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THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - OCT. 20, 1904

STAMP IT OUT!

There is evident need of another raid upon hoodlums in this city.

The complaint comes from several quarters that uninhabited homes are damaged, windows broken, doors defaced and other depredations committed, showing a spirit of destruction that is more than mere mischief; it is criminal and inexcusable.

That boys will throw stones at empty houses is well known in every city on either continent. It is not peculiar to Salt Lake. But the disregard of property rights thus exhibited is carried to an extent, sometimes, that calls for special police efforts to punish the offenders and protect property.

Absent citizens have rights and a claim upon the community to maintain them.

There is too much leniency extended by neighbors towards the hoodlums who disturb the public peace, and violate the law, and break through all restraint and commit acts of vandalism.

The culprits should be complained of and handed over to the police. If the youthful disturbers will not listen to good advice they should be prosecuted.

Let their parents have a chance first to correct them, and when that proves insufficient let the law take its course.

Parental restraint is, in a great many instances, too lax. People are indignant at the acts of other folks' children but ignore or condone the bad conduct of their own. Boys and girls are permitted to roam the streets and associate with rough characters, even till late hours of the night and only evil consequences can be rationally expected. We appeal to fathers and mothers to exercise closer watchcare over their sons and daughters, to win them to a right course by kindness if possible, but to enforce proper discipline and thus prevent sorrow and disgrace, which must result from recklessness and ruffianism.

The police department will be expected to do its part in preserving the public peace and protecting public and private property, in clearing the streets of lawless and vicious boys, and enforcing the curfew law which is again lapsing into a dead letter status. Impossibilities are not to be required, but vigilance and strictness are demanded. Let the people of this city unite with the officers of the law, and make a determined effort to stamp out the hoodlums that is becoming a public menace!

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

The Utah Pioneer in its latest issue has an editorial entitled "Crime Rampant," and asserts that: "The city is overrun with criminals, chiefly of the burglar and highwayman type," and further that, "The present municipal government seems utterly inadequate to cope with the situation." Now, while it is true and deplorable that burglaries and robberies have been frequent of late, we regard both the statements we have quoted as exaggerations, and suggest that the evil complained of will not be corrected by magnifying it. There have been a number of robberies and burglaries, giving evidence that there is a gang of criminals in town plying their nefarious vocation. But the city is not "overrun" with the desperadoes, and we believe the municipal government will be found equal to the task of coping with the situation.

Our police force is small, considering the area and extent of the city. Think of the distances that would divide the officers if every part of it were to be fully patrolled! A large increase of the force would mean an increase of expenses and therefore an increase of the taxes, and that would be decried vigorously. There have been incursions of lawless gangs before and they have had their way for a while, but the municipal authorities have proved able to cope with them, and they have been broken up and dispersed or landed in jail, and the city has been able to rest in peace again.

We believe this bit of our history will be repeated. The police department appears to be well conducted and the officers to be attending to their duty. It may take a little time to follow up and apprehend the malefactors who now infest the town, but we are of the opinion they will be traced and run down or out before very long. The county officers will doubtless lend their aid and co-operate with the police in ridding the community of the offenders complained of. A united effort will be appreciated by the public.

As to the suspension of the law against carrying concealed weapons, suggested by our contemporary, we strongly dissent. We believe it would be productive of more harm than good. We might look for deadly encounters where now there are but comparatively harmless bravies, and those persons who availed themselves of the license would most likely be the most violent and reckless classes. People are not prevented from having such weapons in their homes as they see necessary to

protect them, and the incident of Tuesday night, when a brave woman snatched off a couple of burglars by a shot from her revolver, shows what can be done in that direction. A dead ruffian or two, slain in the act of attempted robbery, would form a powerful and striking object lesson to that brand of criminals.

Nor do we need any vigilance or similar committee here, for the purpose of public or private protection or the punishment of marauders. This is a civilized community and our city is comparatively peaceful, orderly and safe. There will be occasional incursions of the lawless and they may run free for a time, but they will be surely overtaken and their course will be cut short. Give the peace officers a little time and the public confidence and support, and they will be found equal to the task and the emergency. There is no need for an alarm.

ONE LESSON FROM JAPAN.

