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DESERET NEWS' PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
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noyance if they will take time to notice
these numbers:
For the Chief Editor's office, 142.
For Deseret News Book Store, 142.
For City Editor at Reports, 152-2.
For Business Manager, 153-3.
For Business Office, 153-2.

CONTROL OF THE SCHOOLS.

"As we have shown, there is no way
of having nonpartisan schools, with
Mormon control. And in the schools of
this city at present we have Mormon
control. It is inevitable, therefore, that
the schools are rather sectarian schools
than free public schools, free from the
control of any influence save only the
one that calls for making them the
most efficient possible, and for the
elimination of everything that detracts
from their general usefulness."So says the organ of the new Liberal
party. Absurd! What is wanted by
that organ is a partisan anti-Mormon
control of the schools; that and noth-
ing less. Whoever controls the public
schools for any other purpose than their
best welfare is an enemy of the
public schools. The religious and po-
litical affiliation of the members of the
Board of Education are matters of
secondary consideration, provided the
members are actuated by high minded
motives and seek only to further the
cause of education. The man actuated
by a strong partisan spirit is scarcely
likely to make such a member.It is, perhaps, needless to say, what
is known by everyone—the leaders of
the anti-Mormon party not excepted—that
the "Mormons" have no ticket
in the field for members of the board of
education. There are only two tickets.
One has been agreed on by representa-
tives of different political parties, of all
shades of opinion. It is non-partisan
and fair. The other is the ticket of a
party whose organ leads in a senseless
and ignoble assault on a church. Con-
servative citizens cannot hesitate be-
tween the two tickets. And the
"News" but voices the sentiment of all
fair-minded men and women when it
protests against any attempt to pro-
stitute the schools, in the interest of
strife. It is as much of an outrage
to make a board of education anti-
Mormon, as it would be to make it
anti-Hebrew, anti-Catholic, anti-Meth-
odist, or anti-Agnostic. We would
raise an earnest protest against any
such schemes, and so will, we are sure,
the citizens generally, at the polls.

GENERAL KUROKI.

The rumor that General Kuroki is
dead is very persistent, although it has
been denied from Japanese sources.
The little brown men are stingy with
news items, particularly regarding their
losses, but it has generally been under-
stood that when they issue a positive
statement, this can be relied on. No
conceivable object could be gained by
denying his death, if he really has fallen.According to the stories published
Kuroki is partly of Polish parentage. In
the year 1870, it is said, after the Polish
insurrection, a Polish nobleman, Ku-
roweki, fled from Russia in company
with his younger brother. The latter
came to the southern part of Europe,
where he changed his name and became
the owner of a large estate. The other
brother went to Japan, where he married
and became the father of General
Kuroki.This general is certainly one of Japan's
most successful leaders. He has
executed a number of flank movements,
by which battles have been decided in
favor of the Mikado's army. His death
would be a great loss to the country,
but not irreparable. Japan has some
generals who can fill his place.

THE RUSSIAN ZEMSTVO.

