DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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Wednesday, June 3, 1896.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

If the value of business is made evident at the time of Mayor Baskin's vetoing of the electric light contract, then it is permissible to say that at the Council session last evening his honor's veto was sustained. It would be more proper, however, to state that the vote was not sufficient—not that it could vacate or set it aside. But the votes were necessary to pave the way for some recommendation on the subject strongly also were attributable. The member, Mr. Stewart, was already for it is not probable that the premium would have changed the result place he is understood to have been opposed to the contract. The new member who was placed on as in favor of the contract, but who cast the lone vote was at the first vote, was Mr. Dobbs. There was a little doubt yesterday as to what action the Council would take, but before the session closed it was generally understood how the vote would be.

One thing may be said of the members who voted in favor of the contract, as we view it they had a positive reliance of the fair and honest of the case as they saw it. When the light dispute first arose the company with which the city had had a contract extended on $10.50 for another term, the Council stood for $6.50 a lamp, and the people backed them. Then a new company made the $5.00 bid—finally the only proposition in right—and the Council voted to accept it. A few votes of them change their votes, giving as reason for the whimsical action—being first on one side and then on the other—which leaves the city in darkness. The case is so delicate that the News prefers not to repeat any of the signification applications that are current as explanations.

We do not believe the city will be lay for any length of time without street lights; such is not the program. There is opportunity now for a company to come in as an open contract, for instance, to begin to furnish light right away at a rate to be hereafter agreed upon, or something of a similar kind. And unless we miss our guess, the old contractors will get the job. Just what procedure will be adopted does not matter—the result is the all important item. If it cheapens the cost to the city, all right; if it does not accomplish this for the entire period of two years covered by the defeated contract—even if it does no better and no worse than would have been done under the latter—then the reason for discrimination shown, if any there be, will be more generally understood.

The light companies are not to blame for getting the most profitable terms they can. But outside of this particular item the community by watch municipal expenses are being steadily increased until the spirit of economy made a few months ago has become a mockery in practice, casts its shadow over too many of the city's transactions and arouses suspicions in the minds of the taxpayers which the News, as a friend to the welfare of the community, regrets it is unable to allay.

WEATHER BUREAU AND STORMS.

The government weather bureau is out with a chart on the tornadoes of the central Mississippi valley May 27. It gives the general distribution of pressure and weather conditions which prevailed over the central valleys and generally throughout the region east of the Rocky Mountains twenty-four hours previous to the destructive storms which occurred in the central Mississippi valley the evening of the 27th. It shows how the depression followed the disturbance which resulted in the St. Louis cyclone, and also under the warning line was sent out from the Chicago office on the morning of the 27th, predicting severe local storms in the lower Missouri valley and south and west Illinois and Iowa that night, and announcing dangerous conditions in the localities named. For the section of Missouri caught by the storm the 8 a.m. bulletin on that day stated that the storms were "likely to become destructive character."

While there is no claim of absolute certainty as to the time and immediate locality of storms predicted by the weather bureau, because local meteorologic conditions cause variations that cannot be discovered by logical methods of observation, generally speaking these predictions meet with almost remarkable fulfillment. On the 27th, and on numerous previous occasions, lake excursions have been cancelled, engagements abandoned, money in pockets of safety, thereby avoiding much loss of life and property. It is but just that for the special protection from the weather bureau on the morning of May 27th it is reasonably certain that the loss of life and property would have been much more severe. As it was, there were very few casualties in the lake region, where the wind range was not considered yet to be heavy, because crews of vessels, at the most risk, heeded the warning. When people whose business is on land who are mindful of the weather bureau storm signals as those who navigate the lakes and coast waters, the loss of life may be less than other-wise, more it is not possible to prominently away from the service of those that gives a warning as to its proper pathway. But the good that is now accomplished by the weather signals referred to is of greater extent than most people realize and appreciate.

THE CAUSE IS GONE.

