

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 ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
One Year, \$3.00
Six Months, \$1.50
Three Months, .75
One Month, .25
One Week, .08
Saturday edition, per year, \$3.00
Semi-weekly, \$1.50NEW YORK OFFICE:
In charge of H. F. Cummings, Manager
Foreign Advertising from our Home Office,
represented by R. H. Edwards, 57 Washington
Street.CHICAGO OFFICE:
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 36 Gary St.
Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
Editor.Address all business communications:
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 17, 1902.

THE WATER CONTROVERSY.

It seems waste of time to enter into a controversy with an opponent, who either has not sense enough to understand a simple question of vested rights or, following a custom of many years, deliberately misstates the position of his adversary and then proceeds to attack the misconception. That is the course pursued by a morning paper, in reference to the comments of the Deseret News on the recent decisions of the Supreme court, in the cases between Salt Lake City and the Electric Power company.

Our contemporary contends that the city is in no way injured or jeopardized by those decisions, and tries to draw a parallel between the claims of private parties to the use of water, and the rights of the city, as a public corporation, not only to the use but the control of waters conferred by legislative authority. Anyone who is unable to see or determined not to recognize this essential point of difference, is not competent to offer a legal or common sense argument on the question.

That the city is made liable to injury from the decision is as clear as daylight, in view of the fact that the private company which, for private purposes, is thereby permitted to interfere with the control of a source of supply belonging to the city for public purposes, although required to return the water undiminished in quantity and quality to the stream, is at present in the hands of a receiver and is practically an irresponsible if not insolvent concern, and therefore the city would have no recourse of any value, if the waters to which it has vested rights were not so returned either in condition or in volume.

These material points are either ignored or evaded in repeated attempts to assail the Deseret News, an occupation which the writer that essays it appears to think one of the chief objects in journalistic life. That the city authorities should proceed at once to perform some practical work, in order to take out the waters of the stream placed by law under its control, at a higher point than at present, has been urged by the Deseret News for more than two years. It is therefore no endorsement of the opinion of a contemporary which has only been presented within the past few days. If we are agreed on the proposition, that is all right; and we hope the city officials will take steps accordingly.

ILLIFF AND HIS "SWING."

We see by the San Francisco Chronicle of recent date, that T. C. Illiff is at this time still on his anti-Mormon tour through California; or, as that paper speaks of it, "is making a swing around the country." "Swing" is a good word. He is given "plenty of rope" and will succeed soon in "hanging himself" by the strands of his own falsehoods. Who would have thought, a few years ago, when that Methodist preacher used to smile his way and ingratiate himself into the good graces and hospitalities of "Mormon" households, that, while professing such admiration for "Mormon" virtues and "Mormon" peace and unity, he would for Methodist money "make a swing" around the country to defame the people who treated him so kindly, and misrepresent doctrines which he well knows inculcate faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of mankind and obedience to his divine teachings?

The Chronicle quotes Illiff as saying in reference to President Brigham Young: "His dream was that of an independent government of which he would be the politico-religious autocrat." That is simply an old slander which the history of Utah has long since completely refuted.

Immediately after the opening of this region to civilization by the Pioneers, headed by President Young, and their immediate followers, a provisional government was organized under the name of the State of Deseret, with a constitution patterned after those of the existing states and in consonance with the Constitution of the United States, and Congress was memorialized for a state government, the Stars and Stripes having been hoisted here while this soil was still within the boundaries of Mexico. Congress did not grant the petition, but gave us a territorial form of government, under which Utah affairs were conducted until statehood was achieved. How does Illiff know what Brigham Young's "dreams" were about? His story is but a repetition of the surmises of preachers and politicians, who thought they could profit by attacking the "Mormons" and their able leader, who was far above them in intellect and honor as the sun is above the noise that cut antics in its beams.

The traveling preacher talks of the

"irrepressible" conflict that came through the building of the Union and Central Pacific railroads, but fails to inform his hearers that Brigham Young was one of the big contractors in the building of those roads, and that years before their commencement, President Young and the "Mormon" people petitioned Congress to aid in the construction of a highway across the continent, and that it followed mainly the track of the Pioneers who traveled under his direction. It is said that "actions speak louder than words," and thinking people ought to look at the works of Brigham Young as an answer to his alleged "dreams," as told by his unscrupulous enemies.

