

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: \$3.00
One Year, \$3.00
Six Months, \$1.50
Three Months, .75
One Month, .25
Sundays extra, per year, 2.00
Retail weekly, .05NEW YORK OFFICE:
In charge of E. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign
Advertising, from our Home Office, 117 Park St.
Building, New York.SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:
In charge of J. J. Cooper, 26 Geary St.Correspondence and other reading matter for
publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.
Address all business communications to
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.Entered at the Post Office of Salt Lake City as
second class matter according to Act of Con-
gress March 3rd, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 22, 1903.

THE "NEWS" REUNION.

The employees of the Deseret News had a very happy gathering in the annex of the new building on Saturday night. It was arranged by the workers in the bindery and composing rooms, and embraced all hands, male and female in every department, from the management of the business and editorial affairs down.

It was successful in every way. The banquet and the ball were supplemented by speeches and musical exercises, the floral and flag decorations were superb, and the view from the spacious rooms which will be occupied by the printers, machinists, stereotypers, binders, etc., was enchanting to all beholders, comprehending the gardens and buildings on Temple Square and the hills and benches at the foot of the mountains to the north and east, now covered with verdure and splendid with foliage. There are no accommodations for the toilers in a printing establishment in any part of this country, that are superior to those now in readiness for the "News" hands. They appreciate the provisions made for them and expressed their joy on Saturday night. The unity of spirit and purpose they exhibited, is but an expression of their feelings in relation to each other and to the institution for which they labor. They all desire its welfare, and their services are rendered not only for the pay they receive, but for the good-will they entertain concerning the establishment and the devotion they feel to the Church which owns it.

The Deseret News is self-sustaining, however, and all its employees draw their earnings from its treasury. It is prospering in every sense of the term, and hopes to extend its influence and increase its prosperity as the years roll on. For its magnificent quarters it is indebted to the liberality of the First Presidency, and all who work therein desire to prove worthy of the continued support and influence of the Church authorities.

The fraternal spirit in which the "News" workers who number 165 on the payroll, met and enjoyed each other's society on Saturday night, augurs well for the future progress and success of the institution. The motto of the paper has been from its beginning in 1850, the inspiring sentence: Truth and Liberty. This has been its constant guide, and for these grand results to all the world it will ever strive to the best of the abilities of all its laborers in every field of action. We congratulate the ladies and gentlemen who originated and carried out so successfully the plans for this reunion, and wish for all a continuance of that pleasure and contentment that marked the gathering on Saturday night.

THE LAW AND HOURS OF LABOR

The right of each State in the Union to pass laws regulating the hours of labor for State employees cannot be subverted, and we do not think it is now seriously questioned. But that does not extend to limiting the hours which are to constitute a day's labor on private contracts or general individual employment.

That eight hours' time is usually enough for a full day's work is conceded, and even less is plenty in some exceptional occupations. But the liberty of labor ought not to be interfered with oppressively, and every man ought to be permitted ordinarily to make such contracts for his work as are open and agreeable to him. Laws may be enacted for the preservation of life and the protection of persons, and therefore in some dangerous occupations legislation may be necessary and would be sustained by the courts. But when laws are not in the nature of the police power of the State, and have no relation to public order, health or morals, enactments as to the hours of labor and payment therefor, not performed in service to the State, will not stand good under judicial scrutiny.

As an instance of this, a New York statute provided that "Any person or corporation who, contracting with the State or a municipal corporation, shall require more than eight hours' work for a day's labor" is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code N. Y. 284.) This statute has been declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals in State vs. Orange County Road Construction Co., Judge Cullen wrote the opinion of the court and said:

"The vice of this statute is the arbitrary distinction drawn between persons contracting with the State and other employers."

trary distinction drawn between persons contracting with the State and other employers. "Doubtless a person who is a mere employee of the State or of a municipal corporation contracts for the performance of his service, and, suppose, however, the statute was intended to apply to the case of what is known in law as an independent contractor; that is to say, one who contracts to perform the work at his own risk and cost, the workmen being his servants and he, not the State or corporation with whom he contracts, being liable for the misconduct. If it does not apply exclusively to such contractors, it includes them."

