DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

The great gathering at Chicago is the cynosure of all eyes at home and abroad. That there will be disappointments and surprises is in the natural order of things where there is so much divergence of sentiment and so little in the way of preparing the public mind beforehand as to candidates, this being exactly the reverse of the St. Louis convention, where the principal candidate's election was a foregone conclusion and that of his lieutenant nearly so.

At this writing Richard P. Bland of Missouri, familiarly called "Silver Dick," has the most positive strength, it being in the neighborhood of 250 votes, possibly a few more or less, but this would not be very significant even if only a majority were required to nominate, since there are so many names to be presented, and each with an enthusiastic following. It should be remembered, however, that a mere majority without the ability to add to it is as ineffectual in a national Democratic convention as is the weakest minority, as one-sixth of all the members additionally are required to nominate candidates, or something over 600 votes. It may therefore be safely said that Mr. Bland is at present at least 350 votes short of the goal, and being nearer than any one else, the situation, as previously suggested, is very complex. Conventions, especially great ones, are generally stampeded with tolerable ease after a few ineffectual ballots and the skillful presentation of some new and available name; it is also sometimes accomplished by a decided "break," or change of votes in a body from one to another of the names before the convention, this rather adding to than tending to diminish the prevailing uncertainty. Present appearances are that the balloting will be numerous beyond precedent, but some unlooked-for coup may be sprung by means of which things would be greatly shortened.

The importance as to candidates does not obtain as to other things, however. With the exception of a positive change in the tariff plank of the platform. This is already constructed and ready for launching upon the convention, where it may be buffeted about for some time, but will undoubtedly be adopted in the end by a decisive majority. Of course it calls for the free and unlimited coinage of silver, without the co-operation of other nations, this plank being in fact a little more emphatic and direct than was generally expected. There are several other features, but they are so overshadowed by tariff and finance as to become the merest commonplaces.

The convention as a whole strikes the impartial observer as being somewhat deficient in the matter of intelligent discussion of opinion and not overly stocked with the amenities which are supposed to obtain in deliberative bodies. The condemnation of silver inability is made to drawed like a red-hammer on all points relating to that issue, and the minority are being made to feel that they are slightly that and nothing more.

The speech of the temporary chairman, from a Democratic-silver standpoint and to gleam from any standpoint, was admirable. The language was exactly where vigorous, classical and free from demagogic commonplaces or partisan platitudes. Senator Daniel is known to be a great orator, but he has hardly ever given a better account of himself than on this occasion.

The rank and file of the News will find in these columns the best current advices, general and regional, from the "seat of war," and to them they are referred for detailed information of today's proceedings.

OLD FOLKS AND BATTALION.

Ogden will be honored this year by one of the most notable gatherings that the state has ever witnessed. The Tuesday of next week, July 10, the old folks of Salt Lake, Davis and Weber counties and other places will assemble in the Junction City, and everybody hereabouts knows what a joyous time the veterans have on the occasion of their annual encampment. Added to this, the same time and place will witness the construction of the semi-centennary of the Mormon Battalion, which was mustered into service in 1846.

It is a delight to Utah to honor the aged—those who were faithfully to pay the debts and are last of the only and without exception or to point of creed, all those who have passed the threescore and ten years are made objects of honor in their natural village. Time the old folks, commanded to love and reverent treatment from the younger generation generally in these mountains, are more the special objects of attention. And this year there will be at Ogden the additional interest of survivors of a band whose exploits in 1847 is closely associated with the making of Utah as a civilized State, as well as with the advancing of United States capital over the great West. Hence we can say for the gathering and entertaining people of Ogden that their hospitable and cordial welcome of the visitors of July 10 will be unsurpassed by anything in that line that ever has been done in any part of the State.

COST OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.

If the Utah statute relative to filing a statement of election expenses as a public record is lived up to, we will have some definite information as to the cost of political campaigns locally. With such a bill of particulars, the people may figure out the proportionate influence on elections of money and principle, respectively. Working on this basis in national affairs, it does not take long to conclude that money is the lever that moves the political world.

As matters go nowadays, it takes at least a million dollars to elect a President, and it is probable that the coming campaign will cost more than that to the national campaign committee that is successful. This is independent of local expenses. There are legitimate burdens connected with the conduct of a national campaign, but it cannot be that these attain the stupendous figure named. There are tickets to print, halls to hire, bands of music to be engaged, banners to be printed, and numerous other expenses of this kind, but these are mostly met in the cities where the expense is incurred. The talk of the money used, then, must go in some other way, and how?

