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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, July 16, 1892

## INFORMATION FROM MEXICO.

WE have received a letter from President A. F. Macdonald, of the Mexican colonies of Latter-day Saints. It is dated at Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, June 24th, 1892, and as the communication and enclosures will be of considerable interest to many of our readers who have friends in the region from whence they have been sent, we here give their substance. Following is the major portion of the correspondence:

"Enclosed are clippings from *El Paso Times* of June 14th, and from the *Headlight* of June 18th. The first brings us notice of the death of our friend, Consul Escobar, who will be remembered by many of the Elders who have visited Mexico, for his uniform kindness, liberal and enlightened views and the pleasure he experienced in the progress of his country.

"The second clipping relates to American Consul Willard, of Guaymas, Sonora. He will be remembered by Apostle B. Young and party who visited the Yaqui country in the fall of 1884. He was the only man who spoke an encouraging word for that mission, from the governor of the State down to the captain of the port of Guaymas and the Romish priest who invited us to confess our sins and prepare for death if we persisted in going to visit the Yaquis, as they would kill us. However, we made the trip and returned, yet a lying spirit is still prevalent against that native tribe, for war has continued against them through misrepresentation and abuse they could not endure. As a whole they are the most industrious and hardworking people in the State of Sonora, and deserve better of their government.

"Yesterday we had a rain and a prospect for more, which is much needed, as stock are poor and some dying from scarcity of feed; yet the wheat crop proves better than was expected, as the cool nights favored it, although the days were dry and warm. We anticipate good crops of corn and, if we have plenty of rain, grass and hay will be abundant.

"The early starting of railroad work on the Deming and New Mexico road and paying for the work already done would release many of our people, who are cramped for means, realizing nothing as yet for their labors and for having neglected their crops in order to do the work on the railroad, which it is hoped they will learn to avoid in future."

The following is from the article referred to as having appeared in the *El Paso Times* of June 14th:

"The funeral of Consul Jesus Escobar Armondariz, who died of chronic Bright's disease Saturday, took place from his residence in Juarez Sunday. He was not buried with religious services owing to some little mistake relative to a compliance with the rules of the church, but eloquent and feeling addresses were made at his grave by Senor E. Provencio

and Senor Romulo Escobar, a son of the deceased.

"For years the deceased has held the position of Mexican consul at El Paso. He enjoyed the confidence and esteem of President Diaz and was admired by his people here. He was a man of decided ability, of commanding appearance and most pleasant address. In his death the Republic of Mexico has lost an honorable and patriotic citizen."

Herewith is presented an extract from the article from the *Deming Headlight*, relating to the late U. S. Consul Willard:

His death has cast a painful gloom over a large circle of warm and admiring friends to whom his many noble qualities of head and heart had endeared him. He was but in manhood's prime, and being endowed with talents of a very high order, his career was one of usefulness crowned with honor.

He filled the office of U. S. Consul at Guaymas, Mexico, for a period of over 20 years. The changes in the administration during that time did not deprive him of office, this being entirely due to his popularity with the Mexican authorities and the American residents at Sonora. He exercised his authority with dignity and honor, keeping peace and good fellowship between the two nations. Ever considerate and self-sacrificing, his chief pleasure was sought in advancing the interest of his people, and illustrating the dignity of his country.

The following from the paper last named, in reference to the resumption of work on the Deming-Mexico road, will be eagerly read by many people who are more or less directly interested in the subject:

"On yesterday's Santa Fe train there arrived in Deming a party of well known railroad men, prepared to resume construction on the Deming-Mexico road at once. The party comprised George M. Huss and George Townsend, of the firm of Huss, Townsend & Co., contractors; George L. Davis and A. J. Huss. Mr. Huss says the firm has been awarded the contract for the entire construction of the new road, and in view of the limited time allotted by the concession from the Mexican government for the completion of the work, are here to push matters with all possible speed.

"In conversation with a *Headlight* reporter Mr. Huss stated that the engineers would begin the preliminary work of surveying this morning, and within the next thirty days he would have a large force rushing the immediate work of construction.

"Mr. Huss expresses the utmost confidence that everything will be arranged satisfactorily and the work now constructed used by the new management—that all differences have been adjusted and the money advanced by the stockholders for the work—that all the old concessionaires have signed their interest over to the English syndicate, and nothing remains to be done save to commence the work of construction. That is what Mr. Huss and his party are here for. Mr. Huss will remain here for some weeks, until everything is well started, and will thenceforth divide his time between Deming and his home interests."

## THE SILVER CONTROVERSY.

THE passage of the silver bill in the Senate of the United States was a great surprise to the country. The object of its passage just now is evidently political. Both parties fear the silver bill and its effects on the presidential election. That there are sincere

silver men in both parties must be conceded. That each party contains men vehemently opposed to the free coinage movement cannot be disputed. But what does the country want? It must be clear to every unbiased mind that has given attention to both sides of the matter, that while the West and South demand an immediate return to the bi-metalism of the early days of the republic, the East, which has the vast majority of voters, is not converted to the western idea, but views free coinage as threatening financial disaster instead of promising the good thing which the silver men predict for its adoption.

Whatever the politicians of either party may claim to the contrary, neither Harrison nor Cleveland favors the policy embodied in the bill that has so unexpectedly passed the Senate. They each have too broad a comprehension of the divided feeling of the public, and an understanding of the preponderance of popular sentiment against free silver, to openly espouse its cause. And it seems to us that while free silver Republicans and Democrats should be urgent in pressing their claims upon Congress and the country, they should not close their eyes to the fact of the Eastern sentiment, nor to the difficulties which confront both of the candidates for the Presidency.

It is probable, however, that the silver bill will be so manipulated by its opponents of both parties in the House, that it will not reach a vote on its merits before the great political contest which is to culminate in November. This will relieve the present Administration greatly, and do no damage to the opposing party.

## CHURCH AND STATE.

ABOUT three years ago the Legislature of Illinois enacted a compulsory education law, the main feature of which is that the English language be made the medium of education in all schools, public and private, throughout the State. The Germans raised an active agitation against the law, but it still remains on the statute books. A similar law was enacted in Wisconsin about the same time. The Germans there opposed it. Mr. Peck was then publishing a "funny" paper entitled *Peck's Sun*, in Milwaukee. He took up the school law, and made opposition to it one of the planks of the Democratic party platform. He was elected Mayor of Milwaukee, and later on Governor of Wisconsin, which office he still holds.

The Democratic party, by the aid of the German vote obtained control of the State legislature, and the obnoxious law was soon repealed. In fact the Republicans were afraid to make an issue of it, though several Democratic papers urged them to do so, and promised them active support. Notably the *Chicago Herald* was prepared to bolt its party on the question if the issue were raised.

The Germans of Illinois are now actively at work for the repeal of the law in their State. At a Lutheran conference held at Freeport three or four days ago, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: