

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING
(Sunday Excepted)

Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah

HORACE G. WHITNEY, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
(In Advance)

One Year \$10.00
Six Months \$6.00
Three Months \$3.50
One Month \$1.00
Single Copies 5c
Saturday Edition, per Postoffice \$2.00
Semi-Weekly, per Postoffice \$2.00

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 at Salt Lake
City as second class matter according
to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 26, 1909.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

We have before us the second annual
report of the Public Service Commission,
Second District, of the state of
New York for the year 1908. It contains
some information that may be of
local interest in view of the agitation
for a commission in this state.

It shows, for instance, that at the
beginning of the year, the number of
persons in the employ of the commission
was 66; at the end of the year this
number had increased to 85. Twenty-two
employees having been added during the
year.

At the close of the year there were
244 corporations, or concerns, under the
supervision of the commission. Among
these there were 199 steam railroad corporations,
141 street railroad corporations,
1 express companies, and 312
electrical corporations and plants, be-
sides coal, gas, and water corporations.
But, notwithstanding this great number
and variety of business concerns—244 in
all—the total number of complaints re-
ceived during the year was only 1,329.

These complaints are divided into
two classes, according to the method of
handling them. One class is called cor-
respondence complaints because they
are made the subject of correspondence
with the corporations against which
they are entered. There were 1,147 in
this class. The remaining 182 com-
plaints were in a class called formal.

Of the 1,147 correspondence com-
plaints, 925 were closed during the year,
and of the 222 formal complaints, 172
were closed. Three hundred and ninety-
six public hearings were held. The salary
of each commissioner—and there are
five—is by law fixed at \$15,000 a
year. The annual salary of counsel to
the commission is \$10,000. Then there are
secretaries, with \$6,000 a year, and of-
ficers, clerks, inspectors, experts and
employes, and "persons appointed by
the counsel," all of whom "shall re-
ceive the compensation fixed by the
commission." There are, as already noted,
eighty-eight employees in all. A com-
mission is, by no means, a cheap in-
stitution.

In the report before us it is pointed
out that the purpose of the law relat-
ing to railroad rate schedules, is to
prevent unjust discrimination in trans-
portation charges. Some abuses have
been corrected, it is said, but others
remain. No case involving any great
body of rates on freight articles were
brought to hearing and submission, but
some commodity rates and some
switching and weighing charges were
ordered reduced and a number of
freight rates were changed as the result
of procedure before the commission.
And it is especially noted that in a large
number of cases remedy was afforded
by the carriers themselves, after an in-
formal complaint had been made.

As an illustration of many of the
cases that come under the notice of the
Commission the following is quoted:

"The carriers changed a regulation in
the official classification so as to re-
quire every separate piece of freight to
be marked with the name and address
of the consignee. The result was that
shippers of grain, fish, iron, brick,
flour in sacks, and many other articles,
immediately complained of the hard-
ship and increased cost, and as to some
shippers it plainly appeared that the
cost of marking exceeded the profit on
the shipments, investigation was
promptly ordered and had, a new regu-
lation fair to carrier and shipper was
prepared by the commission and dis-
posed to be substituted for the one found
burdensome and unjust. This order
was immediately complied with by all
carriers within this state."

One of the duties of the Commission
is to concentrate its attention upon
the safety of the public using the rail-
roads, and employees in their service.
The report states that many of the ac-
cidents that occur are due to the care-
lessness of the persons trespassing up-
on the railroad right of way, and nothing
can be done to prevent these. But the
Commission has eliminated some grade
crossings and urged the proper
maintenance of roads and structures.

Work not relating to the lines of
transportation is also reported, such as
the inspection of gas plants, gas and
electric meters, etc.

A careful study of the details of the
report leaves the impression that a
commission, such as that contemplated
in a bill now before the Legisla-
ture, at the very best is a costly and
cumbersome machine, the operation of
which is not entirely satisfactory in the
results obtained. Our legislators may
well hesitate before introducing in
this state, at a considerable expense
that will increase every year, an in-
stitution of more than 250 employes,
in a young commonwealth anxious
to encourage investment in railroad
construction and lawful manufactur-
ing enterprise of every kind. It is
absolutely certain that unwise legis-
lation in this direction would be detri-
mental to such investments. While
it would make a few places for office
hunters and be a benefit to them, it
would not be beneficial to the state,
and particularly to the sections that
are dependent upon further railroad ex-
tension for their development.

