

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

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

For the Chief Editor's office No. 74, 3 rings.

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For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 3 rings.

For Business Manager, 359, 3 rings.

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ANOTHER TRIBUNE LIE.

It appears that nothing can be done in this city having any association with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, without some misrepresentation by the Salt Lake Tribune, the old-time enemy of that Church and the present foe of the people who are its leaders and members.

At the regular monthly Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion last Friday evening, a notice was given that an annual meeting of the Bishop had to be held, according to printed instructions of the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric to every Stake in the Church, but as a number of the Bishops were absent, it could not be held that evening, so the most convenient time was discussed, and finally Sunday morning at 10 o'clock was decided upon, the meeting to be held in such room at the L. D. S. University as could be obtained.

The purpose of the meeting was simply to arrange certain Church business affairs relating to tithing accounts, and the appointment of a tithing clerk, all for this Stake of Zion. That was the only kind of business transacted or talked about. The matters discussed concerned no one but those who were present and the presiding authorities already mentioned.

The Tribune, however, having heard that such a meeting was to be held, came out on Sunday morning with a front page, framed and fanning article, informing its readers that:

"The object of the gathering is to decide upon a course of action in regard to the charges made against Senator Smoot—the charges that he will be expected to meet before the committee of the United States Senate in Washington. But even more important than this is the impression that has crept out that at this meeting the brethren are to be coached as to the nature of the testimony they are to give, when they will be called upon to deny or affirm the charges that have been preferred against Senator Smoot, other high officials in the Church and the Church itself. The understanding is that a line of action is to be agreed upon, so that all who testify will tell the same story, and not get tangled up in their testimony as to affairs in Utah."

The whole of that absurd story was manufactured by the Tribune. No one connected with the Church did or could convey an intimation of anything so totally false. The name, or affairs, or position, or defense of Senator Smoot, or of charges preferred against him or the Church or any one connected with it, was not mentioned, alluded to or hinted at in the meeting, or before or after it on Sunday morning. The statement of the Tribune was and is a LIE of its own concoction, intended to deceive the public in regard to the Church and the Senator, and is an additional exhibition of the malice of that paper, and its determination to defame both and continue its malignant course without conscience and without reason.

The Tribune had no more right to hatch up a story about that private meeting of gentlemen attending to their own business, than it had to invent a lurid tale about a family gathering to discuss family affairs. It would have been sheer impudence on its part to attempt to publish that which actually occurred, for it was no concern of that paper nor of the public. It was an annual meeting for the consideration of matters that related solely to the persons who were present and those to whom they are required to make annual reports.

We caution the public against placing reliance upon anything printed in the Salt Lake Tribune concerning the "Mormon" Church. It is usually false, or garbled, or so distorted as to be untrue. The same may be said of the reports it circulates concerning Senator Smoot in this connection, whether purporting to come from Washington or otherwise. It is the policy of that paper to speak up "stories" which will serve to excite the public, and we have abundant testimony that its reporters have frequently been required to fabricate such "stories," whether they were true or not.

There has been a charge for the first time in the history of the Tribune that it is a liar.

of which we have copied. It was invented for the purpose of prejudicing people outside of this State against the parties mentioned therein. Special efforts will doubtless be made to wire the gist of it, so that the lie may be worked to the uttermost. It is on a par with the infamous "Bishop West" letter, fabricated by that paper years ago, and the trail of which in the Southern States was stained with the innocent blood of "Mormon" victims to the atrocity.

There are no viler creatures under the sun than the scribes who brew these messes of slander, and their aiders and abettors who ladle it out from the pulpit. They are without conscience and without shame, so there is no hope for their repentance or recanting, and they ought to be pilloried by public sentiment and regarded with general detestation and contempt.

A CRUCIAL TEST.

