DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

Thursday, October 17, 1895.

The Deseret Evening News is published daily except Sunday, at corner South and East Temple streets, Salt Lake City.

Press Edition at 3:30 p. m. Regular Edition at 6 o'clock.

The Deseret Semi-Weekly News is published on Tuesday and Friday of each week.

The Deseret Weekly is designed here to be published every Saturday.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Daily 12 Months	$10.00
Daily 6 Months	5.00
Daily 3 Months	2.50
Daily 1 Month	1.00
Daily by the Week	25
Semi-Weekly Edition 12 Months	3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition 6 Months	1.50
Semi-Weekly 13 Months	1.00
Semi-Weekly 6 Months	50
Weekly 12 Months	1.00

Payments for Subscription always in advance.

Subscribers changing their place of residence should always give former as well as present address.

The News is on sale at the principal Hotels, News Stands and on all passenger trains leaving the city after 3 p. m. daily.

City Subscribers will kindly notify J. F. Dowlen, Manager, of any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

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THE MURDER OF A QUEEN.

The circumstances of the assassination of the queen of Corea are now more definitely known. At first it was supposed that the crime was committed by Corean soldiers. It was known that she was opposed to the reorganization of the army on modern principles, and reports were circulated to the effect that she proposed to disarm and disband the portions of the army that had been supplied with modern equipments. This, it was supposed, aroused their passion and resulted in an attack on the palace and the murder of the queen in her own private apartments. But the latest advices from Seoul say that the crown prince, who from his hiding-place witnessed the assassination, is prepared to identify the villains as Japanese.

The tai-won-kun, who at present has assumed the dictatorship over Corea, is an aged man who has always been opposed to the policy of the queen. Corea's representative in Washington says that he will undoubtedly sweep away, if he can, all the reforms so far introduced and endeavor, for his own aggrandisement, to re-establish the old condition of things. It is broadly hinted that he is responsible for the murderous deed that was committed by the Japanese "soshi." It appears, however, that there is a strong liberal or progressive party in the country, in favor of modern civilization, and it is supposed that the rule of the tai-won-kun will not last long.

The Japanese "soshi" seem to be the nihilists of the Japanese empire. Their ranks are recruited from students who have failed in their examinations, and from adventurers of various types, who naturally take to politics, and are willing to sell themselves to unscrupulous demagogues. They are constantly endeavoring to involve the government in embroglios. Their past record gives evidence of their character. Only a few years ago one of the "soshi" attacked a Japanese minister of finance with a dynamite bomb that blew his legs off. The attack on the czarewitch at Tokio will be remembered. It was the deed, it is thought, of one of these fanatics for the purpose of precipitating trouble with Russia and causing the downfall of the Japanese government. By the hand of another "soshi," Li Hung Chang came near losing his life. So dangerous are they considered that the police of the empire always attend a foreign minister in his travels about the country, and particularly about the city of Tokio, and since the trouble with Russia over the Liao-tung peninsula, the czar's minister, De Hitrove, has been followed, whenever he left his legation, by police, detectives and gendarmes, the authorities being well aware that he would be assassinated if he should expose himself, undefended, in any of the public streets.

Their object in seeking to plunge the country into disastrous wars is simply to establish themselves on the ruins. If the outrage in Corea should cause serious trouble to Japan, they would rejoice on the same principle as would the nihilists in Russia or the communists in France, should these countries be involved in destructive encounters with their neighbors. It appears, however, that Japan has already resolved to investigate the crime carefully and punish the offenders, and that Russia will give the Japanese government free hands in the matter.

LUCKY CONVENTIONS IN CHICAGO.

There is no partisanship in saying that many snows and frosts await the presidential boomlets whose various stages of development are chronicled in the papers from time to time. Neither is there risk in promising that the balmy air and showers and sunshine of next spring will cause the growth of a new crop, or at least develop conspicuous growth and vigor on the part of those which shall heal round the hard winter. There is, therefore, plenty of time for the cultivation and training of all such ambitions, abundant opportunity for the grooming of the respective candidates, and no particular necessity for quarreling yet as to the place for the convention where their merits and popularity are to be tested. The nominating conventions will not be held until June at the earliest; in view of the public favor which is attending the agitation in favor of short campaigns, they may be postponed until August or even September.

But Chicago and Pittsburg and St. Louis and New York and San Francisco are not made of the stuff that waits. They are already "boxed to the buff" in their struggle for the honor. The far West is naturally disposed to take sides with San Francisco, though that city's chances, at this early stage of the competition, cannot be regarded as very promising. For second choice, probably a majority of western authorities favor Chicago. Besides its facilities and hospitality, that city has the additional prestige of being lucky. Looking at this feature from the Democratic side, it will be observed that twice when nominated in Chicago, Mr. Cleveland won—the only time he lost was when he went out from St. Louis with the nomination of 1888. From the Republican standpoint the lake city is equally fortunate. Since President Hayes, both the successful candidates of that party have been named by a Chicago convention. Garfield won it there, and so did Harrison, the latter only to lose it by going to Minneapolis in 1892.

Whether or not a recognition of this string of victories for the Chicago nominees will cause an anxiety to each party to get there ahead of the other (for both will not be likely to go to the same city), the fact remains that politicians of high degree are said to be great believers in luck, and Chicago is pretty sure to get one of the two great party rallies. But whether that party will be the winner will depend next year less on the fact that the western metropolis attends upon the selection of the leader, than on the name and strength of that leader and of the party that follows him.

THE ARMENIAN REFORMS.

