

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 Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
(In Advance):
One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.00
Three Months50
One Month25
Saturday Edition, Per Year 2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year 1.00

NEW YORK OFFICE
In charge of R. F. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Of-
fice, 1127 Park Row Building, New York

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 78 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading mat-
ter for publication should be addressed to
the EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances to:
THE DESERET 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, - APRIL 15, 1905

DESERET NEWS 'PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
this establishment a great deal of annoy-
ance if they will take time to note these
numbers:

For the Chief Editor's Office, 352.
For Deseret News Press, 807, 74-1.
For City Editor and Reporter, 352-2.
For Business Manager, 74-1.
For Business Office, 352-2.

THE PENDING QUESTION.

The people of Salt Lake City have
been appealed to by the local papers to
arise in heat and anger, and bring such
a pressure to bear upon the City Council
as to deter its members from acting
upon their judgment as to a business
proposition in which the welfare of the
city and of a most beneficial busi-
ness company is concerned. If those
papers would confine themselves with-
in the bounds of truth and reason,
there might be no necessity to treat any
further upon their strenuous endeavors.
But there has not been an article pub-
lished by them on this matter that has
not been designed to deceive as well as
intimidate.

In order that the public may under-
stand the situation it must be stated,
to begin with, that the Utah Light &
Power company already holds fran-
chises under which it can operate for
many years to come, the longest being
for a period of forty-two years. Yet it
is still told to the public that the com-
pany is endeavoring to make a "grab"
for exclusive rights and privileges, over
and above those it now owns, for a pe-
riod of fifty years, and that it is en-
deavoring to obtain grants worth mil-
lions upon millions of dollars, without
giving any return that may be consid-
ered of value.

It is further made to appear to read-
ers who do not take time to investi-
gate, that the company intends to issue
bonds to the amount of six or ten mil-
lions, and that the people of this city
will have to pay the interest on those
bonds to the tune of half a million dol-
lars a year. There are other allega-
tions just as false and ridiculous as
these, but they need not be replied to
again, as they have been met and re-
futed repeatedly.

It should now be well known that
the city desires to obtain properties
owned by the Utah Light and Power
Company, which are necessary to com-
plete the measures required for the
perfection of the plans to bring the
waters of the Cottonwoods into this
city, at such points as will be of the
most advantage to the inhabitants. It
is useless to raise the cry that they are
not valuable, or that the company has
no valid claim upon them. Those two
bits of nonsense have been shattered
by the force of facts and evidence,
and the truth remains that the city
needs the properties and made the
first advance to the company to acquire
them. The company has been simply
endeavoring to obtain something like
a fair return for deeding those prop-
erties to the city, the latter not being au-
thorized to appropriate any of the
funds arising from the water bonds for
that purpose, and having no other
financial resources on which to draw
for the purpose.

The company asked for a consolida-
tion of its different franchises into
one, and for an extension thereof for
a period of fifty years. This request
has been so much misrepresented and
exaggerated and such stupid conclu-
sions have been drawn from it as to
its probable effects upon posterity, that
the company has made many conces-
sions. In view of the trouble made for
the councilmen who exercised their
brains and their sense of justice and
who have been maligned by the agi-
tators. One of those concessions is
the modification of the request for an
extension of time to but eight years,
instead of fifty years, from the date
of the expiration of its forty-two years
franchise now held.

In consideration of these privileges,
the company agrees to deed to the
city the properties, the lowest value
placed upon which by those who un-
derstand their worth, being \$100,000.
Also to furnish the city with lights
and power for public purposes worth
at least \$40,000 a year. And further,
to reduce its charges both for lighting
and street railway fares for the bene-
fit of the public, and to submit to all
reasonable rules and regulations for
the government of such utilities as
they are at present in possession of
and will have in the future.

Thus it will be seen that there is
nothing unusual, excessive, extor-
tionate or oppressive in the action taken
by the company, but that as a matter
of fact the city will gain, by far the
best of the bargain, which was solicited
in the first place by representa-
tives of the city. Instead of the pub-
lic having any burden placed upon
them, if any further bonds are issued
by the company, (the extravagant as-

sertions of press incendiaries being
absurd as to be out of the question)
the present charges for light and trans-
portation will be materially reduced,
and the company will, of course, have
to meet its own obligations, for which
the public will not be in the slightest
degree responsible.

We are of the private opinion that
the Utah Light and Railway company
would be consulting its own financial
interests by withdrawing entirely from
the arrangement proposed by the city,
keeping its properties so as to increase
its own facilities for producing power,
and retaining its present rights within
the city limits, its present maximum
of rates for electric lighting and power
and gas and transportation, and carry-
ing on its business without regard to
any of the considerations that have
been so much misrepresented. This
would perhaps be of some delight to the
political plotters, who are behind the
sensational and malignant movement
against a company that has been of
immense benefit to this municipality,
but better that, than to have the com-
pany so crippled and maimed as to be-
come financially disabled and prevent-
ed from making the improvements
which it has in view.

