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Christmas News Editorial Page

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UTAH, A GREAT STATE.

WHEN the Latter-day Saints first came to these valleys, there was very little to encourage them in the belief that they were about to lay the foundations of a great state.

This valley, to the outward eye of the spectator, was no Paradise. It was a broad, barren plain, parched by the burning rays of the sun. The Pioneers had been told that the entire region was forbidding, and some of the first arrivals were far from enthusiastic over the prospect of remaining in this desolate spot.

To the eye of faith, however, this was "the very place." It was the "land of promise." Inspired by this mighty force, faith, the Pioneers went to work. They plowed, and planted, and turned the clear mountain streams into the opened mouths of the panting fields. They invented, as it were, irrigation. They explored in all directions, for this was to be a large state, and they needed room. They planned great cities and magnificent buildings. They fought grasshoppers and hostile Indians. They sent messengers to all the world and invited the right class of settlers to come and help them to build. As soon as possible they planned a state government. They unfolded the Nation's flag to the breeze to the strains of music and the roar of cannon. They paraded and sang their songs of liberty, and shouted "hosannas!" as Israel of old. They presented to the Governor a copy of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and cheered and shouted: "May it live forever!" They labored and toiled, and, as by magic, the desert was transformed. Their faith and work were richly rewarded. Utah became a great state.

But the development is only in its first stages. There is a still greater future before the people here, provided they do not, by dissensions about non-essentials and foolish agitation, destroy the bird that lays the golden egg. "United we stand; divided we fall."

We have in Utah at least twenty million acres of land that is, or can be, brought under irrigation. Right adjoining our own City to the west are hundreds of acres of fertile soil that can be made wealth-producing by proper drainage. And then there are thousands of acres of land that can be made productive by the improved methods of dry farming. We have almost unlimited opportunities for home-seekers.

Utah has everything needed for the maintenance of a large population. It has grain and fruit, stock and sheep, coal, oil, copper, iron, gold silver, lead, marble, asphalt, and the resources have only been slightly touched as yet. Utah can compete with the great centers of the world's supply, both in quantity and quality. As stated in the report of the statistical department of the State Auditor's office:

"Our state stands today unmatched in rapid development, her golden promise is pre-eminent and the inducements she is able to offer to men with active brains, energy and capital are unparalleled. Her mountains, stored with untold treasures, her plains extensive enough to be a nation's granary, and mountain and plain vying with each other in their adaptability to yield their wealth to labor, a climate matchless in its salubrity, the opportunity for successful enterprise is indeed bewildering."

There need be no doubt as to the future of Utah. If each succeeding generation will but labor in the spirit of patriotism, integrity, moral purity, and unity that inspired the early settlers, the State will, indeed, become "the Queen of the West."

CITY GOVERNMENT.

THERE is considerable talk of the need of some reform in the government of our cities. Many are convinced that the time has come for the elimination of partisanship in municipal elections and the placing of business men in charge of the affairs of cities.

It is really odd that every time a public servant is needed, the citizens divide into hostile camps and assail one another, blacken character, and break reputations into fragments, and so intense is the excitement that the demands of truth and decency are very often forgotten. If members of a family were to act in a similar manner, and quarrel and fight each time the question of obtaining hired help in the house comes up, they would be declared fit for an insane asylum. But in the municipal house the citizens are no more rational. Thoughtful men and women everywhere are beginning to realize that elections should not be pitched battles between parties eager for the "spoils." They realize that the citizens ought to come together as members of one family, with no other desire than to promote the common interests. There is a great awakening all over the country followed by a demand for the abolition of party management, and the question is asked on all sides, is there a satisfactory substitute?

The Des Moines plan, which is the Galveston plan with the addition of recall, initiative and referendum, is by many considered satisfactory. Others claim that it has not solved the problems which present the greatest difficulties. They hold that while a small executive body is essential to good, efficient government, the people at large must not be excluded from a voice in the administration. They hold that the people must be educated to take a greater interest in municipal affairs and that they should have greater control over the doings of the executive officers than even the commission plan offers.

In accordance with these views they propose an executive body consisting of a Mayor and four commissioners, and besides a council consisting of say one representative for every 1,500 inhabitants, and elected to represent all parts of the city. The council would meet six or eight times a year. Its members would serve without pay. The mayor and the commissioners would be accountable to the council, and the council would make the appropriations needed.

This plan has the endorsement of Professor Joseph H. Beale of the Harvard Law school, and a great deal can be said in its favor. City government must rest with the people. The people must have, not only power to elect public servants but to control and discharge them, if they prove unsatisfactory. The people must control appropriations and indicate the policy to be followed. Their judgment upon questions of general interest is, in the end, sound, even if for a time public opinion is misled. When things go wrong the people can generally be relied upon to right them, when they are aroused. It is, therefore, a sound policy that demands a system of government by which the people are given as large representation as possible, at the same time that the executive powers are delegated to a few, competent experts, well paid for their services. The voters should have a chance to enforce their judgment at all times and not only once every second year, after an administration has written its own doom.

