

# 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 Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.  
(In Advance):  
One Year ..... \$2.00  
Six Months ..... 1.25  
Three Months ..... .75  
One Month ..... .25  
Saturday Edition, Per Year ..... 2.00  
Semi-Weekly, Per Year ..... 2.00

NEW YORK OFFICE.  
In charge of E. F. Cummings, manager  
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,  
1127 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.  
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 78 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, - MARCH 3, 1905.

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## A MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY.

Much interest is felt over the rubber industry which has been established in Old Mexico. A number of our citizens are connected with an organization which has acquired a large tract of land, on which the growth and manufacture of rubber is being successfully carried on, and the most encouraging reports are received concerning the progress of the enterprise. The ranch or rubber district referred to is in the State of Tabasco, the shore line of which is on the Gulf of Campeche. It has a very warm climate and a fertile soil. Members of the company are now there on a tour of inspection, and we expect shortly to hear something definite in regard to the industry and the management of its affairs.

Mexico is a land of great opportunities. There are openings in various parts of that Republic for the exercise of American ingenuity, capital and enterprise. Already large sums of money have been invested from the United States, and a few years more of the influx of people from the north will transform the face of the country. One meets in Mexico a distinct civilization. The native population, as a rule, follow in the grooves in which their ancestors moved for many generations. They live in miserable huts, repudiate modern agricultural implements, grub along in semi-Indian fashion, and need the training which Yankee industry and thrift and example could impart. They appear to be indolent, superstitious and careless as to their temporal future. Yet many of them make excellent mechanics and are gifted with artistic ability. Specimens of their painting and sculpture show taste and talent, and the "drawn-work" by the women is exquisite in design and execution and is greatly sought after by the ladies of America.

One of the most potent means of development in that great country is the Mexican Central railway, which, with its connections, traverses the greater part of the territory of the republic. Starting from El Paso, or rather from Ciudad Juarez, just across the Rio Grande, it runs southward directly to the City of Mexico, 1,234 miles, and has a branch line to Cuernavaca, Puente de Ixtla, Toluca, and the Rio Balsas. The connections and branches of this great railroad system extend in almost every direction, and of course each of those roads, contributes to the progress and welfare of the Republic. But the Mexican Central is the chief means of communication from the borders of the United States to the various States of Old Mexico. The managers and officials of this long line are efficient, gentlemanly and accommodating, and offer good inducements to colonists and promoters of large enterprises.

Communication with the "Mormon" colonies in the State of Chihuahua is made by the Sierra Madre and Pacific railway, which runs southwesterly from Ciudad Juarez 155 miles to Terrazas, and will be extended at some time on to the sea coast. It runs each way three times a week, and is well managed and conducted, and forms a very great accommodation to the people of the colonies when they desire to travel to and from the United States. We have not mentioned the numerous railroads and branches that intersect the southern part of Old Mexico, but they are chiefly approached from this country by means of the Mexican Central.

That great soldier and statesman, Porfirio Diaz, President of the Mexican Republic, has done more perhaps than any of his countrymen to build up, advance and unify the Mexican States. He is indeed the grand old man of his nation. Carrying in his veins the blood of the ancient race that once flourished in that land, and the remains of whose civilization are seen in ancient ruins, monuments, obelisks, pyramids, sculpture, paintings, and numerous evidences of greatness, he sympathizes with the remnants left of the land and seeks their uplifting, while at the same time his lofty mind reaches out to the spirit of the times and of the most advanced civilization, and he strives to lift his people to the highest standard which it is possible for them to reach.

Old Mexico is a great and interesting and marvelous land, which will well repay a visit, and which welcomes within its borders the people of other countries who desire to make their homes under its protection, or establish there the industries, projects and enterprises which make the United States so great and prosperous. It is on the high road to a splendid national eminence.

## INSTRUCTION IN HYGIENE.

The address of Dr. T. B. Beatty before members of the Legislature, in the interest of hygiene, and legislative measures to promote health, was a notable effort, and cannot fail to have some influence for good.

The doctor made the somewhat startling assertion that 1,500 lives are annually needlessly sacrificed in this State, owing to lack of proper requirements for their prevention. The doctor is certainly authority on vital statistics for Utah, and the statement must stand, until challenged by facts.

An important part of the address was that, in which the doctor showed that a number of contagious diseases can be successfully combated by scrupulous cleanliness. This is the view always maintained by the "News." The plague, the lecturer said, at one time carried away 25,000,000 lives in Europe. With the growth of sanitation it was driven out from that continent, while it still continues its ravages in Asia. The sanitary history of Cuba was another illustration. For centuries, the lecturer said, the island was never free from yellow fever. It became a center from which the infection was communicated to other lands. With the American occupation the doctors took up the problem. They ascertained by observation and experiment that the fever was never transmitted by contact with the clothing or person of the patient. It was demonstrated that the germ was transmitted by the mosquito. And then a war was commenced that resulted in the extermination of the disease.

