BEFORE THE DESERT BLOSSOMED AS THE ROSE

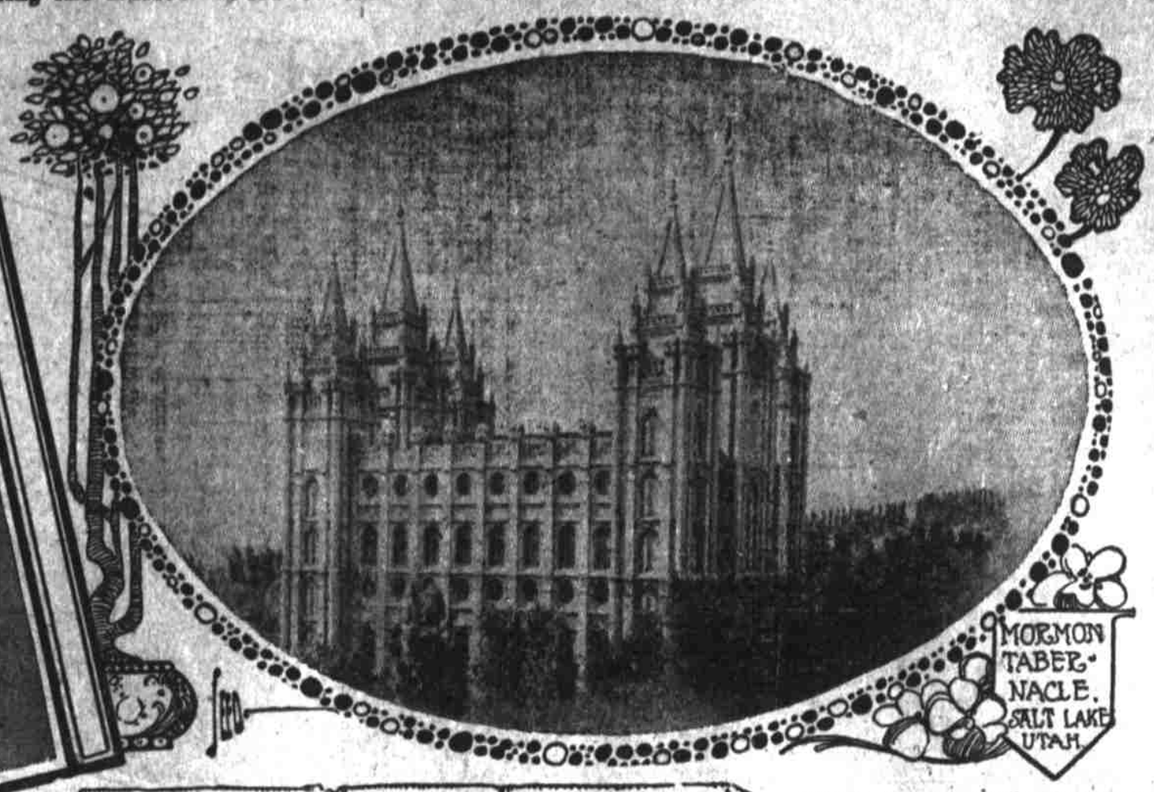
First Newspaper of Salt Lake City

Started by Mormon Church--News Was in Many Cases Weeks in Reaching the Editor--Told of the First Great Fire in San Francisco--"Pure Food" Interesting Topic Then, As Now

WHATEVER the precept or teachings of the Mormon church may have been there is no gainsaying the fact that the Mormon people were the vanguard of a civilization that was to make the wilderness blossom like the rose.

Industry and thrift, accompanied by religious zeal—fanatical though perhaps it was—laid the foundation for a great city.

July 28, 1847, four days after these pioneers arrived, Brigham Young selected the site for the great temple. In April, 1851, the members of the church assembled and voted to build the temple, and February 14, 1853, the block was dedicated. These dates stand out to reckon from in the religious history of Utah and the Mormon hierarchy, but in the civic history of the state of Utah there is no more significant date than June 15, 1850, the date when the first newspaper of all that vast country between the two great ranges of mountains made its appearance. It was called Deseret News, and copies of the first issue, which were preserved among the archives of the church, were given out to the bishops of the church as souvenirs, when the semi-centennial jubilee was celebrated.



