DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

Wednesday, April 6, 1904

The DESERET EVENING NEWS is published every evening except Sunday, and entered at the Postoffice in Salt Lake City, Utah, as second class matter.

TRUE FAITH IS A GIFT. JOSEPH LEWIS SEC'Y.

The DESERET NEWS WEEKLY NEWS is published on Tuesday and Friday of each week.

The DESERET WEEKLY is published every Wednesday morning.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

Daily (Thursday)	$5.00
Daily (Sunday)	2.00
Daily (Six Days)	4.00
Daily (Three Days)	2.00
Daily (Per Month)	50
Semi-Weekly (Per Month)	25
Semi-Weekly (Per Quarter)	75
Semi-Weekly (Per Year)	3.00
Weekly (Per Month)	25
Weekly (Per Quarter)	75
Weekly (Per Year)	2.00
Deseret Weekly (Per Year)	2.00

Subscribers will find the date to which their subscription is paid on the label of their paper. Subscribers desiring their address changed will please give the name of the office to which their paper is now being sent.

Communications should be addressed to DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

Telephone 929.

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, 1904.

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.

THE OUTLOOK FOR PEACE.

The construction put on the conclusion of a commercial treaty between Russia and Austria, that it is a certain sign of the commencement of an era of peace in Europe and the first step towards disarmament, seems altogether too optimistic to be accepted all at once. It is not in harmony with the attention given to the equipment of the army in Germany for the purpose of making the troops capable of more endurance and swifter marches. Still, France being all but isolated again, the commencement of an aggressive war on the part of that country is out of the question for a long time to come. Germany has nothing to make war about, having secured all that was necessary for her advance to the front rank of the nations, and her foreign policy must be to render her industries flourishing and to strengthen her colonies. But then there is Russia, ever restless, ever aggressive. Just at present that country is engaged in finding an outlet for its vast resources and bringing the interior in contact with the rest of the world through a harbor on the Pacific coast, and also in developing her sparsely settled regions by improved means of communication and otherwise. This is a work for which years are required and a state of peace and tranquility would certainly be most conducive to the accomplishment of these objects.

But the question always remains, Is it to be supposed that Russia has abandoned her desire for Constantinople? If not, the era of peace is yet future. As long as the oriental problem remains unsolved there is always danger of a disturbance, in view of the difficulties involved in this problem and the almost sacred traditions of the house of Romanoff bearing on that subject, the present move of the Russian government would give ground for the assumption that a deep scheme is being evolved, the outcome of which will be the very opposite of peace. For if a combination can be formed between Russia, Germany, Austria and Italy, and some arrangement made satisfactory to these powers, the road to Constantinople would be pretty clear. It is singular, too, that the most terrific thunderclouds of war often burst forth from an apparently clear political sky, as was the case with the last exasperated German-French conflict. A general outlook for peace is therefore by no means a sign that there is no danger in the air.

Without indulging in speculations as to what must or must not happen in the near future, it is safe to say that the long era of peace repeatedly predicted by the wisest men the earth ever had been assured fact. It must come in the fulness as sure as day after night and the beautiful days of spring after the chilly blasts of winter. A catastrophe may reasonably be expected as the climax of the present state of things, but after that peace will surely reign on earth.

MARMOT HOBBINS.

It would appear that the efforts made to direct a movement of special attention to that line it would not be very difficult to get a crowd together of the gardens adjoining that is being designed to set the present time in the city. There is little doubt that the plants and shrubbery are going for the purpose of sale, and it might be preventive of good to know as eye to good vendors of the class of property who are not directly interested in the nursery business. Most of them are, and all of them may be benefited, but the stolen plants go somewhere and the profit on them is so slight that they are not carried far before being disposed of.

