DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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All communications should be addressed to DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO., Salt Lake City, Utah.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-fourth 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, April 6th, 1891.

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

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

A PLAN OUTLINED.

A friend, whose mind has been somewhat given to financial matters, has outlined a plan for the encouragement of home manufactures which, though not reduced to detail nor specific form, seems to us to contain ideas capable of being utilized with valuable results. He suggests that all the different manufacturing enterprises in a given district, say this city, which put out products that seek a home market and that have a home payroll, unite in the establishment of a large central store or depot, the management of which shall be under the direction of the manufacturers who create it.

Each manufacturer will furnish to the central depot a supply of his products, and receive in payment therefor scrip redeemable in such merchandise and commodities as are carried by the central institution. The manufacturer who receives this scrip pays it out to his employes, who go to the central depot and make their purchases with it, as they would spend money at a store. In this way an employe in one manufacturing institution would have his way opened to purchase any article produced in any other establishment which was in the union; and each manufacturer in the arrangement would have his home market enlarged by the demands that would come from the employes of all the others.

A farmer desiring to exchange hay, grain, potatoes, etc., for any of the products of home manufacturing institutions, could take his produce to the central depot, where the exchange could be made; and in this way the employes of all the manufacturers would be supplied with the products of the farm, dairy, etc., with the consequent enlargement of the home market for home manufactures. By extending its plan of operations, this central depot could deal in every product and commodity produced at home, and transact an unlimited amount of business, all without any cash to speak of, either as capital or circulating medium.

Our financial friend notes that the present scarcity of money and abundance of everything else that the people need to make them comfortable, are the conditions necessary to insure the success of such a plan. He argues that the scrip issued by the central depot would be utterly destitute of every "wild cat" or other characteristic that would tend to depreciate it, because it would never be forced at all until the value represented by it had been actually deposited, in the shape of manufactured commodities, farm products, etc., in the central depot, and the holder could always have it redeemed on demand.

It is further suggested that large quantities of hay, potatoes, etc., are rotting on the lands of the farmers, while people in the city who are, or would gladly be engaged in manufacturing various things which the farmer requires, are needing the produce which he cannot dispose of. The farmer and his customer are separated by a gulf that neither is able to bridge, and both are suffering because they cannot come together.

Of course there are difficulties in the scrip system, but that system is better than none, if it will furnish a means by which producer and consumer, employer and employe, buyer and seller, may come together. Without entering into the intricacies or metaphysics of finance, it is easy to see that the principal cause of financial stress and lack of employment in Utah is the absence of a circulating medium. The demand is little, the resources are rich, and the industries for producing everything that mankind requires for his wellbeing, are as abundant in Utah now as they ever were; consequently there is as much work for hands and brain as there ever was. What is needed is a method or medium of exchange. Supply that, and the wheels of industry will whirl every where.

So argues our Kanosh friend; and in this connection an example is presented of the benefit that has been afforded during the financial emergency by the use of scrip. Reference is here made to that issued by the Mercantile Thinking more longer. In former years it has been sneered upon as worthless, but since it became so difficult for the people to get hold of legal tender money, "shinning scrip" have been sought for with avidity. In the relief of distress during the past winter this scrip has played an important part. Hundreds of families have been tided over by receiving some of it, and in the aggregate thousands of dollars' worth of it have been distributed to nearly among the poor of this city, during the severe season. Indisputable as food, clothing and other necessaries, it has been the means of keeping the wolf from many a door.

But returning to the subject of home manufactures: If they are to succeed as they ought, a more perfect method or system of securing for them the patronage of the people than are yet been practised, will have to be adopted. They cannot reach the people, the people cannot reach them, nor can they reach each other with that facility which is absolutely essential to success; and the solution of the difficulty will be found, when at last it is brought forth, in some plan of organization.

THE INDIAN RESERVATIONS BILL.

We give in another column a synopsis of the bill now pending in the Congress of the United States to open for settlement the Uintah and Uncompahgre Indian reservations in this Territory. It is being strongly urged by prominent residents of Utah, and is believed to have good prospects of passage and approval. The white men are naturally favorable to it, the lawmakers express themselves similarly, and we are even assured that the Indians themselves want it to become law. Under these circumstances its course ought to be smooth and its ultimate easy.

That there are opportunities for a vast number of desirable homesteads within the limits of these reservations, and that the lands reserved are disproportionate in proportion to the number and needs of the Indians therein located, the NEWS firmly believes. That there is impropriety in thus locking resources and sustenance upon red men while there are white men in need of homes and farms, we are also quite willing to agree. That the people of this Territory have generally respected aboriginal rights and would be able to live in harmony with the Indians as near neighbors, and that the Indians on these reservations have made such advance in habits of industry and civilization that if they received good lands in severalty they would be able to live and prosper, we have no reason whatever to doubt. On all these propositions we may be in hearty accord with the friends of the bill; and yet we confess that we see objections to it that at present warrant the withholding of unreserved approval.

In thinking on these objections may be removed or be shown to be groundless, we give the synopsis above referred to, also this much space to the discussion of the subject. If it is a good measure, ventilation will not hurt it. At any rate, a good word for the Indian side of the case ought to be listened to with patience, because of its novelty; and we do not believe any equitable friend of the measure in this community would willingly seek to do the aborigines any injustice.

In the first place, it will be noticed that all power to enforce the provisions of the law is to be vested in three persons. These three can make the law a fair, humanitarian, beneficial measure, or they can make it an instrument of rank oppression to the unpaid power with. Once entered, they are virtually alone and greater than the law itself. How important, therefore, that they be men of unquestioned fairness, say, of a tempered friendship for the Indians! For instance, they are to make the allotment of lands to the reserves; the latter have no choice in the matter themselves. The commissioners may choose to scatter them all over the two reservations, one or two in a township, with white settlers all around and among them, which it left to their own choice the Indians might prefer to be located more closely one to another. On the other hand the commissioners may decide, and so report, that one set of portions of the reservation is sufficiently valued and is otherwise suitable for the Indians, whereupon all the rest may be at once thrown back to settlement. In either the advantage would be on the side of the white homesteaders, who would be able to select for themselves the best of what is given away.

