

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Lorenzo Snow, Trustee-in-Trust.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 25, 1900.

"FAKE" REPORTS.

The false reports sent over the wires about the contribution of \$50,000 each to the Republican national campaign fund, by Governor Wells and Messrs. Thos. Kearns and Ed. Loomis, have occasioned considerable misadventure. Telegrams from the governor and from Senator Mark Hanna, show that there was no foundation for the story and no excuse for the falsehood.

The Deseret News, in printing the dispatch, characterized it as "A Fairly Tale" and added some comments showing that it was a reporter's fabrication. But the Tribune published it next morning, with the black leading headline, "Is Not a Fair Tale," and backed it up with a "special," stating not only that the contribution was made, but that Governor Wells himself affirmed it and explained that.

"Just to make statement for what we have done, we have sent our checks for \$50,000 to Chairman Hanna as our contribution to the campaign."

"Attention for what we have done," is explained by the story that two of the parties named "gave \$50,000 each to the Bryan campaign," four years ago. But both statements were equally untrue. The alleged contributions to the Bryan campaign fund, were as fictitious as those to the McKinley fund. Governor Wells did not tell anything of the kind, either to the Tribune special correspondent, or to the reporter whose "fake" was received by the Associated Press.

It is now claimed that the falsehoods in the "Tribune special" appeared in a Philadelphia evening paper, and that it offered in excuse. But the "special" did not so announce it. The words published were given as those of Governor Wells, not as something taken from a newspaper. It states them as what "Governor Wells said at the Continental at noon today." The whole thing was a fraud. The Governor did not talk to any reporter, and did not say anything of the kind to anybody.

This vile custom of making up "interviews" that never took place, and placing words in people's mouths that were never uttered, is entirely outside of that freedom of speech and of the press that is properly protected, and which should be maintained by all lovers of liberty. It is criminal per se. It ought to be punished severely by law.

It is time that respectable journals in this country took action in this matter. It is of public importance. They should refuse to employ "fake" reporters and correspondents. They should insist on prosecuting the scoundrels, who thus impose on the reader and vilify the person alleged to be interviewed. Such fellows are a curse to the profession. They ought to be barred out.

Mistakes are often to be condoned. They may occur with the best of men, and the most respectable of papers. But the wilful fabrications of artful falsehood, which find their way in print, are inexorable and deserve the severest condemnation. Public sentiment against them should take form in such proceedings as will stamp them out of every journal having any claim to truth and decency.

PROFESSIONAL EXTORTION.

The Deseret News has been requested to state its views as to the exorbitant charges for attendance, made by some members of the medical profession. Instances are given of excessive fees imposed on poor people, such as respectable physicians would not attempt to extort, even from wealthy patients. If what we have been told is true, and it comes from most reliable sources, such attempted robbery ought to be resisted and legal action initiated.

It has been pretty well known that from \$5 to \$10 a visit, in ordinary cases, is a common fee for a reputable physician. Even this is sometimes discounted, at the doctor's option, for such cases as he may consider sufficient. There are regular fees for operations of different kinds which are recognized by the faculty. It is not any of these to which we now allude. It is the effort to impose excessive charges that we denounce.

Of course people who do not know what it costs in time and study, and money, to acquire a competent education in surgery and medicine, are apt to think all doctors' fees are exorbitant. More than that, they seem willing to pay almost any other account, before the doctor's bill. It is settled with reluctance, and often not at all except by compulsion. All that is wrong and not to be defended.

When a surgeon or a physician is needed, it is generally economical to get the best to be had, or at any rate to secure the services of one who is skillful and reliable and of good professional repute. Such doctors are usually more moderate, on the whole, in their charges than persons of less skill and inferior character. They will not, as a rule, impose on the unfortunate and the indigent.

Oppression is to be despised and resisted, no matter from what source it comes. We do not wish to particularize nor to become personal. We therefore do not give the details of the cases that have come to our notice. But we do say that when they occur, positive refusal should be made to excessive demands, and let the opinions of the authorities be had as to the actual value of the services rendered. Extortion is a crime. It is wrong in itself, it is forbidden by the law of God and of man. Especially is it shameful and wicked when imposed upon the sick and the needy.

AN ABSURD DISPATCH.