The Kansas City Democratic convention of Logan on Monday adopted among its resolutions the following, which makes quite interesting to the Chicago:

In addition to the usual resolutions on behalf of the Democratic Party, we do now declare and proclaim our adherence to the principles of the Democratic platform of 1892 and 1893 as interpreted by the action of the Democratic party in congress, which we have never abandoned or disowned, and which we now reaffirm, and we declare it to be the duty of the Democratic party in congress assembled to carry out the platform of 1892 in all its integrity.

The significance attaching to the Kansas City action is in regard to the effort that a political party is not the interpreter of principles of an old standing tradition, is a very proper one. The course in the Senate—called a coalition by the republican opposition—which the business of Chicago takes in that relationship. It does not affect the policies of any party, but leaves him perfectly free to take any political action he chooses, placed in the matter no restriction whatever therein. It also merely resolves to his allegiance to the Chicago, as a Chicago member, and as more—his position is not to question at all. Hence all attempts of politicians to "interpret" the address would be trenching on the ground of Chicago members, which towards the resolution quoted is a declaration against.

SILVER IN CHICAGO.

The free silver advocates generally are very sanguine of success in the Democratic convention in Chicago next month, and many believe that a declaration for the white metal, and a candidate who will stand squarely on a free silver platform, are a foregone conclusion. The Lincoln Sunshine, a staunch free silver Democratic paper, does not, however, feel so certain of the outcome. It calls attention to the fact that so far less than half the delegates have been elected, so that it is practically too much for the friends of silver to be claiming as a matter of fact that they will control that body. About 600 delegates have been elected, and, as the Boomerang finds the figures, about 200 of these are for silver and 175 for gold. A majority of the convention is 456, so it will be seen that the silver force have not yet all the time necessary to shape the policy of the Democrats in the United States. They are greatly encouraged by the announcement that Kentucky will send silver delegates to Chicago, but there are many populous eastern and southern states which have not yet held their conventions, and which may make very material changes in the figures heretofore given as estimate. The uncertainty of the situation makes it very interesting.

OLD PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

A German statistician, says the Buffalo Commercial, has studied the census returns of Europe and found among other things that the highest civilization apparently does not produce the greatest longevity. His figures are quite interesting. He shows that the German empire, with 52,000,000 inhabitants has 24 persons who are more than 100 years old. France, with fewer than 40,000,000, has 212 persons who have passed their 100th birthdays. England has 140, Ireland, 676, Scotland, 89, Denmark, 2, Belgium, 3, Sweden, 10, and Norway, with 2,000,000 inhabitants, 25. Switzerland does not boast exceptional longevity, but Spain with but 16,000,000 population, has 49.

Turning to the Balkan peninsula where the mode of living is comparatively primitive he finds that Servia has 172 people who are more than 100 years old; Roumania 1,364, and Bulgaria 1,865. In other words, Bulgaria has a centenarian for every 1,000 inhabitants, and thus holds the international record for old inhabitants. In 1892 alone there died in Bulgaria 5,000 persons of more than 100 years. In the Italian peninsula, however, a person is not regarded as the origin of the grave the moment he becomes a centenarian. For instance, in Sicily there were in 1890 some 500 persons between 100 and 110 years, 125 between 110 and 115, and 18 between 120 and 125. There were between 125 and 130 the oldest men now living, the Sicilian statisticians says, is Simon Cotton, a negro born in Africa, and now resident in Rio Janeiro. Going on his years old. Next to him comes perhaps a negro Mandrake colonel, Jonas Stanley, who is in his 140th year. The oldest woman in the world is 135 years old, but he neglects to give her name or address.

A SYNAGOGUE OF JUDAH.

The talk about the conversion of the synagogue of Judah with Jerusalem as the capital has been revived in Europe. It is said that the Turkish government would be willing to cede the sacred country of Palestine—a small area with a population of 500,000 people—to Israel as a reward for the services rendered by the Israelites in the Jews, Baron de Hirsch, who is to be made a baron, and he is mentioned as a probable candidate for the prospective throne. There are quite a few Jews who object to the revival of a new-

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