DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

Publication Office.

FARMERS' CONVENTION.

A convention of the farmers of Salt Lake county is announced for the 14th and 15th of this month, at Mill Creek. A program of exercises is being arranged, which is to include addresses on special topics connected with the farming industry, with direct and practical references to improvements that may be considered in methods of cultivation and marketing of crops.

If the purpose of the meeting as at present outlined should be carried out, there is good reason to hope that it will prove of extensive benefit to the agriculturists of this section. Every man engaged in farming knows that there is a broad field for disseminating information among and inducing new light into many who follow that avocation in life. There are some farmers who crop their land almost to its full extent, whose animals are well housed and fed, whose machinery is not left exposed to the weather, to rust and decay, who plant the best varieties of potatoes, corn and other produce, and who consequently secure the most satisfactory prices and have little to place to the unnecessary waste column of their accounts. At the same time there are a good many who fall short in one or more of these particulars, largely because they have not been educated up to the necessity or means of doing otherwise.

In the coming convention, it is to be hoped that these and other timely subjects will receive earnest attention to practical discussion, that the contributions of the promoters of the meeting may be fully realized, and a foundation be laid for future conventions that will prove of value to the farming class. While the meeting may not cause much stir, or appear a very large affair, yet if it receives the support of those it is intended to benefit, its success will be sure to lead to developments in other departments of industry that must result in great good to the people of this region. The practical, successful farmers of Salt Lake county ought to have a good deal to say that will be of general interest and for the public welfare.

LIBERTY DAWNING IN RUSSIA.

A pleasing instance in connection with the young czar of Russia is related by a London paper. The story goes that the emperor after receiving the list of officers for promotion, which list gives the age, religion, etc., of the officers, drew his pen through the column marked religion, saying that that was a matter of no concern to him.

If this be true, the czar has advanced his vast empire one great step towards religious freedom. History teaches that political liberty is the natural and logical consequence of the dependence in matters of religion, because as people realize their responsibility in matters of eternal import, they are not apt to submit to serfdom in temporal things. The czar, therefore, has commenced admirably by declaring religion superior, even a wholly secular affair. If this idea is rather potent, it will immediately lead the Russians to all the liberty they are capable of appreciating.

It will undoubtedly take a long time before the general masses of Russia will understand the motives of their "little father" and accept his sentiments, and the czar will probably make for himself numerous enemies among the bigoted classes that hate innovations and look upon advancement as opposed to their Russian traditions. Yet, reforms once started have advantages. Enough to a large degree, give the time to a people. Thousands are willing to forsake their and change their opinions as readily as the wind at north. If, therefore, the czar continues to plant his seed of liberty in the big of semi-barbarism to which it has been sowing for so long time, he will be able to reap and enjoy good where at present it is evil.

Peter the Great undoubtedly intended to make of his beloved Russia a power of first rank in all respects. Historians for centuries have given more attention to militarism than to other qualifications. If Nicholas inaugurates a policy calculated to lay a firm foundation for constitutional liberty, he is not in harmony with his great ancestor. His pen strokes through the religious column of the promotion list may be regarded as the most significant act of a Russian ruler since the serfs emancipated the souls of the country.

RAILWAY LIABILITY.

The decision of the California supreme court, just handed down in the Hanna case, is interesting as defining the responsibility of railways for injuries to persons not in the employ of the company who may be using the railway track as a public highway. In the case referred to, a newspaper man, Chas. A. Hanna, on June 23, 1891, was walking along the Southern Pacific track at a street crossing in San Francisco, when an iron bar was caught in a switch, and a passing train ran over and crushed his left leg so as to necessitate its amputation. The jury gave the boy a verdict for $10,000.

It was shown that the engineer had used every possible endeavor to stop the train after it was discovered that the boy was caught, but could not do so in time. In its defense the company claimed that as the switchman who set the switch improperly and the fireman who was on the engine were not employees, and further that as the child was on the company's right of way he was a trespasser, not only not invited, it was not urged that neither the plaintiff nor the parents had ever acquired with the permission of the railroad company, the right of user of the track as a way for travel or as a playground or place of rendezvous for children. On the other hand the plaintiff set up the claim that the way was not a trespass, as the public had been allowed for years to use the railway as a public thoroughfare. The court instructed the jury that from this use, without objection by the company, the public had the right of way by the acquiescence of the railway, whose duty it was to exercise reasonable care to see that people on the track were not injured. The supreme court now decides that this instruction fairly states the law, and the railway company must pay the damages assessed.

This decision goes somewhat further in the line outlined than has been the general rule, but it is in harmony with the prevailing tendency upon the subject. When railway tracks are upon public highways, or their continued use over public grounds is permitted the public, the railway companies are bound to exercise special precautionary care to guard against accidents. If the track occupies a portion of the street, to protect itself from liability for damage the company must be content with such precautions as slow and careful moving of trains; but if the California rule is to be strictly enforced as to persons and animals, we may look for a new measure of diligence on the part of railway managements in keeping people off tracks had on company or private property.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

That the peace negotiations between the two belligerents of eastern Asia are proceeding with a remarkable degree of slowness is but natural when everything is considered. It is not probable that either country as yet really desires a termination of hostilities on the conditions seriously plated by the other. China would probably willingly agree to pay any reasonable sum as an indemnity and relinquish all claims on Corea, but it now seems pretty clear that Japan's aim is the complete humiliation of her antagonist, and that, unless something unexpected intervenes, her victorious forces will march on and dictate terms of peace within the very walls of Pekin.