We have already briefly stated what
the Russian Zemstvo is. The following
additional information may prove of in-
terest, at this time:The Zemstvo is a local representative
assembly, composed partly of nobles
and partly of peasants, the latter being
in the majority. Landed proprietors
and those who were once their serfs
meet in this assembly on a footing of
equality. The discussions are always
carried on by the nobles, but when
peasant members rise to speak they are
invariably listened to with respectful
attention.The business of the Zemstvo is, to
provide for roads and bridges, and for
means of conveyance for the rural po-
lice and other officials, to elect the jus-
tices of the peace, to look after the
primary education and sanitary affairs,
to watch the state of the crops and
take measures against approaching
famine, and, in short, to undertake,
within certain clearly defined limits,
whatever seems likely to increase the
material and moral well being of the
population.In form, this institution is parliamen-
tary. It consists of an assembly of dep-
uties, which meets once a year, or oft-ener, and of a permanent executive
bureau elected by the assembly from
among its members. The assembly has
been regarded as a local parliament,
and the bureau as a ministry. Once
every three years the deputies are
elected in certain fixed proportions by
the landed proprietors, the rural com-
munes and the municipal corporations.
Every province and each of the dis-
tricts into which the province is divid-
ed has such an assembly and such a
bureau.There are district assemblies and
province assemblies. The latter resem-
ble the district assemblies in general
character. But its members are chosen
not directly, by the primary electors,
but by the assemblies (Zemstvos) of
the districts composing the province, and it
takes cognizance only of matters that
concern more than one district.It is evident from this that Russia
need not fear the inauguration of rep-
resentative government. The Zemstvo
institution should be a good introduc-
tion to a national legislature. The mat-
ter is now in the hands of the Czar.
It depends upon him, whether Russia is
to have peace within its borders, or be-
come the scene of revolution. For a
rejection of the recommendations of the
Zemstvos would almost certainly mean
widespread revolt.

ALL FOR THE CHILDREN.

It is very pleasant to reflect upon the
changes for the better that have taken
place during the last few years, in
matters pertaining to the education of
the children. Free schools, kindergar-
tens, manual training, free school
books, are so many steps in the march
of progress. The latest suggestion is
to provide suitable food for the chil-
dren.According to an eastern contempo-
rary, since 1874 there has been a fund
maintained in Paris which to purchase
necessaries for poor school
children, and in 1882 a law was passed
extending the plan to all com-
munes. It is claimed that in one year
the authorities of Paris issued 1,110,827
food portions, consisting of nourishing
soup, meat and vegetables. Where the
children could afford to pay for the
food they were required to do so, but in
the majority of cases there was no pay-
ment. The average cost of a meal to
the city is only three cents. The fun-
damental principle of the management
is to avoid loss of dignity through free
feeding. Tickets are issued to those
who pay and those who do not, alike,
and only the person who gives the
tickets knows who have paid and who
have not.At a recent gathering in St. Louis,
an educator expressed the opinion that
thousands of little ones go to school
in this country every day, literally fam-
ished. This may in some cases be due
to the lack of proper food in the home,
and in others, to disinclination on the
part of guardians, to take the time
necessary to prepare it properly. In
either case the child is the sufferer. It
is the recognition of the necessity of
proper care in childhood, that has
prompted the French authorities to
look after the nourishment of the
school children. This cannot but have
excellent results. The valuable out-
spring of animals is taken care of, be-
cause it is well known that neglect
means loss. What about the children?
There should really be no neglected
children in civilized, prosperous com-
munities.

QUARANTINE NEEDED.

The action of the authorities in ex-
cluding the public from the court room
where Nan Patterson is tried for murder,
is highly commendable. Less de-
tailed accounts of it in the press would
also answer every legitimate purpose.
If all such stories could be kept from
public gaze, except as far as publicity
is necessary to insure the ends of jus-
tice, it would be all the better.There is clearly no reason why all
the details of a horrible crime should
be rehearsed before an assembly of
morbidly curious men and women, on-
ly to appease their unnatural craving
for that kind of excitement. The laws
of heredity are, perhaps, not perfectly
understood, but from observations
made, the conclusion is justified that
many a criminal tendency has been
called to life by the hearing, or read-
ing, of the fearful accounts of crime
indiscriminately scattered broadcast.
In the interest of generations yet to
be born, there should be a law sur-
rounding with the strongest safeguards
the spots where moral corruption is,
necessarily, handled. We quarantine
plague-spots, to prevent contagion;
why not treat moral filth in the same
way?There is no good reason, for in-
stance, why a murder trial should be
made a spectacular affair. As long
as the two parties are properly rep-
resented by counsel and witnesses are
heard, the public should be satisfied.
The tendency, we believe, is in this
direction. At one time not only trials
but executions, too, were public spec-
tacular shows. The evils thus produced
have, however, been recognized, and
now, in the most civilized states, crim-
inals are dispatched in the presence of
only a few witnesses, and the press is
not permitted to give detailed accounts.
This rational treatment of the most
melancholy phases of human life must
finally be extended to the trials that
precede executions, as well as to the
latter.