So therefore the State may regulate the hours of labor required of its own employees, but it cannot interfere with the employees of an independent contractor. This is no new construction of the law. It has many precedents. It is right, too. There must be liberty to make contracts for labor, both on the part of employers and of employees, or our government would drift into positive paternalism.

REFUSED RECOGNITION.

The United States government, it seems, has decided not to recognize the new Serbian king, until, we presume, the awful crime that preceded his election has been wiped out, as far as this can be done by any act of human justice. In this attitude our government will be sustained by the American people. For this Republic could not, whatever its own imperfections may be, deal, on terms of equality, with a lot of assassins, or the friends of assassins.

The attitude of the European powers is not essentially different from this, though there is a disposition to avoid everything that might precipitate a crisis. The Austrian emperor, in recognizing the new monarch, demanded that he restore Serbia to the respect of the world "by raising it again after a severe fall which it recently sustained through the heinous and universally reprobated crime." This, if it is to be taken literally, can only mean that, in the opinion of the Austrian emperor, the regicides must be brought to justice. The Russian emperor directly reminds King Peter that it is incumbent upon him to avenge the murder of Alexander and Draga, and expresses the belief that he will be able severely to punish the regicides. The king is assured, moreover, that to leave the crime unpunished would threaten the internal peace of Serbia.

Great Britain has so far refused to recognize the new regime, and the congratulations of the king of Italy are merely of a personal nature, the two being brothers-in-law, both having married princesses of the house of Montenegro.

The various governments cannot, consistently take any other course. If they recognize regicide as a political expediency, they invite the assassins in their own immediate vicinity, to activity. Moreover, if the assassins of Alexander are not brought to justice, but perhaps rewarded for their dark deeds, what will prevent them from treating Peter in the same way, should he fail to meet their approbation, as he is sure to do at some time?

It is all the more necessary for the civilized nations to administer a needed lesson in civilization to Serbia, because it appears that the people there are being taught that murder is perfectly legitimate. The highest authority of the Serbian church is said to have declared that the assassins were the instruments in the hands of the Almighty, thus stamping the outrage with the ecclesiastical seal of approval. Where the masses are taught such doctrine, in deed and words, the nations have a duty to perform. It is, to enforce the recognition of correct principles, and a higher moral. The nations feel called upon to co-operate for the extermination of anarchism and nihilism. They cannot treat the Belgrade assassins differently from any other criminals of the same class. They took life without even a pretense at the observation of legal forms, and that is a crime in every civilized country. King Peter may not have been aware of the plots laid. He may not be responsible. He says he is not. But if this is true, it is all the more incumbent upon him to bring the conspirators to justice. Until this is done, Serbia should be excluded from the family of nations.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

The elections recently held in Germany were watched with a great deal of interest. Some important questions were the issues. Among these were the tariff problems and the Polish question. But the Socialist problem was the one which excited most curiosity, both at home and abroad. The Socialists commenced their career in Germany shortly after the war with France, with but 100,000 votes. This was in 1871. In 1880 they had 1,427,000 votes, and in the last general election, in 1898, they cast over 2,000,000 votes, of a total of 5,752,000. This year it was confidently expected that they would muster 3,000,000 votes, and that seems to have been no idle boast, judging from the figures so far published. Germany, then, is thought to be Socialist to the extent of about one-third of its voting population.

In view of the phenomenal growth of this party in Germany, it should perhaps be explained that the Socialists have generally stood for the great principles which liberty-loving, progressive citizens all over the world subscribe to. They demand fair representation in the councils of the nation—the representation that does not favor the rural districts at the expense of the cities. They claim that if the voters of the cities had a fair representation, there would have been the last five years, 120 Socialist delegates in the Reichstag. They are opposed to the enormous expenditures for the army and navy. They demand freedom of the press and of speech. They are opposed to high tariff on food and articles of necessity. In short, they are liberals, laboring intelligently for the progress of the nation along the lines of modern thought. This explains their strength in Germany. Utopian, impractical ideas would find few supporters in this country.

In this country too, Socialism is gaining ground rapidly. It is one of the signs of the times, for it indicates a growing disposition to depart from the beaten path and try new roads.

PRESS OPINIONS.