This event, should it transpire, might be disastrous to the reigning dynasty. The rulers of the Mongolians have always maintained that they derived their power from a supreme being that, in fact, their relationship to Heaven was very close and that their power extended to the uttermost parts of the earth. The people submitted to their military and other cruel rule, mostly on account of this delusion. It is therefore clear that the conquest of the very capital of the Chinese empire and the humiliation of the alleged divine ruler would have very far reaching results. The people would find that his power is not insignificant, since it was his weak even for the despised "little Japs." They would understand that his supposed authority over the nations of the world does not exist, and that his armies are no more efficient than a rabble, when facing men determined to conquer. It is not unreasonable to suppose that, should these developments effect in the mind of China, the very foundation on which the present government of that country rests would be overturned and with it the imperial representatives of celestial government. In other words, the Japanese, by stripping Pekin and well pounding the entire dominions of the throne, may be the means of bringing about a revolution in China, which will result in the overthrow of the present dynasty. Perhaps it would be not a problem to say as to what would be the result of such a revolution. Japanese had to have the entirety of Corea, or deposit of Pekin, but if she succeeds in the overthrow of the dynasty of the Chinese at Pekin, but if she succeeds, there doubtless is the desire, it is hard to see how the Japanese could be helped, any longer.

Japan's policy of educating her people in regard to all propositions so far received by China may be looked upon as an indication that she is unwilling to terminate the war before China's conquest is complete, no matter what foreign diplomacy may suggest in the matter. And when the object is accomplished, what is likely to follow. Already Chinese and Manchu soldiers are butchering each other in the presence of the enemy at Manchuria. This state of affairs is likely to spread, as a contagion does disease, until another order of things has been established among the Mongolians, more in harmony with the advanced age of mankind. Whether China is capable of reconstruction on modern principles is one of the questions left for the coming century to answer.

JOURNALISTIC BUSINESS.

Occasionally some people who reside among the civilization of the western hemisphere are permitted to read translations from some letter papers of the Orient, the contents of which are generally of a romantic character and remarkably instructive descriptions of the social manners of the Caucasian race. These accounts are set down in the simple information received by the writers, for such does ignorance so manifest on the publications by Arabic writers may not be reasonably looked for in a newspaper with general circulation in the Western metropolis of London, yet direct proof of its existence is given in the following editorial which appeared in a recent issue of the London Echo:

> The sign of the times in India that between the two cases in January 1, 1895, the great American nation will grease and oil in an agency of civilization, and the effect of all our great cities will be supply with bloodless hundred days of peace for some years. Our dishes to the cooked of fish and peppered women, and the drops of blood for days and time has wonder. The law of the jungle million to be seen that it winks. Everybody knows and no one knows. Anarchy is no longer a bugbear. It is a plaything. The President is merely the creature of bank directors, railroad kings and city barons, and is in the same with the governors of the nation. The poor wander about, they grovel and gnaw their crusts of bread. We can always be relied upon to rush for the rich, and sometimes of them would empty their hundreds and lay down their lives in defense of the right of the rich to rule them. In cities such as this, in which one million paupers (Guardian, one day) number of slaves, will be either conformity to a foreign law or the use of poisons. Our cities infest more-another number than in gotten, our capitals are work together, and they have no money to buy food, lay free and indigent. Soldiers gallop about down unarmed people and are covered on to men. Lonely work by moonlight and the clergy. But the day will come when what there is to be a terrible debt to death, lighted up by burning houses and the music of cries and groans and dynamite bombs. With which almost Bonapartes in Europe, and Tweeds post workers not necessary on the invasion of the hotel and the die of the poll. Young men and women dawdle after midnight music and opera parties, old men and women grub on one foot out of the garbage cans, lap dogs are driven through Central Park to take the air, children dwell overmuch in fairy gardens. Poor in the Whole House is starving in a house of bribery—industry is in the tenement houses enduring the punishment of apprentices. These are the signs of the times in America today—signs that point to a calamity too dreadful to imagine, but which nothing can avert.

> That this country has plenty of abuses, a few of which are referred to in the article quoted, no one will deny, but as descriptive of conditions in America, the Echo's statement as a whole is so inaccurate as to be utterly unworthy of belief in any essential particular. Some of its references to slaves and poverty would fit in a society the situation to be found within a few minutes' walk of its office of publication, and perhaps it is a knowledge of this that enabled the London writer to draw his fanciful picture of America. The Echo has made but readings of history if it fancies there is any chance of the United States being "overthrown by a foreign foe" such an attempt would be a very dangerous experiment for the foreigner who tries it. Further, when internal dissensions of serious and widespread character assail the American Republic they will arise from causes not suggested and evidently not thought of in this connection by our English contemporary, which probably has reached its conclusion by reading some of the extremely partisan, and consequently unreliable, papers published in this country.

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THE NEW TARIFF LAW.

Its Effect on the Clothing Trade —Clothing not Cheaper.

It is erroneously supposed by many that the reduction in the tariff on wool and so woolen goods will have the effect of greatly reducing the price of custom-made clothing. But owing to the large stocks of clothes that were on hand throughout the country when the law was passed, together with the general depression in business, every dealer put prices down to a figure really lower than this line of goods can now be purchased and made up for. Labor has also suffered from the depression in trade, and the journeymen tailors have been working for the past year for lower wages than they can be obtained for during the coming season, therefore if the merchant tailor is able to offer his customers the same prices in this that he has given them during this is as much as can be expected from him. For our own part we don't expect to be able to offer any reduction in price, in fact, no material change of price is looked for by any experienced merchant tailor.

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