A dispatch from Denver, Colorado, has been going the rounds of the press to this effect:

"A carload of girls, converted to 'Mormonism,' passed through Denver today en route to Utah. They were in charge of a deacon and his wife. They came from Missouri, Illinois and other States."

It would be interesting to know the source of that kind of misinformation which is occasionally circulated throughout the country. There is not the slightest excuse for it. There never has been. "Carloads of girls" have never been shipped to Utah from any point, either to "marry Mormons," as alleged in this instance, or for any other purpose. Nor, if a body of "Mormons" were on their way to Utah would they be in charge of a "deacon."

Immigrants to Utah are not different, usually, from others as to sex. They come generally in families; frequently the number of males predominates, the question of marriage does not enter into their calculations. But with a majority of people "Mormonism" and marriage of a peculiar kind are so intimately associated as to be almost identical. This is in consequence of the untruths concerning it told by professed ministers of the Gospel and occasionally aided by press dispatches like that from Denver.

People who are informed on current events, however, are able to perceive the nonsensical character of such reports, and the general public will not be long before they see through the false stories concerning a religion and a people that have accomplished so much in the redemption of the wild West. While the principles of our faith are not yet widely understood, the constant stream of travel through Utah is having the effect of spreading abroad a better comprehension of the conditions existing in this State, and the folly of the rumors that have prevailed is being made extensively apparent.

One fact ought to be known, as it would furnish a sufficient refutation of such stories as that wired from Denver. That is, there are hosts of marriageable girls and women in Utah who are single, and apparently have no opportunity of entering the matrimonial state. It is something that is greatly deplored by thoughtful people anxious for the general welfare. There is not a town or settlement in Utah without a large number of young women, capable of marriage, who seem to have no present chance to become wives and mothers, for which nature has designed them. There is a backwardness on the part of many men, young and old, to embark on the sea of matrimony. Whether it is for fear of the expense which accompanies family responsibilities, or for other causes, is not explained, but the condition exists, and it is one that gives reason for serious reflection.

This being the situation in Utah, why should carloads of girls be imported? What sense would there be in such a proceeding under these circumstances? If the reading public would think a little more than is usual when they read such items in the newspapers as that we have quoted at the beginning of this article, they would fall into fewer errors and not be so frequently misled.

SUN SPOTS.

Astronomers are now studying the spots on the surface of the sun. These are believed to appear, in their maximum as to numbers and magnitude, with periodical regularity, about eleven years constituting the interval, and this year, it is said, a sun spot display is again on the schedule. The fact is interesting, because when these sun spots were first closely observed, a notion became prevalent that they exercised a powerful influence upon mundane affairs. To their appearance was ascribed not only atmospheric disturbances on the earth, such as storms, cyclones, tidal waves and so on, but also social upheavals, pestilence, famines, insurrections, business failures, and wars, were thought to have some mysterious connection with those solar phenomena. This view is no longer as common as it once was, but it is still predicted that the earth will experience an uncommonly warm summer season on account of the sun spots now due.

What are those spots in the blazing luminary? To this question science offers many suggestions but no certain answer. They vary in form and size—from a few miles in diameter to 100,000 miles—and they seem to be following the rotation of the sun around its axis. They have been supposed to be deposits on the sun's atmosphere, through which the darker kernel of the immense globe is seen beneath the flaming envelope. They are also supposed to be the products of tremendous storms on the surface of the sun. There seems to be no doubt as to their influence upon the affairs of our little globe, though their true nature is as deep a mystery as the sun itself. It is predicted that during the next three months there will appear a number of those spots, and that as a consequence the heat on earth will be intense.

If this prediction comes true, it will mean much suffering in many places, among those who are confined to the suffocating sweatboxes of the latter cities. If that excessive heat comes, the people of this region will once more feel gratified that their lot has been cast among the valleys of the mountains, where the heat of the day is made endurable by the cool breezes at night from the snow-clothed mountain ranges.

and the pure crystal waves of the lake. There is no more ideal spot between the two oceans than this region—in course of time destined to become the resort, both for health and for peace, of multitudes from all parts of the earth.

SERIOUS NEWS FROM ASIA.