Valuable Relic.

Through the generosity of one of these bishops The Journal has come into possession of one of these copies, and feels itself favored indeed to possess a relic of so much historic significance. The mammoth newspapers of Salt Lake could certainly make merry over the size of their earliest predecessor, which is but 8x10 inches and but four sheets, bound in pamphlet form, but the tiny pioneer could at least smile back with the knowledge that it carried more real news, real life and real comfort into the hearts of its readers than the big daily of the present can ever hope to do. It meant something in those days to get a newspaper once in a while, and the editor intended to give value received for the 25 cents a copy he charged for it, as will be seen from the "Prospectus" in the first page, which is evidently in lieu of any editorial. It says: "We propose to publish a small weekly sheet as large as our local circumstances will permit, to be called Deseret News, designed originally to record the passing events of our state, and in connection, refer to arts and sciences embracing general education, medicine, law, divinity, domestic and political economy and everything that may fall under our observation, which may tend to promote the best interest, welfare, pleasure and amusement of our fellow citizens. * * * We shall take pleasure in communicating foreign news as we have opportunity, in receiving communications from our friends at home and abroad, and solicit ornaments for the News from our poets and poetesses." This latter invitation must have been inspired by the following effusion we find on the last page:

"TO MY FRIENDS IN THE VALLEY.

"Let all who would have a good paper,
Their talents and time ne'er abuse;
Since 'tis said by the wise and the humored
That the best in the world is the News.

Then ye who have so long been thinking
What paper this year you will choose
Come trip gaily up to the office
And subscribe for the Deseret News.

And now, dearest friend, I will leave you;
This counsel, I pray you, don't lose;
The best of advice I can give you
Is, pay in advance for the News."

G. S. L. City, May 27, 1850. B.

Sketch of Debate.

Beside the prospectus the first page contains a "Sketch of debate," which was had in the United States senate in the preceding February on the 'Right of Petition.' There is also an account of the fire in San Francisco on December 24—six months before the paper was published. The second page is occupied by "The Message to the House of Representatives," signed by "Z. Taylor, January 21, 1850." No more curious contrast could be made than to compare this with President Roosevelt's message to the 60th congress.

Some congressional proceedings of the previous winter are recorded in which we find the names of Foote, Benton, Clay and Calhoun, with a particularly spicy tilt between Foote and Benton.

One line at the foot of a page makes the simple announcement: "John C. Calhoun is dead," and another announcement briefly states, with date of the previous January:

"The grand jury has found a true bill against Dr. Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman." And among the advertisements the editor, W. Richards, endeavors to take care of his own physical wants by inserting the following:

"Wanted—at our office—flour, wheat, cornmeal, butter, cheese, tallow and pork in exchange for the News."

Pure Food Scarce.

Pure food, even at that early date, was not a new thing for city councils to wrestle with, for the editor devotes one whole column of his precious space to a communication from the newly formed "council of health," in which it is stated that "We intend to lay before the council from time to time, such medicinal plants, as shall come to our knowledge for their approval or refusal, as we shall find in this vicinity, believing in the goodness of the creator that he has placed, in most lands, medicinal plants for the cure of all diseases incident to that climate, and especially so in relation to that in which we live; and it is better to cultivate our own resources, than to send to distant lands for such as may be obtained in our own vicinity by a little exertion and experience."

More than a column is given to a discussion of the water supply and an analysis that had been made of it. A half column is given to a copy for the month of June, from some almanac, which not only gives the calendar dates, but the signs of the moon. But perhaps the most interesting feature of this edition is the article headed, "A Singular Story." Occasionally one hears from writers who are fond of delving into newspaper files or are old enough to remember the story of the famous "Calhoun Dream." It is this, "Deseret News" gives in full, and which occupies nearly a page of the paper.

Calhoun's Dream.

