

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

FORTY-FOUR YEARS.

Today the DESERET NEWS enters upon its forty-fifth year of publication. Forty-four years ago—Saturday, June 15, 1850—the first number of this journal was issued. That was before the Territory of Utah had an existence; when many of the Mormons who had been driven from Nauvoo were scattered through Missouri, Tennessee and other places seeking to earn means to emigrate to the city of the Saints; when Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada were classed in the uninhabitable region known as the Great American desert; when Salt Lake City had the prefix "Great" to its title, yet scarce had attained the dignity of a frontier town in appearance; when farming was carried on where now are some of its chief business blocks, and not a cornerstone of any of the city's stately edifices or even of the magnificent Temple had been laid; when the Salt Lake, Tooele and Sanpete valleys were the only parts of this region which claimed inhabitants; and when by far the greater part of these valleys where now are rich farms, smiling gardens and happy homes were sagebrush deserts. It was less than three years after the Pioneers wended their way through the Wasatch range.

Dr. Willard Richards was editor and publisher of the NEWS. A canvass had been made for three hundred subscribers previous to any publication, and this number having been secured, the first issue of the paper came out with the date line, "G. S. L. City, Deseret, June 15, 1850." The geographical location of the city is given as Lat. 40° 45' 44", Lon. 111° 26' 34". The paper had eight pages, three columns to each, the size of the page being 7½x10 inches, with good clear type, well printed. In the first column appeared the prospectus, which reads as follows:

DESERET NEWS.

MOTTO—TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

We propose to publish a small weekly sheet, as large as our local circumstances will permit, to be called "DESERET NEWS," designed originally to record the passing events of our State, and in connection refer to the arts and sciences, embracing general education, medicine, law, divinity, domestic and political economy, and everything that may fall under our observation, which may tend to promote the best interest, welfare, pleasure and amusement of our fellow citizens.

We hold ourselves responsible to the highest Court of truth for our intentions, and the highest Court of equity for our execution. When we speak, we shall speak freely, without regard to men or party, and when, like other men, we err, let him who has his eyes open correct us in meekness, and he shall receive a disciple's reward.

We shall ever take pleasure in communicating foreign news as we have opportunity; in receiving communications from our friends, at home and abroad; and solicit ornaments for the NEWS from our poets and poetesses.

Then comes the price of subscription—\$2.50 for six months—advertising

rates, etc. The concluding paragraph of the prospectus reads:

A paper that is worth printing is worth preserving; if worth preserving it is worth binding; for this purpose we issue in pamphlet form; and if every subscriber shall preserve each copy of the NEWS, and bind it at the close of the volume, their children's children after them may read the doings of their fathers, which otherwise might have been forgotten, ages to come.

The people of these valleys then were under the provisional government of the State of Deseret, and were making application to Congress for admission to the Union. Regarding the constitution under which they were seeking the privileges of membership in the Union, the first number of the NEWS has the following from the New York Herald: "We publish, in another part of today's Herald, the constitution of the new State of Deseret, which has been founded by the Mormons, in the Great Basin of Upper California. It is a very liberal document, and will compare favorably with the constitution of any of the states."

The first editorial in the NEWS is a declaration for preserving the integrity of the Union. Reference is made to the presentation in Congress, by Senator Hale, of petitions for the abolition of slavery and asking Congress to provide for the "dissolution of the American Union." Upon this the NEWS says:

If the people, the whole people, want the Union peacefully dissolved, why not dissolve it? Why ask Congress to do a thing they have no power to do? Congress did not make the Union; the Union made Congress, and the people made the Union; consequently, on the principles of federal republicanism, the power that makes must unmake, if unmade at all; and if the Union is ever peacefully dissolved, it will be by the sovereign people who made it; for they alone possess the rightful power of dissolution within themselves, and not in their Senators or Representatives; and we hope we shall never again hear of any portion of the American people petitioning Congress to do what it has no power to do, even if it had the disposition. Let our Union remain forever, peacefully!

Notwithstanding the fact of there being no railway or telegraph facilities in the West in those days, and that it took three months to convey the mail over the distance that is now traversed in less than three days, there was considerable news in the first issue of the pioneer paper. There is an account of the great fire in San Francisco; the message to Congress of President Zachary Taylor, regarding the organization of the territory ceded by Mexico to the United States, the debate in the Senate on the bill organizing territorial governments in Utah and New Mexico, in which Senator Foote denominated Senator Benton a blackguard because of the latter's unreasoning and violent antagonism to the territories named; the dream of John C. Calhoun, as related by himself to Representative Toombs, of Georgia, when Calhoun stated that George Washington appeared to him, and upon Calhoun stating that under certain conditions he

would sign a paper declaring the Union dissolved, a black blotch appeared on his right hand, which Washington said was the mark by which Benedict Arnold was known in the spirit world, and the skeleton of Isaac Haynes, a South Carolinian who gave his life for the Union, appeared, and Washington suggested that when Calhoun signed the declaration of dissolution he should have those bones before him; the first analysis of the Warm Springs waters; the announcement of the death of John C. Calhoun and Oliver Cowdery; and local news. There are only two advertisements—those of Wm. McBride, blacksmith, and A. Neibaur, surgeon dentist.

During its career the NEWS has pursued steadfastly the course marked out for it by its founders, and has sought earnestly the welfare of the people, the maintenance of constitutional liberty, and the triumph of the right. That its labors are appreciated by the people, we also realize and we are grateful therefor. The motto, TRUTH AND LIBERTY, is still its watchword in fulfilling its responsible position as the pioneer and foremost journal in the Rocky Mountain vales.

THE JUBILEE OF CO-OPERATION.

An interesting congress was recently held in Sunderland, England, when representatives of various co-operative societies of Great Britain met, together with deputations from similar institutions in France, Germany and Belgium. It was a jubilee gathering, fifty years having passed since the inauguration of the movement in England by the formation of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers' society, in the year 1844. This institution started with a capital of £28 but its career was truly phenomenal. After twenty years' existence it was necessary to employ a host of clerks and assistants and the business done amounted to £267,577. The members of the organization allow their dividends and profits to accumulate to their credit and part of the profits is regularly set apart for the maintenance of an educational department.

The success of this co-operative society stimulated others and according to the report presented to the Sunderland congress, there are at present in the United Kingdom 1,655 societies, comprising 1,298,587 members. The sales the past year exceeded £50,000,000 with a profit of £4,678,004—a striking illustration of the progress during half a century of a correct plan carried out with skilful management.

Co-operation in Utah is not old enough yet to celebrate a fifty-year jubilee, but it dates back many years, and has, we think, proved quite as successful here as on the other side of the ocean. The principle was recognized as a correct one by the pioneers and their leaders, and it was carried out as soon as practicable.

The greatest importance of the co-operative movement, however, lies in the fact that it is a natural link between the old order of things and the Utopian condition of mankind, so eagerly desired by some modern as well as ancient philosophers. It furnishes a starting point for an evolutionary movement