THE CARNEGIE PALACE.

There will be a Carnegie Peace pal-
ace at The Hague. The government
has now purchased a lot situated be-
hind the Botanical gardens, for this
palace, which is to be a copy of the
magnificent Palace of Justice at Brus-
sels.According to the New York Tribune,
the estimated cost is \$1,640,000, or about
one-fifth the amount expended on the
Brussels Palace of Justice. The gen-
eral appearance will be that of a capitol.
The style of the building will be
classical, or Greco-Roman, as it is
called.The edifice will consist of a main
building, flanked at each end by a fore-
part, and with a spacious central por-tico as the principal entrance. A dou-
ble row of columns will rise to the
right and left of this portico, and be-
hind them a large monumental stair-
case leading to the principal audience
room, where the Court of Arbitration
will hold its sittings. This audience
chamber is to cover 12,000 square feet,
being 270 feet long by 150 feet wide,
with enormous pilasters of white mar-
ble. Beyond this main chamber will
be the principal committee room.Above, on the second floor, will be
two spacious rooms, one reserved for
the president and the other for the
secretary of the permanent Court of
Appeals. The dome which will sur-
mount the palace, and will, it is expect-
ed, give a majestic aspect to the
structure, will be supported by two su-
perposed galleries, the lower being
square shaped; the other round, flank-
ed by enormous bronze statues. It will
undoubtedly take several years to rear
this monument to a grand ideal, but, in
the meantime, let all friends of peace
exert themselves to create the senti-
ment necessary, so that when the build-
ing shall be finished, the nations will
be ready to occupy its magnificent halls
in the interest of mankind.The people at the pie counter always
"stand pat.""The government needs money," says
an exchange. So do the governed.What splendid post graduate training
for the stage Nan Patterson is having:Uncle Sam needs more officers for the
navy. The lack is in quantity and not
in quality.David Belasco is going to fight the
Theatrical trust. Will it be for points
or to a finish?The Standard Oil company is to be
investigated. Will the investigation be
crude or refined?Thirteen deaths have resulted from
football this season. Thirteen is gen-
erally considered an unlucky number.Prince Fushimi has been robbed of
jewels in St. Louis. If he wants to
be right well robbed let him go to Wall
Street.Patti is going to sing for the benefit
of the Russian wounded. As they will
not hear her they are not in need of
sympathy.What with head guards, nose guards
and other paraphernalia the up-to-date
football player looks like the Man with
the Iron Mask.The Commoner says that President
Roosevelt is an accident. Admitting
that that is so, it must be admitted
that he is a great one.The Russian Pacific squadron, after
many trials and tribulations, has
reached Port Said at last. And now
the less said the better.Miss Isabel P. Hapgood, translator of
Tolstoy, who knows her Russia well,
believes that Russia will win over Ja-
pan. May Hapgood she will.It is said that President Roosevelt
is thinking seriously of calling an extra
session of Congress. How that man
does love to meet and overcome ob-
stacles!The country has three living retired
Lieutenant generals and only one living
ex-President. This would go to show
that the military life is less strenuous
than the civil.The thing that Minister of the In-
terior Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky now
needs most in carrying out his reform
schemes is to be saved from his
friends. Some of them are doing all
they can to furnish ammunition to his
enemies.The municipality of Ascoli has by
acclamation conferred honorary citizen-
ship upon J. Pierpont Morgan in recognition
of his action in restoring to
the city the famous Ascoli cope. This, to-
gether with his American citizenship
and great wealth, makes him a citizen
of the world.The proprietors of New York's great
retail stores have persuaded the police
magistrates not to be so lenient to
shoplifters in future. They allege that
losses from this source reach half a
million dollars a year. Much of the
leniency has been due to alleged "klep-
tomania." It is a bad disease but it
can be cured. Some years ago a Cali-
fornia woman who was subject to it
suffered severely from it in London.
The hard hearted English judge before
whom her case came, "sent her up" for
a month or so, and while she was finally
pardoned, she never had any re-
currence of the dread disease. The
same treatment applied to cases in this
country would most probably effect
permanent cures.Speaking of the government irriga-
tion work and plans, a high officer of
the government says: "The present
policy of distributing the irrigation
fund without regard to state lines
other than the law demands, in places
where the topographical conditions are
most suitable, is founded on common
sense and fairness to the country as a
whole. The moment this great ex-
periment is taken out of the hands of
impartial science and turned over to
politics it will begin to be a failure,
and one of the most stupendous in
which a generous government was
ever involved." That is probably true.
The thing to do of course is to keep
the work in the hands of impartial
science and not turn it over to politics.
Any other policy would be folly.

IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

Portland Oregonian.

The Irrigation congress at El Paso
is one of the most important organiza-
tions now before the public. We have
all heard of the good conferred on
mankind by the benefactor who makes
two blades of grass grow where only
one has grown before, but the irriga-
tion grows still farther and makes
countless blades grow where none have
grown before. His work has done
more toward reducing farming to ascience than anything else in connec-
tion with the industry. Throughout
the west there are millions of acres of
land of wonderful richness that require
only the application of life-giving
water to make it immensely produc-
tive. In the hands of the irrigation-
ists this land soon becomes more valu-
able than that which is dependent on
the whims of nature for moisture.

Kansas City Star.

Pessimistic persons have been dis-
posed to urge that the great irrigation
scheme would be a deplorably waste-
ful because necessarily somewhat ex-
perimental. The president seems to have
grasped any real dangers that lie in
this direction, to have foreseen that special
interests might endeavor to secure
control of certain developments, and to
understand fully that irrigation must
be carried forward with reference to
its benefits to all interests rather than
to special ones. His letter, which was
received with much enthusiasm by the
congress, seems to have voiced the
very sentiments of those most engrossed
in the work. It may be accepted in
advance that the president will be
especially watchful of this work, for
which he is so largely sponsor, and that
it will be performed carefully, skillfully
and with reference to the broadest na-
tional import.

Anaconda Standard.

From the reports received of "the
work of the twelfth annual session of
the National Irrigation congress, it ap-
pears that much good was accomplish-
ed by the meeting, and that the irriga-
tion people are a unit in their purpose
and in their plans for carrying it out.
There were some diversions provided
for the entertainment and recreation
of the delegates, one of the more inno-
cent of these was a bull fight in Mexico.
It is not apparent at this distance that
this feature had any particular bearing
upon the subject of irrigation.

San Francisco Call.

Heretofore the consideration of the
subject has been too academic. It is
noticed in the several admirable ad-
dresses of Gov. Pardee irrigation is
not treated from an academic but a
practical point of view. The irrigation
experts of the agricultural department
have also enlarged much practical in-
formation respecting soils, service of
water and nature of crops. The agri-
cultural department deals in the prac-
tice and not the poetry of irrigation,
and it is fortunate for the arid region
that it has this steady influence,
to offset the pyrotechnic treatment of
the question.

Los Angeles Times.

Another point which the president
especially emphasizes is the necessity
for protecting the forests covering the
great watershed which must be de-
pendent upon to furnish the waters
needed for irrigation. The great re-
sources of forestry, grazing, and
mineral wealth he denominates as
"the foundation stones of the newer
and greater west." For irrigation and
every other interest which you repre-
sent," adds the president, "the period
of exclusiveness is past. The stock
interests are no longer independent of
the mining interests, nor either of
them independent of the irrigator. A
closer interweaving than ever before is
at hand among all the great interests
of the whole country."

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