

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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Editor: Charles W. Penrose.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's message to Congress, delivered at the White House, December 4, 1899, is a document of great importance. It contains a full and complete statement of the President's policy for the coming year, and is a most interesting and valuable document to all citizens of the United States.

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THE POINT OF ATTACK.

There is a difference of opinion among many readers of the Salt Lake Tribune as to the mental condition of its editor-in-chief. Some people contend that it is a case of mental aberration; others that the symptoms exhibited are those of anti-Mormon hatred amounting to a mania. For a few days they have had a rest from those peculiar ebullitions which have overflowed upon their editorial page, every now and then, for many years. This morning it broke out again, and as has been common, the principal object of its rage is the *Deseret News*. We do not mind that, having become accustomed to its abuse, but there is something more involved in the charges which so rashly flings at this paper. Here are some of the accusations.

"The *Deseret News*, the Church organ, again last night did its best to ally the Roberts case with that of the Mormon Church, and to show that any check to its impudent pretensions and claims is a persecution of 'Mormonism'."

"As to making war upon the Church, that is an impeachment which is quite undeserved; to make such a charge against the Congress of the United States is simply shameful."

"Its charge that the real object is to destroy the Mormon creed is simply contemptible."

"Roberts was nominated by a sneak, nominated because he was a Church man and polygamist. The effort all the time has been to establish that the Church had nothing to do with it, when all the time it has been clear that some high officers of the Church forced his nomination, and that a word from the Church would have arrested the business any time prior to his election. The anxiety of the proceedings was something shameful."

"These are enough for one day. Careful readers of the 'News' will understand that its remarks, so shamefully perverted in the foregoing utterances of the Tribune, were based upon the admissions and declarations of leading spirits in the present crusade. We quoted from the speeches made in the churches at Washington, D. C., on Sunday. The avowed purpose of the movement was then and there proclaimed to be 'the crushing out of Mormonism.' The atheist lawyer who spoke with prominent doctors of divinity in the Congressional church, explained that 'this was a movement to check Mormonism.' He said further, as appears in published dispatches:

"This is not merely a question of politics or religion but of movement to check Mormonism. While we act against Mr. Roberts personally, it is the Mormon Church we are after."

"The Mormon Church has out in the world about 2,000 missionaries, and a greater part of them are at work in the United States. It was recently said that their converts are increasing so fast that statistics could not in the future be made possible."

"Therefore, this fight must be made against the Mormon system and not particularly against Roberts."

"We have before us papers published in all the large cities of the country, editorially and otherwise announcing that the crusade is waged against the 'Mormon' Church. One of the pleas made by a Reverend preacher in Cleveland to obtain signatures against Roberts, is thus reported in a Cleveland paper:

"Two hundred and fifty thousand people in one mass, in our own land, untroubled by the Gospel, saturated with blasphemous, immoral untruths for religious doctrines, and aggressively spreading the same throughout the Christian world by nearly 2,000 elders under the control of a despotic priest-hood—these constitute a monstrous evil upon our Christian sympathy and activity."

"The New York Journal makes daily boasts of the numbers of preachers and church members who are signing the anti-Roberts petition with a view to 'stamping out Mormonism.' It has declared that 40,000 pastors of different denominations were preaching against 'Mormonism' so as to obtain signatures, and also that three million Methodists had given their names to aid in the work."

"Now let us take the testimony furnished by the Salt Lake Tribune itself: After making a great parade of a letter which it intended to produce from Miss Helen M. Gould, on Sunday it printed a long communication signed I. D. Marshall, the whole tenor of which is a tirade against 'Mormonism,' containing shameful perversions of 'Mormon' doctrine, and including a letter from Miss Gould to Dr. Joseph Strong, who is at the head of an anti-Mormon organization which is sending out tracts, copies of which we have before us. The acknowledged purpose of these publications is to arouse public sentiment against the 'Mormon' Church. The Tribune at the same time displayed a facsimile of Miss Gould's handwriting and this is what it says she wrote:

"The Mormons use Christian terms but with an entirely different meaning, which is only explained to their converts who are then bound by a solemn influence over them. They believe in a polygamous God, that Jesus Christ was a polygamist, and that plural marriage is a God-ordained law that must be observed in order to gain celestial glory. It is indeed very necessary, therefore, that our people should become better informed as to their peculiar tenets and practices. Very truly,
HELEN MILLER GOULD."

"Now what do these extracts we have given from published remarks of anti-Mormon crusaders indicate? Is not 'Mormonism' the objective point of all these attacks? It is therefore not the *Deseret News* which attempts to 'ally the Roberts case with that of the 'Mormon' Church,' but it is the preachers and others with whom the Tribune allies who make this showing. Therefore, its outpourings of anger against the *Deseret News* simply recoil upon its own fevered head. If the charge is, as it declares, 'contemptible,' the contempt falls on the Tribune and its own allies."