It might be expected that the kind of "Christianity" represented by Dr. Illiff would approve of the course pursued by Governor Eli H. Murray, who in violating his oath of office and certifying to a falsehood, sought to play into the hands of the preachers and politicians who attempted to run affairs in Utah, when he denied a certificate of election to the Delegate in Congress who received more than eighteen thousand votes, and gave it to a bogus candidate but thirteen hundred votes. According to the Chronicle, Dr. Illiff congratulated him for that piece of treachery as "the truest kind of an American." Congress, however, did not take the same view of the matter, but repudiated the false certificate and treated it with the contempt it deserved. But what does Dr. Illiff care for the facts of history when "making a swing around the country" for pelf?

The preacher laments the giving of statehood to Utah, characterizing it as "a monumental blunder," and utters the abominable falsehood that its consequence was "the old conditions were restored and polygamy was renewed in all parts of the new state." He attempts to make it appear that the "Mormon" authorities dominate the State, and yet "lets the cat out of the bag" by stating that "some of us sought to have the leaders of the 'Mormon' Church refuse permission to Roberts to run for Congress," thus showing that those who complained about "Church influence in politics," endeavored to obtain it when it suited their purpose. But the very reply which Illiff says was made to them disproved their own hypothesis. He says: "The reply was, that the state was sovereign and had the right to choose its own Representative in Congress."

The preacher then proclaims what he describes as "the wonderfully beneficial results of the crusade against Roberts," most of which is mere buncombe, delivered in the florid style and with the plagiarism for which the Dr. is noted, and as a climax he makes this remarkable exaggeration: "Today there are between 8,000 and 10,000 members in the Christian churches in Utah; in the one Protestant mission school there are from 10,000 to 15,000 day and Sunday school pupils and the Christian churches hold about \$1,000,000 worth of property."

Supposing these figures to be accurate, though they are in line with most of the speaker's deceptions, what has he and his confederates to complain about as to their treatment in Utah? Do they not have all the liberty they desire to preach and lie about the "Mormons"? Does anybody interfere with them in their work among their own denominations, or their vicious and mendacious attacks upon the "Mormon" people and their doctrines? If they have been so successful as described, what need is there for such "swings around the country" as those undertaken by Dr. Illiff and others, to stir up the nation by retelling the ancient gossip and exploded slanders against Utah and the "Mormons"? If it were not for the danger of being accused of having "an un-Christian spirit," we would be tempted to use the words of Christ Himself, when referring to the prototypes of these latter day Pharisees. But we will simply give the references and let them read his sayings for themselves: Matt. xvi: 5-6; Matt. xxiii: 13, 17, 23, 25, etc.

We are pleased to learn by letters from California that the effects of the banishments to which we have referred above, have been very beneficial to our cause in that state, particularly in Sacramento, where the meetings of the Saints have been crowded, and the interest that has been aroused is giving an opportunity to the Elders to place the truth before the public. The Sacramento Record-Union has given space to some communications on both sides of the question, and with the Bee has acted very fairly and impartially. We are pleased to give credit to them for what they have done in this matter. The outcome of this agitation will be that "Mormonism" will survive the falsehoods of its detractors and flourish stronger than ever after the contest.

AS SEEN IN WASHINGTON.

Diplomatists in Washington express the view that the Anglo-Japanese alliance has been entered into for the purpose of stopping the Russian advance upon China. It is believed that Russia's aim is to make herself master of that empire, as fast as circumstances will permit, and that the supremacy in Manchuria and Korea is but a step toward this goal.

Russia is in Manchuria, and it is not believed that she can be dislodged from that province, but the intention is to prevent her from obtaining a similar foothold in the "hermit kingdom," or if further advances are made, to fight her.

In France, the alliance is regarded as a pledge for peace, and that is a natural conclusion. The Japanese, however, entertain a hatred for the Russians, which may easily break out into full flame. The wise government has hitherto restrained the people, but whether this will be possible for any considerable length of time is a question. Japan, relying on an alliance with Great Britain, would be sorely tempted to abandon her policy of prudence, should Russian aggression seem to threaten the interests of Japan, that center in banks, telegraphs, mines and various enterprises. It all depends on circumstances, whether the alliance will make for peace or for war.

It is clear, though, that China is to become in eastern Asia, what Turkey has so long been in the western part

of the continent. The powers will maintain her integrity, for the simple reason that they are afraid of undertaking a division by which one country might obtain an advantage over the others. But while conditions are formed to maintain the autonomy of what is supposed to be one of the most rotten governments on earth, Russia is slowly but surely undermining the foundations upon which it rests. And now that Great Britain has declared herself for a firm stand in that quarter of the globe, it can be only a question of time when the bear and lion may come in uncomfortably close proximity to one another in Asia.

GROWS WARMER IN THE NORTH

A Tacoma dispatch to The Chicago Chronicle says that sea captains who have observed the conditions on the west coast of Alaska, believe that the Japan current has changed its course in the eastern part of the Pacific ocean, with the result that the climate of Alaska is now growing warmer. In explanation of this phenomenon, they say that in the fall of 1899 the western coast of Alaska was shaken by a terrific earthquake, causing a submarine upheaval, which formed a mountain chain under the water, by which the current was thrown against the Alaskan shore. Since then, it is claimed, the temperature has gradually changed. Last summer the climate was rainy and warm like Puget Sound, and the winter has been mild, from Nome to Juneau.

The fact that the climate is gradually moderating is interesting enough, even if the explanation given should not happen to be the correct one. Whatever changes on a large scale occur in the cold regions must have some influence upon the conditions in the temperate zone. If the warm currents of the oceans are forced further north, a time must come, when the ice of the northern regions will melt, and permit explorations under more favorable circumstances than at present.

SECTS IN RUSSIA.

Religious liberty is very limited in Russia, it being a criminal offense to leave the orthodox ranks and join any sect. Statistics covering the various churches in that country furnish a good illustration of the futility of suppression in freedom of belief, by laws, no matter how rigidly executed. Russian ecclesiastical authorities are reticent about the publication of figures that may reveal the true status of the ecclesiastical affairs of the empire, but the facts as now revealed by the census are very significant.

It seems that there are no less than 50 distinct bodies of dissenters, each having its own particular creed, customs and superstitions. There are about thirty small sects with no distinctive names, whose dogmas are more or less unknown. The census gives the total of dissenters as 2,173,735, but it is believed that the actual number is at least double that amount.

The largest body of dissenters is that known as Staro-ob-abi. This is divided and subdivided into several branches. The Holy Synod has ordered a vigorous campaign against the sectarians in those provinces where their numbers are increasing. The powers of the specially appointed commissioners will be supplemented by those of the police. The Holy Synod has not yet learned that by persecution, the number of dissenters will be still further increased.

If he cannot die champion, Fitzsimmons proposes to die game.

Drawing the color line in oleomargarine is better than drawing the hair line in butter.

All the day long the "sweet south" has been breathing but not upon a bank of violets.

General Kitchener's most elaborately laid trap to catch Dewet demonstrates one important thing—how not to do it.

The hope of the Filipino Federal party is ultimate statehood. They might might almost as well hope for Ultima Thule.

Little Florizel Reuter has had to have one of his ears operated on. It is to be hoped that it will not injure his ear for music.

There are some men who are so narrow that they can travel along the keen edge of a knife and find it too broad for them.

"And the Catt came back." Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has been re-elected president of the National Woman Suffrage association.

A Miss Plagg and a Mr. Brittain were married in New York the other day. It would be quite proper to speak of the ceremony as the Union Jack.

The choir boys of a New York church have gone on a strike. They will probably discover, before they are through, that they have struck the wrong note.

The Boers continue to lay traps into which the British continue to walk. There will be no end of the war so long as such things be.

Mr. Schwab, the steel king, has returned. It might be called the return of the prodigal, taking into consideration his prodigality at Monte Carlo.

Washington hunters were compelled to subsist for several days on congar meat. Tough and unpalatable as it is, it is far more preferable to eating crow.

Journalist Henry Norman, M. P., continues to ask such straight-to-the-point questions in the commons, he will yet be accused of yellow journalism.

The question has been raised to whom belongs the credit for the Louisiana purchase, Jefferson and Uncle Sam have always had credit, and probably always will.

Hon. Galusha Groves announces that he will retire from active political life at the end of the present Congress. As he is seventy-nine years old and began his congressional career in 1859 he is entitled to an honorable retirement.

When all the trouble in the municipal administration is amicably settled, it is to be hoped that some attention

will be given to the matter of bicyclists riding on the paved walks within the restricted district.

Frank James refuses to furnish the thousand dollar bond required by the court in the injunction proceedings against the play "The James Boys in Missouri." He might set it with a counter play—a gun play.

Prof. N. S. Shaler of Harvard has recently written a prospect that gold production in the world will so far increase under the application of new appliances in mining, as possibly to force a change in the monetary systems of the gold standard countries. It may be but most people are not afraid of having a Midas touch yet.

