

**DESERET EVENING NEWS**  
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**THE SPREAD OF DISEASE.**  
An inquiry has been made of Dr. Beatty, secretary of the State Board of Health, as to the correctness of the statement that more people have died in Utah from vaccination than from smallpox. The query was accompanied by the intimation that the assertion was made by the Deseret News. We will say at once and emphatically, that the Deseret News has made no such statement, and further, that we do not believe in the story. This paper has asserted that there have been more deaths in Utah from diphtheria and from scarlet fever than from smallpox, and even the exaggerated reports as to the latter will bear us out in this computation.

The two diseases have mentioned as causing the greater fatality, are really more to be dreaded than the other. Variola, it is true, is a loathsome disorder especially in its virulent form. Cases of the latter type have been comparatively rare in this region, particularly during the last few years when smallpox was thought to be nearly epidemic. The after effects of diphtheria and scarlet fever are usually far worse than those from the mild form of variola that has been suffered here and with which a number of patients are now afflicted.

In all these diseases there is danger that contagion will not only spread them but increase their virulence. Variola so mild that it occasions but little inconvenience, when imparted to a person in the right condition for its development, may bloom out into confluent variola and result fatally. It is the same with both scarlet fever and diphtheria as to this process of development. And the converse is also true on this proposition. The degree of virulence depends largely upon the condition of the patient on contracting the disorder.

The suppression and if possible the extinction of such diseases should engage the serious attention of the people generally. Experience has demonstrated beyond fair question that they can be reduced to a minimum, if proper precautions and regulations are observed. Sanitation and isolation are the great and essential observances. Sanitary measures include cleanliness of person, home and surroundings; proper ventilation; disinfection, and destruction of waste matter. Isolation implies the separation of the afflicted from other persons except the nurse and the physician, and the observance of strict quarantine regulations.

Carelessness, indifference and gross disregard of the public health, exhibited by hosts of the people of Utah, are really criminal in character and alarming in their prevalence. This is the result chiefly of ignorance. They are the most charitable view to take of the matter. A general and systematic course of instruction should be entered upon in every city, town and settlement of this state, until the subject is understood by the people generally, and measures are adopted, everywhere, to enforce the regulations necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The reluctance to report to the health officers cases of these diseases, ought to be dissipated in view of their spread and their danger to the public. Every patient should be separated as perfectly as possible from contact with the family. All persons who have been exposed to infection should be quarantined. Doctors and nurses ought not to go from the sick chamber and mingle with the public, until their clothing has been thoroughly disinfected, unless it has been completely covered during the visit with apparel prepared for the purpose. Persons who are immune from the disease can carry it to others in the clothing they wear when in contact with the afflicted, also in the hair or the beard unless it is fully disinfected. Whatever may be argued as to the virtues of vaccine virus, let it be remembered that clothing is not vaccinated. And further that in diphtheria and scarlet fever cases no alleged preventive lymphs are used, either on the person or the apparel.

The enforcement of quarantine regulations by county and city authorities, ought to suggest the necessity of relief to poor people who are confined to their homes by law. They should not be left to suffer for want of food, fuel, or medicine. Too often this is overlooked. They are not permitted to go out and hunt up friends or means of sustenance, therefore the rules which shut them up should also provide for necessities which they have not the money or opportunity to obtain.

This infection should immediately follow quarantine. It should not be put off to some distant day in the year. Whenever a contagious disease is manifested, disinfectants should be used thoroughly and as directed by health boards and persons who understand their application and effects. To fix one day annually for this work we fear would do more harm than good, by creating the impression that its observance would be all that the law required.

The State Board of Health has issued leaflets with most excellent instructions on the restriction and prevention of contagious diseases, and on quarantine and disinfection. They ought to be sent to every part of the State. Funds ought to be furnished out of the public treasury, sufficient for this purpose and for other needs of the board, that there may be a complete supervision of the public health and a general diffusion of information concerning it. Everybody should be willing to comply with needful rules to promote health and stamp out disease, and competent persons should be appointed and employed in every place to enforce the laws and regulations which, if observed, will accomplish the end in view. But after all, in a community like ours there should be no need for stringent measures, for every intelligent human being ought to be willing and anxious to promote the public welfare.

**NOT HISTORY BUT ENEMIES.**  
The Northwestern Christian Advocate of January 28 contains a particularly bitter and therefore un-Christian diatribe on the election of Senator for Utah. Among other false statements made is this: "The history of the Mormon Church shows it to have been a law-defying, even murderous, organization, so far as its leadership is concerned."

That is an unmitigated falsehood. It is a misrepresentation of fact, for which the writer in the Advocate owes the Latter-day Saints an apology. The history of the Church shows a loyalty, a devotion to the institutions and flag of the country, under the most trying circumstances, no other community has been called upon to exhibit. It shows the world a self-sacrificing people, willing to give their own lives for the sake of truth, rather than to injure their fellow-men. "Murderous?" Let the blood of the noble martyrs of the Saints refute that unjust and cruel insinuation.

It is true that the enemies of the Church have often in the past represented the Church members as law-defying and murderous. Writers and speakers with more enterprise than conscience have repeatedly said so. But that does not make it true. It does not constitute "history," still less "the history of the Church." It remains false, no matter how often repeated by the enemies of the people.