One of the great lessons of the present war in Asia seems to be this, that the great mortality from various kinds of diseases, that sometimes decimates armies, is due to mismanagement. In our own war with Spain, diseases slew thousands, where a hundred fell for the bullets of the enemy. The same was the case in South Africa, and now the Germans on the war path in that continent are falling the victims of typhoid fever in great numbers. This is all wrong. Experts tell us that the Japanese have proved that by the observance of the laws of hygiene—of which, by the way, they have but recently, comparatively speaking, heard anything at all—the lives of soldiers can be preserved far duty in the field. It takes intelligent vigilance to do it, but the Japanese must save their men, as much as possible, in this conflict, if they are to come out even against a foe outnumbering them four to one.

Major Louis F. Seaman, a surgeon in the United States army, has studied the medical and surgical arrangements of the Japanese in the field, and according to him, these "little brown men" are far ahead, in that respect, of their western tutors. In a paper read before an association of surgeons, at St. Louis, he maintains that we are centuries behind the Japanese in matters of military medical organization and sanitation. The Japanese soldier is taught how to take care of his digestive organs. He is given a plain, rational diet. "It is not," we are told, "an irritating, indigestible, fermenting mess—acting as a local irritant, and producing gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis, colitis, hepatitis and the long list of inflammatory intestinal processes with which we were all so familiar in the hospital wards at Camp Alger, Chattanooga, Tampa, Cuba, Porto Rico and Montauk Point in 1898."

Major Seaman says of the Japanese medical officer that he is omnipresent in the campaign. "He is with the first screen of scouts with his microscope and chemicals, testing and labeling wells so the army to follow shall drink no contaminated water. When the scouts reach a town, he immediately institutes a thorough examination of its sanitary condition and if contagion or infection is found he quarantines and places a guard around the dangerous district. Notices are posted so the approaching column is warned and no soldiers are billeted where danger exists. Microscopic blood tests are made in all fever cases—and bacteriological experts, fully equipped, form part of the staff of every divisional headquarters. The medical officer also accompanies foraging parties, and with the commissariat officers, samples the various food, fruits and vegetables sold by the natives along the line of march, long before the arrival of the army. If the food is tainted or the fruit overripe, or the water requires boiling, notice is posted to that effect, and such is the respect and discipline of every soldier from commanding officer to the file in the ranks, that obedience to its order is absolute. The medical officer is also found in camp, lecturing the men on sanitation, and the hundred and one details of personal hygiene—how to cook—to eat—and when not to drink—to bathe and even to the direction of the paring and cleansing of the finger-nails to prevent danger from bacteria." As a consequence, the major found a sanitary condition almost unprecedented. He says that the "conspicuously empty beds" of the contagious and infectious wards of the great Japanese hospitals "voice more eloquently than words the most important lesson of the war." He reports that he saw only a few cases of disease of the respiratory system, only three of typhoid in Manchuria, and only occasionally a case of dysentery. Of the many thousands of patients in the hospitals he visited, not a baker's dozen were suffering from diseases of the digestive organs. In fact, there were but a few medical cases, all told.

The science and art of war will, we hope, become obsolete before many more sanguinary chapters of human history are written, but, while waiting for the prevalence of the sentiment that will compel the remoulding of war implements in the interest of industry, the nations of the world should profit by the lesson taught. It seems that in war an efficient medical department is as important as a board of strategy.

METHOD OF FERTILIZATION

The papers continue to speak about certain experiments for the increase of the fertility of the soil as "vaccination." It appears that Dr. George T. Moore of the United States Department of Agriculture discovered a method by which impoverished soil can be made more productive, at a small expense. The discovery is said to be based on certain experiments of German scientists, who had found that the nodules on the roots of leguminous plants, such as beans, peas, clover and alfalfa, were really colonies of bacteria, whose activity consisted in taking nitrogen from the air and accumulating it. In soils that do not contain such bacteria the legumes will not grow at all, but where the bacteria abound the nodules accumulate very much more nitrogen than the legumes need, with the

result that the soil is enriched for a crop of a different kind, such as corn or wheat, the next year.

Dr. Moore devised a way, we are told, to grow these bacteria by the billion and fix them so that they will keep in a dried state for months. He makes little cakes of them which the farmers can use on their bad soil, and the cost to the government is less than a cent an acre. It is claimed that soil thus treated will produce from eight to twenty times as heavy crops of legumes as common soil, and that the crop of cotton, or corn, or wheat the year after the treatment will be from fifty per cent to three or four hundred per cent larger than it would otherwise have been.