Workers in both the genuine po-
litical organizations, some of whom
have allowed their common-sense to
drift away before the howling blast
of the promoters of the so-called
"American" faction, should open their
eyes to the scheme that lies behind
the entire work of agitation on this
subject. The conspirators want to block
the way to the city's acquisition of the
properties herein mentioned, so as to
retard the work of bringing in the
long desired water supply, and to pre-
vent the expenditure of the money
raised from the bonds voted for by the
citizens, so that the present council
shall not be able to accomplish that
needed project, but that the ill-be-
gotten and aspiring aggregation of
malcontents who are bent upon rule
or ruin, may gain possession of the
city and of the funds and carry out
their own desires of grasping and
greed.

If those workers alluded to do not
understand that which is plainly in
sight, or are willing to yield their in-
fluence to the control of the wreckers
and marplots, they are not as wise in
their generations as we have imagined
them to be. And if the men who have
the regulation of our municipal affairs
permit themselves to be awayed by the
coterie of conspirators, who have their
own ends in view in the noise and de-
ception that have been used on this
public question, involving but a fair
deal between the city and a home com-
pany, they will exhibit such density of
mind and pusillanimity of purpose as
will render them ridiculous if not od-
ious to the great body of our citizens.
They are helping to make history, and
the future will set them forth in a
light which will show them as they are.

LABOR IN VAIN.

The Pittsburg Times had a represent-
ative in this city a short time ago, who
interviewed President Joseph F. Smith
on current topics relating to the
Church, its non-interference in political
affairs, its connection with the material
welfare, the distinction between the
Church and State, the freedom of
speech and of the press enjoyed in
Utah, the disposition of the tithing
contributed by the voluntary donations
of the Latter-day Saints, fast offer-
ings, the subject of inspiration and
revelation, and other subjects which
the Times correspondent viewed as of
public interest. The Deseret News re-
produced the article which was fair and
interesting. In reference to the charge
made by Thomas Kearns that the
Church interfered in politics, President
Smith was reported as saying that,

"Thomas Kearns, former senator
from Utah, and now active in this
crusade against the Church, has come to
me, time and time again, and urged me
to use my influence with Senator Smoot
to get him to resign his seat in the
Senate, and that I have invariably told
him that I had nothing whatever to do
with Smoot's election. I did not help
to put him in the senate, I am not in
politics, and I will not be led or driven
into politics. The Republican party of
Utah elected Reed Smoot to the senate,
and is responsible for his being there.
I am not, nor is the Church. I will also
add that, while pleading with me to get
Reed Smoot to resign, Mr. Kearns
also pleaded with me to help him to be
elected to succeed himself, and that to
both pleas I made the same answer, 'I
am not in politics, and will not be led
into politics.'"

It will be remembered by readers of
the "News," that Elder B. H. Roberts,
in his complete answer to the rhodo-
montade of Thomas Kearns in the Sen-
ate of the United States, exposed the
attempts made by Kearns to deceive
the Senate and the public as to Pres-
ident Smith's attitude toward political
affairs. Elder Roberts said:

"Knowing full well the seriousness of
the charge I make, I say to this great
audience and would say it to the people
of Utah and the United States if my
voice could reach them, and that upon
my word of honor, that the man, ex-
Senator Kearns, notwithstanding all
his lofty utterances, both directly and
indirectly, sought that very in-
fluence for re-election which now he
affects to scorn. He, by personal ap-
plication to President Joseph F. Smith,
sought it in the city of Washington
when President Smith was there to tes-
tify before the Senate committee on
privileges and elections. He sought
for that influence in Salt Lake City,
sought it personally of the President of
the Church, and received the grand re-
ply, 'I am not in politics.' He sought
Church influence indirectly, through
what was intended to be the good of-
fices of a fellow senator, whose influence
rested upon the same basis as his own,
the influence of wealth, not only one
did he thus seek it, but on several oc-
casions."

After the publication of these two em-
phatic statements, which had never
been seriously disputed, a desperate
effort is made by a feeble apologist for
the ex-Senator to simmer down these
charges to a mere assertion, that Kearns
simply tried to get President Smith to
induce Senator Reed Smoot to resign
his office. It is claimed that all that
Kearns did, according to President
Smith's statement to the Pittsburg
Times' representative, was that Kearns
urged him to use his influence with
Senator Smoot to induce him to re-
sign the Senatorship, but, as we have

quoted above, President Smith stated
that Mr. Kearns pleaded with him to
help him to be elected to succeed him-
self. So that the charge made by
Elder Roberts was also made by Pres-
ident Smith, and the two agree without
any conflict or "modification."

