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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 5, 1901.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE.**

The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith will occur on the 23rd inst. He was born December 23, 1806. We suggest to the Bishops, everywhere, that it would be highly appropriate to hold special services in commemoration of that important event, on Sunday, December 22, 1901. The authorities of the several States and Wards will please make arrangements accordingly.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDER,  
ANTHONY H. LUND.

**THE SCHOOL BOOK ORDINANCE.**

There seems to be some opposition to the ordinance introduced by Dr. Beatty, and passed by the City Council on Tuesday evening, in reference to school books. The Mayor has been requested to veto the bill. The Board of Education claim that the dissection of those books and the changing of the covers from cloth to paper, would be expensive and tedious; that it would take too much time, and the fumigation required would take at least five days involving the closing of the schools. It is also argued that dictionaries and maps would have to be excluded from the schools, or that each pupil would have to be supplied with a separate dictionary and map.

It appears to us that this is rather in the nature of straining a point, or two against a very necessary regulation. The holiday time is near at hand when the regular school vacation will take place, and during the period of closing the schools, the necessary changes and dissections can be attended to without other interruption of the school course. That will meet the chief objection now urged.

Arrangements can be made by proper rules for the examination of a map or dictionary, without doing violence to the ordinance which has passed the Council. The indiscriminate use of school books which the new regulation proposes to abolish refers to those books that are constantly handled by the pupils and are frequently changed from one person to another, and not to works of reference that are occasionally consulted, and which may and should be under the charge and direction of the principal or teacher.

It is always easy to pick some apparent flaw in a piece of legislation, no matter how carefully it may have been prepared. It should be remembered that it is the spirit of an enactment that should govern, rather than the mere letter of the law. The purpose in view is not to embarrass educational officers or instructors, nor to hinder the progress of the schools, but to protect the pupils and also the general public, from the danger of spreading infection, by means of school utensils and appliances, that may have been handled by children smitten with a contagious disorder. The ordinance is a good measure, and we hope it will become operative without unnecessary delay.

**THE BIRTH OF A WORLD.**

What is called one of the greatest discoveries in the history of astronomy is now said to have been made by Professor G. W. Ritchey, of the Yerkes Observatory. Briefly stated it is that the worlds are created, or evolved, from nebulae. This theory was announced by the Frenchman, La Place, and it has strongly commended itself to the philosophical observers of celestial phenomena, but Professor Ritchey, it is claimed, has just finished observations which demonstrate the truth of the nebular hypothesis. The fact is well worth recording.

The professor, according to the reports, was studying the mysterious star Nova in Perseus, which last February suddenly blazed up with a strange light in the northern sky. It continued to increase, until it became a star of the first magnitude, and then it gradually faded until now it is but of the sixteenth magnitude. The fact was much commented on at the time, and some advanced the theory that the star, while its brilliancy was increasing, was speeding towards the earth, and then retreating, but that supposition was soon abandoned, as were others, and the phenomenon was accounted for, on the theory that the far away world had suddenly come to its end, and that its conflagration was witnessed by human eyes. This the professor's observations seem to confirm.

According to a report in the Chicago Record-Herald, Prof. Ritchey, on the 20th of September last, photographed the star by means of the twenty-four-inch reflector. The negative disclosed the fact that the star was surrounded by a nebula and that there were two fairly dense wisps of nebulosity toward the west with a curve to the north, merging into the convolutions of the nebula. This was a startling fact, but Professor Ritchey patiently waited for

a favorable night to secure another photograph. On November 13, another photograph was taken. For seven hours the professor exposed his plate to the light of the mysterious star, and through all that time he sat with either hand on a thumb-screw, watching the star and hoping it true to the crossed spider lines on the glass. When he looked at the negative he observed a fact in which he at once recognized the proof of long sought and so ardently wished for by observers everywhere. The spots of density in the west field of the nebula had moved.

The conclusions drawn from these, and other, observations are, that in the immeasurable abysses of space worlds are still formed, while others perish. The entire universe is passing through constant changes. There is both dissolution and evolution. Old worlds are set fire to and converted into gas, but from the matter existing in that form, new worlds are condensed. Nothing is lost. After "the consummation of all things," there is still to be "new heavens and a new earth."