That the discovery is one of great importance to agriculture will readily be admitted, but is it "vaccination"? Is it essentially different from the ancient method by which poor soil is made rich, by fertilization? "Vaccination" is an operation whereby the subject is supposed to be protected from a certain disease. But that is not the object of the above described treatment of the soil. It is plain fertilization.

THE WOMAN VOTE.

Will the ladies this year decide the national election? That question Leslie's Weekly discusses in this manner:

"Of the forty-five states of the Union there are four—Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming—in which women have the ballot on a precise equality with men. Those states cast 297,669 votes in the aggregate in 1900. They will probably cast 425,000 in 1904. It must not be inferred, however, that half of the aggregate vote is that of women. In those four states, as in all other communities, the males are largely in the preponderance. Probably at least 125,000, though, of those 425,000 votes of 1904 will be cast by women. These four states will have fourteen electoral votes this year. What will be the attitude of those 125,000 women voters in 1904? It has been noticed that, beginning with Wyoming, which has had equal suffrage ever since it was organized into a territory in 1890, the effect of women's voting is only to make the prevailing drift of sentiment, whatever it chances to be, take a little more decided form than it would otherwise assume. That is, the woman usually goes with the men of their own household or circle."

Bridal veils do not help to curb the divorce evil.

When burglars are active, the police should be more active.

Judge Parker bids fair to become as valuable as Single Speech Hamilton.

By this time Kuropatkin's wings must begin to look like Diogenes' pickled chicken.

There's a good time coming. Only a little more than two week's campaigning.

When both parties start in with all their might to save a state, heaven save the state.

Kuropatkin says that this is the pleasantest war in which he was ever engaged. Beside him Mark Tapley is a confirmed pessimist.

A man in New York sold his daughter—Rose Gwendolin Bell—for one cent. This proves that babies are cheaper than beef.

Tom Watson complains that the New York Sun published his letter of acceptance a day ahead of the time agreed upon. He should find comfort and compensation in the fact that very few papers published it at all.

The President has instructed Secretary of War Taft to proceed to Panama and arrange the differences that have arisen between that country and this government. It will not be necessary for the Secretary to take along a big stick; soft words will do the business.

Kuropatkin has resumed the offensive. One cannot withhold admiration for him and his soldiers. Their courage is superb, nor is it the courage of desperation. Was ever more courage shown than has been displayed by either side to the stupendous conflict now being waged in Manchuria?

What the Swiss authorities think of football is proved by the fact that pupils of Swiss schools have been forbidden to join football clubs. While admitting that the game can cause physical development and health, they say it must be condemned vigorously on account of its danger, the tendency to cause neglect of studies and the predilection of the players for drinking.

The University could take no more effective step in the direction of higher education than to abolish the preparatory department. It has served a good and useful purpose, but secondary institutions of learning are so well distributed over the State that students preparing for the University can find ample accommodation. It is a real satisfaction to know that the number of college students has become so large that the Regents are under the necessity of considering the abolishment of the preparatory department. With that department gone it will be an easier matter to raise the standard of admission.

It is an onerous burden that Great Britain proposes to impose upon Tibet. Three and a half million dollars as a plaster for wounded pride. Realizing that Tibet cannot pay the price Great Britain generously (!) offers to allow it to be paid on the installment plan, fifty thousand a year until all is paid. To this generous offer is attached the condition that the British shall remain in the country until the obligation is discharged. And to whom would Tibet belong at that time? The Tibetans would have the experience, it is to be feared, and Great Britain would have Tibet.

KUROPATKIN'S ADVANCE.

Portland Oregonian.

Again the Japanese army is victorious and again the forces of Russia under General Kuropatkin have been shattered and driven back. The stereotyped plea of unpreparedness cannot be urged in this instance as the cause of the defeat of the Slavs. General Kuropatkin, in taking the aggressive, de-

clared himself ready to meet his adversary. The latter accepted the challenge, met the Russian army more than half way and drove it again to cover. Oyama's generalship has again been proven to be superior to that of Kuropatkin, though in the forward movement of the Russian army a few days ago it looked as if the Japanese commander had the worst of it. The horrors of war were probably never more appalling than they have been in this fierce struggle between Slav and Jap. Distance, however, separates them from the view of civilized peoples, and exasperated stands on either overlooking the tragedies of warring battlefields in the hope of discovering the beginning of the end—the beginning of wider national life for Japan and the end of Russian aggression in the Far East.

