

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.

Center of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Eugene G. Whitney, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:

One Year	in advance	\$3.00
Six Months	"	1.50
Three Months	"	.75
One Month	"	.25
Single copies	"	5c

NEW YORK OFFICE:

In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 1127 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:

In charge of E. J. Cooper, 55 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Post Office of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress March 3rd, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 18, 1903.

AN EMPHATIC PROTEST.

The adoption by the Commercial Club of the report of its committee on education, in reference to the bill before the Legislature for the raising of the school tax limit, was in our opinion, a wise and fully warranted by the figures and facts arranged in the report. The Deseret News has been unfavorable to the bill on general principles, taking the ground that the people are already too heavily burdened, and that to add to the load would be wrong and an unnecessary hardship. The investigations of the committee referred to show that there is no need for the proposed increase, and that this is demonstrated by financial statements coming from the Board of Education of this city. By proper economy and wise administration, the funds at the command of the board will be ample for present educational purposes. The committee say: "It appears from the board's own figures, that it is not in need of more revenue, but on the contrary, has more than enough under the law as it stands." They therefore enter an emphatic protest against the proposed raise of the tax limit. The club adopted the report, and it is to be hoped that the Legislature will concur, and refuse to pass any measure having in view the purpose of the needless enactment.

THE WATER CONTROVERSY.

The consideration of the water problem by the Commercial Club and a number of legislators and business men on Tuesday evening, was a step in a desired direction. Some very important matters were presented. The explanations and suggestions of Engineer A. P. Doremus and Attorney F. S. Richards were valuable, and something in the line of their remarks is absolutely essential for the establishment of a definite water system. The volume of the water supply at different points in the state must be first ascertained, then the extent of the rights established to its use must be defined and fixed, the questions of appropriation and of surplus waters must be settled, and various associated matters must be considered. Legislation on these points will have to be gravely and carefully handled or there will be endless trouble and litigation.

The presentation of these problems by the gentlemen mentioned was conducted with the ability of experts on the water question. But they must not be confounded with the proposition for a water commission in this city, which is a different subject entirely. The association of the two topics in the same meeting has confused them in the minds of some people. The practical measures of the first addresses at the meeting do not apply to, and are not rightly connected with, the water commission scheme explained and advocated afterward. We agree with the former, we dissent from the latter. We shall take occasion to explain why when necessary requires.

"THAT COMPULSORY PETITION."

Salt Lake City, Feb. 17, 1903.

Editor Deseret News.

As I am still questioned in regard to the "covert threats" said to have been used in circulating a petition for the setting of Sunday school fees, I desire to state for the information of the public, that the assertion in certain newspapers that I used threats or inducements of any kind to obtain a signature or signatures is absolutely false. I could have obtained scores of signatures from prominent men if that had been desired, but only a few were wanted. I deny emphatically that I said anything about a "record" or made any reference to where persons "would stand two years hence," or tried to bring a pressure to bear upon any person in any shape or form. That ought to be sufficient, and will be for all who know me.

Yours respectfully,

WM. R. JONES, JR.

The substance of the foregoing appeared on the first page of the Tribune on Sunday morning. But an editorial was published in the same paper on "That Compulsory Petition," in which the charge is made that signatures to it were "required under pains and penalties," and "obtained by coercion and covert threats." It was a vile but characteristic Tribune editorial, and is false and vicious in its whole purpose and intent. The idea that any gentleman whose name was signed to the brief statement of facts that is dubbed a "petition," did so under duress or compulsion or threat of any kind, is a gross insult to the signers, and the intimation that there was any need to use such means to obtain signatures is an infamous falsehood, written and published with manifest malice. Even the writer of it ought to be thoroughly ashamed of his paper.

DR. CRUM'S CASE.

Dr. Crum, colored, has been declared unfit to hold a federal office, because of the color of his skin. It is stated that he is able and beyond reproach, but the color of his skin is against him.

The case has attracted much atten-

tion, and rightly so. For the disqualification for office on account of race and color, is a direct attack on the Constitution of the country. It is a reopening of the wound inflicted not half a century ago, but supposed to be healed.

It is justly argued that the onslaught cannot stop with the refusal of admitting a negro to office, for which he may be qualified. Logically this must lead to disfranchisement. And from this condition the step backward to slavery again, is not long. In fact, Senator Hoar is quoted as having said he knew a colleague who maintained that it was a mistake to abolish slavery. And so it was, it is right at this time to re-enslave the negro, for that is really what the extinguishing of civil and political rights means.

Paralleled to the Crum case, in which color is made an objection to holding office, is the case in Utah, where certain obstructionists are endeavoring to make legislative convictions a test as to the qualification for office. And thus the attacks on United States institutions continue.

The question is whether prejudices against races and religions shall be permitted to triumph. That is the mighty question that is about to confront this nation. And upon the answer given will depend the future of the country.

THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION.