We do not wish to be understood as
opposed to the proper application of
railroad rates. We have repeatedly
stated that, in our opinion, Utah is en-
titled to lower rates on many commodi-
ties and we are still of the same
opinion. But how can a so-called pub-
lic utility commission be of any par-
ticular service in that regard? Such

a Commission would have no jurisdic-
tion on any interstate rates whatever,
its authority would be limited to rates
between stations in Utah. Would that
be worth the proposed annual expense
for a Commission?

It is true the Commission could lodge
complaints with the Interstate Com-
merce Commission, but it is not needed
for that purpose, because any citizen,
any firm, any company can do that just
as well and just as effectively. We be-
lieve the efforts of the Traffic Bureau
are just as likely to bring results as
those of a Commission would be.

As long as the State is not imperfec-
tly developed and needs outside capital,
it also is not burdened with a Com-
mission that can be of very little
value to the State. We hope our leg-
islature, who count among their mem-
bers many conservative business men
with the interests of the State at heart,
will take time to consider that meas-
ure and not take any action that may
be regretted later, no matter what pres-
sure may be brought to bear upon them.

THREE Doves OF PEACE.

An interesting political forecast is
that "three doves of peace," as they
are termed, will hover over the coun-
try during the next four years, as an
especial mark of President Taft's ad-
ministration.

According to Samuel G. Hootch's
forecast the new administration is to be
characterized by peace and rest from
the somewhat strenuous features of
President Roosevelt's administration.

The chief reason for this prognosti-
cation Mr. Hootch finds in the fact that
the "good combination"—Root, Knox,
and Crane—will be very influential for
peace and quietness during the ensu-
ing four years.

The principal thing, this writer
claims, will be "in the nature of less
noise and more conservatism in the
White House," and he proceeds to
"size up" the situation in the follow-
ing manner:

"Root and Knox were both in the
Roosevelt Cabinet and both great
friends of the President. Now, Knox
will go into the Taft Cabinet as Prom-
otee, and Root will take the place of
Thomas C. Platt as Secretary of War
from New York. It would be both ungrace-
ful and untrue to charge that either
of these men was ever disloyal to Mr.
Roosevelt, for neither has been, al-
though it is likely that Mr. Roosevelt
did many things that were not ap-
proved by either Root or Knox. While
they had service with Mr. Roosevelt
they were in that service, but neither
these tendencies, nor their practices
made them think all that was done
was what should be done.

"Root and Knox are great lawyers,
great corporation lawyers, and Crane
is a great business man. Root and
Knox have been careful enough to
keep to themselves what they have
thought of many of Mr. Roosevelt's
policies, but soon they will be out in
the open and at work, laying the
foundation for an era of conservatism.
So long as they have the Taft ear
they will keep dipping into it the story
that the business interests of the coun-
try deserve a rest, and, from the very
nature of the man, they are likely to
find a responsive listener in Mr. Taft.
He is not strenuous. He is calm and
judicial. He has plenty of nerve, but
he goes ahead slowly, with a hop-
skip-and-jump.

"Murray Crane, the third member of
the Root-Platt Triplets, is a big man-
ufacturer of paper, always a business
man, who has had success in Massa-
chusetts politics and who has come to
be a power in the Senate since he was
elected as successor to George Frisbie
Hoar. He has never been in sym-
pathy with President Roosevelt nor his
policies, and he has never made any
secret of it. He has contended that
irreparable injury was done to the
business interests of the country by
many of the acts of President Roose-
velt, and he has always been opposed
to whatever end of those policies the
Senate has had to consider.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

In a characteristic editorial the Inter-
Mountain this morning criticizes the
work of the Republican State prohibi-
tion convention held at the Salt Lake
Theater Wednesday night. The claim
is made that it was not a Republican
meeting.

