

DESERET EVENING NEWS
Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Editor: Charles W. Penrose
Business Manager: Horace G. Whitney
Subscription Prices:
One Year, \$3.00
Six Months, \$1.75
Three Months, \$1.00
One Month, \$0.35
Saturday edition, per year, \$3.00
Retail weekly, 2.00
NEW YORK OFFICE: In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 117 Park Row Building, New York.
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE: In charge of F. J. Cooper, 26 Geary St.
Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR. Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Entered at the Post Office of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress March 2d, 1879.
SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 1, 1903.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Utah in the Sheets case was not surprising to the great majority of our citizens. After the arguments on either side were made public, in the synopsis given by the Deseret News, the very general opinion was that the court would decide that the defendant was not legally confirmed by the City Council as chief of police.

The main contention of his attorneys and supporters was, that the rule of the Council requiring a vote of the majority of all the members elected, to confirm an appointment by the Mayor, was in conflict with the provision of the statute that a majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum to do business. But this was overcome by the argument of Attorney F. S. Richards, that the rule and the statute are synonymous. Under the statute it takes eight out of the fifteen members to form a quorum; under the rule it takes eight to confirm an appointment. The two provisions can be construed together.

According to the logic of the defendant's attorney, five members out of fifteen could confirm, that is to say, one-third of the body may act as "the City Council." It seems clear that the Legislature did not intend to vest any such power in the hands of five out of fifteen members, when the law was enacted that the Mayor should appoint by and with the consent of the City Council. The court has on its side good common sense as well as judicial precedents.

The creation of a liability against the city requires a vote of a majority of all the members elected to the Council. As there was a vacancy in the office of Chief of Police for some time previous to the nomination of George A. Sheets, and the captain of police was then performing the duties of chief, it seems clear that the appointment, if confirmed, would create a liability to pay his salary, which was not being paid and was therefore not a liability during the interim. On this ground the majority of the court also decide that, as only a minority of all the members elected voted for confirmation, it was not legal.

One judge dissents from this but concurs in the other part of the opinion. It will be granted that there is room for debate on the liability question, but the decision is sufficient on the one point to settle the illegality of the attempted confirmation. The office of Chief of Police is vacant. The "sold" were right and they are vindicated.

It must be a matter of regret to the real friends of Mr. Sheets, that the "trick" was played on which such reliance was made to put him in office. The decision does not affect his personal character. It does put the seal of condemnation on the "trap" it laid to "catch suckers," confessed to by one of the councilmen.
The procedure of the City Council under rule 17 is established as correct, and the public will be gratified at this conclusion. The question of the policemen's pay is at an end. The captain of police can sign the payroll as head of the department, and the position taken on this point by the majority will be maintained. Now let the council get down to business and quit boy-play, setting snares and promoting private schemes for political purposes.

DEDICATING THE PURCHASE.

The dedication of the St. Louis exposition took place yesterday, April 30, with appropriate ceremonies. The speakers dwelt on the historical features of the "purchase," its significance to this country and to the world, and on expansion generally.
The St. Louis exposition is, we believe, the biggest ever held. More money is being appropriated for it, and more space is devoted to it, than to any previous event of that time. How much larger it is, can be judged from the following figures: The Philadelphia Centennial had a covered area of 6 acres; Paris in 1889, had 125 acres; Chicago in 1893, 290 acres; St. Louis will have 220 acres, while the whole area included within the exposition fence will be 1,180 acres. This is twice as much as was included in the site of the Chicago Exposition.

The financial backing is also much more generous, \$17,000,000 being available whenever needed. Of this \$5,000,000 comes from individual subscriptions; \$5,000,000 from bonds voted by the municipality; \$1,000,000 voted by the state of Missouri; and over \$6,000,000 from the United States government. Forty-two states have voted appropriations aggregating over \$5,000,000 and to this should be added sums to be expended by corporations. The total is estimated at \$20,000,000.
With such a sum, a grand exposition should be made, and it will be a world affair, as it ought to be; for the Louisiana purchase affected the whole civilized world. By it this country com-

menced to ascend the heights from which it now can survey the events of the world, and take part in them, when necessary. It was through this "purchase" that the United States came to march onward toward the Pacific, and finally, as it were, was forced to take its proper part in the government of the world. No doubt this is providential. The purposes of the Almighty are clearly visible in this, and will be more so, when the final chapter of history is written.