It is emphatically denied in official circles, that Turkey is mobilizing troops, but it is as emphatically asserted, from other sources, that two army corps have already been mobilized, and placed under the command of Ehem Pasha, who conducted the campaign against Greece. It is also denied that Austria-Hungarian troops are being mobilized, but the Vienna correspondent of the London Daily Mail asserts that Austria has mobilized two army corps and has concentrated an extra 40,000 men on the Balkan border. He adds that military men believe that armed intervention is inevitable.

It is the old question over again. In 1853 war broke out between Russia and Turkey, because Russia demanded the right to protect all the "Christians" in Turkey, of the Greek faith. Russia came off victorious, when Great Britain and France intervened, fought the ever memorable battle of Sebastopol, in 1855, and dictated terms of peace. Turkey was saved for the time being.

But the conditions continued unfavorable. In 1875 Bosnia and Herzegovina revolted, and Bulgarians soon joined the insurrection. Great atrocities were committed both by the Turkish troops and the rebels, until Europe became sick of tales of horror. In 1877 Russia declared war in the name of humanity. The Turks fought bravely, but after a few months their armies were captured, or scattered, and the Russians stood outside the very suburbs of Constantinople.

The plan of Russia at that time was to detach most of European Turkey from the Ottoman empire, and peace was concluded according to that program. Russia acquired Bessarabia, in Europe, and Kara, Batoum and adjacent territory, in Asia. Servia, Montenegro and Roumania were given additional area and independence. Bulgaria was vastly extended so as to embrace nearly all the country between the Balkan Mountains and the Mediterranean, including Macedonia, and was made virtually independent. Crete, Thessaly and Epirus were to receive reforms. This treaty, it will be seen, stripped Turkey of everything, in Europe, except Albania and part of Thessaly, with a comparatively small area connected with Adrianople, Rodosto and Constantinople.

But at this juncture Great Britain stepped in. A British fleet was sent through the Dardanelles, and preparations for war were made. Russia found it safest to yield to the demands for a European conference, which was held in Berlin, 1878. By the agreement there reached the area demanded by Russia was considerably diminished. To Turkey was restored nearly all the territory south of the Balkans, Macedonia included, from the Black sea west to Albania, by dividing what was left of the new Bulgaria into two parts and vesting control of Eastern Roumelia in the Sultan, with a "Christian" governor. Bulgaria north of the Balkans was given autonomy. Austria received Bosnia and Herzegovina. Montenegro and Serbia got less territory than had been given them by the Russian treaty, and the Sultan was advised to give Greece part of Thessaly and Albania. Great Britain, by private agreement, acquired Cyprus, with the understanding that she would protect Asia Minor against Russia, provided Turkey should inaugurate reforms in Armenia. This has not been done. Great Britain is therefore under no obligation to protect Turkey against Russia. As a result of the war, Russia, Austria, and Great Britain, all got Turkish territory, and a large part of the Balkan peninsula was made independent.

It is this question over again. Those who were thrown back upon the tender mercies of Turkey, by the Berlin congress, are struggling for independence. Europe will sooner or later be called upon to take action.

King Edward is opening parliament referred to the situation in the Balkans as grave. That proves sufficiently that the rumors of war coming from that quarter are more than the ordinary signs of the approaching spring.

TROUBLE IN CHINA.

Rumors are multiplying to the effect that another Boxer rising is likely to occur in China next summer, with Peking for center. The rising in 1900 appeared to be suppressed, but it was said then, by persons familiar with Chinese conditions, that the red fires were not extinguished; only temporarily smothered, and that appears to have been the case. A correspondent of the Shanghai Mercury speaks of Yung Lu, the chief of the Boxers, in 1900, as the virtual emperor of China today. So great is his influence at court supposed to be. As will be remembered, the Chinese government was compelled to kill a number of the

"leaders" of the Boxer rising. It would be interesting to know, in view of this report, whether the executions were all by proxy, or whether some "leaders" have taken the vacant places.

According to the Shanghai report, the Viceroy Tsen is said to be earnestly endeavoring to suppress the rebellion in the province of Szechuan headed by Tung Fu Hsing, but the imperial government is not giving him any support. Meantime, the government is proposing to absorb the telegraph system throughout the country. This is, however, regarded as ominous of evil to foreigners in the event of widespread trouble. And while a rebellion is thus gaining strength in the northwestern provinces, the anti-foreign rebels in Kwangsi, in the south, have taken possession of many districts and towns and are preparing to march on Yunnan.

Possibly foreign intrigues are at the bottom of the trouble. It is noticeable that whenever there is an outbreak in China, foreign powers find an excuse for invading Chinese territory, and whenever soldiers are sent into a district, they very rarely are entirely withdrawn.

Little Venice has learned not to monkey with the buzz saw.

If the Sultan should go to war he probably would go to the wall.

There is such a thing as paying too much for a school whistle even.

Mr. Hoven was the victor but the spoils went to King, Kaiser & Co.

Some men think they are the whole thing even when they are in a hole.

Joint action against Turkey never means that Turkey is to be disjoined.

It is to be regretted that the provisions of the pure-food bill are not edible.

