DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

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EXCUSE US!

If it was any other time than the last week of an election campaign, and if the motives of the News would not be liable to misconstruction, we should like to say a few words concerning two classes of officers for whom the people are expected to vote next Tuesday. We refer to the men who are to be chosen to occupy positions upon the bench, and to the men who are to be chosen to stand at the head of the public schools. If there is any conceivable reason why politics should play a part in the selection of these men, or why they should debate one with another as to the relative merits of the governmental policies of their respective parties, we have never found it out, or been informed of it. On the contrary, it would seem that partisan aggressiveness and activity on the part of any such candidate ought to constitute a bar to his selection; for surely no citizen desires to see either the judicial or the educational department of the state dragged into the arena of heated and bitter political contest, or expects acts of blind and compulsatory party allegiance from those who are elected; if any nominee himself intends to render such service, it is a warning in advance that he ought to be defeated. Hence the News, occupying as it does an independent position and being allied with and partial to neither political party, wants its to advise that the best men, regardless of party affiliations or past or present campaign energy—the men who are of approved ability, fitness and experience—should receive the votes of the people. But, as stated in the beginning, the day of the election is so near, and any motives of the News at this particular time are so liable to be misunderstood, that we probably would do better to say nothing about it, and let both the people and the politicians do as they please without a word of suggestion from us.

HALLOWE'ES.

Hallowe'en, observed on October 31st, the evening before All Saints' day, is undoubtedly, as far as many of its peculiar customs and observances are concerned, a reminiscence of paganism. The Germanic nations as well as the Celtic had their lines of witches and fairies and demons and other invisible beings, and they seemed to think that the power of these was manifest particularly during the passing of the seasons from spring to summer and from fall to winter. The market changes to which all nature at these times is subject may have suggested this belief, and also the peculiar practices by which communication with the supernatural beings was sought for purposes of divination or even supplication.

With the introduction of Christianity the pagan notions were denounced. Church holidays were instituted, but it is apparent all through the Christian world that the old ideas were unconsciously carried over and transplanted into the new institutions. The old names were exterminated, but not the old nothing; new names were invented, but the old spirit found refuge into the new forms. The Germans kept their Johannisfeuer or their Osterfeuer, and in Scotland and elsewhere the Hallowe'en still remained the evening of fairies and witches with the bonfires at night.

Nor is this surprising when it is remembered that the so-called mother-church set the example. All Saints' day originated seemingly in a pagan idea. As early as a quarter of a century before our era, Marcus Agrippa erected a temple, the Pantheon, in honor of Jupiter and all the other gods of the ancient mythology. The eastern churches in the fourth century, as if under an impulse to imitate this feature of paganism, set apart the first day of November as a festival in honor of all the angels and the departed saints, and in the seventh century Pope Boniface IV set the official seal of the church upon this festival by dedicating Agrippa's famous Pantheon to the worship of God under the invocation of the Virgin Mary and all the saints. The old gods and canted heroes of Rome were dethroned and their places supposedly filled with the departed men and women of fame in the church, but the Pantheon was the same, and so were many of the popular ideas of which that structure was an embodiment. The festival became general in the ninth century, and was retained in the Protestant Episcopal and Lutheran churches, although these discarded the Romish doctrine of "saints."

Hallowe'en, therefore, is the evening preceding the day dedicated to all who are "hallowed" or holy, that is the departed "saints," although the signification of it, if it still retains any, is that of a grand anniversary of fairies, demons and canny mischief-makers from an unseen world.

The festival is widely observed in English-speaking countries, and it is taken advantage of for games that are considered peculiar to that season. Formerly, one of the ceremonies of Hallowe'en required the young people to go out hand in hand, their eyes shut, and pull the first stock of kale they happened to find. If it were straight, the finder might be assured of a happy marriage. If a little earth clung to the root, fortune was foreshadowed. Girls on that evening would take a candle, go to the mirror and comb their hair while eating an apple. After looking intently in the glass, they would see their future husbands peer over their shoulders. Another ardent girl would subject themselves to wet to go to the barn entirely alone. There, standing in the middle of the threshing floor, they would hold a vessel in the air, as if pouring oats, for the wind to winnow. Presently the future husband would come and pass through the barn. According to another custom, the girls would go to a stream running south and dip the left sleeve of the dress in the water. The garment was then hung up before a fire to dry. About midnight the figure of the future husband would appear and go to the garment and turn it, as if to dry the other side.

