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SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 22, 1906.

THE SALT LAKE POSTOFFICE.

The re-appointment of Postmaster Arthur L. Thomas is considered to be assured. His present term of office expires on Feb. 7 and therefore the time was opportune to move for his retention, if that was desirable. It appears that the entire Utah delegation in Congress were in favor of his reappointment and therefore joined in the recommendation, which will no doubt result in his continuing in the position that he has occupied with the approval of the public. No one who either differs with him in party politics, or wants to step into his official shoes, or favors the appointment of some friend or supporter for his place, can truthfully assert that he has not been an efficient public servant. That he has some enemies does not argue anything of weight against him. That is the fate of every public man who has any force of character. That some improvements are needed in the workings of the post-office here is indisputable, but it does not follow that the fault is his. The new quarters are not fully adapted to the requirements of the work and the locality, with the rapid growth of the business here, and the force at hand is under many disadvantages. We hope these will be overcome, and we are sure that they will be, if Postmaster Thomas has his way. We believe his reappointment will receive general endorsement from all classes of people, and in that the Deseret News cordially joins and adds its approval.

SOCIAL EVILS.

The Springfield Republican takes an optimistic view of the general moral condition of society, notwithstanding the fact that divorces are growing more numerous every year. Our contemporary argues that divorces are more frequent, not because there are more cases of violation of the marriage covenants than formerly, but because married people are becoming less patient and submissive under such conditions, and separate rather than live together and suffer, as many did in the past.

The statistics show that 1,698 divorces were granted during the year 1904 in the state of Massachusetts. In 1903 there were more cases of separation, but the number was quite an increase over that of previous years. In fact, the divorce in that state doubled in twenty years.

The Republican shows that of the 21,000 divorces granted during the twenty years, 9,867, or nearly one-half were because of desertion, mostly on the part of the husband; 4,059 divorces were granted for adultery, and of these 1,993, or less than one-half, were given to women; 2,728 were for intoxication, 2,297 going to women against bibulous husbands; while 2,693 were for cruel and abusive treatment, 2,617 being obtained by wives. These four causes account for 19,347 of the total of 21,000 divorces for the twenty years. The others were for various causes. But, so far from regarding the present situation discouraging, from a moral point of view, our contemporary holds that we may account for the increase in divorces on the "assumption that the moral tone of society has improved instead of declining—that on the whole there is less drunkenness, less cruel and abusive treatment and less laxity in sexual relations than formerly obtained." The Republican concludes: "It is quite possible that this rise of the divorce rate is due simply to an increasing indisposition of people to be held down by the restraints imposed by law or convention under conditions which are hostile to individual comfort or happiness."

The argument might stand, were it not for the fact that there are many other signs of a lower moral standard. Only the other day, Rev. Dr. Madison C. Peters, according to a New York dispatch, publicly charged that inebriety is increasing among society women. He said, in part:

"Closely observe the goings-on in the fashionable drinking places of our city, and nine out of ten women drink, drink habitually, their tipsy identical with those of men, and the calls as frequent; drinking with men and women, and alone, at luncheon, at dinner, at supper and between times, young women and old, to say nothing of the drinking in their homes, where nobody except their maids sees them. Fashionable physicians know that I tell the truth. Alcoholism among women is alarmingly on the increase."

Take another illustration. A prominent physician, a few months ago, in an address before a medical society, stated that if the physicians should reveal all the secrets in their possession, "society would be disrupted and churches dismembered." He had reference to the criminal practices which, he claimed, are so common that, in his estimation, 20,000,000 unborn children have been put out of existence since the days of President Lincoln. In the estimation of this authority, it has come to be a fact now that only the vicious, the ignorant, and the very poor are producing the future American citizen in any considerable numbers.

Not only is this condition prevalent

to a larger extent than ever, but it is finding open defenders. One married woman, some time ago, wrote in the Independent, stating that though she and her husband were young, strong, and comfortably situated, they had agreed not to have any children. The reason she gave was that the advent of children in the family would mean that she would have to devote nearly all of her time to them, and that would take her away from her work of social "usefulness."

Now, if such facts are not the symptoms of a social disease that threatens to become fatal, we fail to read the signs of the times. The increase in divorces is but another symptom of the ailment, and there is only one remedy for it, and that is the Gospel of the Redeemer. That can cure the social evil, and when the cure is effected, the symptoms will disappear.

DOMINANT NATIONS.

