

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (EXCEPT SUNDAY).

Office of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Whitney, Business Manager.

Subscription prices: Single copy, 5 cents; 12 months, \$5.00; 6 months, \$2.50; 3 months, \$1.25; 1 month, 50 cents; foreign, 75 cents; postage, 25 cents.

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE: J. A. Child, 4 Times Building.

CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE: E. A. Child, 11 Washington St.

SAN FRANCISCO REPRESENTATIVE: J. A. Child, 11 Washington St.

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SALT LAKE CITY, OCT. 16, 1900.

THE WATER QUESTION.

Prospects are now most excellent for obtaining an ample water supply for this city, and indeed the greater part of this county. At the meeting held on Monday evening, participated in by city officials and several citizens interested in the welfare of the people, it was decided unanimously to urge upon the Mayor and City Council the continuance of the work to lower the channel from Utah lake a foot and a half, and secure the water lost by seepage on Big Cottonwood creek.

It is unfortunate just now that the city is hampered for want of funds to complete these enterprises. It is of the utmost importance that the flow from Utah lake shall be permanently increased, so as to place the city beyond the danger of that lack which has threatened it so long. Also that sufficient water may be secured from the lake to exchange as opportunity affords, for the water that comes from the mountain streams on the east and now used by farmers for irrigation. They need Utah lake water for their purposes, we need the creek waters for ours. The benefits of exchange will be mutual.

It is pleasant to feel assured that the projects commenced for these purposes will not be abandoned. It is to be regretted that the canal companies owning the use of certain quantities of Utah lake water have not seen fit to join the city in obtaining a larger supply. But that will not stop the work that has been commenced. The new dam will be built, and the dredging and straightening of the river bed will go on as fast as the means of the city will permit, so that its claims for unappropriated water will be established.

The rights of the canal companies will not be invaded or infringed. They are entitled to given quantities of the water under the old flow from the lake, and there is no disposition on anybody's part to control their rights in the slightest degree. So long as they are secured in the use of their proper quota they cannot reasonably complain. They have been offered the privilege of joining in the work to obtain an increase and of receiving an equitable share of it. If they do not accept, they must not try to play "dog in the manger." The work will go on anyhow.

The funds available for the work are in the balance remaining of the bonds money, voted for to increase the supply and improve the distribution of water for the city. A little over \$50,000 will be used in the work now at hand. It was expected that about \$40,000 of this would be expended in establishing a street sprinkling system from the Jordan and Salt Lake canal. That being now unnecessary, and better facilities being in view from the ultimate introduction into the city's water system of the waters of Cottonwood, by trading for it Utah lake water. It is recognized that the final source of supply in the near future, for domestic purposes, must be Big Cottonwood water, and that the sprinkling and irrigation purposes Utah lake, and the place and measure proposed are with a view to that end.

The council pledges to the taxpayers that all the money realized from the sale of the proposed issue of bonds will be used for the purpose of increasing and improving the city's water supply. Not one cent will be expended for any other purpose and it will be used and spent as economically as possible.

These pledges the City Council will endeavor to carry out. The benefits that will result are beyond present calculation. There will, of course, have to be further expenditures before the work is completed. But for the present the money available will be sufficient to secure the claims of the city and maintain them, as against any opposition that may possibly arise. To abandon what has been accomplished would be a miserable policy, for which the city authorities would be justly condemned.

On with the work as fast and as far as the means at hand will permit, and the rest, we have no doubt, will be forthcoming in due season.

ARBITRATORS NAMED.

The President of the United States has now, it is announced, appointed Judge George D. Baker, a member of the International Court of Arbitration, ex-President Cleveland having declined to accept the position. Ex-President Harrison has formerly accepted, and this country will now be well represented in that important organization, should its services be required.

Judge Baker is said to be well qualified for the post, and so is Mr. Harrison. They are both lawyers of acknowledged ability. Judge Baker was a United

States senator and a member of the peace commission that adjusted the differences with Spain at Paris. He is now United States judge for the third judicial circuit and he can retain this position while accepting the appointment as a member of the arbitration court. It is presumed he has signified his willingness to accept before the appointment was made.

According to The Hague agreement each of the signatory powers were to appoint at least four persons, of recognized ability in questions of international law, and enjoying the highest esteem, to act as members of the permanent court of arbitration. The persons thus selected are to be entered on a list which is to be furnished all the signatory powers. They are appointed for a term of six years, and may be reappointed. When two governments desire to arbitrate a difference, they choose from the list the number of arbitrators they may have agreed upon, and the members so selected are to sit at The Hague, or some other place designated by the interested parties. Their decision is final, and closes the arbitration proceedings instituted by the agreement to arbitrate.

