DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Deseret News Publishing Company, Lessees.

Wednesday, - - September 29, 1897.

The Deseret Evening News is published daily, Sundays excepted, at 10 o'clock a.m. and East Temple streets, Salt Lake City.

Regular edition at 5 o'clock p.m.

The Deseret Semi-Weekly News is published on Tuesday and Friday of each week.

The Deseret Weekly is a magazine form is published every Saturday.

Daily 12 months	$7.50
Daily 6 months	3.75
Daily 3 months	1.90
Daily 1 month	75
Daily by the week	15
Saturday edition 12 months	2.00
Saturday edition 6 months	1.00
Semi-Weekly 12 months	3.00
Semi-Weekly 6 months	1.50
Weekly 12 months	2.00

Payment for subscriptions always in advance.

Subscribers changing their place of residence should always give location as well as present address.

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Deseret News Publishing Co

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CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-eighth 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 L. day morning, October 4, 1897.

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

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

MUNICIPALIZE THE MUNICIPALITIES

The same old complaints are being heard in Salt Lake City against the proposition for non-partisanship in city affairs as are heard from every boss-ridden, machine-dominated town in the land. Generally speaking, too, the great cause from the same old source—the politicians with whom party is deemed superior to patriotism and who, by their action, show that they care more for political plunder rather than official purity. We have already shown that the movement for municipal reform is not peculiar to Salt Lake and some other Utah cities; it is exhibited as a general and seemingly a spontaneous feeling among the better elements of citizenship in almost every leading city in the country. It is a common impulse which is one more nor set of men can be credited with inaugurating, and which no party nor set of parties, as at present constituted and controlled, can stay. A score or more of influential newspapers, published in the North, the South, the East and the West, might be quoted as showing the drift of advanced thought in this particular direction. We shall today content ourselves with only a few such quotations, commending them to the thoughtful consideration of the freemen and taxpayers of this afflicted city.

A strong Republican paper in Michigan, the Detroit Tribune, thus advises:

"If the great political parties are to retain their hold on the governments of the cities they must meet the requirements of the people. It is not enough to talk about silver and gold, protection and free trade, China and Hawaii, governmental revenues and pensions in a national campaign; but those do not appeal to the voters in a municipal election. * * * If the nonpartisan movements in city affairs are to be checked, the regular parties must accept the methods of the non-partisan organizations. * * * A party that confesses it has no settled policy in reference to its government can not expect that the people will put it in possession of the local offices merely because a majority of them believe the principles which a party out in the cornfields of Illinois proposes to manage the affairs of the nation."

Geographically and politically different from the paper above quoted is the influential Baltimore News, which says:

"No political phenomenon in recent years has been more conspicuous than the growth of the habit of voting in municipal matters independently of party lines. Our own city has furnished examples of it in plenty. In the election of 1895, despite the almost unprecedented intensity of feeling, the majority for the Republican candidate for mayor fell short by 2,000 of the majority for the Republican candidate for governor, while the shortage in the office of the clerk of the school board was no less than 6,000. At a time when the contest was so intense such differences would be due to be very greatly increased. Moreover, each year that passes tends to the growth of the sentiment underlying such independent action. People realize more and more clearly and more and more readily recognize the obvious truth that good city government is a thing entirely disassociated from the great questions of national statesmanship.

In New York today, there is going on a movement for strictly independent city government with Seth Low as the element of its aim, which is supported by more than a hundred thousand voters who have signed their names, and which is spreading continuation in the ranks of the politicians of both parties who represent the right idea of municipal notice. That the rapidly growing element of our population which believes in municipal government as distinguished from national politics is going to cut a horrible figure in the returns of the ballot-boxes in the election next November there can be no question."

Jumping away to the Atlantic coast and glancing through the columns of the opinion-moulders that dwell in the great state of Massachusetts we find such mighty names as the Boston Herald and Republican Republicans working on the same patriotic block. The latter paper is allowed to speak Mr. Low's candidacy for mayor of the greater New York and closing as an objection to non-partisanship that will sound right familiar now, says:

"Mr. Low says that he is a Republican and extends to people who yet he is thoroughly in accord with the idea that there should be efforts to extend from the questions that make up national or state politics. The good old Republican cannot be expected to indorse a ticket like this as they were in the above. Every citizen, irrespective of party, should indorse the Fusion ticket. Tammany Hall, the Democratic party, the Republican party, the police force, the sheriff's office, the district attorney's office, the city comptroller, the city clerk, the city chamberlain, the city tax commissioner, the city assessors, the city collector, the city sheriff, the city coroner, the city public administrator, the city public administrator, the city public administrator