We have no desire to enter upon a
controversy on this point but wish to
say that according to the best infor-
mation we are able to obtain it was
called by Republicans. It was attend-
ed by Republican workers and voters
from all over the State. What does
it take to constitute a Republican
meeting?

Our protesting contemporary says
"They were invited as prohibitionists
and not as Republicans." A perusal
of the call will show that this is an
error. "In order to have a public ex-
pression of all loyal Republicans of
Utah who favor prohibition" the ideas
convention was called, and "represent-
ative Republicans from the various
counties" were asked to hold Republi-
can meetings and send Republican
delegates. To guard against the possi-
bility of an attempt to pack the house
with members of other political parties
cards of admission were issued to Re-
publican voters answering the call and
members of the Legislature, editors
and others interested were given seats
of honor on the stage. Some few
Democrats were present by invitation
but were not allowed to take any part
in the proceedings.

But, says the Inter-Mountain, "if it
were all Republican, that meeting could
not speak for the Republican party. It
was not called by the Republican lead-
ers. The state chairman was not con-
sulted in arranging for the meeting.
He was not consulted as to the ar-
rangements. He did not hire the hall.
He did not call the speakers. He
did not drill them as to what they
should say."

when the state chairman is not con-
sulted as to arrangements and hire of
the hall, where he does not enlist the
speakers and drill them in what they
should say, no convention is to be con-
sidered a Republican meeting?

In any society where the members are
dissatisfied with the manner in which
the officers are conducting affairs, they
may meet pursuant to a published no-
tice to take the affairs of the society
into their own hands.

The very purpose of that mass con-
vention of Republicans, as shown by
the resolutions adopted unanimously,
was a protest against the false rep-
resentations made that Utah Republicans
do not want prohibition.

The men and women there had as-
sembled to refute that charge. They
had petitioned. They had enlisted their
representatives in vain. They had
seen local platforms rejected and their
own appeals spurned because someone
was cracking a party whip in the
halls of the Legislature.

They wanted to show their senators
and representatives where the party
stands, and it seems to us, looking
at the matter from a disinterested, im-
partial point of view, that it would be
wisdom on the part of all concerned to heed
the voice which spoke from that mass con-
vention of representative Republicans.

The prohibition convention was a
great treat.

No man is a hero to his valet or to
his creditor.

It is impossible for a "lightward" to
be a close friend.

President-elect Taft is writing ar-
ticles for the magazines.

A winter of discontent generally
brings sighs for spring.

"The Servant in the House" does not
solve the servant question.

Freedom of the press doesn't mean
not paying for your paper.

Discussion of the best methods of dry
farming is anything but dry.

The Pearl's soap man is dead. An-
other bubble reputation burst.

With all the digging at Panama very
little scandal has been dug up.

Of course troubles never come singly.
If they did they wouldn't be troubles.

When a man gets a bogus half dol-
lar it makes him feel like thirty cents.

Few who are born with silver spoons
in their mouths turn out to be silver
tongued orators.

Those who have served on grand
juries know there is nothing very
grand about them.

Probably the last roasting President
Roosevelt will get in Congress was
given by a Colorado Cook.

It is possible for a woman to be a
King's Daughter and a Daughter of
the Revolution at the same time.

A University of Dublin professor says
that there are 20,000 tons of radium
dissolved in the sea. Sort of an Irish
dividend.

Miss Crocker's loss of a \$50,000 neck-
lace while attending a ball in San
Francisco seems to have been a case
of casting pearls before swine.

It looks as though the way was being
paved for the Standard Oil company to
be let off with a comparatively small
fine for rebating and to let it go at
that.

The treasury department has dis-
covered that Henry Hudson did not
discover the Hudson river. This is a
greater discovery than Hudson himself
made.

JUST FOR FUN.

Just Like New York.

"The village got is going to plead
emotional insanity as an excuse for
robbing them for roasts."

"What do you think of that?"
"I think his public spirit ought to
get him an acquittal. Ain't we aiming
at making Plunkville a metropolitan
town?"—Washington Herald.