The final sitting of the peace conference at The Hague was held on the 29th of July, 1898, and it was then announced that sixteen powers had signed the arbitration convention. A letter was also read from the pope, promising cooperation and recalling the fact that his holiness had on several occasions performed the functions of an arbitrator, and stating that he would continue to seek the advancement of civilization, from the success of the great cause for which The Hague conference was gathered assembled assured.

Since then a sanguinary war has been fought on Africa's soil, and the Chinese question has ascended in whirls of dust like the mists and sparks from Chungking, and an impression has been formed that the gathering in the interest of peace was all in vain. But this is erroneous. The principles discussed, and the work done, are sure to bear fruit. With the establishment in a neutral place of a judicial engine for the adjustment of international differences, wars between the great civilized powers will become less frequent. The court of arbitration will be entrusted with the duty of maintaining peace, as are the vast standing armies now. It may take a long time before the world becomes thoroughly accustomed to the new order of things, just as duals and private acts of revenge still survive, notwithstanding the operations of courts, but reason will at last prevail over brute force. The millennium day is dawning. The rays of the sun of righteousness are commencing to shed their golden hue over the glittering bayonets and threatening ramparts of the world's military camps. Armies and navies will recede before the civilization of the new era, as hands of robbers and viking deeds were crowded out by the now existing order of things.

It is only a question of time. The appointment by the United States government of representatives to an international court of peace will be followed by similar appointment by the powers who may not yet have attended to that duty, and the idea will then have taken material form. And in all probability the American members will be among the busiest in that court. Through this body, America will perhaps in the future exercise an influence upon the world's affairs, greater than it could hope to do by any amount of soldiers and warships—an influence of which the present need not blush before scrutinizing generations yet to come.

AS TO LETTER WRITING.

Elders N. K. Beal and Don W. Conover, laboring as missionaries in the East Arkansas conference, ask the "News" to remind Elders who have been in that field and who may have promised friends there to remember them with an occasional letter, not to forget such promises, as neglect in this matter is doing much injury. It is a stumbling block to many honest inquirers.

It is a subject we have referred to repeatedly. When the Elders are out in the field friendships are formed, intense and sincere. When the parting moment comes, it is most natural that those who are left behind should desire to hear from those who leave them, and promises are made as to correspondence, which at the time seem easy of fulfillment.

The Elders, however, return to their daily toil, whatever that may be. Their time and thought are fully occupied with their labors in the field, the duties of the office. They may have met hundreds of friends while abroad, all of whose society and hospitality they may have enjoyed. They may not have forgotten either their friends nor their promises, but in a great many cases they find it impossible in the new and varied duties that occupy their attention to engage in regular correspondence except with a very limited number of friends.

With all this admitted, however, it should not be forgotten that a promise is sacred and should be kept, if possible to do so. Returning Elders who have made such promises should consider it part of their missionary duty to redeem them. It is better not to be too liberal with promises, but to keep conscientiously those that are made. If Elders in the field would explain to their friends how they are situated financially at home, and that a regular correspondence with the many they have met abroad would be a considerable task they would not appear afterwards as ungrateful recipients of hospitality. Some letters they certainly can write, and in some cases these might be addressed to several friends, or families, so that they all would be remembered. That would give better satisfaction than entire neglect of the friends that the Lord has raised up to the Elders.

MEDDLING WITH POLITICS.

The Chicago Times-Herald reads the Rock River conference of Methodist preachers a well deserved lesson for meddling with their religious deliberations. The paper observes:

"It was called for no other purpose

than to transact church business and to decide upon the assignment of pastors. So far it was not only representative but authoritative, and no one disputes the authority which it exercised. The moment, however, that it undertook to comment and to condemn political parties, it ceased to be either representative or authoritative. All their value consists in the assumption or pretension that they express a solidarity of religious-political sentiment, which does not exist. This, we think, puts the church in an entirely false position which will impair its influence and amounts to a betrayal of the laity by the clergy."

The clergy have a great weakness for politics in their church assemblies. They forget that as Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, etc., they have, properly, no voice whatever in national affairs. As citizens it is their duty and privilege to bring their influence to bear on such questions, with all the intellectual and moral force at their command, but in their ecclesiastical gatherings it is as much out of place as it would be at a funeral or a wedding.

We can conceive of the possibility of the government at some time deviating from the sacred principles of the Constitution, and planning, by means of persecution, the destruction of a religious sect. Were that ever to happen, the church would be perfectly justified in taking up such a theme and lift a voice of warning and a protest against the violation of religious freedom. In such an emergency the clergy-men would be condemned for not standing up as boldly against tyranny, as did Chrysostom, Justin Martyr, and many others in the perilous days of the church, but there is no such emergency at present. When the preachers all the same turn their gatherings into political meetings, they simply betray a trust that should be sacred. The government has nothing to do with churches. The latter should not presume to dictate to the government. If the ministers attend to the duties for which they are paid, their time is fully occupied.