The married women, too, had their amusement. The wife would sit at the fire and place nuts on the logs, each nut being named for a lad and lass, and lets in pairs, and as the nuts burned steadily or rolled apart with the heat of the flame, the future was outlined. If a nut popped open with a report, it meant the someone would by his bad temper make things uncomfortable for the partner.

The evening was, ladies, spent
Wi' merry songs and friendly cracks,
And some kiss and many jokes,

and that is about all that remains of it to this day.

AUTOGRAPHS WANTED.

In another part of this evening's NEWS will be found a card from Mr. John R. Wilson, the designer and maker of the novel "State table" of which frequent mention has been made in these columns, inviting certain persons to send their autographs to him in order that they may occupy a place in the table. The idea of the whole affair is unique, and it is deserving of continued encouragement. The top of the table will be composed of tile of wood from the various states of the Union, while the four legs will come from cities representing the extreme cardinal points of the Republic. Beneath the top will be the space in which it is intended to place the Utah Constitution and the autographs of the candidates for office at the first election held under it. In addition to these, it is desired to obtain as many autographs as possible from old settlers—those who came to Utah when the new State was an unredeemed part of the desert, and who have watched and helped in its growth from these conditions to present greatness. The compartment in the table which contains these papers will be permanently closed up when the piece is finished, and can only then be opened by destroying it. The NEWS takes pleasure in stating Mr. Wilson's desires and circulating his invitation and hopes the latter will be promptly and generously responded to.

ANOTHER WONDER OF THE WORLD.

The proposed North River bridge across the Hudson river, says the Scientific American, is the greatest engineering undertaking in the world. A board of officers of the corps of engineers has recently been appointed to investigate and report their conclusions as to the maximum length of span practicable for suspension bridges, and consistent with an amount of traffic probably sufficient to warrant the expense of construction."

Working upon the data furnished, the board has calculated the amount and weight of material needed as well as the cost of a steel suspension bridge 3,200 feet long as follows: Suspended weights, in pounds, 80,870,000; towers, 52,213,000; chains and anchor plates, 19,324,000, or a total of 151,407,000 pounds at a cost of $5,482,000. To this come main cables and wrappings, and backstays with wrappings at a total weight of 56,840,000 pounds and costing $3,942,000; the cost of superstructure and foundations is further estimated at $11,794,000, making a grand total of $22,186,540 as the estimated cost of the structure.

Should this bridge be built, it would far eclipse any of the so-called seven wonders of the world, that once so strongly appealed to the ancients. The greatest of the pyramids of Egypt would be more than equaled in cubic quantity by the united mass of masonry that must be constructed on the shores to resist the enormous pull of the 10 cables. The four steel towers that carry these cables will each overtop the lofty Washington monument and be exceeded in height only by the Eiffel tower in Paris. Looked at from another point of view, it will certainly be more useful, and consequently more worthy the present age than that Parisian monument of engineering skill, inasmuch as the latter is but merely a spectacular object, more curious than anything else.

The bridge is calculated to carry, at a height of 150 feet above the river, seventeen heavily loaded freight trains, which, if strung out, would form a line two miles long and weigh 28,000 tons, and yet be able to resist a windstorm that would endanger many of the buildings in New York City. It is evident that the difficulties to be overcome in the construction of this mammoth bridge are immense, yet so far has engineering skill advanced that the work can be undertaken with absolute safety, and it is, too, without disregard for the requirements of beauty and elegance in the outlines.

THE BIKE IN THE SIGNAL SERVICE.