But Professor Ritchey's observations seem to go much farther than that. For if he is correct in his conclusions, he has actually demonstrated to him that the changes in the matter of which worlds are made, sometimes are as rapid as to be observable within the brief compass of a few hours, at a distance so immense as that which lies between that world and ours. The conclusion is unavoidable, that neither dissolution nor evolution is always a slow process as to require millions of years for the accomplishment of the slightest appreciable change. This far of world suddenly blazes up, and is consumed in a terrible conflagration that seems to last but a few months of our earthly time. The central fire has not been extinguished before a surrounding nebula is discovered, in which matter is already condensing as a foundation for planets. And so rapidly does the entire system revolve that its motions can be seen at a distance which it takes the light hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years to traverse. This is a most important inference. Geologists are apt to draw too hasty conclusions. When they find certain strata, they declare that it must have taken so many millions of years to form them. And that may be true under ordinary circumstances. But that does not say, that under extraordinary circumstances, the work of a thousand years may not be accomplished in one day. Worlds, it seems, may perish in a day, and again be born in a day. Science and revelation approach one another on every point.

**THE IRRIGATION PROBLEM.**

One of the more important questions before the present Congress is that relating to the reclamation of arid lands. Senator Hansbrough's bill provides for the setting aside of money obtained by the sale of public land in such region for that purpose, and authorizes the secretary of the interior to make surveys and construct reservoirs where necessary. It also provides that nothing in the proposed measure shall come in conflict with state laws regarding irrigation.

It is not necessary to discuss the benefits to the country of the adoption of such measure. It has been pointed out repeatedly that there is room enough in the arid belt for a hundred million people, and that they would come as soon as the means of support are placed within their reach. Some claim that such improvements are of merely local interest, but that narrow-minded view cannot be general. The different states and sections of the country are so closely united that what builds up one part benefits all.

The snow of the mountain ranges and other sources of water supply cannot be properly utilized except under common laws, so framed that the interests of one state do not come in conflict with those of others. It is a problem that can be handled satisfactorily only by the general government.

Fortunately the question is not one of mere experiment. It is not like bombarding the sky for rain, or the clouds to water half a century. The experience of over half a century has demonstrated what can be done in the arid belt by irrigation. The soil is fertile. The climate is excellent. There is an abundance of moisture, if properly stored and judiciously distributed. Much of this is now running to waste, while people are looking for places where to locate. The question of reducing the great part of the arid country that can be reclaimed is a business proposition. The enterprise will pay a good profit on the investment, at the same time it will multiply the national wealth.

**LIFE INSURANCE IN GERMANY.**

The compulsory life insurance system of Germany is an interesting feature of the government of the great Fatherland. Its adoption must be considered a concession to German Socialism, but its beneficial results cannot be doubted.

William E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record-Herald, explains this insurance system in detail. By law, every wage earner who receives less than 2,000 marks annually, is required to set apart a small portion of the wages regularly, and deposit it with the government. This is incumbent upon all servants working for wages; private teachers, tutors and governesses; private secretaries, companions, ladies in waiting, seamstresses and other inmates of households; clerks, bookkeepers, salesmen and saleswomen, porters, teamsters, engineers and employees of every description, in factories and business establishments, who have reached the age of 16 and are earning regular wages. But apprentices who have no pay, and others who do not receive regular wages, are exempt.

The insurance premiums are paid by pasting stamps upon cards. The employer is held responsible for the regular performance of this duty. He pays half the premium, and the employee the other half, unless otherwise agreed between the two parties. In many instances the employer pays the full amount in addition to the wages. If the insurance stamps are not pasted on the cards, weekly, monthly, or quarterly, as the case may be, the em-

ployer is liable to a fine. A police inspector may come in at any hour and demand to see the cards, and if everything is not in order, the penalty is sure to follow.

The stamps are sold at all postoffices. They are of denominations from 19 pfennigs to several marks. The cards can only be obtained of the police, who require the person insured to present himself or herself for identification in case of death, marriage, etc., so as to prevent fraud. The number of the card issued is included in the life record of each citizen as kept by the police. They have the biography of every citizen of Germany. None but the person insured can obtain a card, and he or she must return it when it has been filled with stamps, although the employer may be present as a witness if desired. When a person changes employers, occupation or residence he must notify the police, and if there is any trouble concerning an insurance card the dispute must be submitted at the nearest office of the insurance department.

The insurance rates are within the reach of the poorest paid laborer, ranging from 3 cents a week to about 35 cents a month. When a person becomes disabled, or out of employment, the fact must be reported to the police and the payment of premiums is then omitted. When a woman servant marries, the fact must be properly recorded and she may either suspend payment of premiums or continue them as she chooses, for the law does not require married women to be insured. She is not permitted to withdraw the money she has already paid, but when she becomes 60 years of age or is so disabled that she cannot earn her own living, she may draw 4 per cent interest indefinitely upon the amount standing to her credit upon the books of the agency, and upon her death the principal is divided among her heirs.

The law, it is stated, has been in operation only since January last, and it is too early to speak of its results, but they cannot but be good. The operation of saving money against "a rainy day, or for old age," are not plentiful on the European continent, as far as the wage-earner is concerned. Any practical measure to facilitate this must have its good effects. Such government care, paternalism though it may be, will prevent many German citizens from leaving the country for other lands. It will strengthen the loyalty of the people. For when citizens can look forward to old age without uneasiness, they will feel more contentment in their present conditions. And contentment and loyalty usually go hand in hand.