Someone has figured out that the English speaking nations now own more property, and more ships, than France, Germany and Russia together. The estimated wealth, national and private, of the United States and the United Kingdom is \$165,000,000,000, while that of the other three countries is only \$133,000,000,000. The United States and Great Britain possess 279 battleships and cruisers, whereas those of the three powers named number 202. No wonder the Germans who aspire to a dominant position in the world, are anxious to have their navy enlarged.

With regard to trade, the English-speaking nations again far surpass their rivals. According to the authority quoted the exports of this country and Great Britain in 1904 were double those of France, Germany and Russia—\$4,900,000,000 to \$2,475,000,000. In this connection it is noted that education is more general in the countries where English is spoken than in the other countries, and this fact is really noticable, as a proof of the general proposition that knowledge is power.

CHINA'S ARMY.

The visit in this country of the Chinese commissioners who said they had been sent here by their government to study American conditions, is a reminder to the world that China is no longer the slumbering, dreaming giant of former years. A great awakening has already taken place, and there is every reason for the belief that the advancement there will be as rapid as that of Japan has been.

Some time ago the dispatches told of the army maneuvers of China. Expert reports upon this exhibition illustrate this fact. There were 17,000 men on one side, and 15,000 on the other. A large amount of difficult transportation work had to be done, and now it is said, by the experts, that the efficiency of the transport branch of the service was really remarkable, even when tested by European and American standards.

Concerning the soldiers and their efficiency, the reports say that "between a European and a Chinese regiment on the march there is nothing to choose. Physique, equipment and deportment impress one as being much the same." Skirmishing was, according to the reports, conducted in the orthodox order. The men showed that they knew how to avail themselves of every scrap of cover. It was unanimously agreed that a high state of discipline existed. The way the soldiers endured some very trying work gave good evidence that they were in fine condition and well handled. The medical staff was everywhere present, but its services were hardly ever needed. The engineer branch is given much praise, as is also the handling of their guns by the artillery.

Some criticism is directed against the generalship and the tactics, but it is remembered that in such maneuvers the movements of the armies are determined beforehand. Even the critics say: "We saw quite enough to prove that both officers and men understood their business, and that if they had been free to work out the situations as they arose they would have done it in very different fashion." China is awakening, and it should not take her many years to catch up with Japan.

EXAGGERATED REPORTS.

Prof. George Frederick Wright of Oberlin seminary, has visited Russia recently, and he is of the opinion that many of the reports from that country are "a lot of exaggerated nonsense." That is probably true. When strict census is exercised and it is difficult to disseminate the truth, reporters very often fall back upon the products of their own imagination. Sometimes they even prefer these to the cold facts, especially when they have reason to believe that the public are hungry for sensations.

That has been true with regard to Russia. And, as a consequence, events that were not extraordinary were reported as indicating the fins of the czar's government, and in many other instances things that probably had no bearing whatever on politics were construed as having no possible bearing on anything else. The world was inclined to expect and believe the worst about Russia and the world was not to be disappointed. Prof. Wright calls attention to this very matter in pointing out that the most serious of the

disturbances have not been in the empire proper, but in the annexed states. But with all proper allowance for exaggerations, Russia is passing through a crisis from which she will emerge either cured of her ills, or worse than ever. The country is about to have an election for the promised representative assembly. The manner in which these elections are conducted will indicate the fitness of the people for the reforms they demand. The liberal papers are sanguine that the goal will be attained. The Novosti, for instance, is quoted as follows:

"Reaction is impossible. It would be without foundation or props in the national life of Russia. Either internal forces or external, or a combination of both, would in a very short space of time defeat the reactionary movement, and put an end forever to the dying, discredited order. How would the commercial and industrial interests regard reaction? What would the country think of a government which had repudiated solemn promises and the wills, it says:

"The Russ is even more radical, when, speaking of the possible failure of de Witte it says:

"But there will arise a dictatorship! They warn us. Well, what of it? Let it come, if it must. This last proof of the government's insanity. Let them try it, if they will, and if they dare face the certain consequences. The chaos, the official anarchy, is more dangerous than any military dictatorship. If the government would restore normal conditions, let it cease to be lawless, revolutionary and perfidious; let it give us the freedom it has promised. If Witte cannot make the government honestly constitutional, he should retire. We will take the alleged risk."

The leaders in the struggle for Russian freedom seem to be confident of success now, no matter what course the government may take. They look upon the national assembly as the means of national salvation.

In the new pickle factory presumably there are some rods.