The rumors from China are again less reassuring. They are that the foreign settlement at Tien Tsin has been destroyed; that the relief column has been repulsed; that Russia and Japan are concentrating large forces on Chinese soil; that American blood has been shed by the Chinese; that the capital of the empire has been set fire to by the rebels, and that the insurrection is spreading throughout the provinces.

These are all serious pieces of news, if founded on facts. If American sailors have been ambushed and slain, our government must demand adequate reparation, whether a state of war exists, or not, and in the present form, that may kindle the war torch.

Then, again, if Russia and Japan are massing their respective forces on Chinese soil, a collision appears inevitable. Japan fought China in order to wrest from her the protectorate over Korea. But Russia makes no secret of her intention to dominate that country. Japan took Port Arthur, but Russia now almost owns it. On every point Japan has been frustrated by Russia, which, like a harpy, seizes with her eagle talons that which has been betrayed by her angel's face. It would be a miracle, if the Japanese and Russians could meet in China without a collision. And if the Japanese should force their government into an armed conflict, it is doubtful whether the war could be confined within narrow bounds. Most likely it would be "poured out upon all nations."

The intimation that the United States government is making preparations for war on a scale that would surprise the people at home, as well as all foreign nations is, under the circumstances, very satisfactory. For only when this country can back up her peaceful policy with a strength adequate for emergencies, can she make herself heard and respected in the din and noise of the armed hosts of the world.

Tien Tsin figured prominently in the Taiping rebellion nearly fifty years ago. At that place a treaty was entered into between China and France and England, but this was immediately violated, whereupon a British fleet of fifteen vessels attempted to enter the Peiho river. The British met with so vigorous opposition at the Taku ports, that four vessels were disabled. It took a combined force of British and French ships to capture those forts. After this had been done, Tien Tsin was taken, and finally Peking, where Lord Elgin made the foreign conquest forever memorable by the destruction of the famous Summer palace.

History seems to be repeating itself in China. The "Boxer" rebellion is a second Taiping insurrection. It will be put down, as was the first, with the utmost severity. And it will be made the excuse for the completion of the dismemberment of the empire, which has been going on for some years past.

THE WHEAT CROP.

Estimates of the winter wheat crop of the United States for this year place it at 325,000,000 bushels, or about 25,000,000 more than last year. But the spring wheat is believed to be less satisfactory. News from Minnesota and the Dakotas are to the effect that long drought has cut the crop about one-half, and some make the outlook even worse than that. Of course these statements are also contradicted, and the interested public must form its judgment as best it can as to what is truth, and what is rumor put into circulation for the purpose of influencing the stock market.

The Chicago Record, in summing up the situation, suggests that the truth is to be found between the two extremes. There has been severe and protracted drought in the Northwest, and the wheat crop must be supposed to have suffered some. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that instead of the 250,000,000 bushels raised last year we may not harvest more than 175,000,000 bushels this season. While this will be a serious loss to the growers, it will not be of sufficient magnitude to approach a national calamity. The net results of the harvest, the Record thinks, would be only 45,000,000 less than last year, or about 600,000,000 bushels, yet the average annual production for five years, which includes some of our biggest crop years, has been only 525,000,000 bushels, and the average for the last nine years only 514,000,000 bushels.

INCREASE OF CANCER.

The San Francisco Call directs attention to the fact that medical science has at last awakened to find a notable increase in deaths, in recent years, from cancer. But what is still more remarkable is that this disease is spreading in Europe and the United States and is far from totally absent in Arabia, some parts of Africa, Iceland, Jamaica, New Caledonia, Persia, and the Faroe Islands.

Statistics show that in England and Wales, during thirty-one years, there has been an increase from 26.5 persons dying from cancer in 100,000 living population in 1864 to 73.5 in 1895. A similar increase is noted in Ireland and Scotland, and investigations incline to the belief that the condition of affairs is as bad in this country.

The ravages of this terrible disease in the United States may perhaps be best understood from this statement:

"The greatest increase has occurred in the city of San Francisco, where the rate has crept up from 16.5 cases in 100,000 population in 1866 to 108.5 cases in 1895. In 1898, this enormous increase of more than six times as many in thirty-two years is deserving of special attention by the people of that city. The city of Boston shows the next most considerable increase, the ratio of cases in living persons having almost tripled in the twenty-four years between 1874 and 1897. After the latter date there was a temporary decrease, followed by a tendency to increase to the present time. In the seven largest American cities, exclusive of Chicago, with a combined population in 1870 of 3,207,464, there were 999 deaths from cancer, or 35.4 deaths per 100,000 living persons."

