

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.Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Horace G. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES
(In Advance)
One Year, \$3.00
Six Months, \$1.75
Three Months, \$1.00
One Month, \$0.35
Saturday Edition, Per Year, \$2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year, \$2.00

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112 Park Row Building, New York.

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SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

In charge of F. J. Cooper, 36 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances to:
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake
City as second class matter according to
the Act of Congress March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 16, 1933.

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DEATH OF PRESIDENT HESS.

The death of President John W. Hess of the Davis Stake of Zion, which occurred on Tuesday evening, will occasion no surprise but will cause sorrow to many hearts. As Bishop of Farmington ward for many years, he established a reputation for honesty, ability, firmness of character and fidelity to his trust, that endeared him to his associates and gained the respect of all who knew him. In those times he was a hardworking farmer and was successful in his undertakings. He was devoted to his religious duties and always ready to respond to every call from the presiding officers. His selection as President of Davis Stake was anticipated, and he received the cordial support of the people over whom he was appointed to preside. The organizations of the Stake were thoroughly kept up and made active in their respective spheres, and it was his delight to visit them and counsel them and see that they were efficient. He was full of zeal and faith, was earnest in all his undertakings, and the affairs under his jurisdiction were maintained in excellent order. When sickness encroached upon his physical strength he struggled against its approaches and rallied many times through determined resistance and desire to continue his usefulness. But at last he had to succumb and pay the debt of nature. He has laid his weary body down to rest. And while his large family, numerous offspring and hosts of friends grieve over his departure and will miss his portly presence, they know that he has fought the good fight, and have the complete assurance that his strong spirit is at peace, and that he will receive the reward of the just and the righteous, in the resurrection of those who are in Christ and have made their calling and election sure. Peace be to his remains and the consolations of heaven rest upon the bereaved!

THE REED SMOOT CASE.

Among the public journals that are discussing the movement in which a great number of uninformed people are taking part, is the Pueblo Chieftain, an influential Colorado daily, which takes up current questions in a conservative manner. Under the title given above, the following editorial appears in its issue of Saturday, Dec. 12:

"One of the United States senators from Utah is a Mormon and an official of the Mormon Church, and a strong effort is being made to have the senate expel him.
"A considerable amount of the agitation against Senator Smoot is doubtless due to the belief that Mormonism necessarily implies polygamy. But it does not appear that the Utah senator is possessed of more than the usual American allowance of wives, and he is winning golden opinions in Washington as a young American of considerably more than the ordinary amount of intelligence and good sense.
"In default of the proof of polygamy, the enemies of Senator Smoot are endeavoring to show that he is bound by an oath as an official of the Mormon Church that is contrary to his obligation as an American senator and citizen.
"The question is an interesting one, and will doubtless serve as a basis for much animated and possibly valuable discussion. And possibly the case against Mr. Smoot may be made so strong that the senate will think necessary for its own morality and loyalty to oust Mr. Smoot from the position to which he has been elected by the choice of the people of Utah.
"And yet there is hardly any man who does not owe in one way or another a divided allegiance. Modern society is very complex, and the claims of the nation, the state, the family, the church, the fraternal order, and many others are conflicting and bewildering. The average man, if he is inclined to such meditation, may derive a vast amount of worry from thinking about what he would do if he were compelled to choose between these conflicting obligations. But as a matter of fact very few men are forced to make such a choice, and any problem of it may safely be left among the bridges that need not be crossed until they are reached.
"The fact that Senator Smoot has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States is a strong point in his

favor, and it will be a difficult matter to expel from the senate on a charge of disloyalty, a man who proclaims himself as loyal, and against whom there exists no proof of disloyalty other than an insistent pledge made at an earlier period.

The only comment we desire to make on those remarks is that Senator Smoot has made no "insistent pledge," either at an earlier or later period. The allegiance to "the family, the church, the fraternal" or other social or religious order, required or permitted by the "Mormon" Church, is not in any way inconsistent with the duty of its officers and members to the state and to the nation. The ravings of its enemies are not to be taken as evidence to the contrary.

Contradictory and malicious statements from persons who have been excommunicated from its fold, remind one of the stories that used to be rife from "escaped nuns" and "converted priests," about alleged horrors in Catholic convents and monasteries, but which are now regarded as monstrous invention or gross exaggerations, and have ceased to excite the reading public.

The question before the United States Senate is, shall the rules of that body and the guarantees of the Constitution be maintained, or shall the clamors of religious sectaries, male and female, who attempt to dictate the course of the Senate, while at the same time they pretend a horror of "the union of church and state," be permitted to prevail against the rights and privileges of the duly elected representative of a State in the Union? That is all there really is to the matter under senatorial consideration.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

London dispatches state that the impression now prevails both in government and financial circles, that the negotiations between Russia and Japan have a decidedly friendly tendency, though the latest propositions by Russia are kept a secret. Further pourparlers are expected, however, which may last for weeks. Japanese diplomats, however, will be slow to accept any terms offered by Russia, for the simple reason that the Russian government has a way of putting its own construction upon treaty terms, not always in conformity with the common interpretation of words.