Walking the plank is often preliminary to walking the street.

Experience isn't the beginning of wisdom; it's the lack of it.

The English land slide is a veritable ice age for those caught in it.

What a Hotspur John Sharp Williams would be if he had a majority behind him!

Anyone desiring a Marshall Pass on the Rio Grande will please apply to Col. Benton.

For his treatment of M. Taigny Castro might tender France an apology pro vita sua.

Castro won't mind a naval demonstration any more than the Sultan needs an ultimatum.

William R. Hearst has killed a mountain lion in Mexico, but he couldn't kill a Tiger in New York.

If the House of Representatives will but curb the heads of departments enough it will make them dance.

What shall it profit the people to prosecute and convict the Beef trust and the price of beef is not reduced?

Columbus was just setting sail from Palos. "Where are you going?" asked Isabella. "To the Indies by the westward route." "Very well, but see America first."

The Chinese imperial commissioners have been investigating Chicago's methods of slaughtering. The knowledge thus acquired may be useful in China's next war.

President Reyes of Colombia says: "The capital is declared in a state of siege in order to judge conspirators with perfect calmness." Perfect calmness and justice with a vengeance!

The Porto Ricans must be studying American history, for they object to American officials sent to rule over them, as Americans objected to English officials sent to rule over them.

The petition against the destruction of the old fragile Constitution, signed by 200,000 residents of Massachusetts, has been presented to the president. That petition represents the sentiments of eighty million Americans, with slight exception.

Counsel Charles E. Hughes, addressing the Brown University club of New York said that college graduates were as anxious to get their share of graft as the uneducated man. Weren't there some Yale and Harvard men among the great grafters of the great insurance companies?

A publisher is quoted as saying that some of the world's best literary work has been done in jail, citing "Pilgrim's Progress," "Don Quixote," "Rimind" and Sir Walter Raleigh's "History of the World" as examples of what imprisoned writers have produced. It might also improve the work of many modern authors to send them to jail. It is worth a trial.

The Kansas City Star tells of a so-called palmist who was in trouble on account of the way he was making money. He testified in court that he was aware that he was practicing a fraudulent "profession," but he did so because he was in need of money, and he did not want to steal. That fellow only expressed the sentiment of thousands who do not care by what fraud they obtain money, as long as they do not steal. But, what are we coming to when the moral sense is becoming so blunt as not to perceive that living by fraud is stealing?

EXPORT TAX ON ELECTRICITY.

From Engineering.
The Swiss Federal council has put before the federal assembly a bill to prevent the export of electrical energy proceeding from the Swiss water falls without special authorization from the federal council. All concessions which form part of existing international treaties are exempted from the above restriction. In future the federal council will only grant its interests in cases in which Swiss interests

will not risk being affected, and this authorization will be able to be withdrawn at any time.

THE NEXT WAR.

Public Ledger.
Were France and Germany to fight—what then? This is the question that is engaging the quidnuncs. In peace manoeuvres France has thrown her armies against the German frontier. In similar practice at war Emperor William has flung his legions against the line that delimits the two nations. In event of hostilities evolving from the critical Moroccan situation, would the German eagle flap his exulting wings in Paris, as in the campaign of '70, or would some recrudescence of military genius enable France to sweep her hereditary foe and again set in her cap those twin jewels, Alsace and Lorraine, whose loss she has ever mourned?

FIGURES THAT STAGGER.

London Telegraph.
It used to be that astronomy, with its stupendous magnitudes, incredible velocities, and inconceivable distances, seemed to make the greatest demand on man's belief. Today it is physics. We read for instance that Hertz's oscillations give rise to 500,000,000 oscillations per second. Where is the man who can conceive of anything happening in the five hundred millionth part of a second? But this is quite a long period compared to some of those now accepted as inevitable in optics. According to Maxwell's great theory, a light wave is a series of alternating electric currents flowing in air or interplanetary space, and changing their direction 1,000,000,000,000 times per second. And this is supposed to be true of every form of light coming from the sun, the electric lamp or a huffer match. Who can think of anything happening in the thousand million millionth part of a second?

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BARGAINS

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REGARDLESS OF COST.

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All New Stock.

Men's High Grade Shoes, always sold for \$3.00 to \$7.00 a pair,
will be sold at \$1.95 to \$4.65
Ladies' Fine Shoes, Slippers, etc., regular values \$2.50 to \$6.50,
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WE WILL OFFER SOME EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD BAR-
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