The reforms for the benefit of Armenia, demanded by the European powers and now only needing the sanction of the Sultan in order to be carried out, embrace several important points. In the appointment of governors in the Armenian provinces, the wishes of the population are to be consulted to the extent that where Christians predominate, the governors are to belong to that faith; otherwise they will be Mohammedans; and the appointment must in either case be confirmed by the powers. Another proposed reform touches the mode of the collection of taxes. Changes in the judicial system are also demanded and the police force is to consist of both Christians and Mohammedans. It is further demanded that the commissioner charged with the execution of this scheme of reform is to be a Christian.

To anyone somewhat acquainted with the conditions of the Turkish empire, it is plain enough that these points cover some of the chief causes of difficulties between the Christian subjects and their rulers in the outlying provinces. If they were carried out faithfully, there would be less cause of complaint. With Christian officials, entrusted with sufficient authority, there would be some chance of justice and consequently a better feeling among the now always persecuted people.

It must not be imagined, however, that the proposed reforms are of a nature to settle permanently the vexed questions involved. The distinction of race, religion, tradition, and nearly everything else, between the Turks and Armenians is so great that homogeneity is beyond question. Not until this fact is recognized and reforms effected accordingly will peace descend on the Orient. It will not take long before the conflict, under the new scheme, will be between the individuals of opposite faiths, clothed with equal power, and in the now disputed, the last resort is, of course, the Porte. The final decisions will naturally go against the Christians, and the consequences are easily foreseen. The clause that gives the European powers the right of sanction as to the appointments is in itself a new danger. For the eternal strife and intrigue will be carried on between the diplomats so to which power is to have a predominating influence. Instead of settling the eastern question, this stipulation may precipitate the lightning stroke it is intended to avert.

It is not true that Russia has given up her claims to Constantinople or the control of the east. The Russian nation has too many interests in those parts of the world—not the least of which is centered in the places of the pilgrimage of their devout peasants—to give up the thought of some day advancing to Constantine's once famous capital. As long as the Russian Slavs are true to the traditions of their fathers, they will endeavor to advance in that direction, as circumstances permit, no matter what opposition they meet.

THE HEAVIEST LAND OWNERS.

"The love of land" has been deemed so peculiarly a trait of the Englishman that it has passed into a proverb. For his wealth he knows no more desirable a use than in the acquisition of landed estates; for his small savings his first and last hopes generally are for conversion into a freehold. Indeed, it is a love of the land itself, which, stimulated by laws and customs, prevents the large proprietors from selling, that makes it impossible for the poorer classes to gratify their own desires in this direction; and that the England of today is a country of few but large estates and thousands of tenants is not because the people generally love the land the less, but because those who do own it, love it the more.

It is not surprising, however, that the largest land-owners should not be found in England. That kingdom is only one tight little place compared with other countries and continents of the globe. Our own republic and continent have furnished to the western plains and ranges many a baron domain in exchange for British gold. But even in this country, which has the largest tracts in the world under individual ownership, the Britons acquisitions are far surpassed by those of others. The true American is something of a land lover himself. It happens, however, that the palm over all goes to a couple of Germans, the death of one of whom occurred only a short time ago.

The story is not without romantic features, and its absolute truth is not only vouched for, but is being established as evidence in a court of law. Condensed by a writer in the Springfield Republican, it runs about as follows: In 1848 two young Germans, sons of recent immigrants, were at work in the vicinity of San Francisco, for small wages, the one as a cowboy, the other driving a butcher wagon. One was Henry Miller, the other Charles Lux, and between them they had money and credit enough to buy 1,000 head of cattle, and hire pasturage for a season, and they joined forces and did so, agreeing to share all profits and losses equally. From that time until Lux died, a year or two ago, the partnership continued, and at its close left the partners controlling and owning more land than any other private citizens in the world, according to the claims put forth in California. Including what the firm of Miller & Lux held on lease, which was a small part of the whole, these two men controlled the enormous area of 14,000,000 acres, or more than 22 times the area of Massachusetts, and owned cattle almost uncountable. One of the tracts owned by this firm is in Nevada, and is 100 miles long by 60 wide, another ranch is in Santa Clara county, Cal., and is 30 by 45 miles, while a third is 40 by 28 miles. Many of these ranches are irrigated by expensive systems of canals and reservoirs, and the value of them all is well up in the millions, to say nothing of the value of the cattle, and the other property of the partners. Taken altogether, the possessions of Miller and the heirs of Lux make them among the wealthiest people in the land, unless the lawyers get too much of these fruits of 47 years of hard work and frugality, for there is already a dispute over the settlement of the Lux estate.

WITH PROFOUND regret that the invitation cannot be accepted, the News this evening acknowledges the receipt of a pleasingly colored card announcing the celebration, yesterday and today, of the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of Milwaukee as a city. A picture of the town in 1820 shows one log house and a cluster of Indian tepees; other views are of the handsome buildings which adorn the city today, such as the city hall, postoffice, public library and Layton art gallery; concluding with a portrait of Solomon Juneau, the founder of Milwaukee. We note the terse but telling statement that whereas in 1845 the town had a population of 7,000, it now claims a cool quarter of a million.

THE GENTLE art of "gilling," as practiced by certain irate Chicago aldermen, consists of running the forefinger into an opponent's mouth, and then deftly tearing his cheek open.

What a Prominent Insurance Man Says.

H. M. Bloomer, senior member of H. M. Bloomer & Co., 217 N. 3d St., St. Louis, writes: I had been led with a very distressing cough, the result of influenza, which nothing seemed to relieve until I took *Ballard's Horehound Syrup*. One bottle completely cured me. I sent one bottle to my sister, who had a severe cough, and she experienced immediate relief. I always recommend this syrup to my friends.

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