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SALT LAKE CITY, AUGUST 13, 1900.

## THE REGISTRATION LAW.

In another part of the "News" is a communication on the State registration law, in which the writer figures out inconsistency in the time allowed to secure a proper list of all the qualified electors in the State. He also points out that it is poor public economy to pluck the time down as has been done, and throw the burden of so many waste hours on the citizen, whereas the process of government should be for his benefit and convenience, since he pays the expense, and ought to have the privilege of doing it in the way most economical to him.

The "News" quite agrees with our correspondent that the law giving such limited time for a general registration of voters should be changed, both as to the period of such registration and its method. The enactment was a mistake, which we believe will be fully demonstrated by one experiment. This paper objected to the provision when it was presented, believing it inadvisable, and our view is not changed from three years ago. But legislators, as well as other people, are liable to make mistakes, and when experience reveals these they must be corrected.

Meanwhile we have the law, and must proceed under it. There is a modification of the figures of our correspondent that will help a little, in the fact that not all election districts, or many of them, have three hundred voters. Because of this, the difficulty will not be so great. And as the electors now have a condition to face, the most proper thing they can do is to walk up like men and women and make the best of it. We believe that if the electors will display a fair measure of good-tempered energy in getting to the registrars' offices, those officials will be found so uniformly obliging, courteous and competent that very few, if any, who want their names on the registration list will be unable to get them there through any official failure.

## CHINESE PEACE OVERTURES.

The latest development in the Chinese embroglio is the appointment by the Chinese emperor of the shrewd Li Hung Chang as an envoy plenipotentiary to negotiate peace with the western powers. The edict by which the appointment is made sets forth that there has been some "misunderstanding on the part of the foreign nations," and also a "want of proper management on the part of the local authorities," followed by a clash of arms and the rupture of the friendly relations. The government, therefore, instructs the old statesman to propose an immediate cessation of hostile demonstrations, with a view to the commencement of negotiations to settle whatever questions may have arisen.

The remarkable feature of this proposition is that it comes in apparent disregard of the demands made by the United States and the other powers, for the safe delivery of the ambassadors before any overtures can be listened to as to other questions. The Chinese government has been made to understand that the hostile demonstrations must be continued until the foreigners at Peking are safe. The emphasis with which this demand has been made can admit of no doubt as to its sincerity. But the Oriental mind is peculiar.

When the appointment is considered in the light of the facts, that two numbers of the Chinese foreign band have been killed for expressing friendly sentiment toward the foreigners, that government troops are still reported as firing upon the legation and killing its defenders, and that communication between the legation and the outside world is still far from perfectly free, the proposition does not appear to be dictated by a desire to right the wrong already committed. It looks rather like another attempt to gain time. We do not believe there will be any cessation of hostilities on any verbal assurances of the Chinese emperor that China has been "misunderstood." Li Hung Chang has previously declared that imperial decrees have rendered further action of the allies unnecessary, but his statements have been contradicted by such dispatches as have been permitted to reach the world. The "allies" have taken no notice of such statements.

There is, it appears, no alternative but to continue the march on Peking. When the foreign troops are masters there, the mystery that still surrounds the situation will be cleared up. When that is done, one of the first concerns of the foreigners should be by means of suitable literature to inform the masses of China of the true status of affairs. As it is the people very generally believe in the fiction that the Peking government is the central power on earth, and that all others are tributaries of that power. It follows that they consider the foreign invasion as a "rebellion" against the so-called "son of heaven," the Chinese emperor.

With this fiction punctured, it would be easier in the future to deal with China. The emperor himself should

be made to acknowledge the truth to his millions of subjects. An imperial edict would do much toward dispelling the strange illusion that has been kept up too long.

Then the various provinces might be given autonomy under viceroys recognized by the civilized powers. It has been asserted that every 700 years an invasion by Mongolians is due in Europe, and that during the next century another invasion may be expected. There may not at present be an Attila or a Genghis Khan to threaten the world, but the only safe way to avert such a calamity would be to break up the immense Mongolian empire in smaller states, which would be subject to diplomatic control, in the interest of the peace and the commerce of the world.

## COUNT VON WALTHERSEE.

The appointment of Count von Walthersee to the position of commander-in-chief of the foreign forces in China is generally looked upon as satisfactory. He is one of the most distinguished soldiers of the German nation. He is about 65 years old, and is a veteran of two of the great wars of this century—the wars of Prussia against Austria and against France.

In the latter conflict he attracted the attention of Von Moltke, and when the latter was retired, Von Walthersee succeeded him as chief of the German army. He was mentioned as the probable successor of Bismarck as chancellor of the realm, but he declined this position on account of his lack of experience.