"Now as to the alleged 'charge against the Congress of the United States.' There is no such charge or attempt at a charge in the editorial columns of the *Deseret News*. That is an invention of our very reliable morning contemporary. So with its endeavor, once more, to make it appear that the 'Mormon Church' is responsible for the nomination and election of B. H. Roberts, it is simply proving by its own words that which it denies, and once more establishing the fact that not only does its editor forget one day what he wrote a day or two before, but also the point which he starts out to make on the same day and in the same article in which he refutes himself. The *Deseret News* does not propose

to waste space very much in such contentions as the Tribune appears desirous to provoke, but will often pass by the explosions of wrath and exhibitions of imbecility that are characteristic of our anti-Mormon contemporary. In this instance we notice only a few of its vulgarities and self-contradictions. 'Mormonism,' however, will survive all the assaults that are directed against it from whatever source they may emanate.

TO HELP KRUGER.

It is claimed that almost every steamer leaving American ports for Europe carries a number of persons whose ultimate destination is Natal, where they intend to join the Boer army. These volunteers are said to be mostly of Irish and German extraction, and Chicago furnishes a larger quota than any other of the large cities.

Great Britain now having declared that a state of war exists, recruiting in this country is certainly a breach of the laws of neutrality, but it is difficult to see how it can be stopped. The alleged volunteers go unarmed and as passengers to European ports. Probably they have a right to land in Portuguese territory in Africa, but they take great risks on their way from the coast, and many of them will never reach their destination.

The recruiting is being carried on with the greatest secrecy, but on a scale, if reports are true, not dreamed of by the authorities of this country.

FAMINE IN INDIA.

While the South African colonies of the British empire are disturbed by war, India is suffering from famine and the plague.

Concerning the famine, the report of Viceroy Curzon to the legislative council shows that 30,000,000 people dwelling over an area of 350,000 square miles, are involved.

Commenting on the report, Rev. J. R. Abbott, for many years a missionary stationed at Bombay, says:

"The recovery of the people from the famine of 1897, has been slow. A month ago 400,000 persons were employed on relief works, and the number now reaches 1,000,000. Cases of death by starvation in Northern Gujarat were reported a month ago. If such was the condition then, early even in part in the famine area, it argues sadly for the days to come, when distress will become more general. The question will naturally arise as to the best avenue for sending relief. Until other relief committees are started, the missionary bodies afford organizations ready made for distributing the bounty of this country."

War, famine and pestilence are hovering over the horizon as the sun of the century is about to set.

Gen. Young has been received at Tagudin with a brass band. That is an improvement over brass bullets.

Aguinado has announced his readiness to surrender to the Americans. That is the most sensible thing he can do in his present circumstances.

Federal laws to punish lynching, are wanted by the President. With such statutes there might be a hope of bringing to justice the leaders of mob lynching parties.

The United States this year has \$40,000,000 surplus revenue to go to paying off its indebtedness. That is a big sum to accumulate in a year when an expensive campaign against an insurrection has been carried on.

According to dispatches from South Africa, Gen. Cronje is at both Mafeking and Modder river, at the same time. There is too much ubiquity about that for even the clever Transvaal commander.

Now that Kimberley is relieved, a second expedition will be in order to relieve the relieving column, and provide it with food and supplies in a hostile country, already so stripped of provisions that there is nothing to be got by looting.

With the collapse of the Filipino rebellion, peaceful relations with all the world, and industrial prosperity at home, Uncle Sam ought to have a happy New Year for the opening of 1900, unless those who would stir up domestic trouble got too much rein.

President McKinley is against the trusts, and thinks that uniform State legislation against them would be effective. He says the failure of legislation has been because of its contradictory character. A convention to unite the States on effective anti-trust laws would be in order.

The reading of the President's Message in Congress today was overshadowed in the mind of the Washington public by the interest in the Roberts case. This is not the first time an attempt at injustice through yielding to popular clamor has claimed the chief attention of the multitude.

"Shanghaiing" is likely to be expensive where the natives of Guam are concerned. One of these was brought to San Francisco against his will recently, by a shipmaster, and is now on the track of getting \$5,000 for having been "shanghaiing," or carried off against his protest.

Seven million names is not an extraordinary showing, considering the number of scribes engaged. One industrious minister, who has nothing else to do, ought to be able to write 500 names an hour. With due management seventy million names could be written in a few weeks.

That may have been a pretty picture at the Empire theater, London, last evening, when Mrs. James Brown Potter was singing British war songs and tied the American and English flags together, but it has a misleading effect on the British mind. This country has enough to do in attending to its own wars.

