

DESERT 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 \$1.00
Three Months \$0.50
One Month \$0.15
Saturday Edition, Per Year \$2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year \$2.00NEW YORK OFFICE.
In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,
1127 Park Row Building, New York.SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 75 Geary St.Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances:
THE DESERT 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 8, 1905.

DESERT NEWS' PHONES.

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AN AWFUL CALAMITY!

The terrible catastrophe at Granger in this county, on Tuesday evening, is one of those horrors that occasionally startle society and spread sorrow and lamentation. Particulars of the explosion that then occurred and its disastrous effects are given in another part of this issue of the Desert News. The whole community suffers in the affliction that has fallen upon the people of Granger. It is a calamity that evokes the deepest sympathy for the families now in mourning over the injuries suffered by the victims of the accident. Particularly do we condole with the relatives of the young lady who was killed while in the act of entertaining the audience assembled on the occasion. The meetinghouse that was wrecked may be renewed or reconstructed, but the shock to the people of Granger and the sufferings of the wounded will long remain, and the results of the fatality will not be so readily repaired nor its memory soon be blotted out. We sympathize with all who are afflicted by this dreadful event, and hope that they will receive comfort from that source which alone can assuage their grief and console them in their sorrow.

"THE CALL" ON A RAMPAGE.

The San Francisco Call, until recently, has been quite rational in relation to Utah and the "Mormons," but for some reason that does not appear on the surface, it has dropped into the same channels of folly and fiction in which a number of American journals run that are not posted on the subject, but simply echo and re-echo the stupid stories that are manufactured here and sent out to do their dirty duty at distant places. The present editorial writer for the Call, on matters pertaining to the "Mormon" Church, is either utterly ignorant of affairs here, or he is possessed of a malicious spirit of prevarication. His latest effort in that direction was published on Sunday, March 5, from which we extract the subjoined paragraphs:

"The Church controls courts and juries. The endowment oath of loyalty to the Church is paramount to all civil oaths and obligations. This makes Gentile personal and property rights insecure, and is another part of the Church program to force Gentiles out of the State and keep more from coming in."

"Some parts of this policy seem fantastic. The Church has recently adopted a policy of owning all of the opera houses and theaters in the State. This permits it to act as censor of the drama, and such plays as the 'Danites' and other dramas that are unfavorable to the Church are not permitted. In like manner the Gentile press is discouraged. In public printing it is discriminated against and as the Gentile fortunes and population decline the free press is being gradually crowded out. The Mormon community is by these means kept from a knowledge of what religious liberty means."

What object the writer of that nonsense, or the paper which publishes it, can have in circulating statements of that kind, we fail to understand. The "Mormon" Church does not control and has no means of controlling either courts or juries. There is no such thing as an "endowment oath." "Gentile personal and property rights" are not "insecure," but far more secure than they are in San Francisco. There is no movement or effort or intention to "force Gentiles out of the State." All the assertions of the Call concerning these matters are without foundation and really without excuse. If the Call desires information, and not merely to fulminate ridiculous tirades against the "Mormon" Church, let it inquire of some respectable "Gentile" firm doing business here, and it will learn that there is no complaint by respectable non-"Mormons," except against that "Mormon-hating influence which is preventing the 'immigration' which the Call thinks is hindered by the Church."

The policy which the Call pictures as that of the Church without citing a single fact to substantiate its assertion, is indeed "fantastic." The Church does not own any "opera house or theater in the State" of Utah. There is no "discrimination" against the "Gentile press." It is not being "gradually" or in any way "crowded out." If that press is to be believed, it is flourishing with greater prosperity than ever before. The ravings of the Call in these matters are "fantastic" in the wildest manner and highest degree. It is the same with its monstrous allegation that "the Church

owns the banks, mines and all industries," that "strangers must stop at the Church hotel and ride on the Church street cars." It would be very easy for the Call to find out the fact that the Church does not own any hotel or any street cars and that "banks, mines and all kinds of industries" here are controlled by non-"Mormons."

The conclusion to which the Call arrives, after turning its several comersaults, is that all these "fantastic" policies of the Church are for the purpose of encouraging and perpetuating polygamy. That is the great bugaboo of all the anti-"Mormon" writers and preachers in the country. The truth is that there have been fewer cases of polygamy, that is, the contracting of polygamous marriages, in Utah since the Manifesto proclaimed by President Woodruff than in any other State of the Union. Notwithstanding all the furore that has been raised by the investigation before a committee of the United States Senate, not one case has been proved by evidence that would convict the accused. And if we were to grant the truth of the charges that have been brought forward, even then the instances of such offenses against the laws of the State and of the "Mormon" Church are so few, that rational people are surprised that in the period of fifteen years there have been no more of such alleged infractions of secular and ecclesiastical law on that matter.