Priesthood tomorrow evening at SEVEN O'CLOCK.

Is it anything new to be robbed at a church fair?

Pay attention to the notice of special services in honor of the birthday of Joseph the Prophet.

If a multitude of bills for that purpose can suppress anarchy, it will be suppressed.

Since President Roosevelt became its champion it isn't spoken of as "snivel service reform."

Plain living is no guaranty of high thinking. More generally it is a sign of poverty or dyspepsia.

Capt. Perry has re-embarked all the marines landed at Colon. Their re-embark was no worse than their life.

An Oklahoma man says he has found the true way to heaven. One thing is quite sure—it doesn't pass through Oklahoma.

It is to be hoped that all this talk about building storage reservoirs will not turn out to be nothing but babbling waters.

The Yale football team made seventy thousand dollars during the season that has just ended. This is a result of hire education.

The farmers of South Dakota have been saved financially by their cows. This is almost a case of the milk of human kindness.

Cuba wants reciprocity. That can easily be arranged. She can exchange Cuban independence for American suzerainty any time.

A contemporary speaks editorially of President Roosevelt's message. It probably has in mind the rubbing down he has just given the country.

The Supreme Court by its decision in the "Fourteen diamond rings case," clothes the Philippines with American rights, but already plans are on foot to unfrock them.

The secret of wedded happiness lies in forgetting you are married, says Max O'Rell. Not much, Maxey. It consists in forgetting that you were ever unmarried.

State pride and patriotism have reached their zenith in New Jersey. The state entomologist of that commonwealth has prepared a lecture in defense of the Jersey mosquito.

General Bell has issued an order forbidding the soldiers in northern Luzon, under pain of severe punishment, to drink the native "vino." And the general doesn't confine the prohibition to red wine.

There seems to be a good deal of rivalry among some of the English nobility as to who shall be chief fop at the king's coronation. But it must be remembered in extension of this outburst of rivalry that there isn't such a chance for a display of funkyness every day.

The report of the isthmian canal commission, as it appears in the papers, will scarcely convince the public that the Nicaragua route is better than the Panama route. But then it should be remembered that the public are not experts.

Semi-official announcement is made in Amsterdam that Queen Wilhelmina has forgiven Prince Henry. It is right to forgive but it is also prudent to require bonds for good behavior in the future. Dutch thrift would suggest this precaution.

The key to the popularity of the President's message lies in the fact that he

calls a spade a spade, as witness his characterization of anarchy as a crime not resulting from social conditions any more than theft and robbery.

**IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

Boston Herald.  
A dispatch states that Brig-Gen. Hughes has recently issued an order in regard to the importation and sale of rice and salt to the islands. The army officers have taken a careful census of the peaceful population, and they intend to serve out rice and salt in either daily or weekly allowances, but no larger amount than a supply for a family for a single week will be permitted in any house. No one is allowed to trade in either of these necessities, which form the most important part of the diet of the people. As it is not intended to make money out of the scheme, the United States will dispose of all these supplies at cost. It is hoped by adopting this measure that the two prime essentials of life in Samar will be taken away from the insurgents who are now in the bushes. In other words, they are to be starved into submission.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
Up to June 30 the insurgent losses were: Killed, 3,854; wounded, 1,121; captured, 6,572; surrendered, 23,094. For the Americans the figures are: Killed, 245; wounded, 490; captured, 118; missing, 29. It will be observed that fifteen Filipinos have been killed for every American, and this fact gives a vivid idea of the inequality of the contest. The natives are often brave to rashness, but in the majority of cases they are so poorly armed that they are shot down like sheep while trying to close in on men who oppose their rude knives with magazine rifles.

New York Evening Post.  
Secretary Root's recommendation that the lands now belonging to the friars in the Philippine islands be purchased by the government and reallocated under proper conditions to the inhabitants, is among the most praiseworthy features of his recent report. No action could do more to assure the Filipinos of the distinctness of our intentions and the benevolence of our rule than the expropriation of the monastic holdings, the conduct of which has been an immortal grievance in the islands. Of course, this expropriation could come about only by purchase, for the treaty of Paris confirms all the privileges and rights which the friars enjoyed under Spanish rule. It is equally just that the purchase price of these 403,000 acres should be charged, not upon the Philippine islands, but upon the United States.

Springfield Republican.  
"There are but two ways in which we can govern the islands," says Senator Bacon; "these are either absolute military rule on the one hand, or such liberal government as will satisfy the people on the other; there can be no half-way business. And a government which will satisfy the people must plainly be a government leading openly and avowedly to ultimate independence."