It is gratifying to see that the press of the country is not deeply impressed with the idea, set forth by the Presbyterian Assembly at Los Angeles, that the religious ministers of the United States are to control the Senate of the United States as to the qualification of members of that body, or that they have the right to dictate to a sovereign State of the Union as to its choice of a United States Senator. A number of prominent papers have thrown a dish of cold water on the super-heated resolutions of the Assembly on this subject, and the following from the Louisville Courier-Journal is a fair expression of the views of sensible people and papers in relation to the matter:

"The general Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States, lately in session at Los Angeles, Cal., adopted resolutions calling for the expulsion of Reed Smoot from the Senate of the United States. Such action by a body of sectaries, deliberately taken, must naturally attract a considerable share of public attention.

"One-third of the Senate of the United States have the power to expel any member, with or without good reason. Their action is not subject to revision by any power on earth, except indirectly by the bodies which choose Senators and the people that elect Legislatures. In this way there is a final appeal to the great tribunal of public opinion. Senators are not always very complaisant toward public opinion, but neither are they wholly indifferent to it. They are always alive to a sentiment which might make their reelection difficult or impossible. Hence before expelling Mr. Smoot they would naturally look for some reason that would justify a step which is rarely taken, and then usually for grave reasons.

"Mr. Smoot is a Mormon, but there is no constitutional provision against that. No religious test is possible under our organic law. But the resolutions of the General Assembly undertake to give other reasons for his expulsion. It is charged that he is a direct representative of polygamy, and has encouraged it by his personal influence as an apostle, and that by doing this he has aided and abetted criminals. The sufficiency of these charges would depend upon the construction put upon them. There is no constitutional inhibition of polygamy, as is admitted in the resolution asking for a constitutional amendment to make polygamy a crime. But polygamy is unlawful in Utah now, and if it can be shown that Apostle Smoot has been guilty of a violation of the law against plural marriage, or accessory to such violation of law, there will be some ground for action. But some specific act to this effect must be alleged and proved before any case against him will be apparent.

The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly appear to proceed upon the idea that a Mormon is necessarily inclined to polygamy. But a mere intellectual assent to the proposition that polygamy is a good thing is not a disqualification for office. The most preposterous opinion with reference to religion or any other subject does not disqualify. Unless, therefore, Apostle Smoot can be connected with polygamy in a more direct way than has yet been done his expulsion cannot be expected.

In North Dakota a fool and his wife are soon parted.

"My mine to me a kingdom is," says the Utah capitalist.

Coming events send their invitation cards before them.

Failure to capture the Mad Mullah makes the Mad British.

Those eruptions in Constantinople may be owing to smallpox.

Yesterday was the longest day of the year, and about the warmest.

The milkman who skipped out probably took the "cream" of his business with him.

Even after graduation the question continues to be: What shall we do with our boys?

The fishing is growing better. At least those most truthful of men, the fishermen, so declare.

Justice Harlan is three score and ten. And in dissenting opinions he continues to score his fellow justices.

It is safer to sit on the Serbian throne than to be foreman of the grand jury in Breathitt county, Kentucky.

When Prince Henry of Prussia visits this country next year he will travel incognito. He will have less attention but lots more fun.

Captain Peshing makes a capital historian of his own campaigns. The Moros whom he doesn't fill with fear and respect he fills with lead.

King Peter has begun to reward the men who elevated him to the throne. This does not look as though he were going to punish the assassins of Alexander.

"We will all go to the Devil, when we have fifty thousand a year," says Rev. Dr. Hillis. A great many do it on a very much more modest income than that.

Senator Hanna says that under no circumstances will he accept a nomination for the vice presidency. It is quite a good rule never to decline a nomination until it is tendered.

That Indiana safe blower who blew himself up while trying to blow a safe, met a well deserved fate. It was a beautiful case of poetic justice, a thing too infrequently seen in this world.

Brother Jonathan and John Bull do not propose to be in any great hurry to extend the hand of fellowship to King Peter. They, like a court of equity, demand that he show his hands to be clean.

Chauncey Dewey and his fellow prisoners want to be admitted to bail. If they value their not very valuable lives, they will remain under the protection of the officers. They should let well enough alone.

Major J. R. Bond is dead. He could not stand the shock of having his leg amputated. He was a good lecture manager and was keen to see what would "go" with the public. In his line he was a sort of Barnum.

