

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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## ANONYMOUS LETTERS.

Notwithstanding the repeated announcements in the daily papers, including the Deseret News, that anonymous communications will not be published but will be consigned to the waste basket and go into the furnace, we frequently receive letters on various subjects, and asking questions of private or public interest, which are unaccompanied by any personal signature. The writers are no doubt surprised, and perhaps indignant, because no notice is taken of their communications. If they would pay attention to what they read in the public journals, they would either send their names with their letters, or cease to wonder why they are not published. We will say, once more, that the names of correspondents will not be printed without their consent, but we must know who they are, for our own satisfaction and as evidence that the letters are written in good faith. Once in a while the subject of an unsigned letter may be touched upon editorially, because it is a matter of public interest for the discussion of which we are willing to become responsible. But ordinarily all such communications are thrown aside, and we reiterate the announcement that they will be thus disposed of, as unworthy of consideration if they are unworthy of a bona fide signature.

## PROMPT ACTION WANTED.

The injunction sued for by the Water and Electrical Power company, to restrain Salt Lake City from shutting off the flow from Utah lake, so that the city may continue its work of lowering the channel, suggests the necessity of some immediate action by the City Council, on the report of the committee in reference to that work.

It was decided by the joint committee, in association with citizens who aided in the water bond issue, that the balance of the money left from the sale of the bonds, should be expended in making a new dam and in lowering the channel, as far as the funds would go, with the expectation that means would be forthcoming in good time to finish the work. The necessity of continuing this labor, so as to hold good the claim of the city to unappropriated water of the lake, was urged and it was expected that the City Council would act on the report without delay. But it has been put off, and there are many citizens who complain of the seeming apathy of the Council on this vital question.

There is no need for any postponement, on account of this obstacle attempted to be raised by the power company. Even if the water should not be shut off, the building of the dam could go on, and if there is sufficient money, dredging can be done in the channel. The work has not been stopped, now, but it will proceed with more vigor as soon as the Council authorizes its progress.

Of course it will be greatly to the advantage of the city, and of those canal companies which choose to join in the project, to have the water shut off now that irrigation is not so much needed, so that teams may be employed instead of a dredging machine. The work with the latter would have to be done by contract. There is much that could be done with teams, at the head of the channel and about three miles at the lower end. This would be vastly easier for the canal companies than the raising of money to pay for their proportion of the work.

We respectfully suggest to the City Council that some action on the report of the committee is very desirable. We do not join in the suspicion expressed by some people that there are members of that body who lean to the power company side of the question. The interests of the municipality are so clearly involved in the successful prosecution of the work that has been started, and the securing of the necessary volume of water to supply the city, and make the exchanges contemplated for mountain streams, that no one elected to serve the people should hesitate a moment to make sure that which involves the future welfare of not only the inhabitants of this city, but many of the agriculturists of Salt Lake county. Prompt action is looked for; let there be no needless delay.

## IS THE STRIKE ENDED?

The official notice of the officers of the Miners' union, authorizing the strikers in the anthracite region to resume work on Monday, ends the struggle for an increase of wages, with partial victory for the strikers.

The men at first demanded a 20 per cent increase, a reduction in the price of powder, and the opportunity of trading in the open market instead of the company stores. The coal companies that have signified their willingness to adjust the grievances, have granted their men an increase in the wages of ten per cent until April 1, 1901, and also

promised to submit further disputes to arbitration. A few other concessions have been made, and the miners' officers consider the victory so nearly complete "that no good end can be served by continuing the strike longer."

Some of the companies have made no offer, no promises, and it is not yet known, it seems, whether they will stand by the proposed settlement. If they do not do this, the strike will be continued as far as the employees of these companies are concerned.

From this distance the agreement looks more like an armistice than a complete victory for the aggressive side. A number of questions are left open for future settlement. The raise in wages is only for a few months. If the companies refuse to give any concessions on the points that are to be arbitrated; or if at the expiration of the term they again should lower the wages, the strike would have to be resumed, or the results of the present contest be lost. And the fact that some of the coal companies have neglected to make any terms at all with their men, indicates that the cessation of work has not reduced them to a financial condition in which they find themselves conquered and therefore willing to yield. On the whole, the termination of the strike looks more like a temporary arrangement than a permanent settlement.

That the officers of the miners believe that the strike may be resumed is evident from their fervent appeal to the men to maintain their organization and to enter into close relations with the United Mine Workers of America at once, so that in any future struggle they may be able to present a strong and solid front. They seem to expect a resumption of the strike, perhaps at no distant date. And then who can tell whether it will be conducted in the orderly manner that has characterized it so far?