It is of no use for any pretended
friend of the ex-Senator to try to pul-
lulate his action, many times repeated.
His course is too well known and au-
thenticated, and good sense would sug-
gest that if those who are bleeding the
ex-Senator for their own ends have
any regard for him, they will quit draw-
ing public attention to his irreparable
blunders.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Intense interest seems to be man-
ifested in France in the effort now be-
ing made to separate the church from
the state. "Absolute liberty of con-
science" is promised by the govern-
ment, and by the adoption by the
Chamber of Deputies of the clause of
the separation bill, which declares that
"the republic assures liberty of con-
science."

This clause, however, must be fur-
ther defined. "Liberty of conscience"
may mean much, or nothing. Even in
Russia there is "liberty of conscience,"
though dissenters are hunted down by
the bloodhounds of persecution, and
Hebrews are butchered, because they
do not belong to the orthodox circle.
It is the free exercise of religious faith
that must be guaranteed by law, and
the state must, further, be relieved of
the responsibility of determining what
religious faith and practice is a polit-
ical, or moral, menace, leaving that en-
tirely to the church, or the individual
conscience. Only when "liberty of
conscience" means the perfect separa-
tion of church and state, and the recog-
nition of the perfect independence of
each within its own sphere, is it true
religious liberty. As long as it is pos-
sible for agitators and enemies of the
church to set the machinery of the
state in operation against her, in order
to satisfy spite, or further their self-
ish ambition, there is not freedom of
conscience. The state is by such agi-
tators degraded to the level of a perse-
cutor.

The program now discussed is, to
make the church dependent entirely on
voluntary contributions, and to leave
it perfect freedom in the choice of
ecclesiastical officers and the manage-
ment of its affairs. The church is to
retain the church buildings erected
since the time of Napoleon, but the old-
er structures are to be considered the
property of the nation, though they
can be used by the church for a low an-
nual rental. Some of the Paris critics
do not consider the plan "drastic"
enough, while others characterize it as
a "monstrosity."

A NEW MAGAZINE.

The first number of the Church For-
um, published at Harrisburg, Pa., has
made its appearance. It is a magazine
devoted to temperance, clean politics,
a simple life, arbitration, evangelical
Christianity and the purity of the
home. This is a comprehensive pro-
gram, and one to which every loyal citi-
zen should be committed.

The Church Forum differs somewhat
from other periodicals devoted to the
same cause. It does not propose to
emphasize the points of difference that
separate denominations from one an-
other, but the points of agreement upon
which unity can be established. To
gain this end, it gives different de-
partments to the interests of different
sects, each department edited by some
one devoted to the church represented
by that special department. The mag-
azine hopes, in this way, to find "a com-
mon level on which Jew and Gentile,
Catholic and Protestant, Calvinist and
Armenian, Churchman and Dissenter
can stand and pull together for the
ethical and spiritual uplift of a world
long sodden in sin."

This, certainly, is a worthy aim. But
it should be remembered that it can
never be reached except in the divinely
appointed order. The Lord has already
built the platform upon which Jew and
Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, and
all other children of the divine Father
can stand, if they are willing to do so,
and "pull together." It was the de-
scent from that divine platform which
caused the confusion now disgracing
the religious world, and not till men
again are willing to ascend to that
level, will there be unity, and perfect
development. God gave us, apostles;
and some, prophets, and some, evan-
gelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
for the perfecting of the saints, for the
work of the ministry, for the edifying
of the body of Christ; till we all come in
the unity of the faith, and of the know-
ledge of the Son of God."

"This is the divine plan for the union
of the children of God. Another can-
not be formed with success. Let all
who earnestly desire to see the scat-
tered children of the eternal Father
united, submit humbly to the arrange-
ment made by the Captain of our sal-
vation, and unity and knowledge will
be obtained. In the Church there are
no schisms. These are the fruit of a
carnal disposition, and not of the divine
Spirit that abides with all who are true
members of the Church of the Mas-
ter."

"The best selling books" are very
rarely the best books.

Oyama is getting ready to cross the
Russian danger line.

Who wouldn't enjoy one of Colonel
Roosevelt's camp meetings?

Let's be Dunne with this punning on
the name of Chicago's new mayor.

How to be healthy though eating, is
one of the great problems of the age.

The Beef trust may be making no
money still it has managed to make a
raise.

Togo is somewhere waiting for some-
thing to turn up. All he has to do is
but to wait.

When the City Council works on a

franchise there are those who work
themselves into a frenzy.

It's but a step, though a long one,
from a gray wolf to a grizzly bear,
but the President will take it.

