DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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Telephone 30.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-fourth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 o'clock on Friday morning, October 6th, 1893.

The officers and members of the Church generally are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Conference.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

THE PRIMARIES.

With the exception of some little bickering in places, seemingly inseparable from practical politics, the primaries of the Independents last evening passed off smoothly and in the main satisfactorily. It was an experiment for this community and as such there was of necessity a trifling misunderstanding here and there; elements previously at variance could not be expected all at once to intermingle and create no effervescence, but we are pleased to note that this was about all there was of it and as usual it did not last long. When an ingrained Democrat gets to talking in a political meeting he is almost sure to say something Democratic before subsiding, and a Republican is constructed in much the same way; when this is duly considered the amount of participation exhibited as a rule was altogether diminutive.

The ticket has not been complete; indeed, with the exception of constituents candidates it is not even begun, all efforts in the direction of inducing coming events to cast a shadow before having amounted to nothing of consequence. The "both" of the ballot which the Citizens will present to the voters is to come; but if they do as well in respect to what remains as they have in what is already accomplished it will be a very good piece of workmanship. In all of the precincts Democrats and Republicans are recognized and in some of them the Liberal element also has representation. It is a paradoxical fact that is a movement of this kind the only way to ignore all parties is to recognize all, and we may safely say that this has been accomplished.

When the ticket is completed the public will probably be prepared to say how they stand regarding it. Without reference to either individual or established organizations, this paper is for that party or combination which promises good government, honesty, economy and efficiency in every department, and those beleaguered that it is able to and will carry out its promise to the letter. This should be a good enough platform for any paper or any person.

INVITE THEM TO UTAH.

During recent years there is a been much inquiry by foreign nations regarding the system of irrigation which prevails in the West, and in the institutions and development of which the people of Utah occupy the first place. Different European powers have shown sufficient interest to send representatives to investigate the system, and it is but a few weeks there was published report on the subject was made to the Australian government by the commissioner whom recently visited Utah and sent outlines of western American to inquire information relating to this subject matter.

The irrigation congress to be held in Los Angeles next month will doubtless attract considerable attention to the subject about as well as in our own nation. Africa, which is frequently regarded as being lacking in enterprise, is the first to be on the ground in the present instance. The czar's domain contains vast tracts of land which cannot be utilized for farming by the ordinary methods now in vogue in Europe, for the reason that there is not sufficient moisture distributed through the soil. The steppes of Russia are very similar in this section of country and are regarded as deserts. There is a great field, therefore, in the land of the Muscovite to subdue and bring under cultivation, by means of a thorough system of irrigation, great stretches of country that are now unproductive. Realizing these facts, the czar has sent a special commissioner to examine into and report on the irrigation system of the West.

The officer selected is Constantin Comnilaiesky, one of the most prominent engineers of Russia. He was a delegate to the international congress of engineers, lately in session at the World's Fair. As representative of the czar, he will attend the Los Angeles congress, and will then make a thorough investigation of irrigation methods in the western part of the United States. It is given out that the czar has decided already to build extensive reservoirs and resort to irrigation to prevent crop failures through drouth in some of the farming districts. For this work, if the commissioner's report is satisfactory, it is probable that American engineers will be engaged.

Commissioner Comnilaiesky is likely, in his investigations, to devote the greater part of his attention to California, as he goes direct from the Fair to attend the irrigation congress. Should he extend his inquiry into Utah, however, he will doubtless discover much of additional value in the home of the irrigation methods of which California's systems are an outgrowth. It would be a good idea for Utah's delegates to the Los Angeles congress to take advantage of the opportunity and invite the commissioner and other representatives of foreign governments who want to know something about irrigating farms to visit this Territory, where they would not be slow in learning that in the particular line of reclaiming arid lands, as well as in other matters relating to the development of the country's resources and the material welfare of the people, Utah takes the foremost position among the states and territories of the West.

ANOTHER NATURALIZATION QUESTION.

