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DESERET NEWS 'PHONES.

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

Numbers: For the Chief Editor's office, 74-3. For Desert News Book Store, 74-2. For City Editor and Reporters, 359-3. For Business Manager, 589-3. For Business Office, 389-2.

REED SMOOT'S TESTIMONY.

The publication in the "News" of the full vext of the testimony of Senator Reed Smoot before the committee of investigation, has given an opportunity to the public to learn for themselves, without having to depend upon the views or distortions of others, what the Senator really said in reply to the fusliade of questions fired at him during his long examination. Many of the criticisms passed upon him are very unjust, and the false interpretations placed upon his testimony by his enemies, are cleared away by careful reading.

In the press dispatches, which necessarily have to be but condensed summaries of the proceedings, many answers to queries are embodied in one paragraph or sentence, giving the appearance of a voluntary, connected statement. When they are presented in detail, as replies to questions, they show up in a very different light, and their true import as well as the necessity for their utterance stands out comprehensibly,

A very different impression is made when the full report is inspected, from that obtained by means of the regular or special dispatches. While the former give but the gist of the proceed ings, many of the latter are blased and unreliable, being colored by the reporter to suit the disposition of the paper to which he sends them, and sometimes "padded" by that paper to veht its own prejudices and feed the appetite of peoconsidered on the individual merits or demerits, the beliefs and obligations to his country which the defendant de-clared it his intention to observe.

RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT,

Word comes from St. Petersburg, over Berlin, that the Russian government has decided to issue a proclamation, on the 4th of March, the anniversary of the abolition of seridom, convening the Zemski sobor,

Students of Russian history tell us that this is an ancient institution of the country, and corresponding to the representative assemblies of other nations. The words are translated, "land parliament." Russia, it must be remembered, was very early invaded and settled by the northern vikings, who swarmed all over Europe. They brought with them their love of freedom and equality, and their free institutions, and thus it came to happen that the country, very early, had a representative assembly, or parliament, somewhat similar to the "althing" of the old Norsemen. But this assembly has not been summoned to meet since the time Czar Peter the Great, who simply usurped all power, and ignored the

people. The Zemski sobor, we are told, was composed of the Boyar Council, or the House of Nobles, in which also sat the clergy; the highest administrative officials, the delegates of the townsmen, he merchants and the peasantry. The Boyars and ecclesiastical diguitaries were not elected. In the provinces, however, regular elections were held. The Boyar's sons-or minor nobleman, the landed proprietors, the merchants, the townsmen and the peasants-all voted separately for their respective representatives. The Sobor met together in one general session to hear the Czar's opening speech. After the address by the crown the various estates met separately and voted independently of one another. It must not be thought that the Zemski Sobors were considered in any way as limitations of the supreme power; the object of these Sobors was rather to support it by deliberations, advice and ratification. They had no initiative. Excepting when they met to elect a Czar, their functions were purely deliberative. Only rarely the Sobor presented a "Tchelobitnaya" to the Czar: literally a "forehead striking petition," which was so called from the fact that it generally commenced with the formula, "Striking our foreheads on the steps of thy throne." The present revolutionary movement

in Russia appears in a new light, when viewed in connection with Russian history. It is a movement to wrest from autocracy the liberty wrongfully taken away from the people. It is generally thought that the Russlans are not prepared for liberty. But if progress had not been stopped, or retarded, by the curtailment of the prerogatives the people anciently enjoyed, there is no reason why the Russians should not now have been as far dayanced in self-government as any nation in Europe. We notice the Czar is still appointing commissions to "investigate" conditions, and to find out what the people want. But this appears almost ridiculous in view of the fact that the zemstvo presidents have already spoken for the people, and in view of the other fact

of skeptics from scientific data as superior to the information furnished by revelation It is interesting, further, because by

the age of that feature of nature, it is supposed that the age of man on earth may be approximately estimated. It is claimed that implements have been found in glacial gravel-deposits of the same age as the gorge of Niagara, but not in any earlier deposits.

