

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 7, 1900.

THE IMPENDING CAMPAIGN.

The Democratic party has declared itself, and chosen its candidates for the highest offices in the gift of the people. No one will question the faith of the Democracy in the principles set forth in the platform of 1900, or the enthusiasm with which they were received in the national convention. But neither earnestness nor confidence is sufficient evidence of a truth, or enough force to achieve a victory. Similar conviction and zeal were exhibited by the opposition.

The selection of W. J. Bryan at Kansas City was fully anticipated. The gentleman had become so well known throughout the country, and so completely identified with the radical portion of his party, forming an immense majority of the "unaffiliated," and the regard in which he was held by the populace as an honest, outspoken and eloquent advocate of the views he entertains was so high and extensive, that no other person was thought of as the nominee of his party. Similar feelings swayed the Silver Republican and Populist parties. Bryan is, beyond dispute, the ideal candidate of the people in whose name he was nominated.

Whatever opinions may be entertained of the correctness or otherwise of the political doctrines which he stands for, the sincerity of their advocate will not be questioned. He adheres to them with the tenacity of intense conviction, inspired by faith in their ultimate victory. He could not be swayed from them by a hairsbreadth by expediency, nor prevailed upon to conceal them by the thinnest film for the sake of policy. The country knows where he stands, and whether he is regarded as right or wrong, he is admired for his unshakable integrity. The unanimity with which he was nominated is a testimony of his worth as recognized by his followers.

The selection of Adlai Stevenson as nominee for the Vice Presidency, is eminently satisfactory to Democrats generally for several reasons: chiefly because he is the strongest candidate, all things considered, who could have been chosen except David B. Hill. If Hill could have been induced to take the nomination, he would have been a very powerful offset to Roosevelt, and would have been joyfully welcomed by his party throughout the nation. His declination was serious and conclusive and therefore had to be accepted. Mr. Stevenson has served his party before, and also the country, in the position for which he is again presented for popular support. His record is clean. He is a gentleman in every sense of the term, and though ranked with the conservative wing of his party, he is a firm supporter of its platform with all it contains.

As to that document, justice will decide that it is a strong, if lengthy, presentation of the principles and ideas on which it was formulated. The issues before the nation are clearly set forth from the Democratic point of view, and the people who read it are not left in doubt as to the aims and purposes of the party and its leaders. When examined side by side with the declarations of the opposite party, the intelligent voter can readily make his choice, as he can when he carefully compares the opposing candidates.

After a brief rest from the labors of the conventions, the two great political parties will enter vigorously into the active campaign. It will be a mighty struggle. Each side, of course, is or claims to be certain of overwhelming triumph. Candid and unpartisan lookers-on think the contest will be close.

There will be changes on both sides from the course of 1896. Many Silver Republicans who voted for Bryan then, have gone back into the ranks of the regular party. A large number of Democrats who rejected some parts of the Chicago platform, will now support their party and its present candidates. Many members of the smaller political organizations will vote the Democratic ticket, certainly in part, probably in full. The fight therefore will be lively and the result is not a foregone conclusion.

It ought to be conducted, and probably will be in the main, in a rational and gentlemanly manner. Personalities should not be indulged in, and invectives should be excluded. The exact views of opponents instead of caricatures and distortions should be presented, and combated with reason and argument, not with abuse and misrepresentation, which are so common in partisan contentions.

The Deseret News hopes that the cause and the candidates which will best subserve the interests of the whole nation, and lead it forward to its high destiny as the champion of liberty to the world, will win in the political combat which is now about to be waged in the greatest Republic that has ever been established on earth.

BONDS, OR EXTRA TAXES.

The citizens of Salt Lake will have to decide, in a few days, what they will do on the important question that confronts them. On Monday, July 16, they should vote for or against the issuing of bonds in the sum of \$250,000, for the purpose of increasing the water supply of the city and improving its distribution. We have spoken of this matter before, and do so again that the people may obtain a proper understanding of the situation.

There is an objection on the part of the majority of our citizens to running further into debt, and a general prejudice against bonding at all. When they are spoken to about the election, they commence to argue against debt and bonding, and declare themselves opposed to expensive improvements and the expenditure of public money. We desire to call their attention to the real issue before us all.

What we have to decide is, whether we will sanction the issue of the proposed bonds, or pay an extra tax to a large amount this year and perhaps next year. Many exclaim, "We don't want either. We are opposed to both!" Very likely. But that is not the question. They should understand that it is either the bonds or the extra taxes. If they vote down the bonds, the extra tax will be levied. That does not need any special election. The City Council, or a majority of the body, will levy the tax and it will have to be paid, in addition to the regular taxes. That is all there is to this bare question.