It is well known that the money which was required to pay presidential electors expires from the days of George Washington to U. S. Grant would not be enough nowadays to carry a congressional district or even a municipal ward in Chicago. Many congressmen spend their salary for the term—$10,000—in securing their election, and it has been openly declared that the cost to some senators of a seat in the higher branch of the national legislature has reached half a million dollars. It will be remembered by those familiar with election events when General Hancock was a candidate for the presidency that, being a poor man, he could not furnish the cash, but the national committee had to squeeze a thousand thousand dollars out of the vice presidential candidates on the same ticket. Then Garfield's running mate in similar circumstances had to put up a quarter of a million. New York importers paid assessments to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars at Cleveland's first election, and at the second term William C. Whitney, who has become specially prominent again by his recent utterances on the subject, is credited with having shipped in a quarter of a million on his own account; and the political supporters on the opposite side were equally subjected to heavy calls for money.

These figures indicate that the time is past when presidential elections are decided on some great question of principle or theory of government in which the people were honestly divided in opinion, or upon verbal estimates of the character, ability and patriotism of the respective candidates, and suggest that the highest office in the land is largely a matter of ballot and sale by questionable methods. No wonder that the people are growing impatient under such a condition, which compels them to be necessarily powerless and silent spectators to a system of spoils of which they are the victims. It is a manipulation of the national government by politicians who serve to their own ends rather than by statesmen who serve the interests of the people.

ALUM AND TEETH.

The subject of care of the teeth has been freely discussed for years, and medical authorities have come to the conclusion that much of the trouble with this important part of the human body is in the bolted flour used by many people. While there is no doubt that unbolted flour or meal is far superior to superfine white flour in containing the structure of the teeth, yet its use is not a complete preventative of decay, hence efforts are continued to find out something that will preserve the teeth in fair condition to old age.

The recent investigation of a writer in Popular Science gives some results that are interesting at least. The investigator was struck by a statement that Horace Walpole, though living to an extreme old age, had a perfect set of teeth at the time of his death. He attributed this to the habit he had of chewing a very small piece of alum in his mouth three times a day. The recipe was given him by a Mrs. Grosvenor, in her day a celebrated beauty, who also retained a flawless set of teeth up to her death, at the age of eighty. Acting upon this suggestion, the investigator, who had suffered largely from neuralgia, the gums being sore and spongy, and the teeth so sensitive that eating was very painful and using even a coarse apple would bring tears, determined to make a test of the alum. This was done by taking, after brushing the teeth as usual, a little powdered alum in water, holding the solution in the mouth for several seconds, and using it to rinse the mouth with. The first effect was a delightful feeling of cleanliness and an astonishing purity of breath, and after a few minutes of regular use the gums were hard and the person could chew and bite with perfect ease. A few years of experience, and the preservation of the teeth was found to be materially aided.

It may be that alum, which is a harmless and an antiseptic, is also a valuable agent in the care of the gums and teeth; and if so, its use under proper conditions might work a much desired improvement in preventing the premature decay of children's teeth, which is a most deplorable affliction of the present day. At the same time the excessive use of so simple an agent as alum could be easily made to produce more serious effects than decayed teeth, and wherever the suggested remedy is tried it should be with care and judgment.

PIONEER DAY.

Salt Lake City is to have a Pioneer Day celebration this year, in which as many as possible of the Pioneers of 1847 will be engaged to take part. The program is not to be elaborate or burdensome, but to partake of a character to remind the people of the condition of things nine years ago and of the progress during the half century that has intervened. Committees now have the work in hand, and the place of the celebration has been decided upon. It is to be at Saltair pavilion, located near the Lake shore near where the Pioneers first reached the great dead sea of America. The place is appropriate, plenty of room, easy of access, and having all the elements necessary to give convenience for a timely and successful celebration of Utah's natal day.

ON DIVIDING LINES.

The spirit of arbitrary action is characteristic of considering the great issues now before the public. In St. Louis, the gold advocates summarily "lost upon" the silver men, and in Chicago the latter are returning the compliment with a vengeance and with an equally good prospect of creating division in party ranks. If this inclination to arbitrary action were confined to politicians, it would not matter so much; but it reaches to business and employment as well. In some districts employers have no use for a "goldbug," and in others the silver man is regarded as disqualified for employment.

One of the most notable cases in the last named line is that of Banker William P. St. John, of New York, who resigned the presidency of a large bank in that city a few days ago, because he lost his. The cause was his free coinage views. He has been president of the Mercantile National bank of New York since 1875, and under his thirteen years' presidency the bank looked its depositors, paid regular semi-annual dividends, and accumulated $1,000,000 of surplus earnings. When elected a member of the finance committee of the New York chamber of commerce in 1894, the chairman stated that, as the junior member, he desire research in the silver question. He began that research as a pronounced gold man, with a strong prejudice against silver. After six years of thorough investigation he reached the conclusion that he had been wrong in his judgment of silver and he promptly announced the fact. When the finance committee met in consultation in favor of the gold standard, Mr. St. John, who was the only one of many to express himself in favor of silver, was asked to resign the chairmanship, and he did so. Later he was asked to resign the presidency of the bank, and he did so. Finally, he was asked to resign his membership in the chamber of commerce, and he did so. Finally, he was asked to resign his membership in the chamber of commerce, and he did so. Finally, he was asked to resign his membership in the chamber of commerce