

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING
COMPANY, LESSEES.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, \$2.50
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50

IN ADVANCE.

Saturday, . . . May 6, 1893.

THE MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE.

The Sixty-third annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which convened in the Tabernacle in this city on the morning of April 4th and concluded in the Temple yesterday afternoon, April 24th, marks in all respects an extraordinary and important epoch in this dispensation. The occasion will be memorable for many reasons: no conference of the Church has ever been so long protracted—the period of time occupied being exactly three weeks, or twenty-one days; there has never been a conference at which in the aggregate there has been so large an attendance; and, most extraordinary of all, there has been no symptom of weariness or failure in vigor on the part of either authorities, singers or audience, though upon a comparatively few of the former the great weight of the labor was rested; each session seemed to be if anything more interesting than those which had preceded it and there was as much fervor and zeal and as much of the good spirit manifested at the last meeting as at the first. Altogether there have been thirty-seven meetings of the people; thirty-one of these in the Temple, four in the Tabernacle and two (on the second day of the Conference—April 5th) as overflow meetings in the Assembly Hall. In addition to these there have been four Priesthood meetings—one in the Tabernacle before the Temple services began, and three in the latter building, one of these three lasting a whole day; on Friday and Saturday, the 21st and 22nd, there were five meetings specially arranged for and attended by Sunday school children and their teachers. Altogether the Conference has accordingly been made up of forty-six sessions, an average of more than two per day for the whole three weeks.

The attendance cannot be so definitely ascertained, though it may be estimated with reasonable accuracy. The services in the Tabernacle were crowded to the utmost, and even the overflow meetings in the Assembly Hall were insufficient to accommodate all who were desirous to attend. Admission to the dedicatory services in the Temple being by card it would be easy to tell exactly how many persons had attended if each person had been admitted to but one session. Notwithstanding that many were permitted to attend several sessions, and some indeed were required to be present at all of them, it is a very low estimate that enables us to conclude that at least two thousand new faces appeared at each session. The smallest attendance of all was at the evening session of Friday, April 7th, this being arranged to accommodate the overflow from the four previous sessions; but

even then there were 2100 persons in the hall, while on some other occasions more than 2600 have passed through the doors. Taking no account of the Priesthood meetings, and estimating the five children's sessions as being attended by 12,000, half of whom had not attended before, it is a thoroughly conservative calculation to say that the dedicatory services have been attended by 75,000 people.

THE WATERS ARE THREATENING.

Last evening the NEWS took brief notice of the indignation of one resident of the lower part of this city at the manner in which the officials are pretending to cope with the high water difficulty. The gentleman referred to is but one of many who feel themselves not only aggrieved by the indifference with which sound suggestions are received, but imperilled by the incompetence of the men to whose care the important matter seems to have fallen. If there is any method at all in the measures which are being taken to meet the danger, it is method of the maddest and most bungling kind; for the experience of forty years in the treatment of the question continues to be insolently rejected, and the commonest and plainest principles of canalling and drainage are treated with the haughtiest disdain.

Whoever thinks there is no danger to the whole southern and southwestern parts of Salt Lake City in the accumulation of snow in the mountains, in the lateness of the season, and, above all, in the absurdly inadequate means for carrying off the freshets when they come, simply does not understand the situation. If there is an official who is in ignorance thus dense, he ought to invite instruction and be willing to profit by it. The NEWS does not wish to create any needless alarm, but it gives fair warning. There will be floods, there will be immense damage to property, there may be loss of life, and there ought to be good cause for suits for damages unless something effective and radical be at once done to guard against the danger. Men who haven't any more judgment than to fill up the best drain canals we ever had, the very canals indeed which many years' experience proved to be the only ones equal to the emergency, are the men who ought to be superseded in authority before they make any more blunders. Officious watermasters and supervisors, with a mania for throwing up dams here and there at their own sweet will in the vain hope that the water can be thereby induced to run up hill, ought to be given employment elsewhere and remuneration more consistent with their brilliant services.

The time for child's play and experiment is past; common sense is now needed, and with it practical experience. The Tenth South street canal is overflowing its banks already, ruining gardens and sapping foundations; and the high water hasn't even commenced. Given ten days or two weeks of such warm weather as we now have the right to expect, and a torrent would sweep down from the

mountains carrying out all the feeble obstructions in its path and making a vast lake of the southwestern section of the city. For this kind of a diversion, much of which could have been prevented by ordinary prudence, somebody will have a pretty penny to pay.

FRENCH POLITICS.

For three weeks past the French chamber of deputies has been as quiet a place as there is anywhere in civilization. It is not that French statesmen have during that time foregone their disposition to wrangle and bandy hard names, nor because of improved methods having been adopted, but solely on account of the fact that the chamber has been empty during the period named. Today, however, the truce ended and the clans gathered again in the forensic arena, which promises to descend to history in much the same way that the amphitheater at Rome has descended to us.

The cause of the adjournment was that M. Mellin was unable to form a ministry, owing, as is alleged, to his protectionist theories; the task was then assigned to M. Ribot, who after two or three failures succeeded in patching up a "makeshift" sort of cabinet; meantime, we suppose, to avert one of those interminable crises, an adjournment was taken and the Gallic blood was given time and opportunity to cool down.

Now that the deputies have come together again, they will have to work more and quarrel less than usual, or some of the work needed will fail of accomplishment. The time conceded within which appropriations for all purposes can be discussed expires by limitation on the 30th. Before adjournment the budget (appropriation bill) had been amended by the senate and sent back to the deputies for concurrence. As the French government is modeled closely after ours, all matters pertaining to the question of revenue must originate in the lower house, and the point of the senate's jurisdiction having been raised in the deputies will have to be settled before anything else probably. This question was what caused the last dissolution, and it looks as though it might cause another.

French politics is too effervescent in its character to be closely followed or thoroughly understood over here; but it is always interesting when it reaches the boiling point.

THE CASE OF THE JEWS.

After apostatizing from the faith in which he was born and bred and estranging from him the friends of a lifetime in order that a hostile power might be propitiated and he thus be permitted to take an office to which he was appointed, Max Judd finds the gates of Vienna as securely closed against him as before. The Austrian emperor will not grant an exequatur to the appointee, and what the latter has to do now is to swallow his discomfiture with as good grace as possible and look for friends and associates in other fields. He has made the mistake of trading principle for policy, and