Work has been commenced, contracts have been let, the money has to be raised, and the only query is, "how?" We might enter upon the vital importance, the absolute necessity, of securing more water for the city and of providing for its better distribution, but that is not the immediate issue. It is narrowed down now to the one question, Bonds, or special extra taxes; which?

By voting "Bonds, Yes," we place immediate means in the hands of the city authorities to carry out the plans projected, about which more may be said hereafter. By voting "Bonds, No," or neglecting to go to the polls, we leave no option for the council but to levy an extra special tax for the purpose. By voting "Bonds, Yes," we leave part of the burden to be borne for newcomers and posterity, who will share in the benefits. By voting "Bonds, No," we take upon ourselves the whole weight of the expenses and leave those who come after, free enjoyment of these benefits which we impoverish ourselves to supply. By voting "Bonds, Yes," we relieve ourselves of immediate, extra taxes for needed water improvements. By voting "Bonds, No," we bare our backs for the added load, and place in jeopardy the property of the poor, who will not be able to raise the increased amount of the heightened taxes, and may therefore be sold out of house and home.

All the expletives that may be indulged in, and the disputes about the wisdom, propriety and necessity of this movement that may occur, will be so much steam exuded and language wasted. They do not touch the living question—"Bonds or extra taxes?" The Deseret News recommends its readers to look at the matter as it is, and out of two evils to choose the least. If they do, they will go to the polls on Monday, July 16, and vote "Bonds, Yes."

AN INQUIRY DEMANDED.

The account given in another part of this issue of the "News," of a serious blunder on the part of the health department, will strike our citizens as something that demands close investigation. It is bad enough to be quarantined, when there is ground for suspicion that the inmates of the house thus secluded are suffering from, or have been exposed to a contagious disease. The inconvenience to those who are healthy and are prevented from attending to their regular business, is a great deprivation, and it is endured because considered necessary for public protection. But to have the sign of "Smallpox" arbitrarily affixed to a residence, when none of the inmates has any symptoms of the disorder, or of the eruption that goes by that obnoxious name, is an outrage that arouses righteous indignation.

This appears to be the case in the instance of official carelessness recorded in this paper. Whenever there is reason to believe a person has been seized with an infectious disorder, a proper examination should be made at once, the disease professionally diagnosed and its nature determined as nearly as possible. Not until the health officer is satisfied there is reason for such isolation, should the warning flag be raised, and the place quarantined. To do this on a mere rumor or suspicion, against the protest of the people thus shut out from the public, is shameful and injurious to the public, and renders the official thus guilty of haste and incaution liable to a suit for damages.

Haste, rashness, harsh and oppressive measures are not expected of physicians entrusted with the care of the public health, and when exhibited should be met with a rebuff from the proper authorities. Mistakes are liable to be made in every department of public as well as private life. But an error of judgment is vastly different to culpable negligence and tyrannical imposition. This matter requires the most rigid inquiry and prompt measures such as justice may demand.

THE HOBOKEN HORROR.

At the disaster to the French steamer La Bourgogne, a few years ago, the public were shocked by the incidents of brutality told by eye witnesses. People were fighting for their lives, and what so often happens during panics in burning buildings, took place at sea. The weaker were born down by the stronger, in the mad fight for existence. The sailors of the French boat were justly censured in unmeasured terms for their brutality.

But a parallel to those scenes was according to all accounts, enacted in New York, during the Hoboken horror, and those who were guilty of the inhumanity did not even have the ex-

cuse of fighting for their own lives. They simply abandoned their fellow-beings to a horrible death in the flames, because they thought they could earn money by holding on to a hawser and establishing claim to salvage. And so, while human beings were perishing in the flames or in the water and piteously appealing to them for help, they refused to come to the rescue. It is even told of some men on tugs that they asked a certain price of those pleading to be taken on board, and that when there was no money, the wretches were abandoned to their fate.

The stories, when told of American sailors, sound incredible. The matter should be investigated, and if the rumors are found to be without foundation, the public ought to know that it is not pleasant to contemplate that in this highly civilized country, barbarism still holds sway over humanity.

We are always ready to condemn savagery in other countries and continents, but as long as the sun total of the world's brutality is made up considerably from our country, we should be willing to pass lenient judgment upon others. There is ample room for the application of the golden rule, both to national and individual affairs.

THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY.

There is now but little room for doubt as to the situation in China. The rumors of the murder of the foreigners at Peking have been confirmed by, as it seems, reliable dispatches. And the fanaticism appears to be spreading over the northern provinces, as fire in dry prairie grass. The fury of the mob, not satisfied with the blood of the foreigners, is raging against the native Christians, too, and thousands are probably slain.

