

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 10, 1908.

## TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Dear Brethren: "It is by no means improbable that some future text-book for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen? And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: JOSEPH SMITH, THE MORMON PROPHET."

Such was the opinion of Josiah Quincy in 1844, the year of the martyrdom. The intervening sixty-four years have tended to prove not only the greatness of Joseph Smith as a man, but also the divinity of the work he was instrumental in establishing. To every member of the Church, Joseph Smith is not only the most "historical American of the nineteenth century" but a true prophet of God.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1908, will be the one hundred and third anniversary of his birth, and it is suggested that on Sunday, Dec. 20, appropriate services be held in every Sunday school in the Church. As a means to this end, the General Sunday School Union Board suggests the following program. It is only suggestive, the purpose being to have every officer of the Sunday School Union put forth his best thought and effort to make the exercises so impressive that the children will realize the true greatness of the Latter-day prophet:

1. Omnit regular class exercises.
  2. Roll.
  3. Song—"Joseph Smith's First Prayer."
  4. Prayer.
  5. Minutes of previous session.
  6. Song—"One Hundred Years."
  7. Administration of the Sacrament.
  8. Song—"Joseph the Priest."
  9. Articles of Faith in concert by the entire school.
  10. Song—"Joseph Smith."
  11. Brief anecdotes concerning sayings of, or extracts from the life and writings of the Prophet Joseph Smith; or extracts from the Doctrine and Covenants. (See Life of Joseph Smith by Geo. Q. Cannon). These may be given by classes in concert or by a representative from each department.
  12. Remarks (preferably by those who knew the Prophet).
  13. Song—"Sing, Sing the Wondrous Story."
  14. Benediction.
- Sincerely your brethren,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
GEORGE REYNOLDS,  
DAVID O. MCKAY,  
General Superintendent.  
GEO. D. PYPHER,  
Gen. Secretary.

## WHO IS TO BLAME?

The so-called American party leaders cannot escape their share of responsibility for the red-light proposition, although their organ, in utter disregard of facts, tries to put all the blame on the Mayor.

We need not say that the "News" has no sympathy whatever with the much-discussed plan. Our readers are well aware of this. When, therefore, in the interest of fair play, we say that we believe Mayor Bransford is even less responsible for the conception and execution of the awful scheme than some of his so-called American advisers are, we run no risk of being misunderstood as apologizing for the soul-destroying business. The "News" does not believe that any community needs a "district" of that nature. We believe it is the duty of the authorities to fight the evil with the means offered by the laws and the statutes. They have no authority conferred upon them by law to "choose between two evils" and wink at the lesser. Their business—and they are under oath pledged to do their duty—is to execute the laws as they are, to the best of their ability and then leave the result with Providence. It is no modification of these views to say that the Mayor at this time is entitled to sympathy and should not be made the only scapegoat.

Chief Pitt in his report to the City Council for the year ending Dec. 31, 1907, took occasion to make sundry recommendations, and one was on the subject here referred to. This is what Chief Pitt said to the council about a year ago:

"Let the City set aside a piece of ground of sufficient size to accommodate several hundred of these prostitutes. Enclose same carefully with high fences, build cottages or houses to accommodate these inmates, charge them rent; license them and place them under control of the Police Department as to their safety and confinement, and to the Board of Health as to their cleanliness and sanitary conditions. In this way every person caught soliciting and working on the street could be handled by the Police Court and run out of town or sent to the place where she belonged. In this way this department would be in complete control of this element and also control the drug element and men who make a practice of living with this class of women."

The plan may not have originated with the Chief of Police; an ex-councilman is said to claim the honor of being the first to suggest it here; but the Chief certainly was the first to dignify it by officially recommending it to the council, and he seems to have gone to the length of suggesting municipal ownership. The Mayor, we suppose, desirous of adding the business district of the City of the moral infection, took up the Chief's recommendation and, regarding it as a good, practical

suggestion, lent his influence to its promotion.

Did any of the leaders of the party oppose Chief Pitt's plan? Did the "American" councilmen oppose it? Did the "American" organ have any adverse criticism to offer? Not till later. There is no doubt that the Mayor believed himself in perfect harmony with the party leaders whom he consulted. There is no doubt that he was encouraged in his reform efforts by party associates.