"Do we go up?" was asked the thermometer. "Up we do go," they replied.

Nothing parts a fool from his money quicker than investment in a "get-rich" enterprise.

Mme. Humbert is suffering from heart trouble. As yet her conscience does not trouble her.

President Roosevelt has been preaching in favor of big families. Is the underlying idea Napoleon?

No matter how other people may have felt over the thaw it saddened the hearts of the plumbers.

When Austria sends her note to the Sultan it should have a note bene clause attached telling him it means business.

It seems that it was Great Britain that proposed that the naval demonstration against Venezuela take the form of a blockade.

A University of Chicago professor says there are forty tongues spoken in Chicago. A punishment for that city's attempt to rival the tower of Babel with Masonic buildings.

A joint and concurrent resolution to pension policemen has been introduced in the Missouri legislature. To provide them with beds in hospitals would be about the proper caper.

It was a cold reception that that most welcome visitor—the robin—got. But warmer weather is at hand, and he will find it an easy matter to make a living. What a blessing are the birds!

The president and sixteen teachers of the Normal university of New Mexico have gone on strike. Before they can go back to their classes they will have to bring excuses from their pals and ma's for unexcused absences or be "dropped."

In Washington social circles an invitation from the President to any function is said to be a "command." In London the rule is reversed. There a "command" from royalty is regarded as an invitation. Some American social leaders believe in out-Herding Herod.

It irks Senator Depew to think that all the states should have equal representation in the senate. He has the Federalist theory that the larger the man the greater his rights. The distinguished after-dinner speaker senator has not only outgrown the Constitution but the theory of the American government as well.

The sad accident whereby a boy, showing his new purchase to his younger brother, shot himself should teach a lesson. It is that children should not be allowed to handle firearms except under close supervision of their parents or other grown people. In this connection it is well to call attention to the common and dangerous practice of boys going around the city with 22-caliber rifles, shooting at birds. The shooting of the birds is unlawful and the practice is dangerous to citizens in the neighborhood. It is fully realized that the police cannot be all over the city looking for these juvenile violators of the law, but an occasional trip by a mounted policeman would be a good thing. If the practice is not stopped some day some one will be shot.

The continuous work of archaeologists tends more and more to the presumption that ancient America was the land where the civilization of Asia itself originated. The Curator of the American section museum of science and art in the University of Pennsylvania, Stewart Culin, contributes a suggestive article on the subject to the March number of Harper's Magazine. Mr. Culin points out many striking resemblances between the games of chance played by early American Indians and those now in use in India, Korea and China. Among these the Hindu game of "pachisi" is almost identical with "patolli," as played by the Aztecs in old Mexico. Incidentally, the name of pachisi, with which all American children are familiar, is a development from the pachisi which Mr. Culin and others regard as one of the important links in the evidence identifying eastern with western civilization, as he explains in his article.

SENATOR HANNA'S PENSION BILL.

Pittsburgh Dispatch. Senator Hanna says he did not know what was in that bill to pension ex-slaves. It was presented "by request." Which is apt to provoke terse comment upon one way of performing public duty.

Buffalo Express. Of course Senator Hanna does not favor his bill to pension former slaves, but the fact that he introduced it will be used to swindle many poor negroes into contributing money to agents to press their claims.

Baltimore Sun. Now that so prominent a senator as Mr. Hanna has apparently interested himself in the project it is probable that another assault will be made on the pocketbooks of the former slaves by men who have profited by their ignorance and credulity in the past.

Pittsburgh Post. If it is a Hanna bid for southern and negro delegates, we do not see how the Roosevelt interest can improve on it. The appointment of a few colored men to insignificant federal offices or leaving "representative" colored men to the presidential dinner table will not meet the crisis.

New York American. What he is after is popularity on the plantations and in the back alleys of southern cities, where Mr. Roosevelt of late has been having it all his own way. The poor black man may be grateful to the president for giving a collectorship and a postoffice or two to colored citizens, but what is such "recognition," however flattering, in comparison with the promise of a pension for himself or one of the family.

New York Herald. It was a most mischievous thing, however, to have done. It will arouse a vain hope among the negroes of the south that they are to be pensioned by the government, and it will stir into activity those who on various occasions have deluded these poor people with such hopes and induced them to part with their little savings to "help it along." If Senator Hanna isn't ashamed of himself he ought to be. Even the "by request" endorsement on the bill will not relieve him of responsibility for what may follow.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The February number of Gunton's Magazine has the following list of contents: "The Administration and Trusts," "Monthly Review of Foreign Affairs," "Protection, Not Reciprocity," "Symptomatic Parties," Henry W. Wilson; "Forestry Legislation in the United States," Hon. John F. Lacey, M. C., chairman committee on public lands, House of Representatives; "To South Africa on a Mule Transport," Walter Sterling Bridgman; "Editorial Crucible," "Book Reviews," "Current Comment," and "The World's Greatest Mint," illustrated, Julius Moritzsen. Gunton Co., New York.

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