As to the future history of the falls, it is predicted that, barring any interference by the corporations, in 2,500 years the discharge of Niagara will be intermittent, and, in a thousand years more, it will cease entirely. The drainage of the great lakes will be through the Mississippi valley instead of the St. Lawrence, and Niagara will receive only the drainage of its immediate vicinity. The time, however, is far off, and there is no immediate reason for worry on that account.

Whitewashes are ofter white lies. Why don't the Romanoffs build cy-

clone cellars?

On this oil question, what's the matter with Kansas? She's all right.

Contrary to the adage, in the State Senate the course of Love runs smooth.

Not to burn letters when requested o do so is to cause many heart burnings. A royal tomb has just been discovered in the neighborhood of Luxor. It is an

edition de Luxor, no doubt. When the state refinery is established, how refined and cultured the Kansans will become.

Why doesn't Mr. Rockefeller pour oil on the troubled waters of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wisconsin?

A talking tree has been discovered in Kentucky. Does it belong to the same family as Tennyson's "Talking Oak?"

A man in Maryland is named Freezer Fry. Doubtless he would be happy with either were 'tother dear charmet away.

The good Beef trust must find it quite a relief to have public attention diverted from itself to the bad Standard Oil trust.

The war in the Far East must be oming to an end. The Russian officers are beginning to say terrible things of each other.

An Illinois legislator has introduced a bill to limit the speed of automobiles to six miles an hour. He must be a slow coach.

There is no revolution in Russla at present but never was any country more strenuously preparing for one than the Czar's empire.

Among the charges against Judge Swayne is one that he used railroad passes. No doubt he could very truthfully say, "there are others."

Mr. Niedringhaus says that he proposes to fight to the bitter end. He that the Czar's government ordered the won't have to fight so very much longpeaceful workmen shot down, when er. The bitter end is already in sight. For falsifying accounts Major Car-

another. There are two questions. First, is this attitude wise? Second, is it necessary in order to defend the Senate's claim to a full share in the treaty-making power?

Boston Post. It is hard to take sides in this par-ticular matter of the arbitration trea-ties. The public must share the pres-ident's wish that this nation commit itself as fully as possible to the idea of

international arbitration-that it be prompt to avail itself to the fullest ex-tent of The Hague tribunal. But the Constitution unquestionably stands in the way of his method.

New York World.

Shall the United States become, in x-Secretary Foster's expressive shall the United States become, in ex-Secretary Foster's expressive phrase, "the most backward of the na-tions in the cause of international peace?" This is the vital question aris-ing out of the unfortunate difference between the Senate and the president in the matter of the arbitration trea-ties. It is the question which the coun-try and the world wait to see answered -- and answered right. nd answered right.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The February Arena contains the second paper of Rudolph Blankenburg on what he calls the reign of graft and corruption in Pennsylvania. Another paper in the February "Arena" is the so-called exposure of the Armour Re-frigerator-Car Trust conspiracy. Many facts dealt with in this contribution are almost incredible. A third contri-bution deals with "Public Control of the Liquor Traffic in Sweden and Nor-way" and its result up to date. This is the third contribution in "The Are-ua's" international series of papers on progressive democratic movements in ua's" international series of papers on progressive democratic movements in foreign lands. Other papers are a spir-lted discussion for and against Rus-sla's position in the Japanese imbro-glio. "The Expansion of Municipal Ac-tivities." by Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Secretary of the National Municipal League: "Matthew Arnold as a Poet," by H. W. Peck: and "Garnet Warren: Cartoonist," a character sketch by B. O. Flower. The editorials, book reviews and other regular features are of spe-cial interest.--5 Park Square, Boston, Mass. Mass.

1 LA There is more demand for poor tea than for good ; you think too much of your money.

Write for our Knowledge Book, A Schilling & Company, San Francisco.