Those familiar with Chinese conditions state that the anti-foreign sentiment in Peking has never been extinct among the masses of the people. That the ministers and other residents were not murdered long ago, was due to the fear inspired by the government, and the rigid vigilance of the Tsung-Li-Yamen, or the foreign board. If this is so, the massacre is accounted for by the overthrow of the government and the ascendancy to power of the fanatic Tuan, who a short time ago, was made the president of the Tsung-Li-Yamen. The coup d'etat, that seems to have taken place, was the signal to the mob to unleash their murderous knives. They would have done so long ago, but for fear of the severest punishment by their own government.

The awful occurrence is rendered, if possible, still more lamentable by the fact that, as near as can be judged from the dispatches, Japan was in a position to render relief. The victims held the assassins at bay for eighteen days. This is believed to have been ample time for a sufficient army to reach Peking from Japan, but the Tokio government seems to have offered to go to the rescue only on certain conditions, which the jealousy of the other powers would not permit them to accept. While the diplomats, anxious lest one power should obtain an advantage over another, were quibbling about the meaning of terms, such as "joint" and "concurrent" action, time was lost and the crime of the century accomplished. In the entire history of the civilized world there is not another instance of the diplomatic corps thus being abandoned by the powers to its own fate.

But even when this is conceded, the fact remains that the crime committed by the Chinese demands summary punishment. There can be no hesitation now. Germany has given the key note to the concert. The flags of the Occident must supplant the ensign of the dragon on the walls of Peking, and terms of peace must be dictated when the people prostrate and humiliated realize the enormity of the outrage committed.

Unfortunately the United States cannot assume an attitude of inactivity in this crisis. Though we are in no way interested in the land-grabbing schemes of other powers, we are in duty bound to maintain the honor of the flag, and protect the lives of our citizens. Even if it were compatible with our national dignity to give up the "open door" policy, for the sake of avoiding "imperialism," and "entangling alliances," no consideration would justify us in passing by the murder of our representatives to a foreign country. In the present case American men, women and children have been massacred, and probably tortured at Peking, in the very shadow of the imperial palace, where they should have found shelter and protection against the mob. That is an act to be tolerated only by a coward or a weakling.

The massacre can mean but one thing—the destruction of the Chinese empire. The crisis is at hand. Probably good will come as a result of the evil, for over all rules the Supreme Power which shapes the destiny of the world in accordance with its own plans and purposes.

The latest dispatches from Shanghai give news of a more cheerful character. They allege that the legations were still standing on the 3rd of this month. It is to be hoped that this is true, and that the besieged foreigners may be able to hold out until relief can reach them.

Political prophets are plentiful nowadays, and their disagreements show them to be not all of a kind.

If the London cable letter correctly recounts William Waldorf Astor's recent society proceeding, Mr. Astor has not only ceased to be an American, but failed to become a gentleman.

Cuba is being left to the Cubans in good shape. Three regiments of United States troops are now under orders to embark for home as quickly as transportation can be provided.

While the Chinese are very properly condemned for their slaughter of foreigners and native Christians, what is in the way of condemnation for the equally ruthless slaughter of natives in British India, through exorbitant prices of grain?

Some men have been seen digging near Kingston, Canada, and it is said they are in a plot to blow up the penitentiary, where are confined three sup-

posed Fenians. There needs to be something more of the story to make it more than thin air.

The legations were standing on July 3rd, is the latest news from Peking. That is only four days ago, and if the statement was true then, there is hope that they are yet standing. But there seems no hope of relief if the heroic defenders should hold out another month.

The wires bring the soul-sickening news that accounts of the butchery of foreigners in Peking have been confirmed. Yet the dispatches today bring tidings which are the basis of hope that the Chinese mob is yet being successfully resisted. The most pitiable feature of the whole affair is the utter helplessness of the civilized powers to relieve their beleaguered subjects, even if they are still holding out.

Concerning the correct pronunciation of Roosevelt's name, an exchange says that many people pronounce it in two syllables, as though spelled "Rusevelt." In a letter dated October 15, 1882, when he was a candidate for the office which he now fills, he wrote as follows: "My name is pronounced in three syllables, just as if it was spelled Ros-a-velt. The first syllable has the sound as in 'Rose.'"

This country is sending vast quantities of grain to the starving people in India. Yet the American representative who arranged for the distribution of the American contributions says there is plenty of grain in India, but the owners hold it at too high a price. This illustration of the greed of gold which causes the sacrifice of thousands of lives is an awful comment on the humanitarianism of the methods which control in India.

