

THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY

THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY,

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50

Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . September 26, 1891.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-second Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will commence at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, October 4th, 1891, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City.

A cordial invitation is extended to all the officers and members of the Church to be present at the meetings.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency.

PARDONED!

THE brief dispatch which several days ago announced the pardon of Joseph F. Smith by the President of the United States, occasioned much joy among the people of this Territory. We do not know of anyone who spoke against the President's action. The Latter-day Saints, universally, regarded it as a token of goodwill on the part of the President, and it raised him very much in their estimation.

We are happy to announce that the document has arrived in this city. It is dated the 10th day of September and grants the petition which had been sent to the President endorsed by a number of influential gentlemen, official and otherwise. The petition asked for amnesty and pardon for all offences against the Edmunds act.

President Joseph F. Smith then, is now a free man. As soon as the important paper can be placed in his hands he will no doubt return to his post and be seen among his friends and again minister to the Saints. We join with the hosts who will congratulate him upon the freedom which has providentially come to him, through the good offices of those who signed the petition and the clemency of President Benjamin Harrison.

UTAH'S-IRRIGATION- WATER.

It is hoped that the work so well begun by the committee of statistics will be continued till a thorough and systematic exhibit is made of the develop-

ment of irrigation in Utah—what it has accomplished for this Territory and for the West—and how this has been done, what it may yet accomplish, and how the work of the future is to be carried forward. With the data that the committee has collected, only a small portion of which has been published, combined with the matter that will be furnished by the discussions in the Irrigation Congress, whoever proceeds with this labor ought to be able to give the public the most valuable compilation on the question that has ever been printed. Such a work ought to be very near to a correct guide to the future development of irrigation in the West.

The importance attached to all reliable progress in this direction is exhibited in one item from the Utah report. According to the United States census bulletin there are now under irrigation in Utah a little less than 264,000 acres. From careful estimates made of the regular flow of water available during the irrigation season, it could, if properly husbanded, be made to irrigate to advantage over 2,300,000 acres. But the flow during the irrigation season does not represent half the water that the springs and mountain streams of the territory yield during the entire year. It is the judgment of the best authorities on Utah irrigation that if all this water was conserved for farming purposes it would irrigate every foot of tillable land in the Territory. But to store this winter and spring flow, so as to make it a reliable source of summer supply, will require a vast expenditure of money and labor, and something besides, which is quite as important to the success of so great an undertaking—the knowledge and experience to apply them in the proper place and manner. Every cubic foot of water stored represents an equivalent amount of energy for destruction, and when it comes to multiplying that destructive power by billions, as would be done in storing a half year's flow of the Weber river, for instance, it becomes something requiring deep consideration and careful treatment.

It is this class of questions that will call for the best wisdom of the congress now in session here. The horror that has passed into history through the catastrophe at Johnstown proves that no ordinary engineering will meet the requirement. It is a work that will call for the best efforts of science, skill and experience.

THE "INTER-OCEAN" AND IRRIGATION

THE Chicago *Inter-Ocean* of September 18, 1891, contains a comprehensive article by Professor G. E.

Bailey, pertaining to the Irrigation Congress now in session in Salt Lake City. The article occupies five columns of space, and is profusely illustrated. There are portraits of prominent citizens who have figured in the past and current history of Utah. There are also illustrations of the Lion and Beehive houses, of the interior of the Temple, and of the officers' quarters at Fort Douglas.

The *Inter-Ocean* is earnest and emphatic in advocating active steps being taken to perfect some practicable irrigation scheme. It favors the turning over of arid lands by the Federal Government to the different States and Territories in which they are located.

Professor Bailey, the *Inter-Ocean* correspondent, who is at present in this city, is personally an enthusiastic advocate of irrigation. He has given the matter considerable thought and attention, and investigated its workings in various quarters of the world. He is, therefore, an authority on what he so energetically advocates.

The professor's article is published in the *Inter-Ocean* issue of Sunday last. The paper arrived here about 7 o'clock this morning. Before 11 o'clock every member of the Irrigation Congress was furnished with a copy, and in addition 1000 copies were distributed among the merchants and business men of Salt Lake.

MITYLENE THE FAMOUS.

THE little island of Mitylene, in the Grecian Archipelago, today occupies the attention of the whole civilized world. The dispatches tell us that Great Britain has seized the port of Sigri on that island, and is making it a fortified station.

In the classic days of Greece and Rome this island was called Lesbos, and was famed for the salubrity of its climate, and the superiority of its wines. The poet Horace celebrates the inspiring cups of mirth-producing Lesbian, and often alludes to the sunny Mitylene, then a beautiful city of his darling Lesbos.

The dispatches say its area is but 276 square miles, but some authorities say it is 600. It has a population of 40,000, about half of whom are Turks, the remainder Greeks. Some famous men were born there, such as Alceus, Pittacus and Arcon. Sappho, the famous poetess and best representative of the Æolian school of lyric poetry was born here. Her house in Mitylene was the center of a literary coterie of Lesbian ladies, all of poetic tastes.

As a station for British ships this island would be invaluable. Its