SALT THEAT RE GEO.D. PYPER LAKE THEAT RE CURTAIN 6:15 TONIGHT LAST TIME M. J. SAUNDERS GORDON presents the Great Italian Mezzo-Soprano, Mme. Mantelli (Late Prima Donna of Metropolitan On-era House, New York), Supported by the MANTELLI GRAND **OPERATIC COMPANY**

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ple for anti-"Mormon" sensations.

The change in sentiment produced by the official account of Senator Reed Smoot's testimony is evident in the remarks of public journals, and among them are the following, which appeared in the Dayton, Ohio, News, of Feb. 10:

"It must be admitted, reluctantly as those who oppose him will be to admit it, that Senator Smoot has acquitted himself admirably, in his testimony be-fore the investigating committee in Washington Washington.

Yashington. "Patriotism to his country, fidelity to his religion, love for his family, and conscientious loyalty to his God were the eleraents of manhood exhibited that should make the Christian feel that all is not bad that centers in the Mormon Church. He is not a polygamist. He opposes any infraction of the laws of the country, though he believes in the fundamental principles of the Mormon Church and is recognized as one of its leaders—this is his privilege as a citi-zen. His religious views, as he ex-pressed them, from a moral standpoint are of the highest character, and as eve-ry man is entitled to worship as he pleases and express his views on re-ligion, it is but persecution to attempt to reflect on his name and deprive the state of its representative because of state of its representative because of his religion alone.

He declared his belief in revelations from God, even in the present day, which caused some people to express their horror at the idea of divine fa-vors being bestowed on a sarrill world in the twentleth century, when, in their

In the twentleth century, when, in their opinion Ged's communication with man ocased centuries ago, and man hus since-been wobbling along, content with the traditions of past ages, touching his re-lations to the Almighty. "Senator Smoot, believing that God is the same yesterday, today and for-ever, does not agree with those who offer excuses and apologies for God's not communicating with his people since the time of Christ and the Apos-ties. He, believing that divine revelathes. He, believing that divine revela-tion is still possible, has the faith that the Mormon Church is founded on the revelation that led Joseph Smith to the golden plates in the Hill Cumorah, on which plates were engraved the Book of

Mormon," "He was asked what he would do if one of these revelations conflicted with the laws of the land, and gave the manly answer that he would not dis-obey the laws of his country, but would go elsewhere to obey the com-mand of God.

mand of God. "It was hoped by some that he would deny the tenets set forth in his re-ligion, and thus bring down on his head the wrath of the Mormon people, but not so, and in thus showing his loyalty he won the respect of every fair-minded and conscientious person where the testimony.

"His answers were certainly dignified and creditable to an bouest, conscien-tious upright man, who has respect for his God and love for his country and

his home. His testimony throughout was of a character that showed a much broad-or and more liberal spirit than that which characterizes the prosteution, and his views of morality and faith in God were certaily of a character that indicated a man worthy of the honors his state had bestowed upon him. "Opposed as we are to polygamy as the canker in the heart of the social and religious world, we can but admit that Senator Smoot in his defense, has won a victory for himself and those in the church who oppose polygamy in re-fieting characteristics that are a cred-it to any individual. "The report of the committee, there-

they came to present their wishes to the Czar, If he had wanted to know what the people desire, why did he not listen to them, when they came to speak to him? The Russians want representative government. They want the country opened to modern ideas, modern civilization. They want their ancient rights restored, and, according to appearances, peace will not come until

ABOUT THE NIAGARA.

these demands are granted.