The story now comes that Lord Roberts would not let a division of his army go to China to be led by inexperienced though aristocratic officers. "Little Robs" was willing to go himself and fight Chinamen, but he has known too much of official blundering in the South African campaign to risk his army to incompetent officers in China, where the enemy is not so lamentably deficient in numbers as were the Boers.

The charge is made directly, that Russia, Great Britain, Germany and France are directly responsible for the intense anti-foreign outbreak in China, because of their seizure of Chinese territory. That being the premises in the case, it is not difficult to determine where rests a great share of the responsibility for the atrocities of the past few weeks. And then the alleged delay in holding Japan back, because of international jealousy, from rescuing the foreign legations at Peking, is another black stain on the assumed international morality of Europe.

COMMENTS ON CHINA.

Kansas City Star.

One or more rebellions have been going on in China always, hence the Peking government is less concerned about the present "Boxer" uprising than it would seem it should be, according to European standards. A rebellion in China has no more chance of complete success than a revolution in one state in Europe has power to make all over the continent, from capital to capital.

Chicago Times-Herald.

But in China whatever is done will be done practically in concert, because the rights of all the ministers have been outrageously violated, even if it should appear that the German baron was the only one to be killed. The yellow empire never saw such another day of reckoning as that which it is now bringing on itself by its insane folly.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

According to Admiral Kempf there are now 100,000 of all nationalities in China, an army that would be considered large enough for serious work in any country but China, where the people are so numerous that they might overwhelm a foe by sheer weight of numbers.

Spokane Spokesman Review.

Like a batter reluctant to make the plunge into cold water are the powers in respect to the Chinese situation. They cling to the last to the fiction that the Chinese imperial government may not be responsible for the outrages committed by the Chinese forces arrayed against the international troops. Distrustful of Russia, the powers hug any saving theory that may be the means of patching up a truce. But in the light of Admiral Kempf's dispatch of Saturday, all doubt on this point seems to have been removed. The admiral cables that the Peking relief force was attacked by "imperial troops." Evidently he used that term advisedly, in contradistinction to Boxers or insurgents. Manifestly, if he had intended to convey the information that the relief force had been attacked by Chinese troops acting in defiance of the imperial government, he would have employed the term insurgents, or rebels.

New York Mail and Express.

Even if nothing so serious as a war with the world or as a collision among the western powers comes out of the disturbances in the East, the consequences to China will at best be sufficiently serious. For the damage done to the property of European and American citizens and corporations in China, for the outrages and discomforts which resident foreigners have suffered, and for the costly preparations and operations which have been entailed upon the powers, there will be a bill of expense presented at Peking that will sober the mandarins who have bid the forces of disorder do their worst.

Worcester Spy.

The recently printed interview of Lord Wolsley, commander-in-chief of the British army, relative to China, is most interesting. Lord Wolsley pays a high tribute to the Chinese soldier, saying that all he lacks is modern training to make him the equal of any soldiers on earth. With her 100,000,000 people, her enormous resources of wealth and the thrift and industry of her inhabitants, the British field marshal avers that the Manchu empire possesses every qualification for over-running the world.

San Francisco Chronicle.

That which now seems most probable is that there will be spheres of influence assigned covering the exterior of the empire, comprising all the ports and such part of the back country as may be found possible, and thus bottling up the masses of the Chinese in the interior. In the end they must come to the sea for trade, and the revenue from China will be collected in that way. This the civil-

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led world can do, should it be so agreed, and it can apparently do little more. It is unlikely that for the present anything more will be heard of the proposal to educate the Chinese in the art of modern warfare. It is better for us that they should remain as they are.

Chicago News.

Of course, if it comes to an actual trial of strength between this antiquated empire and the peoples of the Occident, the latter will have every advantage as regards arms and equipment, discipline, and military intelligence. On the other hand, should China's 400,000,000 rise in their exasperation and determine to have done with the world which has brought face to face with a crisis which may be a tragedy or the turning point in the progress of humanity in the coming century. It is the possibilities involved in this curious struggle that make it now of intense interest to all civilized nations.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The current number of Harper's Bazar has these special features: W. D. Howells, "Herodotus of Nineteenth Century Fiction;" "The Preaching of Nature's Sermon," by Margaret Hamilton Welch; "Gardening and Life," by Margaret Bland; "The Child and Its World," by Caroline Benedict Burrell; and sixteen pages of fashion—Harper & Bros., New York.

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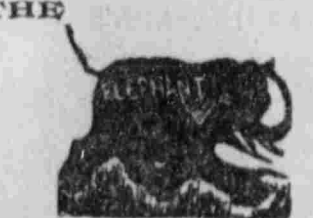


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