The Louisiana purchase was not the birth of a nation; but it certainly was the introduction to the rest of the world, of a nation, the destiny of which is to exert an influence for good over all the rest.

QUESTIONABLE RESORTS.

We trust that the board of county commissioners of Weber County appreciate the fact that their action regarding the licensing of resorts in that county is being watched with anxious interest by many people outside of the county as well as within. No action of the board of Salt Lake County has been more warmly approved by the decent people of the community than their refusal to license road houses and other places whose past history showed that they were questionable resorts. The best sentiment of both Salt Lake and Weber counties will favor the placing of the highest possible license tax on the saloon business, and of absolutely refusing to issue licenses at any price whatever, to resorts that are the haunts of crime, and that flagrantly disobey the law.

ALSO A COMPLAINT.

Some of our religious friends in the city feel conscience-stricken because they are not doing something for the entertainment of strangers that visit the city. That was, in substance, the complaint made by one of the ladies at a missionary meeting held at the Congregational church. The lady, we presume, referred specially to the bureau of information established on the Tabernacle square, where visitors are courteously entertained and given relevant information concerning subjects hearing on Utah and her people, that may be of interest to them. The ladies who make the complaint may establish bureaus of information of their own, if they think proper, but they should not forget that strangers who pass through here, are not chiefly interested in Congregationalists and their doings here. They want to know something about the dominant Church and the people that first settled, and they naturally desire to have their information at first hand, instead of second-hand. It is remarkable though that, as long as visitors were in the hands only of the romancers that told lurid tales while driving them around the city, the ladies found no cause of complaint. That, in their opinion, was well and proper. The complaint comes now, when strangers are given an opportunity of hearing the truth, and nothing but the truth. Rather strange!

NO PLACE OF SAFETY.

That the present time is one full of disaster to one portion of another of the human family, is plain to all who follow the daily reports. One calamity, it seems, steps upon the heels of another—so closely do they follow one another. It is a time of visitation. It is a time of testimony of the forces of nature, to the power of God and the insignificance of man.

The latest horror is that which occurred at Frank, Northwestern Territory, where a volcanic eruption is said to have caused the displacement of the top of a mountain, under which a great number of lives were crushed out instantly. It was a terrible disaster.

It is quite plain that there is really no safe place upon all the earth. There are regions where people have dwelt scores for ages, and they have come to regard such places as exempt from the dangers that are threatening other localities. But there is, in fact, no absolutely safe place to dwell in, upon the face of the earth, except as it is made so, by the special blessings of Providence. From pole to pole dangers abound. There is not a square mile of the earth's surface that has not, at one time or another, been swept by flood, fire or ice, or that has not suffered from seismic disturbances, tidal waves, or other upheavals of nature. Prosperous cities have been wiped out, and again rebuilt. Man may flee to the mountains, seeking a refuge from tidal waves and floods in the low lands. But he may be overtaken by landslides and avalanches.

The contours of continents are continually changing, slowly, gradually. But sometimes the change is sudden, violent. Then it attracts attention. The continent of Atlantis suddenly sank into the deep with—old records are true—60,000,000 inhabitants. Today, scientists tell us that Holland, Belgium, Denmark, and all the southern coasts of the Baltic are steadily sinking. On the other hand, it is claimed that the islands of the Pacific, the West Indian islands, Spitzbergen, and the west coast of South America are gradually rising out of the water.

With the earth thus continually changing in form, it is evident that no part of it, is absolutely safe. No matter where man dwells, he is dependent on Providence. A passenger on a train, or a ship, is every hour dependent for the success of his journey, upon the skill, the diligence, or the vigilance of those in charge. Man is in the same way dependent upon Him, in whose hands are the worlds swimming through infinite space.

