DESERET EVENING NEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER REPORT.

Weather report showing observations at 8 p. m. today:

Salt Lake City—Barometer, 30.12; temperature, 36; maximum, 36; wind, calm; rain, .22 inches; snow, 0.

Forecast for Utah made at San Francisco for 36 hours ending 8 p. m. tomorrow:

Snow tonight and Wednesday; stationary temperature.

Local forecast for Salt Lake City and vicinity, for 36 hours ending 8 p. m. tomorrow:

Snow tonight and Wednesday; stationary temperature.

E. B. MITCHCOCK,
Section Director, Weather Bureau.

To-day's Metals.

SILVER, Bar, 59 3-4
LEAD, $4.20
CASTING COPPER, 15 1-2 cents a lb.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

C. P. Overfelt, formerly with the D. G. W. general office, has returned from New York, and will go into business in this city.

Tom Hendricksen, for disturbing the peace at the Tabernacle, was fined $5 yesterday afternoon. He was also fined $10 for giving drunk.

First Lieutenant Calonius of the Twenty-fourth infantry has gone to Buck Springs, Wyo., to take command of Company K, at that place.

The funeral of Henry Van Buren, who shot himself through the heart on Saturday evening, took place from the family residence at 2 p. m. today.

"Child Training" was the subject of a paper read last evening before the Educational Club at the city school superintendent's office, by Miss May.

John H. Dales, formerly with the U. P., and stationed at Columbus, Ohio, has accepted a position on the Salt Lake Herald in the cashier's office of the Short Line.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Miss Maude Chamberlin will take place in the Fifteenth ward assembly hall tomorrow, Wednesday, at 11 a. m.

Barlow Ferguson and wife have returned from a two months visit to Honolulu. The trip was taken for the benefit of Mrs. Ferguson's health which is greatly improved.

The funeral service over the remains of Vern, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Burton, who died Saturday, will take place at 2 o'clock, from the family residence, 362 west Fifth South street.

B. M. Post and Frank Jones, who got into a fight at the Templeton lodging house, were up before Justice Timpson yesterday afternoon. It was a clear case of what happened to Jones, who was fined $15.

The Second ward choir will give a charades ball at the Second ward hall tomorrow night, for the benefit of the ward choir, to purchase music books. A good sociable is assured all who attend. Prizes will be given.

Three tough looking characters, who gave their names as Martin J. O'Connor, John Daly and James Miller, were given ten days each in the county jail yesterday afternoon, for vagrancy. The men were arrested at Murray yesterday by Deputy Sheriff Goodman.

Mr. R. Reynolds of Denver, who for some time has been connected with the motive power department of the U. P., Denver and Gulf, has been appointed chief clerk at Pocatello, for Mechanical Superintendent Dunn of the Short Line.

Ella Josephine Berkland has been adjudged insane, and committed to the asylum at Provo. The victim is 22 years old and is suffering with acute mania superinduced by an attack of la grippe. The girl was formerly employed at the Troy Steam Laundry.

W. A. Howell, the right-hand man of General Agent Nash of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul at Omaha, has been appointed general eastern agent of the system with headquarters at New York city. The railroad here in Salt Lake say that Mr. Howell well deserved the promotion.

Mr. Geo. E. Massey, wife and mother, and Mr. and Mrs. Fenner, all of Chicago, were here on a visit to Mr. Fenner, Milwaukee and St. Paul private car, and left this morning for the East, over the R. G. W. Both southerns are vouched with the C. M. & St. P. railway.

Salt Lake is about to lose two of its bright and promising young attorneys in the persons of John M. Zane, who is going to locate in Chicago, and Orsemus P. Cartisan, jr., who will hereafter make New York his home. The firm with which these gentlemen have been so long connected has been dissolved and the business will from now on be conducted by James H. Moyle.

Two youths named John Fletcher and R. Reynolds were arrested last evening charged with stealing goods from the dry goods firm of F. Auerbach & Bro., where they had been employed as clerks. The complaint was sworn out against Fletcher in Justice Nelson's court, and Reynolds was arrested in Justice McMaster's court. Both boys gave bail for their appearance.

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DEATH OF LLOYD JONES.

Former Denver Lawyer and Eisteddfod Pioneer Passes Away.