The Old Cry of "Wolf."

Grave Boy—I want to go to my grand-
mother's funeral.

Employer—I can't let you go, and I
don't think you will be missed anyway,
as the last time she had a funeral there
were 15,000 people there.—Harpers
Weekly.

A Trust Buster.

Teacher—Tommy, what is a trust-
buster?

Tommy—Pa is.

Teacher—In what way, Tommy?

Tommy—Well, ma told him when he
went to the club last night that she'd
trust him to come home sober, and he
didn't.—Los Angeles Express.

Modest as Her Charm.

He (crispedly) I adore every-
thing that is grand, expensive, super-
b, I love the pearls, the so-
nnet, the perfect life.

She (blushing) Oh—oh, George,
how can I refuse you when you put it
so beautifully.—Boston Transcript.

Know the Dog.

First Trump—You won't get nothing
done'thru, then, you're a vege-
table.

Second Trump—Is that right?

First Trump—Yes, and they've got
a dog now at 1—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Friendly Correction.

Maudie—I'm a little uneasy in my
bed. Ned asked me to marry him, and
I told him I might, some day. Now,
would you call that a promise?

Morse—No, I should call it a threat.
—Tit-Bits.

And Learns It, Too.

Many a young man starting out to
conquer the world considers himself an

Alexander, when he is in reality but a
smart Alec.—Puck.

Not Every Man.

"Every man has his weakness, you
know," said the lady.

"No," he replied, "not every man
succeeds in getting his weakness to
accept him."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Who?

After some men get a start in life
they don't know when to stop.—Chicago
News.

THE ROSE OF THE RANCHO.

SALT LAKE THEATRE

TONIGHT AND SATURDAY

MATINEE SATURDAY

THOMAS JEFFERSON

In the Great American

"Rip Van Winkle"

As Played by Three Generations of
the Famous Jefferson Family.

Prices—Evening, 5c to \$1.25; Matinee,
2c to \$1.00. Children, 5c any-
where.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
and Wednesday matinee, "Mrs. Wicks
of the Cabbage Patch." Sale opens to-
day.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE SALT LAKE THEATRE.

I respectfully beg to draw your at-
tention to the forthcoming engage-
ment of Miss Gilbert Parker's great
drama, "The Right of Way," with
Gus Standish and Theodore Roberts
in their famous impersonations of
Charles Steele and Joe Portuguese.
The original New York company
and production will be seen here in
its entirety, and a performance of
first class excellence is guaranteed.
Yours very truly,
GEORGE D. PYPER.

BOTH PHONES 3550

ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE

Opheum

THEATRE

Gus, W. Leslie & Co. in "The Naked
Truth," "The World's End," and
"The Right of Way," with
Gus Standish, Robert & Nevada
Romer Sisters, Hawthorne & Bert
Kindred, Opheum Orchestra.