CHRISTMAS

AGAIN it is our privilege to extend through the columns of this anniversary number of the Deseret News, the compliments of the season to all our readers and friends, far and near.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Humble shepherds were watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem in far away Judea. One night, as they were gazing upon the stars that glimmer so brilliantly in the Oriental sky, they were surrounded by a dazzling light, and suddenly they found themselves in the presence of a heavenly messenger, who said: "Fear not; for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." And presently a chorus of heavenly minstrels sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The favored mortals, as soon as they had recovered from the effects of the glorious vision, went to the city, where they found Joseph and Mary, and the Babe in a manger.

This is the old, simple story, ever beautiful, ever new, and from it we may gather a thought or two, appropriate to the season.

It reminds us that the spirit of heaven is the spirit of peace and good will, and that heaven really is on earth in the degree that this ideal is realized among men.

Peace and good will!

There is at present too much strife on earth—in the home, in the churches, in legislatures, in city and state governments, in the councils of nations. Let the world again hear the Christmas message, and open its heart to the spirit of unselfishness, liberality, broad-mindedness, forgiveness. Let men lay aside bitterness and enmities and rise to a higher plane of life, worthy of the children of the Eternal Father.

It reminds us that truth can not be overcome by the forces of error. From the very first those forces were directed against the Son of David. Worldly potentates were arrayed against Him, and His earthly career ended on the Cross. But the truths He taught live. His gentle influence, so different from the voice of thunder or the roar of the angry waves; so different from the revolutionary actions of flames and earthquakes, has conquered kingdoms, and opened to thought new fields of research. It has made a new world, in which sickness, sin, and misery have no longer a legitimate place, and it is still at work reforming, regenerating. Truth cannot be destroyed. It is eternal as matter, force, life, God. The story of Bethlehem is a mighty inspiration to optimism, to faith in the ultimate victory of truth.

It also reminds us that the season of transcendent joy is the season of innocent, trusting childhood. There is no earthly joy so pure, so ennobling, so real, as that of which the cradle is the center. Happy are they who can make every day a Christmas day, by keeping themselves undefiled by the world and remaining little children in purity, in faith, and love.

The great lesson of the Christmas season is this, that the happiness of man consists above all in giving happiness to others. May we all learn that lesson, and may the spirit of it remain with us throughout the year, and forever!

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS RECORD

THE season of the year is at hand when we begin to take stock of ourselves, and the first marshalling of our inventories is found in the statistics grouped in the Christmas News. A very eloquent tale these arrays of figures set forth.

Our mining dividends, in spite of the slump in metal prices, hold up well with the phenomenal figures of the year previous; our building records are such as to astonish the world, especially the eastern world, where stagnation has been the rule of the year; our commercial stocks, which a year ago were suffering a temporary paralysis, are mostly back to the old standards, and the stockholders have received dividends during 1908, which tell of unbroken prosperity; the sugar output, as the interesting details show, will bring into the State the usual heavy sums of money from outside states, and the sugar companies have paid the farmers a tremendous total for their beets; our sheep men have suffered a temporary set-back, it is true, but most of them have drawn some kind of dividends from their flocks, and mutton looks to be on the upgrade. The farmers as a whole have shared fully in the general prosperity, and the snow falls thus far seem to assure the crops of next year.

All in all, there is an abundance to be thankful for in reviewing the story of 1908, and but little to be apprehensive over, as we open the gates for the advent of 1909.

SALOONS AND SUNDAY.

THE saloon question will, undoubtedly, come up before the next Legislature. It will not be laid aside as irrelevant. Public sentiment has been aroused to a realization of the importance of restrictive legislation, and this sentiment can no longer be ignored safely.

Owing to the intense prohibition agitation all over the country, the liquor interests have been forced to take the defensive. Writers and apologists for those interests tell us that the liquor dealers desire above all things to conduct their places of business in a decent and orderly manner. Probably some of them do, but the fact is that a great many saloons can exist only on law-breaking. All kinds of questionable business is carried on in connection with liquor selling. For this reason the moral argument for the saloon cannot be sustained.