The death of Lloyd Jones, well known in Salt Lake through his connection with the Salt Lake and Denver Eisteddfods of '95 and '96, is reported to have occurred recently in Chicago. An account of his demise was received in this city yesterday. Beyond the mere mention of his passing away, with the statement that he was heavily insured, no particulars were given. A few years ago Jones had a splendid law business in Denver, and was regarded by all who knew him as an exceptionally bright and progressive citizen. About a year ago he became involved in a deal that led to disbarment proceedings being taken against him by members of the Colorado supreme court. He left Denver before any action was taken in his case, however, and the next thing heard of him was in Chicago. He leaves a wife and two children, for whom he always evinced a tender love.

TIMBER BELTS AND MOISTURE.

Mr. Mackay Holds that the Former Do Not Increase the Latter.

GIVES REASONS THEREFOR

Mountains and the Rainfall—Animals in Timber—Where the Springs Come From.

In an editorial of the Deseret News of January 17, 1899, on "Forestry and Water Supply," it seems further to be implied upon this subject, for the reason that the other side of the issue that may be presented does not, I extract the following:

I agree with the "News" in its statement, "It was apparently been supposed that forests conserve the water supply, prevent the rapid melting of snow and ice of winter, retard the flow of the rain from the hillsides in spring and summer, and, by absorbing it into the ground, retain much of the rain or melting snow-water that would otherwise flow off from the surface of land around."

But I do not agree with the correctness of that conclusion, only to a very limited extent. It has been put forth by scientists as a theory, and accepted by the people as fact. The timber belts are in the various ravines of the mountains, in the summits of the ridges, forming the curtains or scarps, it is more or less perpendicular, making a wind break. The entire pitch do not grow or thrive well on or near the summits of a ridge. The snow in falling is drifted by the wind, and is not laid in strata by the wind, but some it is obstructed. The snow within the timber does not get so hard or compact as it does out in the open. When spring comes in the open country, the sun, being dark, absorb the rays of the sun, which causes the snow to melt faster. Dark objects absorb, while reflect heat. The Rockville (No. 2) of the experiment station of the University of Missouri, shows that the simple act of whitewashing of trees have favored the sweetness of the buds 22 days later than the unwhitewashed. In the springtime when the frost lets go its hold upon the ground, it softens the cake of ice and moistens alike, and then the ground is in a condition to absorb moisture, which it does until it becomes thoroughly saturated and does off in the natural drainage of the country.

Stock are not generally within the timber belts after the 1st of October in each year, the rains in the fall, the snow in the winter, and the frost have cleaned the grass in the open, obliterate all traces of stock, so that the ground is in as good condition to absorb moisture as if stock had never been there. Any person, who has traveled in the mountains in the spring time, knows that it is hardly possible to travel even horseback.

The high water season is in the latter part of May and first part of June, which is the time the stock moles and cause one of the timber belts, comes before stock ever enter said belts. The "News" asks, "Does a bare hill retain and absorb the rain and snow more than a wooded hill, with undergrowth?" That is not a fair question, for the reason that stock do not, in fact, in the least effect or destroy timber. So far as the grass and underbrush being eaten off to a certain extent during the months of July, August and September, it will not affect to any perceptible degree the time of delivery of the water from the mountains, as the water is delivered from the country. The snow in summit of the ridge is generally from 1½ to 2 miles from the bottom of the ravine or deep gap. The time taken for any vegetation which may be growing, will differ so much moisture, and when filled by the water which is to be delivered, it is hardly possible in these impetuous days and there, during the months of July, August and September there is but little rainfall. Moisture can be best conserved by the mulch, which is generally absorbed by the trees and vegetation in the mountains, and does not reach the streams, or be added from 5 to 25 miles distant from the timber belts.

In Utah, the mountains have become denuded of timber, and are now only the usual cutting of the timber for fuel, mining and the sawmills; yet the average annual precipitation, and the water supply has not decreased, but has increased.

The reports of the weather bureau for 1895 to 1898, taken at different meteorological stations covering the State fairly well, show an average annual precipitation for four years from 1896 inclusive, of 17.11 inches, and for the four years from 1892 (including 1895) of 11.71 inches; showing an average annual increase in precipitation for the last four years of 1.26 inches. The average annual precipitation for Salt Lake City for the years 1892 to 1898 (seven years) is 15.45 inches; for six years (from 1893 (including 1896) to 1898 inclusive) is 15.67 inches; for the four years (including 1896) is 15.98