The fact of Gen. Buller finding it necessary to take personal charge of one division of the advance against the Boers, is sufficient notice to Great Britain that another general should be in South Africa to direct affairs for the whole campaign, hence the report that Lord Roberts, the distinguished East Indian fighter and second in command in the British army, is to go to Cape town at once.

The opposition telephone company in New York seems to have made a mistake in getting its wires laid before the other company found it out. A big fight had been expected on the matter of laying the wires, but at 1 o'clock Sunday morning the new company started in and did so much of the work that an injunction was out of the question. The "hello" war was therefore looked for in Gotham on January 1st.

The Paris papers advise Jeffries and Corbett not to come to the Paris exposition with their fight, but to "practice their brutal trade at home." These journals say the exposition probably will "attract enough vile spectacles, without the most abominable of all—a prize fight." France can put up with a big lot of vile things, but the brutal business is too much on paper.

"The situation is humiliating, but if the experience teaches young Utah to forsake the religion of their fathers and to fall down and worship the tempter in order to gain worldly honor and preferment; if it teaches them that the best way to get along is to support financially and otherwise the press that is pledged to rule or ruin, all will be well." This is not a verbatim quotation from a morning contemporary, but it is the plain reading that appears between the lines.

Senator Clark of Montana says the charges of bribery against him are the culmination of an unprovoked, malicious, and bitter warfare which has been waged against him for twelve years "by parties who have used every means to control not only the politics, but the executive, judicial and legislative departments of the State and to monopolize the vast public business interests of the State." Accepting his statement, the new senator will now have a chance of showing up his adversaries to their shame.

Speculation is already rife as to the probable supply of grain for the coming year. The winter wheat crop of the year that now is rapidly passing is supposed to have been 100,000,000 bushels short, but the winter wheat now in the ground is thought to be highly favored by the mild weather. The plant has plenty of time to grow strong and healthy, so as to withstand the frost that will come later. The presumption, therefore, is that the winter wheat of 1900 will make up for the shortage of this year.

No doubt the fighting at Modder river was severe, and even fierce. But taking the account of losses on the British side, the description of the battle seems very much overdrawn, as to its desperate nature. In fourteen hours' fighting there were less than a hundred killed on the British side, and the entire losses on that side did not reach five hundred. In comparison with other battles both in America and Europe, the actual risk and loss is comparatively small. The terms "marvelous accuracy" and "riddling" applied to the shooting and its effect, certainly are misnomers, considering the amount of firing that was done by the 20,000 men engaged.

The currency bill. St. Paul Pioneer Press. The text of the financial bill agreed upon and recommended by the Republican caucus committee fixes the gold standard of the United States at 25 per cent of the United States and treasury notes outstanding. To maintain the gold reserve the secretary of the treasury is authorized to issue bonds of the United States at a rate not exceeding 2 per cent.

Chicago Record. As to banking reform, the framers of the bill attempt nothing radical. They leave the present system unchanged, but provide for the issuance of notes by banks to the par value of bonds deposited as security for circulation and reduce the tax on circulation. These provisions are of so little importance, compared to the need in this line, which for a change of system, that it is doubtful if the subject of banking legislation would not be better left untouched entirely until conditions are ripe for more thoroughgoing legislation.

Milwaukee Wisconsin. The bill will pass the House of Representatives, as it is understood that the Republican majority of thirteen is committed to its passage. In the Senate there is naturally a Republican majority of 17. The Bryanites and the free silver disciples think they can defeat its passage in the Senate. As the administration is committed to its passage, it will regard with disfavor any so-called Republican who votes against it, and therefore we think it will pass by a small majority.

Baltimore Sun. The Senate is, as usual, obstructive. The Republican majority of that body asserts, it is said, in the main to the proposals of the House committee, but hesitates to use equally clear language. Some of them are cut-and-dried lawyers and wish to hedge. They object to using in the Senate bill the shocking word "gold," preferring a round-about expression; and two or three would like to shirk the thing altogether. But a bare majority, it is believed, will face the issue and pass a bill containing the essential features of the House bill.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. In view of the national campaign approaching and the differences of opinion in both the great political parties on important details, if not on cardinal principles, in financial legislation, it is improbable that anything of great importance will be accomplished in the coming session of Congress. Speeches will be made and material for campaign documents furnished by congressional orators, actually or constructively delivered, but the real work of financial legislation is more than likely to be postponed until the results of the election indicate the will of the people.

SALT LAKE THEATRE.

GEORGE D. PETER, Manager.

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Direct from its Triumphant Tour, The Dainty Parisian Comedy,

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