It is considered strange that a disease of this kind should be spreading with irresistible force in the civilized world, while it is hardly known among people supposed to be outside that circle. And, naturally, the query is raised as to the cause of this.

So far the anti-vaccinationists are about the only ones who have offered a theory on that point. They claim, with considerable vigor, that the spread of cancer, and some other fatal diseases, is due, sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly, to the annual virus civilized nations force into their veins. The idea is, of course, scorned by some doctors, who, however, fail to account for the almost perfect physique found in Arabia, for instance, and some other oriental countries.

We do not care to discuss at this time the much-debated pro and anti-vaccination question, but it seems to be an accepted scientific principle, that "a morbid poison applied to different animals, produces, not a similar and specific disease, but the disease to which the animal from constitution and structure is predisposed." If this is true, it is conceivable that by vaccination, various serious disorders may be started. In fact, there is medical authority for this. Dr. Montague R. Levenson, of Fort Hamilton, New York, writing about this subject in a health journal called Vaccination, says that the poison implanted by vaccination may, as in most cases happens, be eliminated from the system through an ulcer. But it may also set up a virulent condition not to be distinguished from syphilis by the most skillful syphilographers; or it may excite into activity and throw into circulation the virus of any other disease lying dormant in the system, which is continually happening with a large number of persons predisposed to tuberculosis; or it may lie dormant for years, and at last start into activity a disposition to disease, such as cancer and osteomyelitis. The former, Dr. Levenson says, has greatly increased in prevalence among the vaccinating nations, while of the latter there is no record prior to that discovery.

Medical science, we believe, is much concerned about the increase of such diseases, and is eagerly looking for remedies. But is it pursuing its investigations in the right direction? To a layman it certainly appears that the facts presented and arguments adduced against the poisoning of the human system—an invention that belongs to a time when medical science was still trying to master its first letters of the alphabet—deserve greater consideration than orthodoxy is inclined to accord them. There must be some cause for the increase of certain diseases among the civilized nations, and if it is not that alleged by the anti-vaccinationists, what is it? Why should the child of the desert in his filthy tent be more immune from certain diseases, than the European who passes his entire life under the care of sanitary inspectors and boards of health?

INTOLERANCE AT HOME.

The Truth Seeker of June 22nd has the annexed paragraphs on evidences of intolerance in this country:

"A mob of what the dispatches euphemistically call 'clericals,' but who in fact were Catholics, mobbed the Methodist church in Rome on June 14th, and prevented the holding of a meeting at which a converted priest was announced to speak. The powers will not interfere."

"Two Mormon Elders were mobbed and stoned in Corbin, Whitley county, Ky., June 15th, by local Methodist and Baptist 'Boxers.' No warships or troops will be sent."

Our attention was called to those news items by a tourist who loves fair play and free speech, and does not think it any more proper for mobocracy to prevail in America than in China. Of course there is a vast difference in the two situations. Yet outbursts of the kind mentioned ought not to be allowed to go unpunished. No matter who may be the guilty parties they ought to be amenable to the law. At the same time it would not be right to charge the crimes of individuals against the church or society to which they belong, unless it advocates or condones the wrong.

A hot number—100 in the shade.

The ordinary hired girl can break up China much faster and more effectively than the combined powers.

Uncle Sam is said to be making a poor show in Paris. He is making a mighty good showing in China.

China, for the first time, takes a lively interest in that famous old song of forty years ago, containing the lines, "Where rolls the Oregon."

There will be no fighting between Russia and Japan or any of the other powers, until the trouble in China is settled. What may follow that settlement it would be hazardous to predict.

There does not appear to be many aspirants for the appointments to West Point announced by Senator Rawlins. It is a rare chance for young men ambitious of military glory. The examination takes place Thursday.

A New York paper has asked the opinion of thirty-five Democratic national and state committeemen on this question: "Who would make the strongest running mate for Bryan in the doubtful States?" Without any hesitation we should say that Sandow would.

Property owners who are annoyed for the purpose of putting down paved walks are totally unable to understand wherein they are benefited by allowing bicyclists to use the paved walks for which they have been compelled to pay. No satisfactory explanation has as yet been forthcoming.