People are becoming aware of the bad effects of alcohol upon the human system. Investigations are being made that throw a flood of light upon this subject. The following experiment was told in a recent number of McClure's. Prof. Aschoffenburg studied the effects of alcohol on typesetters to determine its effect on man's working efficiency. The experiment extended over four days. The first and third days were observed as normal days, no alcohol being given. On the second and fourth days each worker received thirty-five grams (a little more than one ounce) of alcohol, in the form of Greek wine. A comparison of the results of work on normal and alcoholic days showed, in the case of one of the workers, no difference. But the remaining three showed greater or less retardation of work; amounting in the most pronounced case to almost fourteen per cent. In the light of such observations, a glass of beer or even the cheapest bottle of wine is seen to be an expensive luxury. To forfeit ten per cent of one's working efficiency is no trifling matter in these days of strenuous competition.

A French observer has found that 41 per cent of idiotic, epileptic, hysterical, and weak-minded people in a certain institute had parents addicted to alcohol. To the same source a large per cent of crime and poverty must be traced.

For these and similar reasons the anti-saloon agitation is in earnest. The only question is whether prohibition or local option is the most effective and practical method of accomplishing the desired object. That is the problem the legislators will have to consider.

Sunday closing of resorts and places of amusement is another question that can no longer be ignored. We are aware that in the larger cities of the country the violation of the Sunday laws is common, but that is no reason why it should be tolerated here. Both men and animals need a day of rest. Even the land must have its seasons of rest. But human beings especially need rest periodically, and it is their right to have it. For that reason, if for no other, all unnecessary labor should be suspended on the day set apart for that purpose. If the laws are not clear enough on that point, they must be made more explicit, leaving no possible excuse for their non-enforcement. And if public sentiment is not forcible enough to command respect it must be strengthened, until the Sabbath is respected and the Sunday laws no longer are a dead letter.

IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE.

A LITTLE pamphlet entitled, "The Freedom of Commerce in times of War," has just been published by James L. Tryon, assistant secretary of the American Peace society, Boston. The author argues very strongly in favor of the proposition that the third Hague Conference should exempt innocent private property at sea from capture in time of war. It is a very instructive little pamphlet. The United States proposed such immunity, to Europe in 1823, when John Quincy Adams was secretary of State. The proposition was renewed in 1856, at the Treaty of Paris. It was brought before the First Hague Congress but referred to the second. At this gathering a two-third's majority vote was gained for it, but as no measure could pass without a unanimous vote, it was defeated temporarily. Mr. Tryon now suggests that Peace and Arbitration societies, Boards of Trade and Industrial Associations, which are concerned with the economics of peace and war, institute a system of correspondence, of international visiting, and of sending deputations, if need be, to win sentiment to the side of immunity. They ought to consider, he says, Japan, Russia and France, but their mission ought to be directed more particularly to England. They ought to take friendly but full advantage of her critical position in relation to this question while there is time, and in this way secure the passage of the immunity proposition at the next Hague congress. The importance of the proposition is seen in the fact that one of the strongest causes for naval extension would be removed if private property at sea no longer required the protection of warships but were considered exempt from molestation.

The net gains of the fishermen are the greatest of all.

To make of Utah a truly great state her whole people must be united.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

So joyous is the season that even trade unionists are patronizing the open shops.

We never brag but we can point with pride to the Christmas edition of the "News."

When Judge Taft plays golf does he use the lingo of the links, especially when he makes a fozzie?

The decline of poetry is very largely owing to the good sense that reigns in the editorial sanctum.

Berlin's welcome to Castro was not because Germany loves Venezuela less but because she hates France more.

What are believed to be the oldest human remains have been found in France. They probably are those of a French coryphee.

If, as Rear Admiral Bob Evans says, the latest American battleships are superior to the English Dreadnought, then America has naught to dread.

And what if the sailors of the Atlantic fleet cannot sing the national anthem? They know that our flag is still there and that they can see it by the dawn's early light.

The doctors and scientists are vigorously renewing their campaign against kissing, pointing out how very dangerous it is. And this, too, just as the mistletoe season is at hand.

Of course The Netherlands government knows its rights and the rules of international law governing in its controversy with Venezuela. Was not Hugo Grotius a Dutchman?

That retired quartermaster sergeant at Fort Rosencrans, who drew from the chief paymaster of the Department of California, the sum of \$13,900, the amount he had saved from his pay, is a true soldier of fortune.

At Toronto, Canada, workmen have found human foot prints in the blue clay seventy feet below the water. Although found in the interglacial clay they are the identical foot prints on the sands of time of which Longfellow sang.

"The people of Chicago are suffering from melancholia because they have too few amusements and too much severity in life. They ought to get all the wholesome fun possible out of life," says Rev. Johnston Myers, a Baptist minister. If Chicagoans suffer from melancholia then melancholia is a new disease under the sun.

AS TO OURSELVES.

THE Christmas "News" goes forth to our readers throughout the world with our best and heartiest wishes for their welfare, and with the hope that something within its pages may add to the cheer of the holiday season.