He may complain for a dozen to have the work of four or five years in an ornamental garden destroyed in a manner which has been frequent the past few days. Flowering plants, rose bushes, evergreens, and other shrubbery have been dug up in a systematic manner and carried off. Most of the gardens that suffered are located in the outlying part of town, outside of police patrol, and therefore offer a difficulty in detecting the culprits, but a close guard on the disposal of stolen plants would minimize the desire to supply them until the search gets far enough to stop the business. Meanwhile the possessor of choice flower gardens would do well to keep a sharp lookout, and be prepared to give a hot reception to any plant which may be caught going in unbidden calling.

THE FARMERS' THIRST ISL.

No better evidence could be given of the serious importance of the Russian thistle as an agricultural menace, than the attempt that has been made, by bills introduced in Congress, to invoke the aid of the national government against the imported pest. Various kinds of thistles, Canadian and others have flourished in times past without exciting governmental anxiety, and even the ever-present and potential sunflower has not been signalled with so much notice. Indeed, as a general thing weeds of all kinds have been deemed a subject for individual study, but and warfare, no one which should be manipulated and contested with funds from the government treasury. The gravity of danger that is threatened from this new foe will therefore be appreciated when it is remembered that preparations have been made in all seriousness that the work of killing with, resisting and eradicating the invader be done under the government supervision and at government expense.

We believe the Russian thistle has not yet been able to cross the Rocky Mountains, though it has already reached their eastern base and has been detected near Denver. It is only within the last three years that the weed has been heard of to any extent in the United States, the first complaints having been received by the department of agriculture at Washington in the fall of 1898. The dry season of 1899 gave it unusual development, and farmers became thoroughly alarmed at the situation. It made its appearance in the wheat-raising region of the northwest a few years ago, and its worst ravages are still confined to those sections; but as the damage already done by it is estimated at several millions of dollars, and as the thistle is rapidly spreading over new territory and being more destructive to the region already infested, the subject cannot be without interest to agriculturists of our hitherto exempt region.

For a great deal of valuable information concerning the habits and the proposed remedies for the thistle, we are indebted to a late report prepared by the division of botany of the department of agriculture, and submitted by the assistant secretary to the House of Representatives committee on agriculture. The plant is an annual one, easily killed at any time during the growing season. It process to seed before the middle of August or first of September, and the seed is shortlived. It would therefore seem to offer exceptionally good opportunity for being checked or even eliminated. Its limited to smaller its seed, however, it spreads with extraordinary rapidity, far exceeding, in this respect, any weed known in America. A single plant of average size, of two to three feet in diameter and weighing two to four pounds when dry, yields about 25,000 to 50,000 seeds. Plants have been found six feet in diameter and estimated to bear 200,000 seeds. The report mentions that the most effective mode of distribution of the Russian thistle and the one favored by nature, is the wind, and this seems to be, in the absence of good dealing skills, the chief artificial agent of distribution. Railroads form a large and most important means of transportation for the seeds over long distances. There is good evidence that the railroads have carried them in the loading of stock cars. These cars are sent to the stock yards at Indianapolis, Chicago and Sioux City and unloaded, but they are often cleaned with the manure and sent out and have received their contagion to be infected.

The sending of these railway carrying the cattle shipment information suggests inquiry as to the condition of country most generally affected, and the report on this part of the subject is significant, as it is alarming. At the present time all the counties of South Dakota east of the Missouri are infested, nearly counties of North Dakota, and the thistle has taken root in the south, all the plants have crossed to the west side of the Missouri river in all and had appeared in some states. Two counties in Western Minnesota, three in northwestern Iowa and four in northwestern Nebraska are thoroughly infested with the weed. Also, other states can show small outlying areas at most 40,000 square miles which has become more or less infested with the Russian thistle in a comparatively short period of years. There is indeed every reason for alarm, as the railroads of far and as Montana, Wyo., west to Dakota, Colo., and south to the southern border of Nebraska. Where the plant has been found frequently.