The doctor advocated instruction in hygiene in the schools, as the best safeguard against disease germs. And this must be admitted to be true. Only when instruction is established by law in a certain branch, there must be some guaranty that only facts are given for facts, and not fancies and theories. This, we believe, is understood in all school education. Otherwise the young mind is led astray, instead of right. It is as easy to make a propaganda for superstition as for truth, and therefore it is necessary to safeguard against misinformation. We do not permit anybody to teach the vagaries of astrology for astronomy, or alchemy for chemistry, or the absurdities of some philosophers for demonstrated truth. There are in the germ theories many things that are not demonstrated, and about which opinions necessarily are divided. Proper allowance should be made in all public instruction for that fact. Let it be made clear what is known, and also what is not known, but merely supposed or disputed. Then instruction will be of immense benefit.

## THE INAUGURATION.

On Saturday, March 4, the oath of office will be administered solemnly to the President of the United States, elected last fall. This is said to be the thirtieth time in the history of this nation, of the performance of this ceremony, which reminds us of the youthfulness of this government, as compared to others, especially those of Asia, that record the age of their institutions by thousands of years. And yet, there is not a nation today on the face of the earth, that would care to incur the hostility of this country, who can fail to see in its history, the hand of a special providence!

Washington, it appears, desired the inauguration ceremony to be one in complete harmony with the simple, democratic principles upon which this government was founded. But he was overruled, to some extent. When he was on his way to New York, he was met at Elizabeth Point, New Jersey, by a delegation of New York's citizens and conducted across the harbor on a barge of honor, which was surrounded by an escorting flotilla, and on his arrival at the Battery, the voices of the greater part of the 30,000 people then composing the city of New York went up in one great shout of acclaim. And when the oath had been taken, Chancellor Livingston, turning to the crowd, waved his hand and cried: "Long live George Washington, President of the United States!" The cry was taken up and went rolling across the harbor and out into the country. The artillery roared out its salute and the bells of the city gave tongue to the words. But this imitation of monarchial show has fortunately never been exhibited again.

Jefferson's inauguration was the first to take place in Washington. Andrew Jackson's inauguration is said to have been very little dignified. Along with him there came to Washington frontiersmen, backwoodsmen and Indian fighters, who swept down upon the city and took possession of it. They filled the streets with rioting, and swarmed about the tavern in such numbers that access to him was almost impossible. On the day he was to take the oath the government officials and friends of Adams refused to take part in the ceremonial. A hasty escort, consisting of the Revolutionary veterans, was therefore improvised for Jackson, and, in an open carriage, he was escorted to the Capitol. After the oath had been taken, it was only with the greatest difficulty that Jackson could be safely got back to the White House. At the White House the mob broke in the doors. They seized upon the punch that had been prepared by the barrel and rolled it out upon the lawns, where high carnival was held. Within the Executive Mansion they ran riot, breaking the furniture and glassware, trampling with their muddy boots over the damask of the upholstery, and making it necessary for a body-guard to form with linked arms about Jackson to keep him from harm.

The inauguration of a United States president has always been a momentous event, perhaps more so in the case of Abraham Lincoln than any of his successors, or predecessors since Washington. For upon his policy depended really the very existence of the country. But the event always will be one of paramount importance. For, there always will be new, momentous issues before the nation to meet, of such a nature as to demand superhuman wisdom, strength and guidance. To avert from the right path but for

a moment may mean irreparable injury.

Fortunately, President Roosevelt's policy is known and well tested. There are, among the people no misgivings as to his plans and aspirations. And there is but one sentiment throughout the country, that he may have joy and satisfaction in the administration of the office given to him by the voice of the people.

## JOURNALS WITH INFLUENCE.

Judge Herrick of New York, a short time ago addressed some newspaper men and spoke on the influence of the press. He professed surprise at the apparent failure of the papers to shape the opinion of their readers, and cited some illustrations of this fact.

He pointed out, for instance, that in New York city, where the newspapers were almost unanimously opposed to the election of George B. McClellan as Mayor, and fought his candidacy with strenuous vigor, Mr. McClellan was elected by a great majority. He wanted to know why the newspaper influence failed with readers of them. The reasons he suggested were that the public had lost faith in the motives, wisdom and integrity of the press.

There are apparent mysteries in the manner human minds are influenced by public utterances, one way or another, and these cannot always be explained, any more than the direction of the wind. But as a general rule it can be said, that no newspaper can exert lasting influence, unless it is conducted by persons who are known to deserve public confidence, because of their moral and intellectual qualities. No matter how brilliant a writer is; no matter how wealthy the supporters are, their efforts fall flat ultimately, unless they are known to be put forth in the interest of truth and public well-being.

Of course, like attracts like, and morally corrupt publicists will, for a time at least, gather around them the corrupt element; but the general public is not corrupt, and they will in time discover the fraud by which they are imposed upon, by those who, though blind, offer to lead the blind, and that is the most general cause of loss of influence by the press. The great newspapers who are sincere, and who offer information known to be reliable, have influence. They are a power for good in the land.

Of course there is a monarch in Utah. It is the Silver King.

The Kaiser, it is said, shares the Czar's troubles. But he seems to be the silent partner.