The story that 6,000 men were slain in a battle in Morocco, may be exaggerated. But the loss must have been heavy, in order to give rise to this report. And that reminds one of the fact that where soldier meets soldier in personal combat, the casualties are

generally heavier, in proportion to the numbers engaged, than when modern arms are employed, and the fight is at long range. Modern arms have lessened the horrors of war, to some extent.

CANAL TREATY CLOUDS

New York Evening Sun.
The sensational Panama and Canal treaties would precipitate another revolution, and its duration no one could predict. Revolutions in Colombia are slow and ineffective affairs. We should have to send fleets to both sides of the isthmus and take possession of the railroad and police purposes. Perhaps the threat of the two states to secede—ways the obstructionists at the capital to their senses. As Congress meets on the 29th we shall, however, soon know the best or the worst.

Chicago News.

At the time when the question of routes was under consideration in this country Colombia not only showed itself eager to secure the canal but agreed in advance to make certain concessions if the Panama route were selected. It was largely on account of this offer that that route was chosen. If President Roosevelt finds that the agents of the canal company are powerless to make the Colombians respect their bargain he can count upon popular support if he adopts somewhat less amiable methods. He can at least assure the Colombians that if the United States does not build a canal via Panama no other power will be permitted to do so and the enormous benefits which such an enterprise would bring them will be lost for all time.

San Francisco Chronicle.

It is announced from Washington that the "understandings" that the president is much concerned about the outlook for the canal treaty, and that the "Administration" while willing to allow the Bogota government a "reasonable time" to execute its "obligations" to the United States, still "regards these obligations as more binding than those of other governments, and will not admit the right of the Colombian government to rescind from them." This "announcement" of course, is only that of an unnamed press correspondent. If officially made over the signature of a responsible member of the United States government, it would not only astonish the people of North and South America, but would furnish such a sensation to the diplomatic big wig as they have not had for many a day. It would, in effect, be a denial of the existence of Colombia as a sovereign nation.

Chicago Record-Herald.

There is no doubt that Colombia wants the United States isthmian canal built through her territory. Linking the oceans at this point would be of vast commercial importance to her people aside from the annual revenues to be derived under the proposed treaty with the United States. There is also little doubt that the route through Colombia, known as the Panama route, is the most feasible and economical of all the routes proposed for the great water way. But unfortunately the United States is not confined to this route. The route through Lake Nicaragua, although more than four times as long, is much nearer American ports and is common assent of most engineers is feasible from an engineering standpoint.

Springfield Republican.

The frequent Washington dispatches that say concerning the Panama canal treaty are to be interpreted, probably, as meant for consumption "at Bogota." For the dispatches have a redoubtable source. The president, one reads, is extremely disturbed by the possibility that the Colombian congress will not ratify the treaty, and he sends forth, unofficially, the ultimatum that the United States will never pay more than \$10,000,000 to Colombia for the right of way across the isthmus. It is also reported that the president considers that Colombia is under obligation to ratify the treaty, although the nature of the obligations is not disclosed. All this is reported by the Washington papers, but still it must be read in the United States with caution, since it may be meant to scare the Colombian congress into ratifying the treaty.

STRIKES AND PROSPERITY.

Springfield Republican.
What Marshall Field, the Chicago merchant, says about the strike epidemic is true. If the strike business does not end it will end prosperity and activity of other business. The situation is grave enough, from his viewpoint, to caution any merchant against ordering goods as liberally as heretofore, and what that men in regard to the demand for labor is obvious.

Boston Herald.

The owner of a great factory, who, deciding to be ultra prudent, shuts it down, thus throwing his employees out of work, does his best to bring about business stagnation by depriving a large number of his best workers at work to supply their various needs. The labor organization which enters upon an unnecessary strike, causing thousands of men to suspend work and cease to earn wages, does its best to destroy business prosperity and bring about that partial suspension of business activity which consists in having little or no profit to the manufacturers and in having more men looking for work than there is work for them to do, and hundreds of thousands of families living in a condition only a few degrees above positive destitution.

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No. 2 10:30 a.m. No. 1 1:30 p.m.
No. 7 2:30 p.m. No. 3 2:45 p.m.
No. 6 4:20 p.m. No. 4 5:40 p.m.
No. 8 6:20 p.m. No. 5 7:40 p.m.
No. 10 8:30 p.m. No. 9 9:30 p.m.
No. 12 9:45 p.m. No. 11 11:30 p.m.
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