Again, the white men may be here and lay at lands by a mechanism any moment up to the time the commissioner comes of a locality, say only yesterday. It is true, the law would give to settlers in each township equal chance for what there may be left; but what if the Indians, when each single township, are the head of a family, or does it mean as more for the head of the family, with 80 acres extra for his squaw, and still another 80 acres for each of his children? In this respect the law ought to be more explicit, and it is also seriously defective in not providing the savages so that for a long term of years, until they become accustomed to the new conditions, there can be no lien upon their lands or transfer of the title or possession to white men.

But the feature that we like best of all in the provision for selling to the highest bidder the lands thrown open for settlement. It will probably be urged that this provision will do away with the economy such sale, consider that have characterized the opening of other reservations. Perhaps it will; but it will also place it within the power of speculators, in their own and others' names, to secure the actual settlers and obtain possession of all the choice lands. The people who should be benefited by the bill, those who want to consider their right of homestead entry and who in good faith are seeking location where they may live and till the soil and rear their families, are by this provision put at a great disadvantage, being of no person who has land to offer a big price for lands, they must put themselves against themselves with some portion of their cash down and could not be able to those who were financially able to enter the competition. Whatever is left after advance payment and sale, they are kindly permitted to go and locate upon under the general land laws.

We point out these objections in the spirit of unfriendliness to the general object of the measure. We hold to the proposition sought to be opened—that they are for benefit for the sake of their present occupants—and we hold they will be. But we think the Indian should have more consideration than to be dumped into some convenient spot regardless of his wants, or whether he will be helped or hurted. We think the policy toward the savages should be liberal, not substantial; and while the bill evidently contemplates the former, it does not seem to us to prevent the latter. Lastly, we might rather the Indians than the speculators should have the lands in question; and any provision contrary to this view, as well as any provision discriminating against the actual settler because he is poor, we feel it our duty to oppose. If the bill is still open to amendment, it can be so changed as to meet with no opposition whatever.

POPULISTS IN OREGON.

Today, March 11th, the Populists of Oregon hold their state convention, preparatory to the election in June next. The delegates will assemble in Oregon City, and expect to put in nomination a full ticket, both for state officers and members of Congress. The chief candidate for nominee for governor, and the one that seems likely to win, is Nathan Pierce, who was the one Populist elected on Oregon's electoral ticket in the presidential campaign of 1892. The present incumbent of the governorship chair, Governor Pennoyer, who has attracted so much attention by his eccentricities, is making a race for the United States Senate, to succeed Senator Dolph.

At present, politics in Oregon is somewhat mixed. If the Populists have not a safe majority in the state they at least hold the balance of power therein and in almost every county. This causes the other parties to be eager to make terms with them. The silver Republicans are willing to sacrifice all else to get one of their number in the Senate to Dolph's successor, while the bulk of the Democrats throughout the state favor a fusion with the Populists and a division of offices. It is not unlikely that the latter arrangement will be made, especially as the Democrats control a friendly feeling toward them on the part of the Populist leaders in 1892, by endorsing Pierce for president that election. The result of the Oregon election will be interesting as showing the trend of feeling among voters on the Pacific coast toward both of the great parties to the nation.

A DESERTED CITY IN MEXICO.

The Mexican Herald, published at the City of Mexico, in its issue of the 6th of March quotes from an exchange an account of the recent discovery of a mountain deserted city, by an English mining man, M. W. Cresswith, who had just arrived at Saltillo, Mexico, from a long circular journey through the Sierra Madre Mountains. Mr. Cresswith started from Colima, near the Pacific coast, to the state of Durango, and he came upon the deserted city about ninety miles west of Lake Colombia, in the very recesses of the Sierra Madre range, where it occupies a level tableland 7,000 feet above the sea level, the table being surrounded by perpendicular cliffs of rock, rising to a height of thousands of feet. The only entrance to the city is through a deep canyon thirty feet wide. Mr. Cresswith says he checked off the number of houses by pacing. The buildings, he says, are constructed of stone and stone containing granite. The brickbats there are very old. Other stones are rough, and are inferior to architecture of things from the structures built by the Aztecs and Spaniards. The streets are narrow, and are laid out in regular order. In the city is a small path, which leads down with rare flowers and tropical vegetation. He found many stone ornaments, but little of value.

It is probable that this story always up to the one alluded to in a late issue of the New York Sun, only that in the latter paper the inventor is described as a citizen of the United States. The Sun points out that the incident tallies marvelously with a local Mexican traditionally with a lost long-forgotten city in that country. Adjoining the state of Sinaloa on the south is the state of Durango, and of this state the city referred to is located. Living in the mountains in Durango, part of the same great range known as "Mother Range" that extends through Sinaloa and farther northward, are the famous Yaqui, a snow-white people with light eyes and almost Caucasian features. Guadalajara is the only village of town that these Yaqui visit, and the Sun says it has long been believed there that the Yaqui possess of the Sierra Madre range contain not only rich mines of silver, but as well the lost city of the Aztec race. No one has hitherto pierced the mountain wilderness, because the other Yaqui have an effective system of passive resistance that has hitherto successfully closed the side door of approach. It is improbable, however, that the southern Yaqui would have the objection to an intelligent expedition undertaken for exploration and research that they would to a swaggering horde bent on conquest; and the Mexican paper partially promises a full and exact description of the interesting "find" in the near future.

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