New York Mail and Express.  
There are certain acts and tendencies in the life of any people which mean far more than scattered, haphazard fighting or discredited insurgent pronouncements can mean. In the Philippines a sign much more significant than the forming of the embroils of insurrection in Samar and Batangas, is the universal demand for instruction in the English language in American schools. This immense movement, represented by the enrollment at least accounts of 150,000 Filipino children in the free primary schools established by the American government, shows in what direction the thoughts and wishes of the settled population are tending. People do not hasten to adopt the language of a hated conqueror.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.  
In the current number of the Juvenile Instructor will be found an excellent portrait of Bishop Orrin P. Miller, and a brief biographical sketch. Thomas P. Page, the distinguished description of the Holy Land, and the story "As the Twig is Bent," by Sarah E. Pearson, are also continued. "Back to Civilization" is the title of a sketch of a journey in Central America, by W. M. W. This is followed by a fine selection of poems. "The Evils of Mortgage-lug" is the subject of an excellent editorial article by Pres. Jos. F. Smith. In "Some of Our Composers," Edwin F. Parry gives a brief sketch of the career of Elder C. Briggs. Paul A. C. Hunt writes about "The Quaker Mission," and Alma O. Taylor of "The Children of Japan." Then there are "Answers to Questions," "For Our Little Folks," and a hymn, "Should Lowly Bend," words selected, and music by Prof. A. C. Smyth.—Salt Lake City, Utah.

The December number of The North American Review opens with a symposium, comprising seven articles on "Some Questions for Congress." Gen. Lew Wallace, Senator J. C. Burdette, Judge Edgar Aldrich, and the Duke of Arcos, contribute papers on the question of Anarchistic dangers. Joaquin Miller discusses the idea of annexing the Chinese exclusion act. Secretary Gage defends the "Customs Inspection of Baggage." Marjorie Wilcox describes and analyzes the "Opportunity of the Roosevelt Administration." "Real-Admiral G. W. Melville explains why he doubts whether a practically satisfactory solution will ever be found for "The Problem of Aerial Navigation." Walter Wellman asks "Shall the Monroe Doctrine Be Modified?" W. H. Baldwin, Jr., chairman of the committee of fifteen, finds in the experience of that committee proof of the value of "Publicity as a Means of Social Reform." Elias Carman, in one of his recent poems, tells of how a missionary monk, bent on Christianizing Norseland, told "The Tidings to Olaf," the king. Arthur Houghton gives the history of "The Spanish Debt," and describes its present condition and prospects.—New York.

"The Man's Prerogative" is the title of a novelette by Edward S. Van Zile, in the current number of Town Topics. It is a rather shady pen picture of a man, somewhat after the taste of Emile Zola. The rest of the volume is made up of stories, sketches, verses and witticisms.—Town Topics Publishing Co., 208 Fifth Ave., New York.

The leading article in the December Forum is by Dr. Rudolf Eucken, the Jena professor, and deals with "The Status of Religion in Germany." The author discusses how far the religious life of that country has been affected by the scientific and other progress of the last century. An argument in international law is advocated by James G. Whiteley in the article which follows on "Private Property at Sea." The present condition of "The United States Consular Service" is described and criticized by Charles Truax. The problem of "Reciprocity and Foreign Trade" is discussed by E. J. Gibson, who collects the most important statistics on the subject and deals in particular with the question of the proposed treaty with France.

Joseph M. Rogers expounds the principal "Lessons from International Exhibitions" with special attention to the peculiar merits of those at Philadelphia, Chicago, and Buffalo respectively. The present agitation against "Licensed Gambling in Belgium" gives interest to an article on that subject by George F. Babbin. It is taken on account in detail of the working of the municipal gambling establishment at Ostende.—Fifth Avenue, New York.

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TO Z. C. M. I. and inspect the magnificent stock of Fall and Winter Goods, all new and of latest styles, weaves and patterns. Our assortment of LADIES' SUITS, COATS, JACKETS, SKIRTS, and FUR GOODS is unsurpassed in the West, both as to quality and cheapness and price. We have an unusually choice stock of DRESS GOODS, EMBROIDERIES, LINEN WEAVES, NOTIONS, etc., also an elegant line of goods suitable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS. This week we are making a Special Offering of the

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Thursday, Dec. 5.

Seats now on sale at DAYNES' MUSIC STORE. Prices 50 and 75 cents.

### ELLERY'S ROYAL ITALIAN BAND.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Dec. 9th, 10th, 11th.

## MATINEE MONDAY, 2:30.

50 ARTISTS.

Sale of Seats opens Friday next, 10 a. m., at Daynes' Music Store.

Prices, 50c, 75c and \$1.00.

### SALT LAKE THEATRE.

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