As to the testimony before that committee, in the admissions of men who married plural wives previous to the Manifesto, that they still regard as wives, the women who were united to them by a religious covenant regarded by all the parties as everlasting, for this world and the world to come, there may be a difference of opinion. Sensible and broad-minded people throughout the land, when they fully understand the situation, commend those men for the stand they have taken. Narrow, contracted and severely puritanic souls cannot comprehend the matter in any other than a lurid light, and therefore may be pardoned for their lack of fairness and charity. As to punishing by law the husbands of those plural wives, which some papers so glibly advocate, close investigation would show that in nearly every case the statute of limitations would intervene, and the efforts of the would-be prosecutors would prove an utter failure.

The idea of a newspaper published in San Francisco, with the kind of population that city has, its moral status, its dens of infamy, its laxity in matters that shall be nameless, its crimes, vices, license and ribaldry, attempting to find fault with the condition of affairs in Utah, is sufficiently preposterous to be laughable to everybody that knows.

What is the matter with the Call anyhow? What has the "Mormon" Church done to excite its wrath and cause it to be so absurd? What good will it do to poison the minds of its readers with the virus contained in its editorials in reference to that Church? Thousands of them know that its statements are untrue, and are filled with wonder at the ignorance or duplicity which prompts the utter falsehoods contained in those attacks. The article which we have here briefly noticed is brimful of untruths, so utterly ridiculous as to cause astonishment in the minds of people who are posted.

We challenge the Call to produce proof of any of the statements it has made concerning the "Mormon" Church, its control of business of any kind to the exclusion of competitors, and any other of the accusations that appeared in the editorial of last Sunday. If that paper has any facts to substantiate its wild allegations, let them be brought forward. If not, common sense, to say nothing of justice, would suggest that it cease from its libelous assaults and pursue a more consistent course and one compatible with honest journalism.

THE MUKDEN BATTLE.

St. Petersburg dispatches leave small room for doubt that Kuropatkin has met with disastrous defeat at Mukden. The Japanese tactics, their perseverance and valor, and their absolute indifference to danger and death have again procured for them a most remarkable victory, and the only question seems to be whether the Russians will be able, once more, to save themselves by an orderly retreat to the next line of defense.

For months Kuropatkin has prepared for this battle. He has strengthened his forces as much as possible and made his dispositions with the utmost care and deliberation. But the Japanese have acted with equal forethought and with a greater capacity for work. They have, it appears, actually brought the siege guns captured at Port Arthur into position opposite Putiloff and have been battering the Russian positions with ammunition and guns taken from General Stoessel. The dispatches as yet give but a faint idea of the fearful losses that must have been sustained on both sides in this struggle. That story will come later. But the probability is that, when the details are made known, they will reveal a chapter of horrors without parallel in the history of modern warfare. The immense armies engaged, the desperation of the soldiers on both sides, the importance of the stake, to Russia at least, all these things go to insure the certainty of a battle surpassing in horror any of the previous engagements.

NAVAL COURTESIES.

A formidable British fleet will, it is said, in a not remote future, pay a visit to the United States, under the command of one of the princes. That will be a memorable occasion. It is a pity his majesty himself cannot accompany the squadron, to give the Americans an opportunity of demonstrating their true sentiments toward Great Britain and the reigning house. We believe the festivities in this country of democratic simplicity would outshine the splendor displayed in India, when he made his memorable triumphal tour of that country some thirty years ago.

In all probability, courtesy will re-

quire this country to send an equally large naval force to Great Britain, to return the compliment. It is true that our ships have often called at British ports, and the officers have been feasted and feted in royal style. But etiquette, or policy, or both, would seem to demand, when this British squadron has been here, to return the honor on an equally magnificent scale. If this is done, diplomatic gossip is sure to be busy concerning an "alliance," or, at least, an entente between Great Britain and the United States. It will be remembered that the Russo-French alliance was celebrated by a visit of a French squadron to Kronstadt, and a series of fetes there. Diplomacy always endeavors to find hidden meanings in current events.

Rumor already has it that King Edward is showing considerable indulgence toward Ireland, not only because he wishes to make up for some of the wrongs done the Irish people in past generations, but because he wishes to remove one of the chief obstacles to Anglo-American friendship—the enmity of Irish-Americans toward Great Britain. An exchange of naval visits would lend color to such rumors.

This country, however, is not looking out for alliances, at least not yet; though some think the time must come, when we cannot maintain isolation, without injury to our interests. If this is true, a compact with Great Britain would be natural. And such an alliance would come pretty near holding the balance of power in all the world. Together we could maintain peace between nations and render war unpopular. A proper understanding between this country and Great Britain would be a great blessing to mankind.

DRAWS THE LINE AT LEPROSERS.

El Paso News is a spirited little newspaper, and it is up in arms at the proposition to establish an asylum for lepers somewhere in New Mexico. "This," says our contemporary, "is as rank an insult as could well be imagined. Not satisfied with holding New Mexico out of the statehood to which she is justly entitled, the law makers of the nation now seek to unload a fostering blight of leprosy upon the territory. Why should New Mexico be singled out as the abiding place of such an undesirable colony? Why not send it to Maine, Massachusetts, Iowa or Uncle Sam's colony of lepers. There is a limit to forbearance, and this certainly seems to be the limit."