## THE SOLDIER IN WAR.

At a time when there is much talk of enlarging the standing army of the United States a letter of a correspondent of the New York Evening Post on the life of the United States soldier is of much interest. From his observations it appears as if it would be more necessary to improve the conditions of the army we have, than to increase the number. And the writer in the Post may be considered authority on that subject. As a war correspondent he has seen army life both at home and in Cuba and the Philippines, and he is entitled to an impartial hearing.

The correspondent, in the first place, calls attention to the fact that the soldiers are not provided with sufficient pack animals. In support of this he quotes a letter from a war correspondent in China, in which the experiences of Uncle Sam's boys are graphically depicted:

"As the sun rose higher and the fierce rays beat down on the men, the cruel blanket rolls weighed tons, and the sweat rolled down and soaked the khaki. Nothing seemed to matter, and the men cursed heaven and earth, and the officers, and the nation that sent them. Soon the weakest reached his limit and staggered out on the sand. A Red Cross man rode back and saw that the ambulance picked him up. Then two and three fell out, and a halt had to be called. The men muttered and swore. Some were too far gone to swear; they lay like overdriven animals, gasping for breath, and suffocating in that burning air. Then the order came to throw away dogged soldiers went first. Some wadded blankets under their heads, and some lay like dogs, thinking of the cold nights, still clung desperately to their loads. Others threw everything away but the canteen and ammunition, and under an eastern sun know that heaven made mules and ponies to carry what a man needs and his strength will not bear. But the Chinese plains are thousands of miles from Washington. The cold and shelterless at night, while the Chinese coolies who picked up the blankets that lay dotted on our trail will sleep as warm and comfortable as the authorities in Washington, who do not care. Uncle Sam won't buy pack animals to bear the loads that kill the men. The men must be pack animals and fighting men in one. The result is that they are neither. They throw away their packs and become sunstruck, drivelling lunatics before the time comes to deploy and face the enemy."

And this, he says, is no new story. Reminiscences in Cuba and the Philippines are familiar with it. The remembrance of long days of dull monotony in camp will pass away, but few of the thousands who have experienced it will ever forget that marching on and on under a sun that seems to burn the flesh and grill the bones. The eyes are burning coals, the brain reels, but the man must go on until he drops, because America expects her soldiers to combine the functions of fighting men and pack animals.

The writer, next, calls attention to the short-time enlistments for a serious campaign. Under this system too many join the army merely for "the fun" of it. It attracts too many of a bad moral character. This accounts for the unusual number of punishments by court-martial and the complaints of drunkenness. He believes that a small army is sufficient for our purposes, but that it should be of the very best material and properly equipped.

Another point made by the writer is, that there are today a number of veterans of the Civil War who after a long and faithful service have not obtained the promotion to which such service should entitle them. They should be advanced, he thinks, and retired on a sufficient salary. This would serve as a fitting recognition of their services, and it would clear the way on the higher rounds of the ladder for a number of younger men who also have claims upon the nation.

It must be admitted that these points are well taken. The efficiency of an army is more important than numbers.

It would be well for the representatives of the American people to recognize this fact, when the army question comes up for consideration. Militarism in this country cannot be maintained at the cheap figures prevailing in Europe. Every American soldier, even if poorly equipped, costs many times that of a European warrior. An American army approximating in proportion to population, the French or German armies, would be an intolerable financial burden to the country. But a small, well equipped, and well paid army will be sufficient for all purposes in times of

peace, while it would serve for an efficient nucleus for a larger fighting force, should war be forced upon the country. The matter is of the greatest importance to every citizen, and especially to those on whom the financial burdens of the government always fall.

## DIRECT LEGISLATION.

Eugene Germain concludes an article in the Los Angeles Express on the question of initiative and referendum, thus:

"Obviously our interest in the initiative and referendum rests primarily in the question, is it of practical application to American institutions and American conditions? That is certainly a broad question and one fraught with grave considerations for the future. It must be borne in mind that Switzerland is an insignificant country compared to ours, and that it is also densely populated. In view of this the people are close to the governing power, in fact, elbow each other at one stage or another all along the line. In our national affairs the perspective is often distant, but in state and municipal affairs I believe it feasible, and when once in working order here its enforcement on national lines I believe would naturally follow. For one I would like to see it tried in our municipal and county affairs, for I believe that the evils of our political system are more pronounced in our cities than elsewhere. As indicative of this all are more or less familiar with the 'boss rule' of the average American municipality. Here the initiative and referendum would be direct, and once in operation it would reflect public opinion most strikingly, and to show whether the aphorism, 'What is there in it?' is confined solely to the office seeking classes, or whether its baneful influences have really begun to permeate the whole body of voters."