The dream, in brief, was that Mr. Calhoun had in his sleep a visit from George Washington who discussed with him the possibility of a dissolution of the union, and when Mr. Calhoun assured the father of his country that under certain conditions he would sign the declaration of dissolution, a black spot appeared on Mr. Calhoun's hand, and Washington, noticing it, said: "That is the mark by which Benedict Arnold is known in the next world." Deseret News" gives the story as sent from Washington, and when it is known that it was first published in January, 1850, in a Washington paper, it not only makes this little paper, which was published in Salt Lake 57 years ago, an unusually valuable and historical document, but it gives the student of physchology and those interested in the occult much food for thought and speculation.

Editorial Comment.

In an editorial comment, we can see that the great crisis that was to come 10 years later, was even then but dimly outlined on the visible horizon, for in rather a facetious vein it says: "We have not much faith in supernatural appearances, or in Washington correspondences, but if anything could lead the ghost of the 'father of his country' to revisit the realm beneath the moon, it would be the thought that his beloved country was in danger of Disunion, which is but another name for Civil war."

Indeed, as we look at this little paper, after the lapse of all these years, and in the light of past history, we can read between its time-wrinkled folds, the prophecy of many a coming event, and put our finger on the pulse of momentous issues that were cast in the horoscope, and were to shake the country from center to circumference, in the day that was then dawning.

DESERET NEWS.

BY W. RICHARDS. G. S. L. CITY, DESERET, JUNE 15, 1850. VOL. I.—NO. 1.

PROSPECTUS

DESERET NEWS

MOTTO—"TRUTH AND LIBERTY."

We propose to publish a small weekly sheet, as large as our local circumstances will permit, to be called *Deseret News* designed originally to record the passing events of our State, and in connexion, refer to the arts and sciences, embracing general education, medicine, law, divinity, domestic and political economy, and every thing that may fall under our observation, which may tend to promote the best interest, welfare, pleasure and amusement of our fellow citizens.

We hold ourselves responsible to the highest Court of truth for our intentions, and the highest Court of equity for our execution. When we speak, we shall speak freely, without regard to men or party, and when, like other men, we err, let him who has his eyes open, correct us in meekness, and he shall receive a disciple's reward.

We shall ever take pleasure in communicating foreign news as we have opportunity; in receiving communications from our friends, at home and abroad; and solicit ornaments for the "News" from our poets and poetesses.

The first number may be expected as early in June as subscriptions will warrant—waiting the action of 300 subscribers.

Terms, 6 months, $2.50, *invariably in advance.*

Single copy, 13 cents.

Advertising, $1 50 per square lines, and 50 each succeeding insertion. $1 for half square, or 8 lines.

TRAVELLERS AND EMIGRANTS 25 cents per copy, with the insertion of their names, place of residence, time of arrival and leaving

[illegible] and upwards, entered at once, 25 cents each.

A paper that is worth printing, is worth preserving, if worth preserving, it is worth binding; for this purpose we issue in pamphlet form; and to every subscriber shall preserve each copy of the News," and bind it at the close of the volume, their children's children may read the doings of their fathers, which otherwise might have been forgotten; ages to come.

U. S. SENATE.

"Sketch of debate," in the Senate, for Feb. 6, & 12, inclusive, 1850, on the Right of Petition; represent Messrs. Seward, Hale & Chase as chief speakers. Mr. Mangum presented the proceedings of a meeting at Wilmington, N. C., denouncing the fanaticism of the North, threatening a dissolution of the Union, in a certain contingency, &c.—Laid on the table.—Several petitions were presented by Mr. Hale, from various sections, "for promotion of the abolition of slavery; improving the condition of the free people of color; to prevent the increase of slavery by the non-admission of new States into the Union; for abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia; to prevent the introduction of slavery in the Territories; to prevent internal slave trade between the States, and respectfully ask Congress to propose, without delay, some plan for the immediate and peaceful dissolution of the American Union."

The Germantown ladies address Congress, as "Dear Friends," and after an appropriate prayer, "we bid you an affectionate farewell." Many joined the above gentlemen in debate, which was generally warm, criminative and recriminative: somewhat dramatic, with some symptoms of the tragic.