New York World.

Gen. Kuropatkin's southward advance appears to have come to an early and disastrous end. It did not seem reasonable on the face of things that an army that had just been racing with a pursuing enemy to escape destruction should be able all at once to turn and take the offensive with much hope of success. Yet unless Gen. Kuropatkin had gained strength enough to overmatch the Japanese his advance was clearly playing into their hands. It was a very part they would have assigned to him if they had been making his plans. Probably we shall find that the surmise that Kuropatkin made this movement against his will, under orders from St. Petersburg, was correct.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Kuropatkin's advance was sharply contested, then suddenly and completely checked, and the Russian is now defending himself desperately against the rapid counter attack launched against him the moment it became plain that he had failed to pierce or turn the Japanese line. The offensive movement so loudly heralded has "died aborning" and the Russians are striving, not to drive the Japs back upon Liao Yang, but to hold their own in front of Mukden. Tokio confidently claims that all is going well, while St. Petersburg as plainly fears that all is going badly. The Japanese report the capture of Russian positions and guns.

Pueblo Chieftain.

In other words if Kuropatkin has at Mukden and the Russian force sufficient to establish such a defense as he was able to maintain after the battle at Liao Yang, this second battle may not be much more serious in its results than was the first one. But on the other hand if Kuropatkin in his desperate attempt to break through the Japanese line, risked his entire strength without success, his present position is most precarious, and the dispersion or surrender of his entire force may be a possibility of the next few days.

Boston Herald.

The "little men" who had dared to stand in the way of the wishes of Russia were to be driven back to their island home in short order, in a task of this kind one Russian soldier counting as the equal of a dozen or more of the Japanese. This ignorance of Japanese strength, and it may be added of Russian weakness, has been characteristic of dispatches that have come from St. Petersburg from the very first and the light-heartedness with which the mere announcement has been received that Gen. Kuropatkin proposes to change his retreat to an advance is characteristic of the same shallowness of judgment.

Los Angeles Express.

Japan may not be able to match the Russian man for man, should the utmost resources of each empire be called upon but the Japanese have the great advantage of nearness to base of supplies. Port Arthur is about 600 miles from Japan while Mukden is more than 6,000 miles from Russian Russia. This is a ratio of ten-to-one on distance, and it undoubtedly reduces the ratio on men and war materials practically to an equality.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The October number of the International Socialist Review offers several features of interest. The magazine has sent out letters to persons qualified to judge of the Socialist strength all over the country, and has compiled the reports and checked them by information obtained from various indirect sources. The result is given in a survey of the situation by states and a compilation of the probable vote, from which it appears that the inside estimate of the socialist vote next November is little over 400,000. This is an increase of over four fold since 1900. The proceedings of the International Congress at Amsterdam are given in considerable detail. Another article is an analysis of Theodore Roosevelt and his essays—Charles H. Kerr & Co., Publishers, Chicago.

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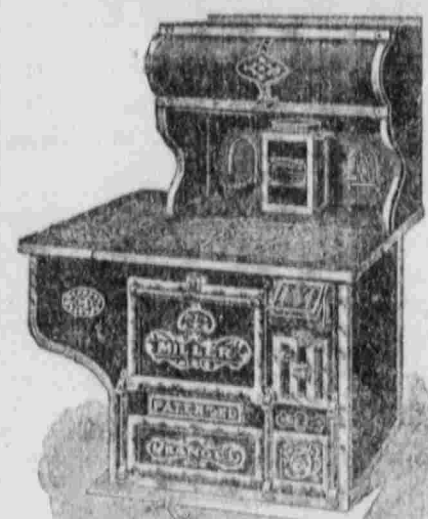
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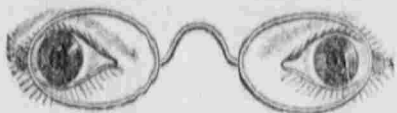
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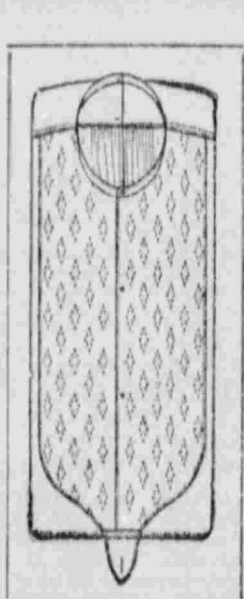


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