The trees are in the bloom of youth. All is fair in love, war and St. Louis. Butte continues to remain off the Western Union map.

The Hagdad railway seems to have struck a Luch out-off.

The merry month of May looks very much like showery April.
"Hard words break no bones," but they do make lots of sores.
Uncle Sam has been expiating some

more diamonds. He intends them for Miss Columbia.

In this country every dog has its day. In Algiers every day has its dog.

For years to come St. Louis will parade the success of yesterday's parade as evidence of her enterprise.

It is now in order for some of our contemporaries to reverse the ruling of the Supreme Court in the Sheets case.

In Manchuria, Russia thinks it is her province to take provinces. It is a provincial view for a mighty empire to take.

Yes, Missouri is the Empire State of the Louisiana purchase. It is a proud distinction, one to boast of. All hail Missouri!

Will Colonel Henry Watterson make Mr. Cleveland's Louisiana Purchase speech the occasion for launching a philippic at him?

There was a day when to be a Roman was greater than to be a king, but it was long before the English Edward went to the Eternal City.

John Burroughs, the poet naturalist, is said to hold the American record for taciturnity. The other end of the record is held by Mr. Bryan.

Chicago art critics complain of the Venus of Milo's attitude and say she should stand straight. They forget how long she has been standing.

We in Utah do not belong to the Louisiana purchase territory, but are the next thing to it—the New Mexican territory ceded by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

The average life of a locomotive in England is twenty-six years, in France twenty-nine years, and eighteen years or more of the railroads in this country. Here is evidence of race suicide in America.

Stanford has reached the limit on girls students and no more can enter there until the number is reduced. This limit is five hundred. Evidently the board of trustees were afraid the university might become a young ladies seminary.

An old negro appeared at Eagle Pass, Texas, the other day and asked if it was true that the emancipation proclamation had made negroes free. The personal equation may have made him doubt it.

What a scene was that when the head of the Protestant Episcopal church paid his respects to the head of the Roman Catholic church! It has never been done since the days of Henry VIII, the monarch who took England out of the mother church.

A rose under any other name would no doubt smell as sweet, but still there is a good deal in a name. War Secretary Brodleyk announced in the commons that England had abandoned the war in Somaliland. But the honorable member objected to the use of the word "abandoned."

A government fee to the government lawyers of 5 per cent of the Pious fund reminds us of Lauterbach's remark to Choate—"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian!" says the Ultra religious Mail and Express. Somehow or other we were under the impression that that remark was made by Agrippa unto Paul.

The amalgamation of the Commercial National bank and the Bank of Commerce is an event that should call for mutual congratulations on the part of the stockholders of the two institutions. It is a generally prevailing sentiment that banking in Salt Lake is one branch of business that has been somewhat overdone. The merger of these two banks will relieve something of the congestion, and will form one very strong financial concern.

The schedule of the religious conferences and Bible school to be held at Northfield, this year, has just been issued. These conferences were established by the late D. L. Moody some years before his death. His successors in the work founded the Summer Bible school. A feature of the summer's work is the resumption of the Northfield Young Women's conference, which was omitted last year. The season opens June 13, and does not close until September 20.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.
In What to Eat for May, Dr. H. W. Wiley, whose work for the United States government in aiding the cause of Pure food by experiments and tests, contributes a strong article. In "Parisiana" E. Tyron Charles tells of early French pure food laws and describes "A Light Supper," a famous hoax played on some French society people on the first of April, quick lunches in France, etc. "Springtime Spruce" is the title of Dr. Felix L. Oswald's May installment in "Dietetic Health Hints." This month's stories are: "A Lunch-boat by Ladder" by Mary Dawson and a short humorous sketch "Overhears in the Library," by Lois Howard. Edwin L. Sabin has a poem "Luncheon A Deux," and Margaret Busbee Shipp writes "A Mushroom Song." The Three Publishing Co., 117-119, Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

subject of an article by Mr. George E. Hooker. In "The Progress of the World," for May, the editor of the Review of Reviews comments on the Northern Securities case, and on the question of "smashing versus regulating combinations."—New York.

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