We understand that the license as a saloon of a notorious resort in this city, where gambling and prostitution are reported to be regularly carried on, runs out today. The Mayor recently recommended the revocation of the license and this occasioned much debate. There are influences at work to support that establishment in all its unblushing infamy, where a riot but a week or two ago nearly resulted in the death of an assaulted person. Now what will the new City Council do about this? Are there enough advocates and upholders of law and order in that body to take a firm stand on the side of decency and the public welfare? This matter will form a test of the backbone of men elected to promote the city's interests and give us a clean administration. The action of the council in this affair will be watched with general interest. Will the license be renewed? It is not or should not be a party question. It is one of public morals, and of proper regulation of a traffic which is put within the discretion of the City Council. When it is decided we shall know which of the men chosen by the people to manage civic affairs is in favor of the lowest elements of shady society, and how many are ready to do their duty in the face of the force that is being quietly wielded for the encouragement of rowdism and vice.

THE TWO ANTAGONISTS.

Although the rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan does not necessarily mean war, the probability is that it would not have occurred, had not both countries now arrived at the conclusion that the dispute cannot be settled by any other means. It is still to be hoped that war can be averted, but the outlook is dark. Still, if Russia does not oppose the occupation of Corea by Japan, and if Japan does not attack the Russians, the storm may blow over.

The following data concerning the two antagonists may be of some interest at this time. They are given by a contributor to Collier's Weekly:

"Russia's population is 140,000,000; Japan's 44,000,000. In Russia, in the square mile there are 15 persons; in Japan 296. Russia's army costs \$150,000,000 a year; Japan's, \$19,000,000. On a peace footing the Russian army has 1,000,000 officers and men; the Japanese, 175,000. On a war footing, the Russian, 4,000,000, and the Japanese, 675,000.

These are amazing figures. But other figures show how much "little Japan" is intellectually the superior of the Russian giant.

"Though Japan has only one-third the population of her rival, she publishes as many books every year; and, despite the concentration of her population, which permits of the wide circulation of her city dailies, she publishes as many newspapers. The percentage of her people who can read and write is about equal to that of our own New England States. In schools and colleges she has 5,000,000 pupils and students, or one in every nine of the population, where Russia has only one in every thirty-five. In fact, Japan, with her 44,000,000 people, probably has more subjects who can read and write than Russia with her 140,000,000."

It is almost certain that the efforts of the great European powers will be directed toward confining the struggle to the two belligerents. But it is almost equally certain that China will be drawn into the maelstrom. Time alone can tell what that may lead to. Ever since the Boxer insurrection the Japanese, we are told, have been quietly engaged in securing a strong hold upon the confidence and the friendship of the Chinese, who seeing in them men of much the same race, faith, traditions and ethics, are ready to accept from them, counsel and instruction, which they would regard with distrust, suspicion and even contempt, if tendered by Europeans or Americans. The Japanese, without attracting much attention, have been drilling and reorganizing the Chinese army, have been supplying Europeans in the great Chinese arsenals, and have been acting as confidential advisers to the statesmen at Peking, and to the provincial viceroys. They have been active in every branch of Chinese military, naval and civil administration, as well as in educational and industrial life. This has taken place with the knowledge and moral support of Great Britain. It is evident that every year that passes serves to increase the efficiency and importance of China as an ally. It is perhaps the knowledge of this that has led Russia to cast aside the mask and to precipitate events. It may be taken for granted that she realizes that, if an armed conflict is inevitable, it is best to bring matters to a crisis at once, instead of waiting until the Chinese Japanese coalition has had time to develop its enormous strength. The statement from St. Petersburg, that Japan is responsible for the rupture, will not be taken seriously anywhere. Japan is no more responsible than France was for the war with Germany, and this fact will give France the right to keep away from the battlefield, even if China should become an active ally of Japan.

BY FIRE AND STORM.

The chapter of disasters is being "beautifully continued." A destructive fire has wiped out fifty million dollars' worth of property in Holmden, Neb., and several Kentucky towns have been devastated by storm. These are but links in the endless chain of disasters the world has witnessed during the last few years, and which the

thoughtful observer everywhere begins to regard as "signs of the times." The horrors of war, it seems, are to be added to the other calamities. At various times in the world's history, nations have been visited by famine, pestilence, wars, storms, earthquakes, generally as warnings to repentance from some great national sin. Apostasy, with concomitant errors, such as idolatry, often has been visited by devastation by sword, fire, or water. Witness the overthrow of the Jewish polity by Assyrians and Babylonians, and finally by the Romans. Witness, also, the inundation of Asia Minor, Northern Africa and Southern Europe by the hordes of Asia. But few are able to see the connection between the moral status of nations and the agitations in the physical world. Few are clear-sighted enough to acknowledge the hand of Omnipotence in all things. Chance, many think, is responsible. And so they miss the lesson intended by the warning voices of nature.