Coming to the discussion of a remedy, the report points out that when, as stock cleared, the plant is annual and the seed shortlived, and that the prospect for energy would therefore be comparatively easy, it is noted that any disease to be effective would have conserved some thoroughness of all the infested area. Many are of the opinion that the Russian thistle is a weed of the Russian steppe and it seems to be more and more, by pulling up the young plants they may be kept down and made to leave quality of the plant growth. All the remedies given, the report says, are directed to neither the plant which may produce seed, and those are for any population, or to be known, which are effective of which there which is to any cost, large one in about the seed. It has been suggested that farm labor which fail to do work make a long day work by passing a single row of weed seed about in their cattle manure. This seed would be lost, and for have the plants would develop and not say in to the field, where the seed would be effectively protected against moisture from snow. The feeding of wire fence is only the feeding plants is a remedy strongly advocated by some. Under no circumstances whatever should the cheaper grade of seed be sown without processing.

There is much more in the report that is worthy of study and remembrance, but experiments and investigations are continuing going on, and the importance of the subject gives promise that later information will be imparted in the near future.

THE CLOSE OF THE CENTURY.

In answer to a question as to which year completes the present century, 1900 or 1901, the NEWS says it was the first century was completed with the expiration of the year 100 after the birth of Christ, and not in the year 99, because one year has then 100 years and completes the century. If this is true then 1900 does not complete the nineteenth century. The year last referred therefore to this oriental year and the first year of the twentieth century will be 1901.

Dr. Dwight, nearly a hundred years ago, answered the same question in the following manner:

NEW YORK, Jan. 29, 1799.

SIR—In answer to the question which you propound in our last issue I answer:

First. That in reckoning generally, we adopt a different phraseology from that which is used in all other instances of time. In speaking of a man's age we say, "This is the twenty-first or twenty-second year of his age," or "he is in his twenty-second year," &c.

In speaking of the oriental year, or year of the Christian era, we say, "one hundred and one, two, twenty-one, &c. The years we say "A. D. 1799," and "In the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-nine," and, at the close, "In the seventeen hundred and ninety-ninth year of the Christian era." Consequently the Christian era begins with the unity or first.

Third—The phrases, "The first year" and "The first year" are, I apprehend, exactly equivalent. In counting "one hundred ninety-nine" and "the seventeen hundred and ninety-ninth year, when applied to the present oriental year, are also exactly equivalent.

Fourth—If these observations are true, the present year 1899 will not complete the century.

HONORS FAIRLY WON.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican, "Mark Twain's" famous paper, reached its fiftieth birthday on the 17th of March, and issued a memorial number (twenty-two pages and supplement) in honor of the occasion, and happy indeed being the compliment in view for a man of the Republican of whom it is said that "The Sun shine brightly for years ago than any other paper in the country, by reason of the fact that it contained a series of sparkling letters from Mr. Bowles, who visited Utah in company with Vice President Colfax and spoke and wrote freely concerning his visit to the great West and the home of the Mormons. Without going into serious history, however, the NEWS today is happy to congratulate the Massachusetts contemporary on its long life and profitable career. It is an independent, honest journal, one of the very choicest in American and the observers of Venus and spirit, its courage in blessing wrongs, the breadth and enlightenment of its writers, and the simple, straight forward, good-natured spirit of its correspondence all combine to make it one of the most valuable additions to the exchange table.

IF THE LAST SENTENCE.

Mr. Clarence Arthur Williams, of Zanesville, Ohio, is said to be the only one now living of those who met George Washington. That was about a hundred years ago, when the Father of his Country had retired to private life from the labors as chief magistrate of the nation. Mr. Williams, then a little girl, and her parents were moving from her birthplace, Bucks county, Delaware, to Ohio, to settle in a little village on the Ohio River, where the Indians were Wyo. The family stopped at an inn where General Washington was being entertained for the night. Mr. Williams adds by the kind old gentleman.

Mr. Williams's address under the Adams, and she was born in 1799. The anniversary of her birth will be celebrated by a family reunion in May next, April 8th. Her mind is in full vigor. She has lived in a period of 105 years old. She has lived in a period of 105 years old. She has lived in a period of 105 years old