Though the outlook is considered very hopeful, Russia does not act as if she considered the peace assured. Russian warships are now said to be coaling heavily in the harbors of the Dutch East Indies, and cargo boats are constantly taking coal to Chinese waters. Further, the government is said to have made a contract with the Asiatic company of Copenhagen for a year's carriage of war material from a Baltic port, to Vladivostok. The company agrees to increase its tonnage, Russia, it is said, informs the company that it will not declare war with Japan during the term of contract and will do its utmost to prevent Japan from forcing a conflict. The reason for this, as given in Copenhagen dispatches, is that Russia is not yet prepared for the conflict in eastern Asia. Its position there is, as yet weak and defeat would be certain. Reassuring dispatches were also told have therefore been dictated by Count Lamdorff to keep the Japanese quiet. After four years Russia thinks it will be strong enough for war.

It is, perhaps, necessary to bear these facts in mind, in order to understand the long drawn-out negotiations. Were the efforts at the preservation of peace entirely sincere, the war preparations would be unnecessary.

DISCUSSING THE BATH.

Some time ago a Chicago professor declared that many ailments of civilized man are to be traced to the bath tub. He said, as quoted: "When people leave off bathing there will be little or nothing for the doctors to do. To bathe is to be dirty, for you thereby make a sewer of your skin. Blood attracted by the skin gives up products that should be left to seek a natural outlet and soils the skin. The rubbing of a rough towel over the flesh removes the natural scales, or 'false skin,' and this conduces to a growth of bacteria. The physiologists who say that closing the pores of the skin will result in death are all wrong. I will tell you of a poor Eskimo, brought from Greenland to Boston, who had never been ill in his life. He was given a bath, contracted pneumonia and died in two days."

This statement has caused more discussion than one would think it merits. It reminds one of Carrie Nation's apology for making a nuisance of herself. She alleged that home could be heard above the din of modern life, except by having resort to some kind of eccentricity. Perhaps the Chicago professor is of the same opinion, and so decided to say something startling merely to draw attention to himself. If so, he has succeeded.

The San Francisco Bulletin has taken the pains of interviewing a number of doctors on the subject. They all ridicule the Chicago professor, and declare for the bath. One says: "The skin is an excretory organ and excretes the poisonous substance of the body. If the pores of the skin are closed by an impervious layer of any substance, the result will be death. This is a fact well proved, and alone would knock out the theory of our learned professor." Another states: "It is a well proven fact that bacterial germs thrive in localities where people neglect the proper care of their bodies. It is certainly an erroneous belief to advocate a theory that bathing is pernicious to health." An eminent surgeon thinks caution is needed. He says: "Bathing, if carried on intelligently, is good, if not intelligently it is a mistake and does harm. The manner in which even intelligent people harm themselves in bathing is by taking a hot bath, perspiring very freely, slightly debilitating themselves, dressing quickly and chilling themselves by exposure to a lower temperature. The sudden change from extreme heat to cold checks the perspiration so quickly that colds ensue. Many cases of pneumonia, bronchitis, pleurisy and so-called la grippe, many congestions and inflammations are brought

about by going out of a hot bath into a cold atmosphere."

All this is self-evident to the intelligent reader. Each one can best ascertain for himself what he needs in the way of cleanliness, as well as in the way of food and drink. What may be good for one, may injure another. All cannot stand the same temperature. Experience is a good teacher in all that pertains to personal well-being. In Switzerland, bathing is connected with the schools. All new schools there have a portion of the ground floor appropriated for baths. Each class bathes about once a fortnight, summer and winter. Soap is used, and a warm bath is followed by a cooler one. Sick children and those suffering from skin diseases are excluded.

EVOLUTION AND CREDULITY.

A Unitarian minister in New York has taken occasion to say, in a sermon about Herbert Spencer, that the theory of evolution has forever destroyed belief in the Garden of Eden and the fall of man. This is not true. The theory of evolution has left theology almost untouched. It has not solved the questions relating to the origin of man upon this earth. It may be admitted that the common conception of 6,000 years as covering the period of man's dwelling upon the earth needs revision. But that does not do away with the story of the fall and the garden. The fall, we suppose, is too much in evidence every day, to be done away with by any kind of theory, no matter how ingenious.

We have great respect for scientific discoveries, and logical deductions made from them. But some of the discoveries alleged to be scientific are frauds, and some of the deductions made from real discoveries are extremely absurd. What can be offered in this direction may be judged from a report from Pittsburg, Kas., that coal miners are covering in a shaft for the Weir Junction Coal company on the Rex farm south of Cherokee, recently found "imbedded in the fire clay below the second vein of coal, at a depth of 50 feet, a box made of bark, containing three arrowheads crudely made of flint rock." Just imagine a box of bark preserved in a formation in which the other vegetable matter became carbonized and turned into coal! And yet, it is from similar "discoveries" that many opponents of the Bible argue. They are credulous enough to believe almost any "report" that seems to point to the very high age of man, but they cannot believe an historian like the author of Genesis. And some very credulous gentlemen occupy pulpits in our day and generation.