CAUSE OF PNEUMONIA.

Reports from New York and Chicago prove that pneumonia and consumption have carried off a great number of victims in those cities, the former being the more deadly disease of the two. It is also stated that one of the most potent causes of pneumonia is a lack of air. A person, the report says, needs 3,000 cubic feet of air every hour, but modern architects generally ignore this fact. Every available square inch in modern buildings is occupied. Houses consist of little holes in which human beings are required to work, and live, and sleep. There is a general fresh air famine, and pneumonia is the result. It should be added that modern cities with their volumes of smoke that fill streets and houses, increase the horrors of air famine to a considerable degree. In this connection it can be stated that a New York physician claims to have discovered a lemon juice germicide for the bacilli of both grip and pneumonia. This physician says he has killed the germs of pneumonia in culture tubes with the simple application of lemon juice, and through its timely use, where symptoms of the disease were in evidence in patients under his care, the results obtained were highly satisfactory. This is satisfactory as far as it goes, but as prevention is better than cure, people should look to the air supply. The smoke problem is particularly important. How are people to get fresh air in their dwellings, when these are immersed in dense clouds of soot and fogs?

THE POINT OF CONTENTION.

Notwithstanding the fact that the far eastern situation has been discussed in the press for years, and that the great antagonists themselves have, for months, rivaled champion pugilists in talking at one another, very often people ask, what is the trouble between the Russians and the Japanese?

Well, the main point is Corea. Both countries want the control of that peninsula, and both consider such control of vital importance. A Russian Corea would, it is thought, practically block Japan from entrance to China, and if Japan had no outlet directly west she would starve, while a Japanese Corea would menace the safety of Port Arthur and Manchuria, and would give to the Japs a fine and valuable port and coast. Corea is the Ireland of Japan, prospectively at least. She must have Corea, keep it independent, or fall back into the obscurity out of which she leaped to such a brilliant destiny a generation ago. That is the point of content. But it seems to be further narrowed down to this. Japan demands that Russia sign a treaty acknowledging the integrity and independence of both China and Corea, and Japan's interests in the latter country; to which demand Russia replies that Japan has no interest in those countries except such as are common to all the powers, wherefore a special treaty with Japan on that matter is out of the question.

When Japan, in 1895, was forced back from the Asiatic mainland, her officers said, "we will return, when we are ready." Since then the Japanese have spent their time well. They are probably as well prepared for the struggle that will eventually make the nation, or undo it, as they ever will be. Japanese diplomacy forced Russia to name a date for the evacuation of Manchuria. When the Russian government broke its word, the time had come for action. The negotiations then were carried on in secret, but enough has become known of the points of contention to warrant the conclusion that Russia must back down, or fight, now or later on. In the view of the Japanese the alternative is this: Japan may go valiantly to war, as the Japanese officer in China marched to death under a mined gate, or she may let Russia fool her, with another treaty neutralizing Corea, and wait a few years to see it torn up and thrown in her face, like that for the evacuation of Manchuria. She can, if need be, sell her nationality, like the Boers, for a price of blood "that will stagger humanity," or she can surrender it for nothing by slow degrees, as it suits the convenience of Russia to take it. That being the supposed alternative, Japan's course of action is unalterably given.

The country is about as well prepared as it can be. In the opinion of experts, the Japanese fleet can have no augmentation in the immediate future except by the purchase of vessels built or building for small nations which are willing to sell. While the Russian reinforcements on the way will not throw the balance in Russia's favor, they mean more weight of metal to contend with. As for the Japanese army, it cannot be increased without making her warlike intentions too plain to her adversary. Technically she must now be as ready as she can be within the next two or three years. If more, then, is out of the question, the first blow cannot be struck too soon to suit Japan.

"After her the deluge," says Jack Frost.

Will Secretary of War 'Pitt' run in Mann's track?

Who gets the best profits? asks

Secretary Wilson. The beef barons, of course.