Editor Deseret News:

OGDEN, Ida., Sept. 19th, 1893.—If it does not put you to too much trouble I would like to ask you one question—Is a person a citizen of the United States who came here under the age of five and has been in the United States over thirty years but whose father never came to this country? This is for my benefit and many others. A SUBSCRIBER.

It is no trouble at all. We assume from the tenor of the question that the person spoken of has not been naturalized and our correspondent desires to know whether the continued residence for so long a time constitutes citizenship. It does not, but this can be obtained in very short order. Both papers can be taken out at the same time without previous notice or other preliminary on the applicant's arrival at the age of twenty-one years. The same is true of any alien who was fifteen years old or less when he came to the country; but over that age up to and inclusive of the age of eighteen (but not over) he must have lived here long enough after attaining his majority to make the whole period not less than five years. Those who came here after the age of eighteen must proceed as in the case of other aliens by taking out both papers—the first after having been in the country not less than three years continuously, and the last not less than two years later and after not less than one year's continuous residence in the state or territory in which the application is made.

JAPAN'S GREAT FLOOD.

The prefecture of Gifu, in Japan, seems to have been selected by late as a scene for some of the most awful disasters of recent times. Beginning with the terrible earthquake of 1891, when thousands of lives were lost and extreme suffering inflicted on many of the survivors, there has been a recurrence of earthquakes, floods and hurricanes that is phenomenal.

The latest catastrophe of which intelligence has reached this country from unfortunate Gifu occurred during the last week in August, about the same time as the great disaster on the southwestern coast of the United States. The dispatches made but little mention of the earthquake which had come upon Japan. In the absence of details which were not then available, the general statement was made that a great flood had caused the loss of thousands of lives and a vast amount of property; that no such destruction had been wrought by the elements in Japan during the preceding half century.

A report has been made by the president of Gifu, giving some further information. It says that details are yet wanting in the more remote districts, but according to the information received the total number of the dead will be 8,000, and the number of missing, 4,000. As to the losses among the animal world, the number of property destroyed, at the loss of human and animal life, no estimate can be given. In the district of Kitagaki the river rose twenty-eight feet above its usual level. The town of Yanaida was completely submerged. Hundreds of houses were swept bodily in a single night. Also, in a hill at the back of the town gave way and more than 100 persons and their lives in the landslide.

The report gives some particulars of the condition in the neighboring prefecture of Wakayama, which suffered much less than Gifu. Embankments collapsed in 518 places; 119 bridges were swept away; 51,142 yards of roadway were washed out; 278 houses were carried off, 3521 submerged and 4654 others damaged; there were 34 landslips and 28 persons killed. The quantity and depth of water was not nearly so great as in Gifu.

The list of events of an appalling nature that have occurred during the first nine months of the present year, in all parts of the world, indicates that 1893 will easily take place in the front rank as a period of disaster.

A FRUITFUL THEME.

There are subjects that are somewhat more hackneyed (perhaps) than that of the admission of this Territory into the Union as a sovereign state; but nearly as it is it sometimes takes on a new phase and this at least the journalist must not overlook. Yesterday the House committee on territories decided to report favorably the bill recently introduced by Mr. Wheeler of Alabama, having in view the revival of the old story above set out. Candor compels us, however, to admit that this new feature in the very old case brings the subject somewhat nearer to a focus than any of its predecessors have done; that is, it seems quite likely that the lower house of Congress will receive the bill in regular form backed by the committee's approval, and this means a strong proposition in that body to begin with.

It is not at all unlikely that the measure will pass the House and be reported to the Senate—and what then? Even this far west we understand full well that the upper branch of Congress has all the business on hand that it can well attend to this session without being inducted from its regular order by matters of such trifling concern as the creation of new states, and probably the bill will then, after its hasty and perhaps agitated passage through the representatives' chamber, be given a long and soothing rest above. Then some other bill regarding statehood for Utah will "bob up serenely" and then we shall go. There will be no disappointments that we are not already used to, and consequently no new heartburnings here when the time for adjournment has come and our little bill has not been called from its quiet resting place.