Geologists have predicted that the Niagara falls will be no more, at the end of some thousands of years. They draw this conclusion from the rapidity with which the rocks are wearing away, as a result of the action of the water. But, it appears that the falls are threatened by more swift destruction through the action of modern enterprise. If corporations, we are told, are permitted to continue to divert water for industrial purposes, the falls will disappear in the present generation. To avert this calamity, the New York legislature requests the Federal government to enter into negotiations with Great Britain for joint action, with a view of preserving the falls from the onslaughts of man, at least. To counteract the damage wrought by the forces of nature,

would be a different problem. Several attempts have been made to estimate the age of the Niagara falls. Prof. C. J. Maury of Columbia university says that, Dr. Julius Pohiman was the first who used the surveys to estimate more definitely the age of the gorge. His result was 35,000 years. Later Mr. Upham, on the supposition that the water from the upper great lakes was not cut off from Niagara in early post-glacial times, reduced these figures to from 5,000 to 10,000 years. Spencer and Taylor, who considered

that the volume of water was greatly reduced because the supply from the upper great lakes was temporarily cut off, increased the estimate to 32,000 and 50,000 respectively. But one of the most recent estimates is that of Prof. Hitch-

cock, who thinks that the time required to cut back from the point where the gorge suddenly contracts above the railroad bridge to the present position of the falls is 2.962 years. Thus, he remarks, the time when the great catarnot was at the northern end of the upper great gorge, "dates back to 1062 B. C., 300 years before the life of Romulus, or to the reign of King David at Jerusalem." The time required to carve out the entire gorge he estimates. to be 18,918 years. Prof. G. F. Wright, however, following a different line of argument, estimates the age of the falls

at 10,000 years. The entire discussion is interesting for the reason that it demonstrates how un certain are the calculations of scientists regarding geological ages. Here are estimates concerning the length of time that must have elapsed since the "The report of the committee, there-fore is awalted with anxiety, as it is a meetion whether the senator from Utab is to be the victim of the sins of others, or whether the case is to be

rington gets a sentence of sixty years and five days in the penitentiary. Those five days are, presumably, sansculottides,

Governor Pennypacker has declined the offer of the Philadelphia Record to edit it for one issue. He is wise. It is better to be governor for a long time than king for a day.

It must strike the mind of the heathen Chinee as rather odd that a lady missionary, who has been preaching Christianity in his country for five years and who adopts a Chinese baby as her own, is not permitted to bring It into the United States. And it must strike others than the heathen Chinee that it is odd.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE SENATE

Hartford Courant. Hartford Courant. Between President Roosevelt stand-ing for the right and the senate atand-ing on its right, the country will not hesitate an instant in lining up. We never had a more popular president, and there never was a time when the senate was more unpopular than it is today. Proverbially Washington is the poorest place in which to gather the sentiment of the country, but it seems as if even down there it would occur to more of the members of that body that they are imperiling its nature if not they are imperiling its nature if not its very existence.

Boston Herald.

But the arbitration treaties are de-feated in their most important charac-ter. The United States has fallen behind other civilized nations in giving the world a guaranteee of its disposithe world a guaranteee of its disposi-tion to prevent the possibility of un-just war. That is the substantial re-sult of Saturday's action of the Sen-ate. Mr. Spooner and other senators talked about the danger that might be in the case of some other president, as if they did not know that all these treaties will lapse by their own terms in five years—that is, within a year of the end of President Roosevelt's new term, term.

Boston Transcript,

In the present instance popular sen-timent has been comphatically in favor of the arbitration treatles as drawn up by the secretary of state, with the approval of the president. It has not for a moment believed in the possibil-ity even of any president of the United States submitting, in violation of the constitution and in contunely of our sovereignty, the question of the recogsovereignty, the question of the recog-nition of the confederate bonds, or the redemption of the reputated obliga-tions of states. No such stutification of the United States was possible under of the United States was possible under the treatles as originally presented. The bogy was conjured up by a strange coalition of professional Irish patriots in the United States ranging against England and southern politicians who feigned apprehension that the states might be called upon to make good the paper they had dishonored.

Philadelphia Press. Nobody denies the right of the Sen-ate to strangle the treaties in this fash-lon. It has the power to determine that no general treaty of arbitration shall be made which does not provide that every individual case of arbitra-tion shall be submitted to the Senate and reaches its senation before action receive its sanction before actio The right is one thing; the policy is