Councilman Hartenstein should receive the active support of all pedestrians in his reasonable efforts to have the bicycle-on-the-sidewalk nuisance abated. He is encountering much opposition, but all good work in behalf of mankind encounters opposition at the start. He is fighting the good fight. Let him be encouraged.

The excursion season is in full swing all over the country, and with it comes the seemingly inevitable chapter of fatal accidents. The weather at such seasons is usually of a kind to make any extra effort on the part of railway employees a considerable strain, while of necessity excursion trains move or less disarrange time schedules, thereby increasing the chance for accidents. Deploable as are these mishaps, still the wonder is that they are not greater in number rather than less.

The city is declared officially free from smallpox. This is well. There are many people who believe there never was a genuine case of smallpox during all the wanton and senseless excitement over it. Those in charge of the health of the city almost went into hysteria over it, while the schools were closed and the pupils and their parents were thrown into a state of worry, that was very trying to the nerves. Should another such scare unfortunately arise, it is to be hoped that the public health officials will be cooler and more conservative than they were last winter. Common sense is more essential at such times than so much "science."

Rodulism is becoming rampant in our city. Only the other day an old Chinaman was most unmercifully beaten by three hoodlums in the Third precinct, and no one was arrested for the outrage. Of course those who perpetrated this outrage were particular to see that no police officer was near. This assault upon an 'inoffensive old man' was prompted by nothing but wickedness of heart. It is a matter of much regret that the vicious element among the youth of the city cannot be apprehended, when out committing outrages on people and deprecations upon property. A more vigilant exercise of parental authority would go a long way towards improving matters in this respect.

THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

Springfield Republican.

Roosevelt's nomination may be welcomed by the opposition to the present revolutionary tendencies in the government, and the policy of forcible Asiatic annexations. With him on the ticket a campaign of soft pretensions and evasion as to ultimate purposes will be made next to impossible.

Worcester Spy.

But whatever our personal desires regarding the vice presidency, should there be an overwhelming demand for Roosevelt on the national ticket, he will receive the unanimous and cordial support of all Republicans. The slouch hat will become the party's emblem. Marching clubs will clothe themselves with yellow cavalry facings. The party will stand on a "kiki" platform, and on a "kiki" platform it will win success. * * * While McKinley is quietly receiving callers in the White House, Teddy will be conducting a strenuous rear platform campaign from ocean to ocean.

New York Journal.

It is doubtful if Roosevelt's nomination will add strength to the ticket in this State. He is probably more popular in the middle West than in the East. This popularity is based almost altogether on sentiment springing from his war record. It was the sentiment that elected him governor, but it is not likely that such sentiment will figure to a vital extent in a presidential election.

Kansas City Star.

New York has furnished more Vice Presidents than any other State in the Union, and the supply does not by any means seem to be exhausted.

New York World.

The idea of Mr. Jefferson was that in his relation to the two highest offices in the gift of the people, every citizen capable of filling them should hold himself toward his sovereign. The Queen's request to him to form a new ministry is equivalent to a command. In the last at liberty to seek the duty nor to decline it. And that was, no doubt, not Jefferson's idea only, but that of Washington, Madison and his other great contemporaries. Judged by that standard of propriety—and none better has ever been suggested—Mr. Roosevelt's persistent declaration of the Vice Presidential nomination and Mr. Woodruff's tireless pursuit of it have been in equally bad form.

Baltimore Sun.

"If I refuse the nomination for Vice President," observed Governor Roosevelt yesterday, "the people will say: 'Roosevelt has the big head and thinks he is too much of a man to be Vice President.' Rather than have the dear people think he is suffering from cranial enlargement, therefore, the Governor may allow himself to be selected as Mr. McKinley's running mate on the ticket to be named by the Republican national convention, despite his diplomatic statement yesterday."

Boston Transcript.

Speaking of the presidency and vice presidency, the Herald says that "no one has declined after he has been nominated for either position by one of the great parties of the country." As a matter of fact, two persons have declined the nomination for the vice presidency after being nominated for the position "by one of the great parties of the country," namely, John Hamilton in 1812; Silas Wright in 1844, and Benjamin Fitzpatrick, in 1890.

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