AUSTRALASIA.

On January 1, next, the new commonwealth of Australasia will be proclaimed and take its place among the semi-independent powers of the globe. The federation has a population of about 5,750,000. New Zealand has not yet joined it, but that country is expected to do so shortly, and then another 750,000 people will be added. Australasia will have about the same relation to Great Britain as Canada now enjoys. It is supposed that South Africa, in due time, will follow the example of the Australian colonies. But it should be remembered that this apparent breaking up of Great Britain into independent colonies is a source of strength to the empire, rather than otherwise.

The increase of population in the new commonwealth is slow, but its industrial and commercial strength is immense. The statistics show large figures in the production of wool, grain, meat, butter, gold, silver, copper, lead, lumber, etc. In enterprise the new government will unquestionably take high rank and its tariff is expected to be to some extent protective.

FAIR TREATMENT.

In a paper published at Graylake, Illinois, and called Snap Shots, we find the following pleasant notice of the presence and labors of two missionaries from Utah. We give place to it, because it shows a liberal spirit in marked contrast to that which once animated the press of this country, and which is gradually giving way to a more tolerant feeling, in accord with American bias of civil and religious freedom. Snap Shot says:

"J. F. Pickering and wife entertained last week friends from Wellsburg, Utah—Elders W. W. Hall and John C. Breckinridge. The young men, a few months since accepted a call to do missionary work in behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or, as usually nicknamed, the 'Mormon' Church. Their work with numbers of other missionaries, is confined mostly to Chicago, where there is a large membership which meets regularly in a handsome church on South Oakley street. They have also done some work in Waukegan and other parts of Lake county, traveling 'without purse or scrip' and to those who understand the self-sacrifice of these young men in leaving home and business for usually two years and teaching the tenets of their faith without the least hope of earthly rewards, it is gratifying to learn that they are as a rule, treated hospitably in all sections and permitted to present their doctrines to those who wish to listen."

BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

The committee on school management of the Chicago board of education has made a recommendation that a work entitled "Readings from the Bible" be introduced into the public schools. The "Readings" have been prepared under the direction of the Woman's Educational Union, an association that numbers both Catholics and Protestants among its members, and the committee approved the plan, which was supported by petitions bearing about 50,000 signatures. If the board of education adopts the recommendation of the committee, Bible selection will be read in some Chicago schools, the matter being left optional with the teachers.

The objection to the reading of the Bible in schools is based on the fact that it gives opportunities for teachers to inculcate sectarian doctrines, contrary to those held by the parents. Were it possible, however, to confine the reading to the portions about which there can be no denominational controversy, such reading would be a distinct gain to the schools. As a literary composition, abounding in terse, forcible Anglo-Saxon expressions, some parts of the Sacred volume is without successful rival in the entire realm of literature; while the poetic flight of some of the Psalms and the Prophecy is entirely unique. Such reading must have an influence upon the aesthetic mind, and leave deep impressions of a moral nature, too, since that is the uniform aim of Holy Writ. But the question is to avoid points of controversy; also not to give agnostics and infidels an undue advantage over the minds of children, at an age when im-

pressions and opinions are commencing to take shape.

There is some complaint in religious circles that the reading of the inspired Word in the family is on the decline. The sale of Bibles is not what it used to be. That this is due in part to the exclusion of all religious topics from the public schools seems a well founded inference. The Sunday schools are not sufficient to counteract the week day neglect of the Bible. The fact, to be fully appreciated, should be considered in connection with the increasing criminal record of the land, the growing indifference to truth, justice, and righteousness, in the press and platform oratory of the day, the corruption of public and private morals, that are noticeable everywhere.

The movement in Chicago for the restoration of the Bible to the public schools is a straw showing that there is a turn in the tide, in favor of the book, that after all is the corner stone of so-called Christian civilization.

The "ere and yellow leaf" is in showing evidence these days.

The British-Ber war is over, but there is a lot of fighting going on yet.

The split pea discussion is likely to result in a combine—between the dealers.

It is not alone in financial matters that a man's word should be as good as his bond.

The great strike is nearing its end. The country will hope that the home-stretch run will be made in quick time.

People who would vote at the school election in December must register prior to the general November election or lose their vote later.

It is not the politician alone who finds that it pays to keep his fences in good order. The successful farmer knows the rule is just as applicable to him.

Three babies at a time are more than most families are able to afford, but when they do come that way, there are no good people so poor as to wish to part with one of them.