Query: If the people, the whole [illegible] paper can be [illegible] dissolved, why not dissolve it? Why ask Congress to do a thing they have no power to do? Congress did not make the Union; the Union made Congress, and the people made the Union; consequently, on the principles of federal republicanism, the same power that makes must unmake, if unmade at all; and if the Union is ever peacefully dissolved, it will be by the sovereign people who made it; for they alone possess the rightful power of dissolution within themselves, and not in their Senators or Representatives, and we hope we shall never again hear of any portion of the American people petitioning Congress to do what it has no power to do, even if it had the disposition. Let our Union remain forever, peacefully!

TERRIBLE FIRE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

An appalling and destructive fire occurred on the 24th of December, which threatened for a time to reduce the famous city of San Francisco to a heap of smoking ruins. The fire broke out in Dennison's Exchange, and in two hours, nearly a million of dollars worth of property was destroyed. The Parker House was among the buildings burned. All the buildings, except the Delmonico Hotel, on Portsmouth square, and all on Washington street, commencing at the "Eldorado," and running to Montgomery street, were burned.

The Parker House, U. S. Restaurat, Exchange, Eldorado, Merchant's Exchange, Our House, Central House, Washington Arcade, Pollard & Co's. Auction Room, Guersohard & Van Buren's Establishment, and many more valuable buildings were burned or blown up, to stop the progress of the fire.

CHURCH LEADERS OF AMERICA

John Willis Baer.

ALTHOUGH John Willis Baer was a Presbyterian five years ago, as he is today, few people would have thought of him as such. At that time his reputation was founded upon the fact that he was a leader of young people of all the churches, for up to 1902 he was secretary of the United Society of Christian Endeavor and along with that of Father Endeavor Clark, the name of Mr. Baer was a very well known one among the young people of the churches.

In the year named Mr. Baer resigned the secretaryship of the Christian Endeavor movement and he became one of the associate secretaries of the Presbyterian board of home missions. In this position he was most efficient, for he brought to the service of the mission board a ripe experience in the leadership of young people, and rapidly there grew up for the board a constituency among the younger people of Presbyterian churches that was the envy of other mission organizations, Presbyterian and otherwise. At the same time Mr. Baer retained his leadership in Christian Endeavor circles, where his influence, although not an official one, was almost as strongly felt as it previously had been.

A little over a year ago Mr. Baer was invited to become president of Occidental college, Los Angeles, California. At first he refused the position, but a second invitation was so expressed that he felt it his duty to accept, and his leadership of young people has for a year found its center on the Pacific coast. Occidental college is a Presbyterian institution. It is one of the "small" colleges of the country, mustering about 500 students, and Dr. Baer is at the head of a teaching force of about 40 instructors.

Dr. Baer is one of the best known laymen in America. He went into the Christian Endeavor movement when it was small and weak, and was one of the three men who piloted the movement through the early times of trouble, bringing it successfully to its present magnitude. It is worthy of note that of these three men only one, the Rev. Dr. F. E. Clark, was a minister. The treasurer, William Shaw, and the secretary, Mr. Baer, were laymen. Dr. Clark and Mr. Shaw are Congregationalists.

As a speaker Dr. Baer, though most of his time has to be spent in Los Angeles, is still in great demand, especially for gatherings of young people. His addresses are always forcible and practical. He has an attractive personality and possesses in marked degree the ability to draw an attractive and useful lesson out of what might be considered to be homely subjects. He has been one of the speakers at most of the great Christian Endeavor conventions and is credited with having been one of the potent forces in bringing young people of all churches into the prominent positions they now occupy.

Dr. Baer is a native of Minnesota, but spent his boyhood days in Ohio. As a young man he entered journalistic work, becoming finally the editor of an Iowa paper. As the Christian Endeavor secretary he made his home in Boston, removing to New York when he took up work for the Presbyterian board. His departure a year ago for the Pacific coast occasioned sincere regret in eastern church circles, where his absence continues to be mourned. His activities have but been transferred to another section and the great body of Presbyterian young people continues to look up to him as its leader.