As soon as the general public became aware of what was going on, protests were uttered, and they became louder and louder as the rolling thunder. The press protested. A Republican club protested. So did the Democratic Women's club, and, finally, it became clear to the so-called "American" leaders that public sentiment was against the plan, and then an American club sent in a protest. When it became evident that the party would lose prestige and votes, its leaders, panic-stricken, deserted the Mayor. An "American" caucus held about that time discussed the matter and agreed to sacrifice the Mayor, although he virtually saved the party from wreck after the storm of which a former police chief was the center. These are the facts. It is in vain for the party organ to try to hide the "American" origin of the "red light" district proposition. Whatever odium attaches to it should be charged to the policy of the party leaders, of which the Mayor became the exponent.

And here is where he is entitled to sympathy. Everyone who knows Mayor Bransford knows him to be the very soul of honor. He is straight forward, upright and sincere. But through association with less honorable political advisers he has been abandoned in an unpleasant situation in which, but for such advisers, he would never have found himself.

It seems to us that the time has come for the Mayor to yield to public sentiment and change his position on the "red-light" district business. It is no dishonor to acknowledge a mistake and correct it. It would also seem that the time has come to break openly with party leaders that do not scruple to sacrifice their friends when policy—their petty interests—demand it. We have said before and now repeat that we believe if the Mayor will set aside party considerations and serve the people alone, the people will support him. They will not stand for the establishment by their trusted servants of a business contrary to law, but they will certainly uphold him in every laudable effort for civic and moral improvement, and they will not abandon him at every critical moment as the party leaders have done.

## SHALL THE GRASS DIE?

The property owners of this City are certainly entitled to be heard when they protest against the raising of the water tax. Twice they have been asked to vote bonds, and each time they have been told that the increase of the indebtedness would not mean very much of an increase in the taxes. But the taxes have been raised all along under some pretext or another. If the rate has not been raised the valuation of the property has been increased. The proposed raise in the water tax is particularly outrageous in view of the fact that the citizens own the waterworks and should not pay any more for water than the cost of the maintenance of the system. But what relief is to be expected? Next year is a city election, and the manipulators of the American party politics will need a large force in every City department. The citizens must expect to be assessed to the utmost limit for the maintenance of employees who have votes. The only relief in sight is the overthrow of party and the establishment of an honest business administration that knows how to curtail extravagance. In the meantime, possibly, the owners of lawns might let the grass die out and do no sprinkling round their homes. That would be a fitting tribute to an administration that is not responsible to the people but is owned by a set of hard shell politicians.

## WHEN LAWS ARE ENFORCED.

Many of the citizens who express opinions on the social evils say they do not believe they can be suppressed, and that, therefore, restriction is the only alternative.

But this view is not borne out by experience. In Kansas, for instance, when the people of that state declared for prohibition, intoxicants still found their way into places where they were sold more or less secretly, because there were officials who closed their eyes to violations of the law. But the experience of Kansas is that honest officials can enforce a righteous law, and today, it is claimed, there is not a saloon open in all Kansas.

The results of law enforcement in this regard are very encouraging. An assistant attorney-general of Kansas a few days since called the attention of the people to one of the results. Vice so diminished and crime was so reduced that the penitentiary had cells to spare, and rented a portion of the institution to Oklahoma. When Oklahoma entered the Union it banished the saloon, and crime fled the state with alcohol. The stoppage of the sale of whisky stopped breaking of the law. "They're negotiating with wet Missouri with a view to renting the Kansas penitentiary as a relief for the overcrowded institution at Jefferson City."

## A FACT LITTLE KNOWN.

Representative Howell proposes to introduce in Congress early in the session a bill to grant one million acres of public land to Utah for the erection of a capitol building. He says that Utah, on admission to statehood, was less liberally treated in public land donations than other states, and is entitled to additional grants of land for public purposes.

In this matter Mr. Howell states an

evident yet little known fact. The public lands of Utah, compared with those granted to other states, have had thus far but a small fraction of the values thus acquired by the sister municipalities of the Union. In the case of school lands, those in Utah have been largely arid, mountainous, alkaline, or covered at seasons with saline waters, so that their real value, in comparison with that of the lands for school purposes acquired by most other states, has been a sort of vanishing quantity.

Prior to statehood, the people of Utah maintained a school system in every inhabited district by local taxation and voluntary contributions. School houses were built, or meetinghouses were used for school purposes in every place where a school could be attended by enough pupils to warrant the employment of one or several teachers.