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**THE BEST SOLDIERS.**  
A French Socialist, speaking of standing armies, observes: "Give a nation the energy of its rights, liberty and justice, and it threatened by a foreign power these energies will convert themselves into the military virtues necessary for the country's defense."

The gentleman has read correctly the lessons of the American wars, by which it has been proved that the qualities developed in citizens, by their enjoyment of liberty and self-government, are very much superior to those developed under the vigorous rules of militarism. The Spanish did not lack a certain amount of valor, but they could not stand before the American soldiers. They were as automata before intelligently moving and operating persons. They went down hapless.

A similar lesson was taught by a war with the Boers, when a handful of free citizens fought the most remarkable fight of the century with an army many times their number. France itself has experience of the small reliance that can be placed in standing armies at the time of supreme need. Antiquity teaches the same lesson. The heroes of Rome, and the armies of the Greek republic were invincible, because their soldiers were trained in the exercise of the duties of free citizens.

The French Socialist has sounded a note that should not be permitted to die away unheard in this age of rivalry among nations.

**THE SIDE OF GERMANY.**  
The German embassy in London has thought it necessary to explain that there is no friction between the English and German governments regarding the proceedings in Venezuela. Both governments, we are told, continue to act in perfect harmony.

The statement is made in order to quiet the reports that the two countries no longer act as harmoniously as they did at first, and it is undoubtedly true. No friction is visible between the two governments. But it is also true that British public opinion is outspoken against the co-operation with Germany and Italy in this matter, and that is all the rumors referred to have said. The statements that the governments act together do not contradict the reports that public opinion differs in the two countries.

The German side of the controversy has hardly been considered. But it was partly set forth in the Reichstag a few days ago, by Baron von Richthofen. He said that as early as in July, 1901, Germany proposed to Venezuela that the matters in dispute be submitted to the Hague tribunal. The proposition was that Germany and Venezuela each appoint two representatives, who should jointly investigate the claims, and that, in every case where both sides agreed upon an indemnity, it should be immediately paid. On points wherein the conferees were unable to agree, the International Hague tribunal was to settle the question in issue. To this proposition, it is claimed, President Castro gave no reply. After that, it appears, the measures of coercion were decided upon.

This explains briefly the provocation existing for the establishment of that "peaceful blockade," but it does not justify the attempt to enter an inland sheet of water by force; nor does it explain why a preference of claims is insisted upon, thereby endangering the negotiations for a peaceful settlement. There are several tangles in the affair, that need unraveling.

**THOSE CONVERSIONS.**  
The Northwestern Christian Advocate for Jan. 21, in response to letters of inquiry as to what became of the twentieth century effort for two million converts, takes the view, that in all probability the number of converts has more than equaled that figure, during the opening years of the new century. There is, of course, no means of ascertaining the exact number of "converts," as some converts do not join the churches, and some that join apostatize, but the Advocate makes its estimate on the number of "probationers" registered, and then adds another half a million to cover the number of converts that did not join the "probationers."

The figures compiled by Henry K. Carroll, who is admitted to be well prepared for such compilation, gives the number of actual converts as indicated by the membership enrollment. And that tells a vastly different tale. According to his statistics, the net gain of all denominations for 1902, did not amount to more than 40,741. And this figure is, we may feel sure, not unduly high. On that basis it would be safe to estimate the net gain of all the churches in the country at a million and a half for the four years of the so-called progressive movement, and the actual number of "converts" would be considerably less.

But considering the Methodist churches alone, Dr. Carroll says the Methodist Episcopal church shows a net increase for the year of 35,384 communicants, and in the entire world, 56,000. All the Methodist bodies added only 39,000 to their membership. This would give for the four years not over 400,000 converts, instead of two millions, and it is clear that the effort at making 400,000, or say 500,000 additions to the churches appear like two millions, is a juggling unbecomingly serious journal. It would be far better to admit failure, and then search for the cause. Conversions are not the work of man, but of that Spirit which, like the wind, cannot be commanded by human agencies.

The announcement of the serious illness of the king of the two Scandinavian kingdoms, will be read with regret in many countries. With the fall of King Oscar, one of the intellectual giants of Europe succumbs. For over thirty years he has worn the two crowns, and his rule has been eminently successful. Few monarchs have ever succeeded in gaining popularity to the degree he enjoyed it in later years; and yet, he never relaxed the infinite dignity that seemed natural to him. He was equally well cultured, for a king, and was he a great linguist, familiar with the literature of many countries, and the ancient classics, but he was also a writer of no small merit. A recent dispatch from Stockholm says "his memory is gone, and his mind is less active than usual." The queen is also thought to be critically ill; and Prince Eugene has recently undergone a dangerous operation. The royal family is thus seriously stricken, at a time when famine visits a large part of the country. It is evidently a time of visitation.

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The statement is made in order to quiet the reports that the two countries no longer act as harmoniously as they did at first, and it is undoubtedly true. No friction is visible between the two governments. But it is also true that British public opinion is outspoken against the co-operation with Germany and Italy in this matter, and that is all the rumors referred to have said. The statements that the governments act together do not contradict the reports that public opinion differs in the two countries.

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