DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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TERMS: Single copies, 3 cents. Regular delivery by carrier

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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, 1894.

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 CASE OF WOOL PULLING.

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, submitted by the wool merchants of Boston, bearing some seventy-five names, and endorsed in red ink as "revised and corrected, March 27, 1894," has been received, evidently for publication. The kernel of the recommendation is found in the last paragraph: "We appeal to the Senators and Representatives of the country at large to use their influence and votes against the [sic] wrongs embodied in the so-called Wilson bill or in any similar legislation."

As apology for publishing this memorial, and as explanation for not publishing any more of it, the News, as a non-political paper, begs to say it has a tolerably distinct recollection that some of these same "merchants of Boston" signed a similar memorial and took as equally emphatic stand against the "so-called" McKinley bill two or three years ago, and were merry if not quite as much pleased to the high protection for wool proposed in that measure as they are to the free wool proposed by Mr. Wilson's bill. This recollection forces us to the conclusion that some of the "merchants of Boston" who are so prompt to sign their names to memorials to Congress, are actuated less by principle than by policy, and that, as a matter of fact, it is not the "merchant of Boston" who is affected one way or the other by any tariff or the absence of it on wool.

As to the policy which may have prompted the present protest, it is not, we think, very far to seek. The merchants of Boston do not raise wool, and do not manufacture any. They buy it, and sell it—or, more frequently, instead of buying it outright, they accept it on commission, sell when they get ready or are instructed by the consignor, and remit to the latter his share of the proceeds, after having taken out their charges for storage, insurance, commission, etc. With them the wool business, like any other, is a mere matter of speculation; and whether the price realized on sales is high or low, they usually manage to make themselves safe. But in order to make anything, they must have business to do and goods to handle. Now, if the wool-grower can only be induced to believe the Boston or other friends are really working to protect his interests and make his profits large and sure, he will continue to ship his product as heretofore, taking chances on the price to be obtained. If he gets alarmed, however, and concludes to keep his product at home until the agitation shall settle and the market becomes steady, his Boston and other friends lose his trade and have to resort to some other business to earn their office rent.

The wool season is now about to open. What more natural than that the eastern commission men should begin to flatter and cajole the western producer while the time that they are employing every energy in his behalf, is near thus may carry to fat with him and get his wool safely into their hands again?

If these strictures seem severe, let it be remembered that, as above stated, there was objection to the McKinley bill from the same source that now develops criticism of the Wilson bill. Furthermore, every intelligent wool-grower knows that the general law rules of wool, like that of silver, is the not more to real depreciation to value than to speculative conditions and an altogether "bear" movement. Accepting this fact, there is but one more step to bring him to the point where he can estimate at its true worth the zeal of those who, not as middlemen, and taken up the trading of his neighbor's surplus to supply another man's needs. It isn't given that neither these months, it is the fear that through agitation their business will be curtailed or suspended. And this agitation, whether it seems to look to an increase or decrease in the market price of the commodities handled, they find it always convenient to oppose. We do and think, therefore, the wool merchants of Boston are exactly the kind of champions to realize the world-producers any effective service in the matter of influencing legislation.

WORK FOR A HERCULES.

That was a most nothing rebuke administered by Judge Hoeling to the crowd that gathers daily in the court and corridors and rotunda in order to obtain a glimpse of the two contrast figures in the notorious Pollard-Breckinridge drama, and to feast on the sensational revelations made as the trial proceeds. And the metaphor employed by his honor, when he compared the eager spectators to a lot of hungry wolves waiting for a banquet on a carcass, will be admitted to convey the full truth in an appropriate manner, whatever may be thought of the elegance of the expression. But the rebuke is a task that requires a good deal harder than to the sleepy crowd immediately within the sound of the judge's voice. It bids the million all over the country who, by "circumstances over which they have no control," are prevented from mingling with that crowd, but who eagerly scan the newspapers and devour every line of the immense mental wind-up all the entire from cover to cover, as if the fate of the soul chance were a matter of vital importance to the nation. It is a pretty hard hit, too, calculated to awaken reflection in many minds as to whether the carnival of public morals is desirable. But in this matter, as in so many others, it is much easier to recognize the existence of a deplorable condition than to find a sufficient remedy.

The great majority of people insist upon knowing all the particulars of such things. They will crowd the court room to hear and see for themselves, or they will buy the newspapers that contain the fullest and most piquant reports; some will even pasture sheets where facts, through pictorial representations and highly colored statements, are given with much more embellishment than the naked truth warrants. They never stop to think that by pandering to a craving of this kind again and again the editor is that their own moral taste becomes gradually less refined until it reaches the level of corruption; nor do they remember that such a condition is contributed in some degree to the powerful and that the standard of good taste is by a process of natural law lowered. They may know that these results obtain in the physical world where people enslaved by habits of intemperance and over-indulgence and so on often have their offspring in a condition of physical wreck. But they overlook the fact that the laws of inheritance govern the moral and mental domain with as much force as the physical world, and that the continued pleading to the appetite for the sensational is as fatal to the progress of the human race in the direction of morality and refinement as is the indulgence in strong drinks to the physical development. And many of those who know all this simply do not care to act accordingly. Their moral cowardice must be satisfied, whatever may be the consequences to themselves and to generations yet to born.

All this is deplorable, but where is the remedy? Where is the Hercules who is able to turn the cleansing rivers through the Augean stables that threaten to render the world uninhabitable? Societies are sometimes formed for everything, including suicide; but it would seem that a society for the purification of the public morals by refining the taste in such matters and by creating a demand for a clean public press and really innocent amusements, would find a field worthy the best efforts of the noblest men and women in this and every other country.

TELEPHONE BUSINESS.

Previous mention has been made in these issues—about the time of the expiration of the patent on a part of what the world now knows as the telephone—of the enormous earnings of the company owning and operating this popular convenience since its claims to public favor were first put upon the market as a much put upon. As a money-making for the proprietors, the phone was shown to have achieved almost fabulous success, its dividends raising the few years ago to introduction, running way into the millions. Another instance of its magnitude as a factor in commercial and industrial life is now given in a petition of the Bell Telephone company to the state of Massachusetts for permission to increase its capital stock from $10,000,000 to $20,000,000. The petition sets forth that this company has invested since January 1, 1893, the following amounts in round numbers: Real estate, $3,000,000, underground conduits, conduits and their cables, $14,000,000, overhead equipment and exchanges, $17,000,000; long distance and toll lines, $10,000,000; aggregate sums before 1893, $40,000,000; total, $74,000,000. The company represents 500,000 miles of wire on January 1, 1894, and of this 115,000 miles are underground. Of telephones, 50,000 are now in use; there are 287,000 subscribers, and in 1893 there were 600,000,000 talks with these instruments, nearly 2,000,000 daily. In showing the growth of the business, the statement for 1893 was about as follows: Telephones, 5,000; subscribers, 17,000; miles of wire, 19,714; talks (in 1893), 215,000,000. Over 10,000 persons are now employed by the company."

AN UNFURNISHED POEM.

A. M. Blanchard, of North Ogden, favors the News with the copy of a poem, heretofore unpublished, which he terms as a choice specimen of Zion's poetry, Elias B. Greer Smith. Shortly after his return from Palestine, in 1873 the addressee wrote the poem of Brother Blanchard, who then resided in Springville, and presented the author with a copy of the poem, which the recipient has not given for publication until now. Now that the great excitement has passed from mentality, the News is pleased to give it to the public.

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