Now there is danger to Americans in South China. It is fortunate that Gen. MacArthur is close enough to render speedy relief should it be necessary to send a force of Americans to Hong-kong.

A parliamentary member of the defeated party in Great Britain says the recent discussion of parliament was opposed to the constitution. Doubtless it was—the political constitution of the party that was left.

Irving Scott, California's big ship-builder, has demonstrated again that the East cannot do better than the West in this line. The success with the new battleship Wisconsin was a great achievement.

Germany has acquired another island in the Red Sea. It would seem that the Kaiser has transferred his appetite for more land from the Far East to the East, and again hankers after Palestine.

Country boys who go off to work at canal or railway building, and spend their money in drink, cannot be expected to participate in good times. News from Wyoming indicates that some Utah boys up that way pursue the unwise course.

It is said that Russia is hard pressed for money, and wants to borrow a hundred millions. In that view of the case, there is reason to accept the conclusion that the Czar's government is not financially prepared for war. But the Muscovite is not telling the rest of the world his exact financial condition.

Arkansas butchers again come to the front by the blowing up of a man, his wife, and four children under six years of age, because of a dispute over a homestead claim. A stiff administration of law that would cause general respect for the letter of the State statutes would work an improvement in that part of the country.

Now that other parts of the earth are quieting down, new uprisings in Turkey come forward for attention. Several Christian and Mussulman villages are reported to have been destroyed, but the odds are that the Mussulmans are insignificant sufferers compared to the burden inflicted on the Christians.

WESTERN REMEDIES FOR CHINA.

Springfield Republican.

The deadly remedies offered by the powers recall the story told in Huo's travels about an old Chinese doctor from whom the western statesmen might learn some wisdom in this crisis. The doctor was called in to treat a Chinese physician called in had decided to subject his patient to the old and horrible process of acupuncture, when one venerable physician, looking over his great horned spectacles, said: "Wait a moment. We know 'what is inside a Chinaman,' and know that acupuncture is all right for him; but how about this outside barbarian? Who knows what is inside of him?" This query floored the council of doctors, acupuncture was reconsidered, and the patient lived as a consequence. Now, we all know what is inside a western nation, but who knows what is inside of China? It is well to remember that, in trying to cure the sick man of the far East.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Social laws are as effective in China as elsewhere, and one of those laws is that common adversity is the most powerful cause of common action. If time be given it must operate in China as elsewhere. The spirit of patriotism had never been so strong in Prussia as it was after the battle of Jena, or in France as after Sedan. If there is room in the Chinese mind for this spirit to grow, the continued presence of the allied armies must arouse it. There is some probability, therefore, that the Chinese anticipations of trouble in Southern China are well founded.

Springfield Republican.

Nothing more ample has appeared in many a day than Minister Wu's explanation why the Chinese court does not return to Peking. Who ever heard of a monarch voluntarily returning to a city of his realm while it was under the military control of a foreign nation? When the British occupied Washington—and burned the capitol—in 1814, President Madison fled to other parts, and he took good care not to return until the British had departed. In this country it has always been thought that Madison showed good

sense. The simple Mr. Wu lets daylight in upon the "legation guard" theory when he shows that if all the powers each keep 2,000 soldiers in Peking under the guise of "legation guards," there will be in effect a foreign army of 10,000 or 12,000 men in the Chinese capital. Under the circumstances, the desire of the imperial court to keep away from Peking seems natural.

Chicago News.

Marquis Ito, premier of Japan, says Peking should be evacuated, the empire and court permitted to return, and negotiations should come afterward. Otherwise he says further aggressive measures will plunge the whole empire into war and chaos will reign for years. This is the view of the situation that seems to obtain at Washington and Marquis Ito's confirmation of it will go a great ways toward reconciling Europe to it also.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Marquis Ito, the Japanese premier, has given the western powers a hint on the subject of China which they would do well to regard. Speaking of a nation that did more than any other for the rescue of the legationists, he pronounces most emphatically against the dismemberment of the empire, and declares that a war against the Chinese would be deplorable. No country could overcome their swarming millions alone, and the inevitable outcome would be to plunge the whole world into strife.

Chicago Record.

However severe the banishment of a prince may seem to Chinese notions, it will not answer the requirements of western justice. Prince Tuan, according to the best advice obtainable, has been the evil genius throughout the conspiracy against the foreigners. Upon him rests the responsibility for much of the Boxer movement and for the murder of hundreds of Christians. To banish him to the Siberian border, from which place he might make his way at some future time back to the scene of his former operations, would be to fail to recognize the chief culprit in the crime, and the Chinese must be taught that the murder of Christians calls for the death penalty and the murderers themselves must be placed beyond the possibility of repeating their crimes.

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