islands—it is well to know that the dissemination of this dread disease is not dependent upon man to man infection; that the highest authority upon the subject is emphatic in statement that if the pest was so dependent, it would long ago have died out; that attendants upon victims of the plague, if reasonably careful, cleanly and temperate, do not contract the disease more readily, or as readily, as in the case of many less offensive and dangerous diseases. It is dependent upon animals to transmit it. Hence it is that Dr. Manson, perhaps the leading authority, insists that if rats and mice are totally destroyed in any place fearing an outbreak of the plague, that place will in all probability be immune.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.  
Surgeon Taylor, at Honolulu, declared in his report to Surgeon General Sternberg, in regard to the bubonic plague, that the only way in which the disease can be stamped out at the Hawaiian capital is to burn Chinatown and rebuild it in accordance with sanitary rules. This opinion will be of interest to San Francisco and other Pacific coast cities which are the possessors of Chinatowns. These vile sections of California cities are exhibited to tourists with considerable interest, but they are a menace to the public health, and in the course of time will have to be eliminated.

## ELECTION RETURNS IN FRANCE.

Chicago Times-Herald.  
The election returns in France tell the usual story. If we were to consult these records alone from the time of the reactionary presidency of Marshal MacMahon, we should find that conservative republicanism had gained one substantial victory after another and never known a national defeat. The success of Merclier, like that of Boulanger, is of the most insignificant kind. What a few freak constituencies may do to the country is determined, apparently, to maintain the existing order.

Chicago Record.  
Out of ninety-seven senators elected in France the other day three were nationalists and four were monarchists. This seems to indicate that the late great demonstration led by Anna Gould was composed of about ninety-nine parts noise.

## THE PAPER TRUST.

Kansas City Star.  
Colonel Anthony, in his address at Fort Scott before the Kansas Editorial association, charged that his brethren of the press refused to organize against the paper trust because of political cowardice. This means, if the colonel's point is well taken, that the newspaper men who are silent about the trust prefer to pay two prices for white paper instead than protest against a Republican tariff which protects the wood pulp monopolies in their extortion. It is not



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easy to conceive that even a Kansas Republican would permit his partisan zeal to stand in the way of his own personal interests, but that is what Colonel Anthony implies.

## SACRAMENTO BOE.

The Colorado Editorial association has done a wise and proper thing in adopting resolutions demanding of Congress that it repeal the tariff on wood pulp and all materials that enter into the manufacture of white paper. The association pledges itself to oppose for election any member or senator in Congress who does not favor the immediate repeal of the duties mentioned. That is the only way in which to treat this matter.

## BOER SYMPATHY.

Chicago Times-Herald.  
Senator Hale's "impassioned" speech in favor of a recognition of the Boers by our government was all passion and unsupported assertion, and went quite outside of the mark. The Senator says he believes that nine-tenths of the American people sympathize with the Boers. A little while ago he believed that about the same proportion sympathized with the Filipinos. Perhaps he was and is right. There has been no universal count of hands, and certainly there is no harm in his guessing. But what he believes is not necessarily a fact, and it is most emphatically not a rule of action for this government.

## KANSAS CITY STAR.

While Senator Hale of Maine speaks with great positiveness about the sympathies of the American people and injects them with absolute certainty on the side of the Boers, there is a possibility that he is not a competent judge of the views and wishes of the public. In the controversy with Spain, which finally led to war, Senator Hale's sympathies were with the Spanish government, of which he was generally believed to be the attorney in this country. When it came to a question of intervention in behalf of the Cubans, not drop trickled from the fountain of Senator Hale's sympathies that are now bursting forth in such a copious flood in behalf of the Boers.

## BULLER'S RETREAT.

Springfield Republican.  
The British, in this affair, have been outgeneraled. Gen. Buller believed that Spion Kop commanded the Boer intrenchments, and that its capture would render them untenable. In this he was mistaken, probably because he did not know thoroughly the topography of the region he was operating in. The Boers, it is clear, having better knowledge, planted their artillery on higher ground than the kop, and then permitted the British to take the hill with only a show of resistance. The result of this was that when the British had occupied the kop they found that, instead of commanding the Boer position, the Boer position commanded them.

## NEW YORK WORLD.

Melancholy indeed is Britain's plight. To withdraw is to invite those sneers which would cut for a time almost as deep into national vanity as defeats at the hands of the farmer-soldiers of the republics. To keep on is to press to the nation's lips the bitter draught of defeat to be drunk to the dregs. And yet in a country governed by Democratic forces and having two parties, one strenuously opposed to the war, may there not presently be offered a way of escape, not easy it is true, but still not impossible of acceptance?

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