The school lot thus set aside and the buildings thus erected by the people without any federal aid whatever, making up in the aggregate a vast value, were promptly given to the state school system upon the passage of the general free school law, some twenty years ago.

The common schools maintained in those years were often excellent and were always fairly efficient, but they of course, lacked unity and uniformity. They represented, however, the spontaneous and unaided efforts of a new community in providing, without public aid, schools and colleges for the education of their children, and, as such, those who thus maintained these schools are entitled to praise and commendation for the results they really achieved.

Congressman Howell's idea is a reasonable one. Utah is entitled, for public purposes, to more federal aid than she has ever yet received, unless it can be shown why one State should receive so much less of the government bounty than any of the other members of the great confederation of commonwealths.

Actors saw the air; aeronauts fall it.

Union barbers frequently give "cut" rates.

Who pays the fiddler when Salome dances?

The coal trust is cutting ice but the ice men are not.

Empty honors never yet filled an empty stomach.

Prohibition states are not particularly noted for their dry nit.

When a moulder proposes he always casts himself at the lady's feet.

Just now a little Dutch courage might stand Castro in good stead.

In China all the politicians are anxious to get up to the P. Yu counter.

Strange combination is Mr. Carnegie. He is an optimist and tariff reformer.

About the surest way to uplift the farmer is for him to raise more crops.

Shop as much and as long as you like but make your Christmas purchases early.

Why is it that the sweeping changes of the street department are never investigated?

Mayor Bransford says that he takes the responsibility. Who gets the "rake off"?

If the spirit of mortal will only reflect a little bit it will soon see why it should not be proud.

Mr. Archibald is a dual personality. How different is Archibald the witness from Archibald the writer of letters.

President Roosevelt says that hunting wolves is one of the finest sports in the world. Specially hunting "gray wolves."

A revolution has broken out in the northern parts of Hayti. As yet the leaders have not decided what their purpose is.

If the emergency—volunteer army measure becomes law, will it provide that the army raised under it should be fed on emergency rations.

If England and Germany do not go to war in the not distant future, a whole lot of Englishmen will be greatly disappointed for they have been predicting it.

Governor Hughes of New York has about \$150,000 worth of offices to fill at the beginning of the new year, but he has announced that he is not going to distribute these plums as a reward for political services rendered. This is a new policy that might be followed all over the country.

What is the matter with the organ of the Pseudo-American party? In today's issue there was not a single mention or reference, on the editorial page, to the "News," the "Hierarchy" or the "Mormons" in any way. Nor was there a quotation from the Journal of Discourses or a single Church work.

MISLEADING THE NEWSPAPERS.

Burlington News.

The Vergennes Vermonter is the latest Vermont paper to be victimized by the "joke" whose standard of humor is a flimsy item in regard to some local person or persons. In this case it was the false announcement of a marriage.

The Vermonter calls the attention of the perpetrator of the "joke" to the bill now pending in the state legislature which provides for a fine of not less than \$5 and not more than \$20 for giving false information to a newspaper. The Vermonter adds: "In addition to placing the parties concerned in an extremely embarrassing position it is a reprehensible trick, a very ill-timed joke, and we trust that our informant will take notice of the fine which might be imposed." To the same sort of "humor," though perpetrated at the expense of an individual and not of a newspaper, belongs a "joke" perpetrated at Bethel and told by the Randolph Herald. The cold-blooded, reptilian atrocity of the thing passes characterization. The story as told by the Herald follows: "The

malicious jokesmith got in his work last week when word was sent by telephone to Elmer Stoddard of Rochester that his father, Daniel Stoddard, had dropped dead and that the funeral would occur Sunday. The son, believing the message to be true, came over Sunday to attend his father's funeral, and was overjoyed to find he was not a particle of truth in the report."

## A NEW MOTOR CAR.

Here is something of a novelty in motor cars. It originated in India. Neither chain nor gear drives are used to transmit the motor power to the wheels. An air propeller is attached at the rear of the car, and drives it forward. U. S. Consul-General William H. Mitchell of Calcutta vouches for the existence of such a car. He states that the secret of the mechanism lies in the pattern of the propeller. A speed of about 40 miles an hour has been attained on Calcutta roads with a 5-horsepower engine. The absence of wear on the tires is most marked, and the motion is perfectly smooth. At present the invention is just passing out of the experimental stage, but it is anticipated that it will shortly be possible to place cars on the market.