Bradstreet's for October 26th reports the receipt of testimony as to the utility of bicycles from unexpected quarters. In his annual report General Greely, chief of the signal service, speaks of the advantages derived from the use of the wheel in repairing the telegraph lines. In one case a break on the line was reached two miles from the station in twenty minutes—less time than would have been consumed in obtaining a mount. At another station, Taylor's Ranch, Utah, (wherever that may be) the bicycle has resulted in a single year in a greater saving to the government than the cost of the machine. It appears that the question of reeling out and recovering wire and output cable by bicycle automatically has been settled, and the signal corps now has a bicycle equipped with an automatic reel for the purpose that works perfectly. The same automatic device is now being fitted to an output cable cart, three of which have been ordered, from which are confidently anticipated good results, as in the case of the bicycle. This will give the signal corps an equipment superior to that of any other country for rapidly paying out and taking up a line, the operators being at all times in communication with the base. Each section of the field train will eventually be supplied with bicycles and cable carts fitted with automatic devices.

AT ITS best comes the town of Fort Deposit, Alabama, has 500 inhabitants, but if it has been doing as well since 1890 as it did last week, those figures are a wild delusion. On Tuesday Mrs. Heimer, wife of a merchant, gave birth to three children, one girl and two boys; the following day Mrs. Hunter, the wife of a farmer, followed her lead, but changed the suit to three bouncing boys, and on Friday a woman aptly named Mrs. Champion, broke the record by giving birth to four children, two girls and two boys. The mothers and all of the children at last reports were doing well.

WITH ONLY four more working days before the election, the gentle voter must keep his eyes open for tricks, rumors and falsehoods. They will crop up everywhere, will receive extensive and vicious circulation, and will appear so plausible in many respects as to deceive the most conservative. Be warned against them, and keep cool!

DIRECTOR PREVOST'S annual estimates of $200,000,000 as the gold production for the year is an increase of $20,000,000 over the official estimates for last year. The increase in the production of American gold reaches $6,500,000 for the year. The largest foreign increase is in South African production.

FROM THE Plaw to the United States Senate. This is one of the stories of next Saturday's NEWS. It is the story of Senator Cullom, of Illinois, told by himself.

The Ideal Pancea.

James L. Fraser, Alderman, Chicago, says: "I regard Dr. King's New Discovery as the Ideal Pancea for Coughs, Colds and Lung Complaints, having used it in my family for the last five years, to the exclusion of physician's prescriptions or other preparations."

Rev. John Burgus, Keokuk, Iowa, writes: "I have been a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 50 years of more, and have never found anything so beneficial, or that gave me such speedy relief as Dr. King's New Discovery." Try this Ideal Cough Remedy now. Trial Bottles Free at Z. C. M. I. drug department.

It May Do as Much for You.

Mr. Fred Miller, of Irving, Illinois, writes that he had a Severe Kidney trouble for many years, with severe pains in his back and also that his bladder was affected. He tried many to relief Kidney cures but without any good result. About a year ago he began use of Electric Bitters and found relief at once. Electric Bitters is specially adapted to cure of all Kidney and Liver troubles and often gives almost instant relief. One trial will prove our statement. Price only 50c. At Z. C. M. I. drug department.

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Auction! Auction!

On Thursday, October 31, at 10:30 a. m., No. 403 S. West Temple Street, house of 6 rooms of furniture and carpets, lawn mower, tools, earl and tools about the barn and a wood shop gun.

R. A. ANDREWS, Auctioneer.

Beecham's pills are for bilious ness, bilious headache, dyspepsia, heartburn, torpid liver, dizziness, sick headache, bad taste in the mouth, coated tongue, loss of appetite, sallow skin, etc., when caused by constipation; and constipation is the most frequent cause of all of them.

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Prices: Night, $1.50, $1, 75, 50 cents. Gallery and Boys, 25. Matinee, $1, 75, 50, 25 cents. Box and stages, $2.00.
Sale of seats begins Thursday, October 31st.

NEXT ATTRACTIONS.

Wednesday, November 6th

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