Perhaps it is sufficient to let this impression of the Deseret News speak for itself; its conception, its contents, its mechanical execution will no doubt tell the story of the establishment, and convey an idea of the aims of its owners, better than words of self praise could do. We all have our ideals, and the management of the Deseret News in the ten years since it began the issuance of Christmas numbers, confesses to having erected some rather high ones; how nearly they have been realized, our readers are perhaps best able to judge.

The Deseret News next June will celebrate its fifty-ninth anniversary. Its life has covered the wonderful period of the development of the West, and with a part of that development at least, the "News" hopes it has been identified. From the day the paper was founded by President Brigham Young, down to the present, it has endeavored to labor for the uplifting of the human race, for the good of mankind, to proclaim the Truth as it saw it, and to spread abroad to all the world the intelligence of what Utah possessed in resources and beauty.

The Deseret News is entirely the paper of the people; its ownership lies with them, it endeavors fairly to represent them, and whatever credit or prosperity has come to the paper, is the result of their generous support. For that support the "News" returns its sincerest thanks, and expresses the hope that in the future it may be able to reach a still higher degree of efficiency, and therefore to bring still greater credit upon the community it represents.

Our friends will be pleased to learn that, the waning year, in spite of occasional clouds of depression, has been one of fair prosperity for the Deseret News; the patronage bestowed upon its various branches continues at high tide, and the paper is more widely read throughout the world than ever before; while the cost of production is very high, and while competition is fierce and keen, still in the case of the Deseret News, it has proved itself "the life of trade," and the year 1909, is looked forward to by all concerned in the conduct of the paper, with full confidence that the prosperity of the past will continue.

THE JEW IN HISTORY.

WE are reminded at this season of the year of the notable fact that no people have ever played a more important part in the history of the world than the Hebrews. The law given on the Mount that trembled at the presence of the Infinite, embodies the fundamental principles of all civilization. The Savior of mankind, the Captain of our salvation, came from the house of David. The Jew in the past has made history. His destiny is to make history again.

It is a peculiar fact, that, though the nation was scattered to the four winds after the overthrow of the Jewish polity by the Romans, it has never been annihilated. Israel was almost totally lost to history for many centuries, until the restoration and gathering in these latter days, but Judah always was in public view. In their scattered condition the Jews today outnumber the total number that peopled Palestine at the time of the most illustrious of Hebrew kings. They have reared their altars all over the earth. Their financiers dictate the policy of mighty nations. Their scientists are reading the secrets of nature. Their poets and composers are stirring the world with their song and music. Their artists are charming the world with their productions.

Hundreds of illustrious Hebrew names could be mentioned. Judas Maccabeus, the valiant and true warrior; Flavius Josephus, the lucid, impartial historian; and, in more recent times, Disraeli, the powerful statesman; Rothschild, the eminent financier; Montefiore, the philanthropist; Elisa Rachel, the world-renowned tragedienne; Heinrich Heine, the writer; Moses Mendelssohn, the philosopher, Felix Mendelssohn, the musician, and Carl Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, are but a few of the many Hebrew names inscribed indelibly upon the pages of history. They are but a few of the many who have made a deep impress upon civilization.

There are today about 11,000,000 Jews in the world, of which over one million live in the United States. Their preservation is not accident. If they are marching on, it is with predestined tread toward some well defined goal. If they have survived war and expatriation, proscription, persecution, torture, and death, it is because they still have a mission to perform in the world, as a nation.

The great Apostle of the Gentiles, himself a Jew, declared two thousand years ago that "blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Rom. 11:25) The darkness was not to be permanent. The same Apostle declares that there shall come out of Zion the deliverer. He says that the final restoration of the Jews will mean to the entire world "life from the dead." It will mean resurrection, virtually.

The history of the Jews is, by no means, ended. When they find the ideal that appeals to their spiritual being, they will gather, as the dead bones in the vision of the prophet, and reconstruct their national organization. Modern Zionism is but a seeking after this ideal. Dr. Emil Cohn, well says of this movement that it is the first force in modern times to make of Judaism the central fold of men's lives; it has made it the atmosphere in which thousands live and have their being. The new vital principle, he says, uniting all the scattered fragments of Jewry, which it has aroused to new life, is ancient Jewish nationalism; or, to use the modern term, the "national idea," upon the basis of which the highest culture could once develop, upon which that culture was preserved, and upon which it will continue to exist in the future, if it is ever to undergo a renaissance. It has given free play to thousands of obscure and buried talents. It has created statesmen of the highest ability, and poets and artists of marked individuality.

These are real results. They are indications of the future destiny of the scattered people. They point to the coming of the day when "the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem," when "all the people will walk every one in the name of his God and we will walk in the name of the Lord, our God, for ever and ever." (Micah 4:1-5.)