DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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Any Subscriber will kindly notify J. E. Dalton, superintendent, of any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

All communications should be addressed to

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

Telephone 929.

NEEDS ATTENTION.

We are informed that great inconvenience is caused in Tooele county, in postal matters and otherwise, by the fact of there being two Mercur mining districts. The confusion naturally resulting from such a condition is readily apparent; and the possibility of the same name for two districts is sufficient to suggest to the Legislature that a brief statutory provision to cover the point ought to be enacted. Those who organize districts and adopt a title already held by another locality do a foolish thing, and yet something that is common to other than mining districts. If the circumstance to be represented in the Mercur districts, the matter should receive immediate attention. The entire ground could be covered by the Legislature authorizing and directing the Secretary of State, upon his attention being called by the naming alike of two mining, irrigation, or other districts of similar character, to request the parties who appear to be second in the choice of title to change to one not already appropriated, and upon their failure to do so within a period of thirty or sixty days, for the Secretary to proceed to make a new designation of title, and place it on record in his office as the name by which the district is to be known. This would remove danger of confusion such as is now complained of, and probably would lead to greater care in originally naming districts in future.

TURKS IN JERUSALEM.

The question of the advisability of opening lands in the United States for Armenian settlers, as a happy solution of the oriental difficulty, is variously considered. Some regard the idea as the best so far suggested, while others believe that the Armenians would not make a desirable class of citizens. It is but justice to the people to say that as a rule they are intelligent, industrious and progressive, wherever circumstances allow this latter quality to assert itself. They are different from the Mongolians in the latter respect, and it would take but a short time for them to become assimilated and at home in the free atmosphere of the United States. It is true, they have for centuries suffered under indescribable tyranny; but like another people under nearly similar circumstances—the Russian Jews—they have in their traditions, language and religion had a safeguard against utter degradation, and with some training they would be better capable of enjoying the blessings of liberty than one judging only from present appearances would suppose.

But the question of an Armenian emigration en masse is of but little importance, because even if it could be accomplished, it would not settle the eastern problem. Reliable news from Turkey beyond the sea coast cities is scarce, owing to the censorship that extends even to private letters and dispatches; but from all that can be gathered, there seems to be a most remarkable "revival" of Mohammedanism, as if a final effort were to be made to finish the struggle commenced by the immediate successors of Mohammed. If this conjecture is correct, the world is not confronted by an Armenian question particularly, but a question of another onslaught by the crescent on the cross. The recent political complications among the Christian powers can but have served to encourage the Mohammedans to that possible place in this direction, in as much as from their point of view, those complications must appear as the intervention of Providence in their behalf in order to give them the time needed for strengthening their hands to the warfare.

English papers have recently published descriptions of the prevailing conditions in Syria and Palestine. The country is inundated by Turkish soldiers. Only a short time ago in the region between Jaffa and Jerusalem there were 60,000 "deserts" or soldiers, gathered not under the arrison red banners of the Turks but under the green flag, and this is taken as a sure sign that the "holy war" is being proclaimed. The Mohammedan Arabs who are taken from their homes and families and driven like cattle to the ranks of the army look upon the Christians as the real cause of their misfortunes, and they vow vengeance in their hearts. The soldiers are but poorly clad and fed, and the consequence is that they are compelled to live as robbers. The Christians are considered legitimate prey.

Officially the Turks explain that the massing of troops is necessary for the subjugation of the Druses, a peculiar and remarkable people in the Lebanon mountains, but it is not likely that this is the sole object of the mobilization of troops, since the Druses in their mountain fastnesses always have been in opposition to the government. The Christians in Syria feel convinced that a general rising of Mohammedan followers is contemplated with but one object, the total extermination of the Christians in the Turkish empire.

Jerusalem is said to be filled with Turkish soldiers. They have barracks in the Tower of David, the Palace of Pilate and along the road to Damascus. They regularly march through the city, plunder the bazars and enter private houses; they forage in the vicinity of the city and live like bands of robbers. In Beyrout a similar condition is said to be prevailing. Business connections with Europe from this place are interrupted, and the authorities intercept dispatches, seize European newspapers and as carefully as possible prevent news from leaving or entering the country. When such conditions prevail along the coast, it is not difficult to imagine what must be the state of affairs in the interior.

What all these things portend time alone can tell, but it looks as if events might be in preparation that will eventually compel Christian Europe to interfere, whatever the consequences may be. There is an ominous activity among the Mohammedans; the unfolding of the green flag under the blood-stained half moon may mean a good deal more than is comprehended at the present time.

THE "RECORD" DEFENDED.

JANUARY 16, 1896.

To the Editor:

In an editorial yesterday the News comments on an article in the Chicago Record. Without intending to judge of the Record every's country, I am justified in saying that if there is any misrepresentation in the article, it was the contributor's fault. A correspondence of several years efficiency on the Record in varied work gave me some opportunity to know of its policy. No misrepresentation is ever allowed to be columns, knowingly; nothing but the truth is desired.

As the Salt Lake correspondent of the Record, I would like to add, further, that I knew nothing of the article referred to until it appeared.

Sincerely,

WM. IGLEHART.

The foregoing communication, from the city editor of the Salt Lake Tribune, is published with much pleasure. Mr. Iglehart's declaration of the policy of the Chicago Record not only confirms the view which we have always entertained concerning that great paper, but also justifies the high esteem in which it is held as an example of journalistic perfection by the newspaper world in America. The News is quite willing to agree that the errors referred to were the fault of the contributor, not of the paper itself, and this should have been sufficiently explained in our criticism of the published story, for a long acquaintance with the Record would have fully warranted it—we believed we had done so in stating that the Record probably had been imposed upon by the writer of the article which appeared in its columns.

MORMONS IN A MAINE PAPER.