NEITHER SENSE NOR GOSPEL.

There is no small indignation in local business circles as well as those social and religious, over reports which have come from Iowa concerning a lecture delivered in that state about ten days ago by Rev. W. H. Maury of this city, formerly a "M. E. preaching Elder" in Volga City, Iowa. In a special dispatch from that town to a Dubuque paper, a brief synopsis of the lecture is given. It appears that the audience "densely packed the M. E. church" and they were "instructively entertained and amused" by the speaker's remarks on "the past, present and future of Mormonism," "illustrated with a powerful stereopticon." The dispatch continues:

The Dr. is here in behalf of the thousands of people in Salt Lake City, who have been thrown out of employment in these hard times, democratic days for a wage earner. He estimates that fifty thousand people are to be fed and cared for generally there during the next six months or more, by charity. Mormonism was well reviewed, its present regarded as problematical and its future as very uncertain.

Our people responded at the speaker's request, with a collection most generous, after this interesting portrayal of Mormon morbosus, doctrine and democratic condition.

Now the Dr. is not there in the interest of the thousands of Salt Lake's unemployed nor of any other number of Salt Lake's people. He, his little lecture and his strong stereopticon, are there solely in the interest of W. H. Maury, and he is trying to gather a few funds for himself during his vacation (presumably without pay) from the people in this city. That he should attempt to put money in his purse against a rainy day or to clear off debts is a proceeding beyond criticism and clearly within his prerogative. But he must do this without damaging in any measure, and least with all false pretenses. The fact is, as every man knows who reads the papers, or has traveled the beat till, can tell, that Salt Lake has fewer unemployed men and less distress than any town or city in the country. Indeed, there is no suffering at all for the necessities of life and there need be none. It seems to us that some one can appropriately call the Rev. Mr. Maury down in his stalking-ox, either by notifying him that his utterances are considered at home, or by telling prominent Iowa citizens who might otherwise be misled by him, that some of his statements seem to need a heavy discount. As to his remarks on Mormonism, the News will take pleasure in showing to them as much as it can more what he has actually been saying.

THE SOUTHERN LYNCHINGS.

There is a terrible condition of things prevailing in some parts of the southern states at present, it being an epidemic of lawlessness taking the particular form of colored lynchings. It is there as it has been in part of the West in the early days when vigilance committees were established to preserve order and maintain right, and which the then actual authorities without the libertas could not exercise. Words of warning, if, the recital being almost so many instances quoted as were personal, U. S. marshals, there is some justification for the dark things of the night, at least there must be at the commencement; but once the mind gets jarred in that direction and the hard becomes stained with blood, judgment is dethroned and wild, unbridled passion assumes full sway.

The most awful of all the recent lynchings was that of a few days ago, when a negro criminal's male relatives who personally were innocent and not responsible, were made victims of the mob's mad fury; and the most deplorable event in the chapter was that of Wednesday when the militia were compelled to fire upon the would-be lynchers of a negro preacher and many of them were killed and wounded. It all represents a bad condition of society, one that, where the races are intermingled, is easier to break out than break down. There is no telling when or how it will end.

AN ADVENTIST has already drawn the conclusion that the world's congress of religions at Chicago is one of the signs of the closing of this dispensation, for now, he thinks, the Gospel has literally been preached in all nations, and then shall the end come. But the point does not seem to be well taken, as Judaism, Mohammedanism and other isms are as emphatically preached in those gatherings as Christianity; besides, the number of these congresses are not the nations of the earth, nor are they properly speaking representatives of nations, but of religions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS last night wired the news that the President had appointed A. L. Hewitt, of Utah, consul at San Salvador. Subsequent inquiries developed the fact that Mr. A. L. Pollock, of this city, was the gentleman referred to in the dispatch. The nomination is a good one, and is another of President Cleveland's recognitions of newspaper men.

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