Law Made Him a Pauper.

From the Youngstown Telegram.

A young man was telling his troubles to some friends in a restaurant.

"Talk about bad luck," said he. "The law certainly played a mean trick on me when I was two years old."

The friends showed interest and the young man continued:

"When I was that age my father and mother were divorced; I went with father and my sister went with mother. Father and I have been hard workers since I was a mere child.

"Mother married another man a few years later, and with my sister they went to the Klondike. Mother's new husband struck it rich. They are said to be worth over a million." Then he sighed.

"If the law had but given me to mother!"

MRS. MARSHALL FIELD AS LONDON HOSTESS--American Widow Inspects Park Lane Mansion With View to Its Purchase

By Lady Mary.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Mrs. Marshall Field is preparing for the role of a great London hostess. She inspected the Park Lane mansion of the late Alfred Beit, the South African financier and millionaire, with a view to purchasing it the other day. This house was built especially to his order, and is the last word in modern luxury within. Externally it is a low, squat building, but this is due to the fact that it was built subject to the restriction imposed by the queer law of "ancient lights," which prevents a new building being run up to a height that will obstruct a certain well defined share of sunlight to which any building that has stood for 20 years is held to be entitled. Consequently it is only two stories high. Nevertheless it possesses 16 bedrooms, while there are five sitting-rooms on the ground floor.

From the drawing room you enter the sumptuous winter garden with its fountains built of Carrara marble. Beit was a man of extraordinary culture and taste, and he designed the winter garden which in his day was massed with tropical flowers and plants. English songsters and tropical birds sang side by side there, but the former soon perished in the unaccustomed heat to which they were subjected. Beit, however, met that difficulty by having every other week fresh singers from the woods placed in this sylvan dell. It was not until after his death that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals heard of this action of his, or otherwise he would have been made to pay the price of his thoughtlessness, perhaps one should call it, now that he is dead.

This house is situated within a few yards of Grosvenor house, and is to be had for the modest sum of $900,000. The Duke of Westminster, the ground landlord, is, I am told, willing to give a very long lease at a comparatively small rental. Having been originally designed and built for a bachelor, as was the late owner, Mrs. Marshall Field would find herself compelled, should she take the house, to make various alterations. There is no ballroom, but it is suggested that two of the immense sitting rooms on the ground floor could be most advantageously utilized for this purpose.

An American Shopper.

An American friend of mine went to a fashionable West End outfitting establishment the other day to buy some Eton suits for her two boys who are attending school here. Possibly some of your readers don't know what an Eton suit is. Its most distinctive characteristic—to use the description of another American friend—is the "sawed off jacket, which leaves the road free and clear for the administration of chastisement where it will do most good." I don't know whether American boys wear such suits, but they are considered the eminently correct thing for swell youngsters here. My friend first mentioned, by the way, has an accent that unmistakably betrays her nationality. When she told the floor manager what she wanted, that enterprising functionary said: "You have indeed come to the right place, Madame. We have just sent several Eton suits to your distinguished countrywoman, Mrs. Roosevelt, at the White House. We shall be happy to furnish you with exact duplicates of them. Oh, yes," he added, in answer to a query expressive of surprise, "Mrs. Roosevelt gets most of her boys' clothes made here."

Floor Manager's Yarn.

Now if I did not know that President Roosevelt had declined a renomination I would not send over this story, because it might prove awfully embarrassing to him if he were going to run for the presidency again. It would be seized upon, I suppose, as the most flagrant proof of his lack of that uncompromising patriotism which is so much in evidence among you when elections are impending. Of course I would not vouch for the accuracy of any statement made by a floor manager with a keen eye for business. But if the story is printed somebody of course will interview the president about it, and then we shall learn by cable whether it is true or not. Some Americans here who have heard of it have bets pending on it.

And—I have almost forgotten—President Roosevelt should also be asked whether or no there is any truth in the statement that he and his family eat English-made Christmas plum pudding at the White House on Christmas Day. At a fashionable caterer's, whither my American friend went after ordering some Eton suits "a la Roosevelt," she was told that they had just despatched half-a-dozen Christmas plum puddings to the White House, "as they had been in the habit of doing for the last five years."