## PAPER FROM COTTON STALKS.

Los Angeles Examiner.

At last, so it is reported, the cotton stalk is to have commercial value. A company has been formed at Atlanta for the purpose of making printing paper out of this hitherto worthless weed of the winter's farm.

Simultaneously with this announcement comes the news from the wood pulp fields, both in Wisconsin and Canada, that owing to the long drought the output of paper has been reduced one-half of the usual normal supply. One manufacturer at Appleton, Wis., the early part of the week declared that unless there were heavy rains before the Christmas holidays paper would be worth its weight in gold.

Thus it is that the cotton stalk, a despised and trodden adjunct of the Southern plantation after the fleecy staple has been picked from it, may come forward, not only to relieve the publishers of the country, but to add to the treasury of the farmer. If it be true that paper can be made from the stalks, then the rapidly diminishing forests of the Northwest will be spared ravages from the axman.

## JUST FOR FUN.

The Lay of the Speckled Hen.

I feed my speckled hen each day,  
So that for me she eggs she'll lay,  
Now do you think if I lack she'd eat,  
That she could lay a carpet neat?  
—Harper's Magazine.

Hard to Please.

"Oh, pshaw!" You haven't any stock of hats at all, and change the  
"Why, madam, you have tried on 240 so far!"—Flegende Blatter.

The Teacher's Advice.

Teacher of Elocution—Now, Mr. Brown, do be more spirited! Just open your mouth and throw yourself into it.—Exchange.

Changed His Order.

"Has your order been taken?" asked one of the waiters.

"Yes," said Mr. Welbroke, "fifteen minutes ago. If it isn't too late, though, I like to change the order."

"To change your order, sir!"

"Yes, if you don't mind, I'll change it to an entree!"—Chicago Tribune.

On Her Guard.

"You see," said the professor, "the science of chemistry depends on the discovery of certain affinities."

"Pardon me," interrupted Miss Frym, "but the conversation can proceed without drifting into scandal."

—Washington Star.

Left It There.

Teacher—You have no certificate of vaccination, Johnny, and I can't find any scar. Were you vaccinated?

New Boy (much frightened)—In Mississippi, ma'am.—Chicago Tribune.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

More profusely illustrated than ever containing, all told, 201 illustrations of the most interesting and up-to-date, the December Popular Mechanics closes a year's record surpassing all the annals of its past. The December

magazine describes a new system of concrete construction. The walls are molded flat on the ground and tilted to position. The aeronautics features are a wonderful new flying-machine built by a California inventor; a description of the Kimball helicopter, embodying Edison's idea of the conquest of gravitation; a brief article on recent Wright aeroplane successes; an account of Count Zeppelin's recent work; and some pictures of the new United States dirigible balloon. Two new and unique industries, Roadside Orchards and Silver Fox Farming, are fully described; fresh photographs afford material for an entertaining illustrated article; a full discussion of "Electricity on the Farm" reads like a revelation. In marine affairs the article on the ovation given the American fleet by Japan will interest many, as will, also, a picture of Brazil's new warship, more powerful than the "Dreadnought."—160 Washington street, Chicago.

In the December number of "Success Magazine," Leroy Cott explains Russian immigration in "The Lure of America." Clemens Davis writes on "Our Billion-dollar Smile," an analysis of the cost of the show-business. Robert Haven Schuchter discusses the problems of the country preacher, and Albert W. Morse gives an imaginary picture under the title, "What Will the Airship Mean?" Other articles are "Self-Mastery," by Orison Swett Marden; "The Automobile for the Average Man," by Herbert J. Fowler; "Living on a Little," by Isabel Gordon Curtis. The stories of the month are "Jimmy Pepperton of Oshkosh," by Robert Barr; "Having Fun With Father," by Jesse Ames Williams; "Cophetua of Klondyke," by Roy Norton, and "The Painless Revolution," by Richard Le Gallienne. There is a double-page picture feature, "The Comic Supplement Invades the Stage," and there are poems by Edwin Markham, Richard Wightman, John Kendrick Bangs, and J. W. Foley.—29-31 East Twenty-second street, New York.

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