The situation in the Far East is getting very feverish. It may be due to the spring fever.

When the Utah land district is finally opened it will be expected to do a land office business.

One of the needs of the times is an invention making applicable the air brake to the hot air man.

Of course it was a great speech, but it will hardly supplant the Gettysburg speech in the school readers.

Harvard has been casting round for a football coach. Why not get a Concord coach? There is none better.

Will Mr. Brown try his persuasive powers on the smelters and see if he cannot induce them to cease smoking?

Dr. Osler will take with him to the shores of Old England not the good wishes and God-bless-yous but the parties, "Good riddance to bad rubbish."

The New York Board of Education has put forth an edict that married teachers must resign. They are not even allowed the alternative of getting a divorce.

The Russian people may not be prepared for self-government, but they are preparing for revolution very fast, and revolution under tyranny is always preparatory to self-government.

Thomas A. Edison is opposed to capital punishment, holding that murderers should be locked up and put to work for life. Indeed, he thinks that this would be greater punishment than killing them.

It seems impossible that anyone could have poisoned so true and noble a woman as Mrs. Jane Stanford. Yet the evidence seems to point that way. When such women die, the whole world is loser.

Can any party in Colorado afford, for the sake of the governorship, to put the indelible stain of political theft and moral obliquity upon the Centennial state? A state's good name should be as dear to its people as a wife's to a husband, a mother's to a son, a sister's to a brother.

Much is being done to make sanitary conditions on the Isthmus of Panama, thoroughly satisfactory. This is excellent. The same care should be exercised to see that the moral and financial atmosphere of the Isthmus is kept pure. Moral and financial leprosy are far worse than yellow fever.

## THE NORTH SEA INQUIRY.

New York Sun.  
So a bucket of whitewash is to be applied to that illustrious sailor, the admiral of the Baltic fleet, who won the only victory of the war for Russia at sea. According to a semi-official statement, "the commission gives no opinion on the question of the presence or absence of Japanese torpedo boats in the North Sea, declaring merely that the Russian admirals quite legitimately believed that his squadron was endangered and that he had a right under the circumstances to act as he did. The commissioners refer to the Russian government's engagements to indemnify the victims of the deplorable incident." So the new rule for the guidance of naval commanders at sea in time of war will be "When in doubt blaze away." This will be very reassuring to the skippers of merchant ships everywhere.

San Francisco Call.  
It was obviously the duty of Russia to know whether hostile ships were in those waters, so many thousands miles from the scene of hostilities. Japanese

torpedo boats could not possibly carry there the coal necessary for their use. They could not possibly have been built and launched anywhere in Europe without being identified in advance. All of the probabilities were against their presence in the North Sea. Therefore to say that the war fleet of Russia was justified in firing upon fishing boats and kill their crews as a military precaution, is to trifle with the issue.

Springfield Republican.

The forecast of the decision of the North sea commission, sent out from Paris, is probably correct, in so far as it relieves the Russian admiral of wanton carelessness in firing upon the English trawlers. If the findings of the commission actually justify him in firing, as a measure of proper vigilance in protecting his fleet, if he believed Japanese torpedo boats to be in the vicinity, there would be little cause for surprise, perhaps. The judges sitting in the case are all naval officers, and they are likely to take a view of belligerent rights in such an emergency as Rostovsky faced, or thought he faced, which civilians would not be so apt to subscribe to. If the Russian admiral is fully sustained, the decision will in effect be a notice to the neutral merchant marine of the world that a belligerent war ship can shoot on sight. And that will not be pleasant.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

As a matter of fact, however, the purpose for which the commission was created was achieved before it ever assembled. For a few days after the tragedy Great Britain and Russia were in danger of drifting into war. The device of an international commission removed this danger and gave time for the hot heads in both countries to cool. That was all it was seriously intended or expected to accomplish.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The following is the list of contents of Ainslee's Magazine for March: "The White Wasp," novelette, Robert E. MacAlarney; "When the Storm Doctor Blundered," short story, B. M. Bower; "The King's Jester," short story, Margaret Sherwood; "The Gray Girl," short story, Ralph Henry Barbour; editorial; "The Deluge," serial, David Graham Phillips; "Is Social Prestige Worth While?" 1-The Prodigality of the Week-end Party, essay; "The Hour of the Drive," short story, Anna A. Rogers; "March," poem, Margaret Houston; "A Grouse Story," short story, Vincent Harper; "The Meeting," poem, Clinton Scollard; "Little Bo-Peep of Washington Square," short story, Walter P. Eaton; "The Second Wife," short story, Henry C. Rowland; "Opheila," poem, Ridgely Torrence; "The Maid, the Aunt, and the Million," dialogue, Alfred Sutro; "A Friendly Flance," short story, Edna Kingeley Wallace; "Some Dramatic Extremes," Alan Dale; and "For Book Lovers," Archibald Lowry Sessions.—Ainslee Magazine Co., 156 Fifth Ave., New York.

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and, according to what our grandmothers used to say, ought to go out like a lion. We'll see who knows best, Dr. Hyatt or our ancestors.

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