These stories prove one thing, at any rate. When London shopkeepers have American customers to deal with they know how to handle them.

Society Grieves.

The tragedy of Mrs. Adair's futile operations for cataract is a matter of great grief to society here; for if, like every rich woman, she has her enemies, she also has an enormous circle of friends. It was to Princess Patricia of Connaught to whom she is so devotedly attached, that she made the remark, "If only I could get my sight back, I would be willing to give up all I possess and live in a garret for the remainder of by days." Ever since her last operation 10 or 12 days ago, Mrs. Adair has been visited almost daily by the young princess, who comes to tell her news and to cheer her up. Since that last practically hopeless operation her royal highness is almost the only visitor admitted to the American multimillionaire's darkened rooms, which are always fragrant with the beautiful flowers which arrive daily from the patient's friends.

It is quite pathetic to hear Mrs. Adair discuss the utter uselessness of money in cases like hers. Although suffering great depression she never rebels against the ordinances of fate and is bearing this great trial with considerable fortitude. She is mapping out her life in the event of the worst—for there is now practically no hope that she can recover her sight—and she says she will not let her affliction make her miserable.

Mrs. George Cornwallis West, better-known among you as Lady Randolph Churchill, who vowed solemnly some time ago that she would never have another London home, is again looking out for a flat. Of late she professed herself in love with the country and told her friends she intended to rusticate for the rest of her life. Mrs. West says it is all her friends' fault that she finds herself compelled to come back to town. They would not let her alone. They inundated her with invitations which she had not the courage to refuse, and the perpetual rushing to and fro by motor to her country seat became something of a trial. The result is she means to have a "pied-a-terre" in London. For a while she resided at Winston Churchill's little box of a house in Mayfair but it proved inconvenient as there was not sufficient accommodation in it for her youthful husband, George Cornwallis West. Mrs. West is one of those amazing women who, in spite of the ravages of time, the intrusion of younger, richer and more beautiful women, hold their own. Consuelo, duchess of Manchester, is another American woman who manages to do it. This can only be put down to their charm. Beauties fall ignominiously every day in British society; the wives of multi-millionaires fizzle out after having given a few monster entertainments; but the few women who possess innate charm never join the "has beens."

Astigmatism From Reading in Bed.

From Health.

Astigmatism, which is a condition where the refractive powers differ in the different meridians of the eye, is in most cases hereditary, but it is often acquired. The error of acquired astigmatism often takes place during and after a sever illness and can be avoided by proper precautions. The whole system is in a weakened condition, and the person so afflicted, being confined to the house, will resort to reading to pars away the time, and this is often practised while in a reclining position. There can be nothing more injurious than this practice.

Reading under these conditions overburdens the muscles, and the action of these muscles upon the form of the eye causes an irregularity in the curvature of the cornea which is known as astigmatism. This is detrimental to distant vision and makes reading and near work difficult.