The reports of a number of countries in the State on inequalities of taxation, as published in the Deseret News on Saturday, have made quite a stir, and a serious problem confronting the Board of Equalization. The "real estate" side of the subject has not yet been heard, and of course there are at least two sides to every question. Taxation should be made as near equal as possible; and one class should not be favored at the expense of another; that cannot be disputed. And it is equally clear that there should be no disposition to deal oppressively with the railroads whose capital and business are wanted and to be encouraged in Utah.

EUROPE'S FRIENDSHIP.

New York Evening Post.
In the stage now reached by the controversy, we must have names, dates, documents. Anything else is worth no man's attention. We have had quite enough of these mysterious, unnamed personages in the background, with their "I could do it if I would." Neither a "high official" nor a "person in close touch with the foreign office," neither a "well-known ambassador" nor an account vouches for as "substantially correct" will avail us now. We would not even take the word of "Historical" or "Ex-Attache," and as for "Insider" and "one who knows," the wastebasket bath charged its borders to swallow up their communications unread. We pine for the documents in the case.

San Francisco Call.
We have at least one satisfaction in the guilty circumlocutions and recriminations in which England, Germany, Italy, France, Austria and Russia are indulging over that note which was sent to have frightened us out of the war with Spain. We taught our European friends, including our kind English cousins, that our business is our own and it is best for them to attend to their own or get into trouble.

St. Paul Globe.
There is a deal of unconscious humor exhibited on both sides in the prevailing discussion going on in German and British circles regarding the real extent and character of the friendship of Germany and England respectively toward the United States. The discussion seems to have been started by the London newspapers, whose sense of humor is not universally recognized. They appear to have started it, moreover, as the result of the contemplated trip of Prince Henry of Prussia to this country, to which they insist on attaching a deal of political significance which no body but themselves seems quite able to comprehend.

Kansas City Star.
If Lord Pauncefote, though armed intervention "unjustifiable," he was guilty of no crime. There were many good Americans who held the same view. But if he proposed a collective note by the powers expressing an opinion to that effect, all that can be said is that the "British legend," as the Germans call it, is irretrievably ruined. The assumption is strongly against the Pauncefote story and it needs to be strongly confirmed to be believed. It is fully as incredible that the British ambassador would have done such a thing as that the Russian ambassador would have done it.

Los Angeles Express.
There is a formidable number of citizens of this country who would like to intervene in foreign affairs at the present moment. They would also like to see the South African war forthwith, demand the tottering kingdom of Abdul Hamid, do something for oppressed Persia, free Ireland and administer a spanking to several South American republics. The only thing which prevents action is the same delicacy which caused the powers of Europe to tell Spain that they sympathized with her, but advised her to see the other parties and come around some other day after sufficient time had elapsed to think it over. In other words, there was an indisposition to interfere, without a clear notion as to which way the cat intended to jump.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Harper's Bazar for March opens with a grave treatise by Lillian Bell, on the serious problem "The Management of Husbands." "An Episode in Mrs. Kirkpatrick's" is told by Elizabeth G. Jordan. "The Story of Scotchmen," by Sarah Elliott, and "The Woman Movement of Our Day," by Olive Schreiner, are interesting contributions. As usually much space is given to "The World of Fashion," and domestic topics. A pattern sheet accompanying the number, as a supplement.—Harper Bros. New York.

Harper's Magazine for March is rich in illustrations, short stories and other features that belong to the make-up of a first-class magazine. It presents four more of E. A. Abbey's "Deserted Villages." The short stories are contributed by Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, Richard Le Gallienne, Marie Van Vorst, Ray Rolfe Gibson, Grace Denio Litchfield, Mary Applewhite Bacon, Arthur Cotton, Eleanor Hoyt and James Branch Cabell. Two elaborately colored pictures accompany a paper on "The Joy of Gardens," by Julius Norrgard, and there are other illustrations in color by Elmer, Whipple, Dean Howells, Richard Le Gallienne, Marie Van Vorst, Ray Rolfe Gibson, Grace Denio Litchfield, Mary Applewhite Bacon, Arthur Cotton, Eleanor Hoyt and James Branch Cabell. Two elaborately colored pictures accompany a paper on "The Joy of Gardens," by Julius Norrgard, and there are other illustrations in color by Elmer, Whipple, Dean Howells, Richard Le Gallienne, Marie Van Vorst, Ray Rolfe Gibson, Grace Denio Litchfield, Mary Applewhite Bacon, Arthur Cotton, Eleanor Hoyt and James Branch Cabell.

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