Everybody is befogged these days.

The penitentiary gates are ajar at Jefferson City.

General Bell of Colorado is entitled to the cap and bells.

Uncle Sam is monarch of all he geologically surveys.

In Rome Mr. Bryan did as the Romans do—paid his respects to the Pope.

How this weather would be appreciated "in the good old summer time."

The Brooklyn has gone to Alexandria for target practice. What is the target?

A good thing to put in a boy's stocking at Christmas is "The Leather Stocking Tales."

An eastern editor wants to abolish Thanksgiving. It would be better to abolish the editor.

Nordica and her husband display a wonderful lack of harmony for such famous musicians.

American beer has taken the highest honors in Bohemia. This should quench our thirst for glory.

The hand that rocks the cradle isn't the one that rules in Germany, as the Crown Prince has found out.

When the Carnegie lake at Princeton is finished, the Princetonians are very apt to suffer the fate of Narcissus.

Senator Tillman says that President Roosevelt has killed the Monroe doctrine. Still it is a very lively corpse.

Really the people should be glad that the investigation into General Wood's confirmation is nearly over, there is so much of it.

Colonel Carroll D. Wright thinks that the wage system will eventually

be abolished. Never so long as the wages of sin is death.

The Kaiser has commanded Crown Prince Frederick William to remain in his room three days as a punishment for disobedience. Now will he be good?

Dr. Sargent of Harvard says that Champion Jeffries is good for ten years more. At the end of that time, if he follows in the footsteps of most pugilists, he will be good for nothing.

The Koreans are very restless and uneasy. They feel that the destruction of their country is imminent, whether there be war or peace between Russia and Japan. This feeling is akin to political precience, and an extraordinary thing in a hermit nation.

"I have never been sick a day in my life," says the Rev. Dr. Robert Collier on his eightieth birthday, "and I have never even eaten my breakfast in bed. What is my recipe for longevity? Live a natural life, eat what you want and walk on the sunny side of the street."

The soldiers at Fort Douglas, officers included, deserve credit for the spirit which they manifested in hunting down the brutal assassin of Miss Gili. They did all that could be expected of brave and manly men and would have done more than the law allowed but for wise efforts on the part of those in command. Let the criminal have the full benefit and the full penalty of the law!

The statement that radium will be reduced in price, because it has been found in Utah carnotite, a newly discovered ore, does not mean that the mysterious substance will become common as yet. The reduction in price is from something like \$2,751,000 a pound to \$450,000 a pound. That, of course, is a big reduction, but it will have to come down again before it can become popular. The search is going on, however, for ores in which it is found, and in due time the next price reduction will, no doubt, be announced.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Many writers of importance are found in the Christmas number of Harper's Weekly. Among them are: W. D. Howells, Thomas Hardy, Robert W. Chambers, Israel Zangwill, Mary Wilkins-Freeman, Hall Caine, E. S. Martin, A. E. W. Mason, Frances Aymer Matthews, Van Tassel Stephen. The number is handsomely illustrated in color and tint.—Harper & Bros., New York.

Edwin A. Abbey's painting and drawings, made to illustrate the tragedy of King Richard III., are reproduced in tint in Harper's Magazine for January. The slave market at Marrakesh in Morocco is written up by an English writer, Samuel L. Hensman, and an English artist, A. S. Forrest, paints this picturesque market. The sale of human beings lasts for two hours before sunset, and is opened with a prayer to Allah. The short stories, which are so strong a feature of Harper's Magazine, are contributed to the January number by Elizabeth S. Phelps Ward, Mary E. Wilkins-Freeman, Mrs. Stephen Rawson, Arthur Colton, Van Tassel Stephen, Grace Ellery Channing, and Philip Verrill Nichols.—Harper & Bros., New York.

The December number of the American Boy comes this month in enlarged form and in number of pages. The notable features of the number are the first chapters of a story by Kirk Munroe, who has just returned from a trip around the world, the story being entitled, "The Blue Dragon—a Story of the Chinese People," and a story by R. L. Garner, the well-known expert on monkeys and monkey life, entitled "My First Monkey." Among other stories are "Shep," "How the Chipmunk Got the Black Stripe on His Back," "The Ocean Terror," "The Education of Kuka" (a lion story), and "Teddy's Christmas." Leading illustrated articles, aside from stories, are entitled "Teaching the Duties of Citizenship in Cuban Schools," "Prairie Dogs and Their Homes," "Commander Peary and His Arctic Expedition," "Why It Pays to Be Honest," "The Marconi College of Wireless Telegraphy," "The President's Christmas Turkey," "Columbus in Plying the Stars and Stripes," "Boyhood Homes of Three Great Men," and "The Way to a Real Cowboy Whip."—Sprague Publishing Co., Detroit, Mich.

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