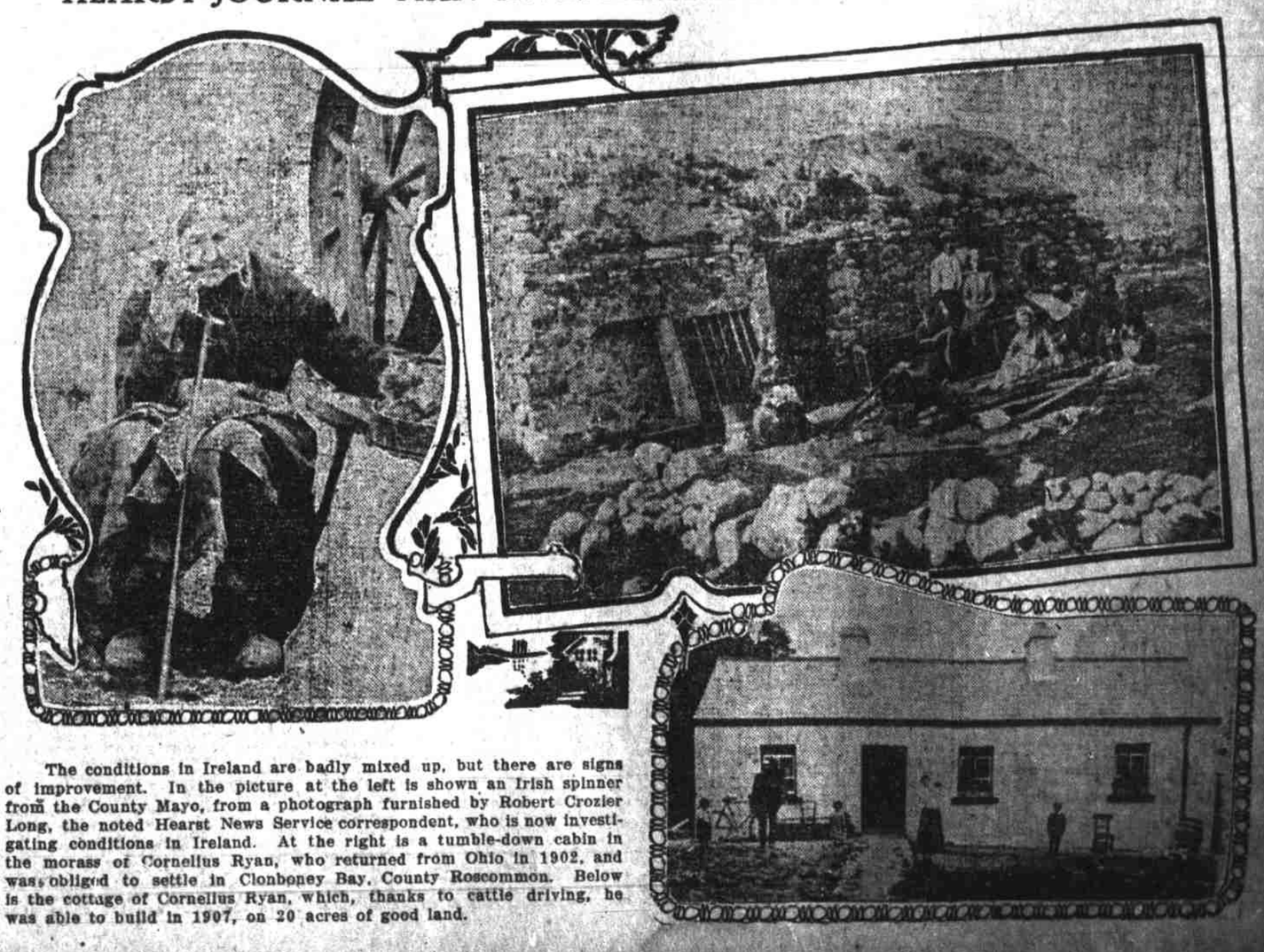
How Enola Got Its Name.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Enola, the famous Pennsylvania railroad yard on the west branch of the Susquehanna, got its name in a strange way.

A telegraph operator who spent the lonely hours in the little watch box, with no more than half a dozen trains a day to disturb him or break the monotony, before the big yard was built, called up the Baltimore office and asked to be relieved from such a lonesome place. In sending the message he signed "operator in charge of the tower all alone." There was some trouble on the wire and the last word could not be understood. He was asked to repeat and then spell it backward. This he did, first "alone," then "Enola." In this way the town, which was built to order in a little more than two years, got its name.

HEARST-JOURNAL MAN INVESTIGATING CONDITIONS IN IRELAND



The conditions in Ireland are badly mixed up, but there are signs of improvement. In the picture at the left is shown an Irish spinner from the County Mayo, from a photograph furnished by Robert Crozier Long, the noted Hearst News Service correspondent, who is now investigating conditions in Ireland. At the right is a tumble-down cabin in the morass of Cornelius Ryan, who returned from Ohio in 1902, and was obliged to settle in Clonboney Bay, County Roscommon. Below is the cottage of Cornelius Ryan, which, thanks to cattle driving, he was able to build in 1907, on 20 acres of good land.