Comfort, a monthly publication issued at Augusta, Maine, and distributed generally throughout the country, has in its last issue an article headed "The Mormons at Home," written by William Walter Trapp, who gives his address as 4th west, Second South street, Salt Lake City, and who is announced by Comfort as a "Gentile." Mr. Trapp says:

There is a mistaken opinion in the East regarding the Mormons in Utah. A great many people believe them to be a very superstitious and degraded class, and unfriendly speak of them as heathen, ignorant and sensual. It is also quite generally believed that a Gentile is denied the right to free speech in regard to Mormonism, and that while one is in Utah he must keep a wary tongue, in regard to the latter topic. I would say the average Mormon has no more disposition to ever attacking his religion (Utah has no Bob Ingersoll, Rapine or Calhoun. He will talk and reason with you on religious subjects with as good grace as with a Methodist. In fact, there is no place on earth where the Mormons singles is so vigorously and ably defended as in the streets of Salt Lake City. Of course there are those among the Mormons, as there are among other religious sects, who are unreasonable and abusive, but the majority are not so. They enjoy a joke or a bit of sarcasm at the expense of their Church, and relish a rebuke quite as much as do the members of other churches.

The article then states that the Mormons have been shut off from the outer world to a great extent, and there are many people who live in the distant portions of the State who have never seen a railway or heard the screech of a locomotive. He then refers to the methods of trading in some of the outlying settlements, and continues:

The Mormons, as a rule, are a law-abiding, peace-loving class of people, and have as much respect for law and order as have the people of New England. Let those who look upon the Mormons as a crime-producing element compare the crime statistics of Utah, in proportion to population, with those of any other state. It will be seen that the State of Perine, Kansas, produces far more crime in proportion to population than does the Mormon State, Utah. Polygamy seems to be generally discussed among the Mormons of today. Whatever may be the real sentiment of the Mormon regarding polygamy, he is usually quite outspoken against it. The men seem to object to it more strongly than the women.

Reference is made to the State Constitution, with the comment that the only part calling forth any considerable objection is the woman suffrage clause. The article then goes on:

The Mormons believe a great future is in store for Utah. They seem anxious to have people from other states, regardless of religious beliefs, settle among them and help develop the resources of this state. The Mormons are characterized by some as stubborn and impractical, but when one thinks of the fact that they have made beautiful with waving fields of grain and extensive orchards of fruit, and of the tireless energy which transformed a desert and unlovely wilderness into a land of fragrance and beauty, the spotted seems signal.

Altogether, Mr. Trapp's letter breathes a spirit of fairness, and closes with expressing a wish to which all may heartily join: "Let us hope that a near future will obliterate all dissensions between Gentile and Mormon, and that, hand in hand, they may seek to promote the general welfare."

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Union Leader, Jan. 15: The Mormon leaders say that just as soon as the Territory of Utah is covered with the majority of Statehood, now under consideration, that polygamy will return to respectable ends of the old round who find a half dozen or so wives an drain on either their patience or their purse. If plural marriages shall be recognized in the State statutes, we know a few chaps in this part of the universe who will be warranted in taking the first train for Salt Lake.

We can assure our Pennsylvania friend that the plurality of wives which did exist here and that of the "New phase" in its neighborhood are as distant as lightie from darkness; the Mormons never wanted any of the Pennsylvania kind, and the latter is perfectly at home where it is. Besides, the leaders here have not said that "polygamy will return." The Union Leader is entirely wrong in both its propositions.

THE BILL to repeal the fire and police commission law has been introduced into the Legislature by Representative Tom Ferguson of Salt Lake county. Its title merely states that it is a bill "to repeal chapter xxxvii, Laws of 1894." Mr. Ferguson, however, is not to be credited with any advocacy of the bill from having introduced it, since he was careful to explain that his action was by request. The measure has gone to the House judiciary committee, where a large share of responsibility for its fate will rest.

DR. TALMAGE's proposition to combine the University preparatory department and high school in this city for mutual economy, deserves careful consideration. If the combination be made on proper lines the saving should be quite important. No doubt the proportionate burdens can be arranged with due consideration for both the city and State interests, so that neither will carry a load that belongs to the other. If harmonious control can be effected, the union ought to result in good to both.

THERE IS opportunity for those who demand legislation favorable to workingmen to do some good in securing a law whereby employers are forbidden to require an employe to work more than six successive days without a day's rest. One day's rest in seven, no matter what the day, is as essential to the workingmen's welfare as an eight-hour day possibly can be.

THOSE WHO wish the police and fire commission bill to remain without amendment surely have not forgotten that in its present form it has afforded a good chance for lawyers' fees in the litigation which has taken place.

THERE is danger that the quarrel between the Cuban leaders Gomez and Maceo will do more to maintain Spain's supremacy in the island than General Campos and all the Spanish troops at his command.

GREAT BRITAIN'S display of naval force seems to have stiffened the British backbone, whether or not it has cowed either Venezuela or the Transvaal. Other nations have paid little attention to it.

Clinton, Missouri.

Mr. A. L. Armstrong, an old druggist, and a prominent citizen of this enterprising town, says: "I sell some forty different kinds of cough remedies, but have never in my experience sold such of any one article as I have of *Ballard's Horehound Syrup*. All who use it say it is the most perfect remedy for Cough, Cold, Consumption, and all diseases of the Throat and Lungs, they have ever tried." It is a specific for Croup and Whooping Cough. It will relieve a Cough in one minute. Contains no opiates. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Store.

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NOTICE.

THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE FIRST NEW Equitable Claims Association, are hereby notified that there will be a special stockholders' meeting, at No. 7 and 9 North Main Street, at 7:30 p. m. on Monday, the 27th of January, to transact business of importance. A prompt and full attendance is desirable.

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