There is hardly any need for this outburst. A leper retreat would be no worse than an insane asylum. The establishment of such an institution would mean the expenditure of millions of dollars in New Mexico. When civilized countries take care of lepers, they build modern hospitals on a magnificent scale. They surround them with fields and gardens, where the patients can spend all the time they want, beautifying and cultivating, and the result is that an up-to-date asylum for that class of sufferers is a place to which sightseers flock, as to any place where there is an abundance of flowers, trees, lawns, etc.

Only in the latter stages of the disease are the unfortunate patients confined to their rooms and beds. And at no time is the danger of contagion greater than in some other diseases not considered as loathsome as leprosy. To propose New Mexico as a site for a leper colony is, therefore, no more an insult, than if the proposition were to build a modern hospital for insane, or for consumptives. Now Mexico has ample room for an institution of this kind, and its climate is ideal.

Many rumors but few nominations lack confirmation.

Cassie L., who broke so many, herself seems to be breaking.

How could a March hare possibly be mad when the weather is so lovely?

The country needs some precipitation but it wouldn't object to a good rain.

How long will it take Kuropatkin to learn that he is not in Oyama's class?

"Free for all; go as you please," seems to be the rule of the Subway at present.

Mrs. Chadwick should remember that faint heart never won fair lady or a suit.

The manner in which his supporters are breaking away must make Mr. Niedringhaus feel all broke up.

Kuroki can say with Selkirk, "From the center all round to the sea I'm lord of the fowl and the brute."

In winding up the Fair Commission investigation some of the witnesses are getting keyed up pretty high.

One specialist says that we eat too much, and another that we drink too much. Eat, drink and be merry and have the dyspepsia.

Kansas does not propose to erect a triumphal arch to Commissioner of Corporations Garfield for his report in the Beef Trust case.

Henry Phipps is putting a million dollars into model tenement houses in New York. But where will he find his model tenants? There's the rub.

Postmaster-General Cortisou will be succeeded as chairman of the Republican National committee by Harry S. New. So there is something New under the sun after all.

The nomination of Mr. John Sharp to be fish and game commissioner will give universal satisfaction throughout the State. Governor Cutler has done a very popular thing.

Plans are already under way to divert about 10 per cent of the water which now goes over the Falls of Niagara. When it is all diverted, six Sundays in the year can be set aside for it to play like the fountains at Versailles.

MRS. LELAND STANFORD.

Los Angeles Examiner.
By the death of Mrs. Leland Stanford the world loses one of its greatest and gentlest figures. This lonely woman, bereft first of the son who was her idol, and then of her husband, whose sharing of her anguish made it easier to bear, refused to give herself over to selfish grief and devoted herself to carrying out the great trust that devolved upon her. She knew nothing of business when she took up her life's task, but she applied herself to the mastery of the management of a great fortune, not for any selfish purpose, but in order that the university founded on her son's memory might not suffer. She was ready to bear poverty herself if need be, but the cause to which she devoted her life should not want. The thousands of young men and women who have gained an education because of her sympathy, humanity and self-sacrifice, and unnumbered thousands yet to come, will bless the memory of the woman who made Leland Stanford university possible.

Bellingham Herald.
Mrs. Stanford's great labor was done after she was seventy years old. It was carried on with a vigor and far-sightedness that would have made any man great if he had had the fullness of middle life in which to carry out the undertaking. The circumstances surrounding the task before her and the results she has accomplished will be better appreciated as time advances.

Springfield Republican.
Sad is the ending of the life of Mrs. Leland Stanford, who lived for many years after the death of her husband and the bright son of 16 years, to whose enduring memory Leland Stanford, Jr., university at Palo Alto, Cal., was reared with the family millions, earned in the pioneer building of the Central Pacific railroad and through Mr. Stanford's thrift and sagacity in business. The Stanford family can never be forgotten in California, even did not the remarkable statue of the three at Palo Alto remain to commemorate them. To the memory of her husband Mrs. Stanford dedicated the beautiful church there, whose cost certainly exceeded \$200,000, and to whose beauties famous artists of both the old and the new world were enlisted to contribute. The Stanford residence is also most elaborate.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mrs. Stanford was one of the most widely known and most highly honored of those wealthy American women who have devoted their lives to good works. She was, of course, best known to the public as the founder and benefactor of the California university, which bears the name of her husband and only son, and which will now inherit the great fortune that would have been the latter's had he survived his mother. It is a noteworthy coincidence that the widows of two of the early "bonanza" kings and builders of California have devoted millions of their husbands' enormous fortunes to the cause of higher education in the state where those fortunes were so largely required. Mrs. Stanford and Mrs. Hearst have earned the gratitude, not only of California alone, but of friends of education everywhere in the land. Even the suspicion that such a woman as Mrs. Stanford was cruelly done to death is intolerable and one which no pains should be spared to dispel.

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