## ELECTION FORECASTS.

The following paragraph represents the views of the Boston Transcript on the reliability of the forecasts now made on the outcome of the Presidential election:

"The forecasts which the figures are putting forth as to the number of electoral votes the candidates will receive remind one of the calculation by which, in the course of the presidential campaign of 1852, a writer in The Carpet Bag, the organ of Essien Jehiel Stebbings of the Spunkville Light Artillery, as an independent candidate for presidency, figured out 202 electoral votes as 'for Stebbings, sure,' and 1,837 as 'for Stebbings, doubtful,' thus making the total number of sure and probable electoral votes which the candidate would receive 2,039. The 202 electoral votes put down as sure for Stebbings included five from Wisconsin, and the following is the explanation of the reason why it was claimed that Wisconsin was certain to go for Stebbings: 'Wisconsin—The German vote is sure for Stebbings. In his letter to the Sonderbund Verein, the emigrant states that he can play on the German flute, and is very fond of bologna sausages, which facts show that he is interested in European matters.' Included in the 1,837 electoral votes put down as probably for Stebbings ('for Stebbings, doubtful') were 27 from Minnesota, 17 from Utah, 114 from New Mexico, 27 from Nebraska, 158 from Cuba, 402 from Nicaragua and 766 from Patagonia."

In the concert of the powers each is tooting its own horn.

There are more flies in the pastepot than in the ointment these days.

There are worse scales than the sliding scale. The San Jose, for instance.

The strike is settled but the price of coal remains a burning question.

Birds may flutter without being hit, but the hit bird always flutters, unless it is dead.

If it takes so much time to begin the negotiations at Pekin how long will it take to end them?

Some campaign orators are like an automobile; they can only be stopped by turning the crank.

A reward has been offered for the apprehension of defaulter Alvord. This is a reward for the wicked and not of the wicked.

In the matter of issuing notes on the Chinese problem it remains to be seen whether they do these things better in France than in Germany.

Women's clubs are a good thing, but in the rearing of children they should not be permitted to entirely usurp the place of the shoe and shingle.

A Wisconsin judge has enjoined a woman from calling her husband names. Nothing is said in the injunction about making faces at him.

Facilities for cashing postal money orders are to be enlarged. This is very good but better facilities for getting money orders to cash is still the great desideratum.

The registration in New York reached the total of 600,000, while throughout the entire country it will reach at least 15,000,000. And yet Aristotle thought that an electorate could not safely exceed 10,000.

"Degeneracy" is to be the defense of Rossini Ferrell, the man who wantonly murdered Express Messenger Jane. It is a variation of the overworked "insanity" defense but by a jury is worthy of no credence. It will be interesting to watch the development of this defense and see if it succeeds.

Maud Gonne is endeavoring to band the children of Ireland together and teach them hostility to England. It isn't a wise or a Christian thing to instill into the minds of children hostility and hatred to any one. The experiences of life may be relied upon to give sufficient hatred to each human soul.

In four States, Utah, Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming, the women will vote, this year, for Presidential electors. In Idaho they will vote for the first time at the coming election. The joint vote of the women in these four States is estimated at 145,000. If all the ladies entitled to the franchise avail themselves of their right to vote.

The great anthracite coal miners' strike is ended. The strikers have won, but the matter should be looked at from the purely business standpoint. The great majority of the operators have agreed to the 10 per cent increase in wages, this increase to be maintained until April 1st next. After that date it may or may not be maintained. It will take the 10 per cent increase, if not more, to make the men whole. Financially, the men make no net gain. There is a partial recognition of the principles of the union, but that recognition means

the denial of the right to work to miners who are not members. Men's right to work and gain a livelihood should not be made to depend upon their membership in any organization. That changes its nature, making it a privilege to be bestowed.

The Episcopal Bishop of Shanghai says that the attitude of the United States in China is "utterly weak," and that all foreigners there are singing the praises of Emperor William. As a general thing the attitude of this government in China has received the endorsement of the American people, while that of Emperor William has been condemned. He has been the champion of revenge and he appears to have been actuated by anything but Christian motives. But it may be that oriental Christianity is different from American and European.

## THE END OF THE STRIKE.

The settlement of the great anthracite coal miners' strike is hailed with satisfaction not only in the region directly affected, but throughout the country generally. The settlement is undoubtedly due to the self-control of both sides to the controversy, the just and reasonable demands and the admirable orderliness, in the main, of the strikers. There is no doubt that the miners were entitled to an increase in wages and a correction of abuses that had grown up in their treatment by the operators. Their cause was right, and they conducted themselves so that they did not forfeit the public sympathy which the wrongs of which they complained had created. On the other hand the operators did not make a bad situation worse by attempting to introduce new men into their mines. Had they done so a clash would have taken place and there would have been bloodshed. Luckily that is not one of the legacies left by this strike.

New York Mail and Express.

It will take many months of steady toil at the new rate to make up to the men the earnings they have spent in their weeks of idleness. That the same result could not have been secured without quitting work has not been ascertained. The blame for that, however, and the cost of it, must be shared by operators and men alike, in that their relations were not such as to invite mutual confidence. From the outset it was doubtful that unless the men prejudiced their case by violence, something must be granted to them, and the action of the companies in their first proffer of a wage increase was in recognition of that necessity and of public conviction of it.