John Paul Jones' body has been found
and fully identified. It will hardly
find a resting place in Westminster
Abbey.

Miss Anthony does not think the di-
vorce evil an evil. Never having been
married or divorced, what does she
know about it?

Pleasant things have been said about
Thomas Jefferson the past few days.
But they have been said by those of
his political faith.

General Miles is out with another
statement about Jeff Davis and the
manacles. Can't the General give a
weary country a rest?

If a Connecticut man can make nut-
megs out of wood why shouldn't a
Kentucky man be able to make maple
syrup out of corncobs?

In the last fifty years auk eggs have
advanced in price from three hundred
dollars to one thousand dollars. Don't
put all your auk eggs in one basket.

Russian workmen are preparing for
a great demonstration on May day. The
government probably will make a
counter demonstration in force the
same day.

The Sultan of Morocco refuses to
adopt the reforms recommended to him.
He can see the beam in the other fel-
low's eye as easily as the other fellow
can see it in his.

Senator J. E. Brewer, of Abilene, is
the egg king of Kansas. Last year he
shipped more than 100 cars of eggs.
This means 1,200,000 dozen or 14,400,000
eggs, says the Kansas City Journal.
With such a lay out he should be able
to lay up something for a rainy day.

The Beef trust has raised the price of
beef. Swift & Co., speaking for the
trust interest, in a circular issued by
them, say, "The range cattle producer
is the master of the situation." How
very guileless! It reminds one of the
wolf blaming the lamb for muddying the
water he was drinking when the
lamb was below him.

"Dr. Holmes put it forth as a maxim
that the nation that shortens its weap-
ons lengthens its boundaries. He
found a similarity between our sabre
and bayonet and the pointed weapons
with which Rome pierced or heaved her
way to the empire of the world. Today
the flat has gone forth from the war
department that our bayonet is to be
given more length and our sabre more
strength," says the Boston Transcript.
But the new rifle, (Springfield model,
1903) is to be shorter, thus insuring an
extension of boundaries.

The Brigham Young College Society
of American Archeology has just issued
a bulletin on Book of Mormon geo-
graphy. The chief conclusions arrived
at on this extremely difficult but in-
teresting subject are embodied in three
maps that form part of the bulletin.
They show the supposed geographical
positions of some of the countries and
cities of the Book of Mormon. The
authors do not, of course, pretend that
all the questions relative to that sub-
ject are definitely settled. They merely
suggest a solution, or a series of so-
lutions, and feel confident that the
critical study will lead to further
light.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

New York Evening Mail.

There are surface signs of a ferment
among the clergy of the country. No
step taken by the church for a consid-
erable time has had such widespread re-
sults as the joint protest of certain
Congregational ministers against the
acceptance of a check from John D.
Rockefeller by the foreign mission
board of their denomination. It has
brought the subject to the front in
every newspaper and in uncounted pul-
pits, with phenomena ranging from the
prompt acceptance of a similar gift by
the Baptist mission board to the decla-
ration of a Boston clergyman, "I con-
sider John D. Rockefeller more of a
traitor to his country than Benedict
Arnold." Equally interesting, if less
momentous, utterances from the pulpit
on other topics have followed the Con-
gregational protest.

Northwestern Christian Advocate.
Oliver Wendell Holmes used to say
that every man is three men: the man
as the world knows him, the man as his
intimates know him, and the man as he
knows himself. At least two more
men should be added to the list, so
that it should read as follows: The
man as the world knows him, the man
as his friends know him, the man as
his enemies know him, the man as he
knows himself, and the man as God
knows him. Something may be said as
to the value of all the differing judg-
ments, but it should be the ambition
of us all to see ourselves as God sees
us, for in the language of Scripture:
"Man looketh on the outward appear-
ance, but the Lord looketh upon the
heart." The idle world, our friends, our
enemies, we ourselves, are prejudiced
either for or against God, on the
other hand, sees us just as we are.
And only as we see as he does will we
see out sin and so our great need of
divine help. It was a deeply sincere
soul who could pray, "Search me, O
God, and know my heart. Try me and
know my thoughts; and see if there be
any wicked way in me."

New York Churchman.

"If we love one another, God dwell-
eth in us," is the test of Christianity
today as it was in the beginning. But
it is more than a test. It is the only
manifestation that will be effective in
converting the world. Therefore every
division, every difference, among Chris-
tians, is a bar to the full action of
God's love in us, and a failure to man-
ifest His love to men. The most en-
couraging sign in modern Christianity
is the increasing recognition of this
truth and the desire to break down the
walls of division and to concentrate
Christian effort, not in the upbuilding
of the kingdom of God as the democ-
racy of Christian brotherhood.

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