Matinee daily except Sunday.
Matinee—1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c.
Evening—2c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, 90c, 95c, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60, 1.70, 1.80, 1.90, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 2.60, 2.70, 2.80, 2.90, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 3.60, 3.70, 3.80, 3.90, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 4.60, 4.70, 4.80, 4.90, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 5.60, 5.70, 5.80, 5.90, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 6.60, 6.70, 6.80, 6.90, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 7.60, 7.70, 7.80, 7.90, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 8.60, 8.70, 8.80, 8.90, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 9.60, 9.70, 9.80, 9.90, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 10.60, 10.70, 10.80, 10.90, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 11.60, 11.70, 11.80, 11.90, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 12.60, 12.70, 12.80, 12.90, 13.00, 13.10, 13.20, 13.30, 13.40, 13.50, 13.60, 13.70, 13.80, 13.90, 14.00, 14.10, 14.20, 14.30, 14.40, 14.50, 14.60, 14.70, 14.80, 14.90, 15.00, 15.10, 15.20, 15.30, 15.40, 15.50, 15.60, 15.70, 15.80, 15.90, 16.00, 16.10, 16.20, 16.30, 16.40, 16.50, 16.60, 16.70, 16.80, 16.90, 17.00, 17.10, 17.20, 17.30, 17.40, 17.50, 17.60, 17.70, 17.80, 17.90, 18.00, 18.10, 18.20, 18.30, 18.40, 18.50, 18.60, 18.70, 18.80, 18.90, 19.00, 19.10, 19.20, 19.30, 19.40, 19.50, 19.60, 19.70, 19.80, 19.90, 20.00, 20.10, 20.20, 20.30, 20.40, 20.50, 20.60, 20.70, 20.80, 20.90, 21.00, 21.10, 21.20, 21.30, 21.40, 21.50, 21.60, 21.70, 21.80, 21.90, 22.00, 22.10, 22.20, 22.30, 22.40, 22.50, 22.60, 22.70, 22.80, 22.90, 23.00, 23.10, 23.20, 23.30, 23.40, 23.50, 23.60, 23.70, 23.80, 23.90, 24.00, 24.10, 24.20, 24.30, 24.40, 24.50, 24.60, 24.70, 24.80, 24.90, 25.00, 25.10, 25.20, 25.30, 25.40, 25.50, 25.60, 25.70, 25.80, 25.90, 26.00, 26.10, 26.20, 26.30, 26.40, 26.50, 26.60, 26.70, 26.80, 26.90, 27.00, 27.10, 27.20, 27.30, 27.40, 27.50, 27.60, 27.70, 27.80, 27.90, 28.00, 28.10, 28.20, 28.30, 28.40, 28.50, 28.60, 28.70, 28.80, 28.90, 29.00, 29.10, 29.20, 29.30, 29.40, 29.50, 29.60, 29.70, 29.80, 29.90, 30.00, 30.10, 30.20, 30.30, 30.40, 30.50, 30.60, 30.70, 30.80, 30.90, 31.00, 31.10, 31.20, 31.30, 31.40, 31.50, 31.60, 31.70, 31.80, 31.90, 32.00, 32.10, 32.20, 32.30, 32.40, 32.50, 32.60, 32.70, 32.80, 32.90, 33.00, 33.10, 33.20, 33.30, 33.40, 33.50, 33.60, 33.70, 33.80, 33.90, 34.00, 34.10, 34.20, 34.30, 34.40, 34.50, 34.60, 34.70, 34.80, 34.90, 35.00, 35.10, 35.20, 35.30, 35.40, 35.50, 35.60, 35.70, 35.80, 35.90, 36.00, 36.10, 36.20, 36.30, 36.40, 36.50, 36.60, 36.70, 36.80, 36.90, 37.00, 37.10, 37.20, 37.30, 37.40, 37.50, 37.60, 37.70, 37.80, 37.90, 38.00, 38.10, 38.20, 38.30, 38.40, 38.50, 38.60, 38.70, 38.80, 38.90, 39.00, 39.10, 39.20, 39.30, 39.40, 39.50, 39.60, 39.70, 39.80, 39.90, 40.00, 40.10, 40.20, 40.30, 40.40, 40.50, 40.60, 40.70, 40.80, 40.90, 41.00, 41.10, 41.20, 41.30, 41.40, 41.50, 41.60, 41.70, 41.80, 41.90, 42.00, 42.10, 42.20, 42.30, 42.40, 42.50, 42.60, 42.70, 42.80, 42.90, 43.00, 43.10, 43.20, 43.30, 43.40, 43.50, 43.60, 43.70, 43.80, 43.90, 44.00, 44.10, 44.20, 44.30, 44.40, 44.50, 44.60, 44.70, 44.80, 44.90, 45.00, 45.10, 45.20, 45.30, 45.40, 45.50, 45.60, 45.70, 45.80, 45.90, 46.00, 46.10, 46.20, 46.30, 46.40, 46.50, 46.60, 46.70, 46.80, 46.90, 47.00, 47.10, 47.20, 47.30, 47.40, 47.50, 47.60, 47.70, 47.80, 47.90, 48.00, 48.10, 48.20, 48.30, 48.40, 48.50, 48.60, 48.70, 48.80, 48.90, 49.00, 49.10,