Springfield Republican.

The coal strike ends in triumph for the strikers. Everybody is glad, hoping that the price of coal will go down, but will not the operators now take out of the public what they have conceded to their employees? There are signs that they will.

Kansas City Star.

The chief mistake of the strikers, and one which weakened them before the public, was in compelling the men employed by the Markies to quit work in spite of their contract with their employers to submit all grievances to arbitration. But, in general, the strike commended the cause to the public. If a settlement shall be speedily reached the outcome will be practically a victory for arbitration in labor troubles.

This principle the operators at first rejected; now they have shown a willingness to accept it. An amicable arrangement between coal operators and employees would have a wide influence in other departments of industry.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The action of the anthracite coal operators accepting the proposition of the miners' convention will, it is hoped, put an end to the trouble in that region. It is understood that the sliding scale in use in that district will be abandoned and a straight ten per cent raise in wages put into effect all over the region. The increased rate is to continue positively until April 1, and indefinitely thereafter. Other differences between the operators and the miners are to be adjusted by conferences between the employers and committees of their employees. When these agreements have been put into a form that will be definite and binding on both sides, preventing the backing out of either after the immediate object of the concessions has been secured, work will probably be resumed. The consummation, however, of the strike, must, however, be before the strike.

## AUTUMN DAYS.

Worcester Gazette.

The glory of October is ample compensation for the dismal skies of the past. The dust is laid, the brooks are brimming, and the foliage is again washed clean. The soft haze of the Indian summer is in the air and the warmth of the sun recalls the days that have passed. After this freshening of the earth and this brief return of the summer days, the frosty fates of autumn should come and bring a blush to the cheek of the maple leaf and a new glory to the earth. Whether by day or by night, if one seeks the open at this turn of the season he will find rich scenery. Each and every scene will be gratified.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

An exhaustive history of the Boer War, written by Captain A. T. Mahan, will shortly be issued from the press by P. F. Collier & Son, New York. The volume is to be handsomely illustrated by the artists whose splendid productions are familiar to the readers of Collier's Weekly.

The current number of Harper's Bazar, free, as usual, on a number of subjects of feminine interest. "Basket Ball for Women," "Cloth Gowns," "Winter Skirts," "Matinee Jackets," "Autumn Jacket," "Evening Gowns," etc. are among the topics that make up the list of contents.—Harper and Brothers, New York.

This item is from Harper's Weekly of October 15: "We are told in the New York Sun that two French chemists, Drs. Degrez and Balthazard, have learned by accident that bixide of sodium will purify air so that it may be breathed over and over again. The discovery, the story goes, sealed up animals in air-tight receptacles along with lamps of bixide of sodium, and found that they breathed indefinitely without embarrassment. Then they put a diver's helmet lined with bixide of sodium on a man, and found he could stay under water as long as he chose without fresh air. The chemical explanation of the phenomenon is that bixide of sodium absorbs the carbon from carbonic acid gas and sets free pure oxygen. This sounds a little like the inventions that ingenious writers use to adorn tales of the remote future, but it is gravely told in a veracious newspaper. This bixide of sodium, if it is all it is cracked up to be, will be great stuff for divers, and for submarine boats, and for miners and hospital, and slum tenement houses, schools, theaters, and all crowded places.—Harper and Brothers, New York.

Vernor's Magazine for October opens with costume portraits of the chief actors in the Oberammergau Passion Play. "Stuttering" is discussed by

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T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

Charles Lunn and the editor: "Practical Vocal Physiology" is the subject of another interesting article by Charles Lunn. "Spellbinders and Spellbinding" is treated on by the Hon. Champ Clark. In the "Study Club" Johan Wolfgang Goethe is presented to the readers, by Stanley Schell. Then comes a number of recitations and declamations, and verse and in schools. "Stage Effects in Ben Hur" are interestingly described and illustrated. "Entertainments" and "Current Thoughts" complete this number. Among the illustrations are excellent portraits of Goethe and his father and mother.—43 East, 19th St., New York.

Among the new Ventures in the magazine field is The World's Work, published by Doubleday, Page & Co. The initial number gives a full page portrait of Secretary Hay, and discusses "The March of Events," including the Boer war, the coal strike, the campaign and a number of other burning questions. Among special articles are: "Our Place Among the Nations," "A Revolution in Nature Pictures," "A Day's Work of an Arctic Explorer," and "Among the World's Workers." The new magazine will devote its pages to the activities of the "newly organized world," its problems and even its romance, and judiciously from the contents of the first number, it will be a valuable interpreter of the new century.—34 Union Square, New York.

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