No man can tell what a day will bring forth—in the Orient.

A bureau of statistics rarely knows how much it costs to run it.

It is a question whether whisky or the railroads wreck more lives.

The Boston job printers have struck. The reason is that they claim they are being jobbed.

When the far eastern dogs of war are first let loose their bark will be upon the sea.

Japan is not miserable, for misery loves company, and Japan, wants to go it alone in her go with Russia.

The people will be glad to hear that Senator Hanna is "standing pat" again instead of being confined to his bed.

Colonel Bryan and Colonel Watterson could become public benefactors by ceasing to say to each other: "You're another."

Colonel Butler got a clean bill of health from the jury, which very fact shows that he has been where there is contagion.

Uncle Sam proposes to have Senor San Domingo on the carpet. That gentleman has been tolerated long enough in his misdoings.

Six thousand theatrical people are said to be stranded in Chicago. Their sole occupation just now is to make footprints on the strands of time.

"Winter? The word has a familiar sound, but to Californians it has no terrors," says the Los Angeles Express. Nor has the word any terrors for people who live in the Klondike.

University of California professors have been, and seemingly successfully, testing the theory of heredity. A law suit over a will bequeathing millions tests it about as well as anything.

Be patient yet a little while and you shall be able to say with Solomon, "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land."

Had the convention of city and county public school superintendents of Utah done no more than to pass this resolution, "Resolved, That we favor raising the standard of teachers in our schools by requiring that they be graduates from a standard normal school or its equivalent, and that more of the examinations for teachers are based on subjects of normal school grade." It would more than have justified its assembling. It shows that the educators are alive and awake, and looking out for the best interests of the schools. The standard for teachers cannot be raised too high, and the higher it is the better will be the results in the school room. We congratulate the convention on its good work.

THE IROQUOIS VERDICT.

Worcester Gazette.

The release of Mayor Harrison from all charges of responsibility with regard to the Iroquois theater disaster was the only logical course for the Chicago authorities to pursue. The case is hardly parallel to that of the directors arrested for responsibility in the Newark, N. J., school disaster. Even in that case, though, the arrested parties were freed from all blame by the findings of the court of inquiry.

Tekepa Herald.

Mayor Carter Harrison may not actually be made to suffer in the courts for the official neglect of duty which made the Iroquois disaster possible, but he will be punished by public opinion. Mr. Harrison is the mayor who has, for several successive elections, insisted upon re-election as a vindication of his preceding term.

Next election Chicago people ought to give him a sort of vindication which will not be to his liking.

Mining Gazette.

The Iroquois theater disaster has resulted in what appears, to the ordinary layman, to be a decidedly peculiar situation. The coroner's jury scored Mayor Harrison and ordered his arrest. Then Judge Tutthill stepped into the breach and scored the coroner's jury and freed the mayor. Now somebody is due to score Judge Tutthill and order the arrest of the coroner's jury.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

There seems to be an impression that the Chicago voters who elected Mayor Harrison to office, are quite as responsible as he is for the theater fire horror. That may be called Chicago reasoning.

Kansas City World.

There is little or no use in punishing the offender, if a whole community is in party to the offense and if the sentiment on which the offense rests remains. Had the people of Chicago been alive to their duty, Mayor Harrison and his building inspectors would have had no rest until every theater in the city had complied fully with all the laws for safety. Had the people been alive to their duty and their rights, not a theater in the city would have found patronage until it had been made safe. We are an easy-going, law-neglecting people. Every day we wink at the violation of laws that were devised for our own safety.

MME. NORDICK.

KANSAS CITY STAR.

Reports of Mrs. Nordick's divorce from Zoltan Dosme, the tenor, satisfy the public that "no provision is made for attorney for Mrs. Nordick." The reference in this interesting case knew his business, but for that matter the great singer probably saved him the trouble of being in the questions of attorney. If public opinion is reliable, Mr. Dosme has been dependent on attorneys from his wife's death to the time since their marriage. At the time of the wedding he was described as an attractive chap, whose fascinations quite offset his lack of fortune and his seeming inability to make money. It is not known, however, how he fared at the hands of Mrs. Nordick during the period of separation.

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