There can be no doubt that the Chinese campaign under this leadership will be conducted with skill and effect. Germany is very much interested in the outcome, since one of her ambassadors was murdered in cold blood in the streets of Peking, and this consideration alone would count in the selection of a military leader. But there were, no doubt, other considerations, too. Germany's emperor has declared his policy to be a war of revenge and retaliation, and this seems to meet the tacit approval of the other European powers. Had a majority been in favor of the American policy, an American would have been preferred for commander-in-chief. At least, the appointment has the appearance of a sanction of the policy of Germany.

## MOUNTAIN AND FOREST FIRES.

An immense amount of damage is being done by the mountain and forest fires in this vicinity and in other parts of the West. The long-continued dry spell has made trees, underbrush and grass crisp and dry, so that when a fire starts it spreads rapidly, consuming grass and timber, and denuding the ground of vegetation so that it will require a generation or more to replace it in a condition as good as before the burning. The effect of this destruction is not only injurious in the loss of timber and grazing, but in the ill-effect it will have on the rainfall for a long time to come.

The causes of these fires are varied. In most instances, the blazes are started by careless campers-out, whose neglect of proper care under the circumstances amounts to a criminal culpability against the public interests. Another source of destruction is mentioned by the Eastern Utah Advocate, in referring to the disastrous fires on the Indian reservation. In almost every canyon in that locality, extensive fires are raging, hundreds of acres having been devastated, with a prospect that further great destruction will ensue. The Advocate says it is understood the fires having been started in order to clear the land of the underbrush and at the same time kill the trees, as the government allows the privilege of using the dead timber. If forest fires have been started with this motive, the parties who have been guilty of such despicable work should be given a term in prison for their wrongdoing.

Perhaps some of the extensive fires are the work of spontaneous combustion, in the peculiar circumstances of the season. But not all are so; and there should be something to lessen the number of those caused through neglect. There are hundreds of people who will yet go into the mountains as campers; and as good citizens each of these should be sufficiently interested in the general welfare to avoid carelessness that may add to a disaster already too extensive. In the meantime, the hope is for a series of drenching rainstorms that will render conditions less favorable for extended conflagrations, and will extinguish the mountain and forest fires now burning.

## WHAT IS COMING.

The Chinese imperial troops are making war on the foreign legations in Peking. That is the latest news from United States Minister Conger. It is evident that the ruling powers in the Peking government, incensed at the refusal of the ministers to trust themselves to a Chinese escort, which meant certain death, are now determined to slaughter all the legations. The latter are in desperate straits, hard pressed by a numerous foe, and short of food and ammunition. But they will hold out to the end.

Will they be slain? Possibly so. And if they are the last official news this government has is that the Chinese imperial forces are culpable—that the Chinese government is making the war. And China will have to answer for it. If the legations should be rescued, as is yet a possibility, and even a probability since the flight of Chinese after the battle of Yang Tsin, the condition remains the same—the imperial government has made war, and it will require great care for this country to come out clear.

If the legations be yet alive, they must be almost within hearing distance of the guns of the allied column. Several days may yet elapse before the allies can cover the thirty miles or so that separates them, but the distance will be covered. The internationals are being heavily reinforced, and will lose no time. There is yet strong hope that the allied column will hurl aside the imperial forces attacking the legations, at least sufficiently to rescue those yet living.

But when that is done, the war is not

over. By Oct. 1st, there will be a quarter of a million foreign troops in China, and they will not be kept idle. Their presence there portends an ominous possibility as a result of the Chinese government's exploit.

In the trend of events the past few years, and emphasized by recent occurrences, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that a very serious trouble is close ahead. International conditions have grown worse each succeeding year, with no panacea to cause improvement. The peace conference at The Hague afforded a theoretical hope for checking the world's tendency to war, but it gave no real relief. The high moral stand taken by America may keep this nation out of a lasting and serious foreign trouble, but the other powers do not assume the same position, and are drifting on to terrible war. There is no denying the fact that trouble, great trouble, such as modern nations have not known, is coming. Indications are that but a few years ahead and only in this country will there be peace till a great international smashup occurs. May the government leaders in this country have wisdom and power to maintain the policy that keeps them out of being embroiled in the quarrels which rack the Old World almost to destruction.

## TRUTH IN POLITICS.

To the young man or woman who comes to this country and attains the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, it becomes, at some time or another, an all-important question what political party to belong to. The matter of casting a vote on one side or another, whether for municipal, State, or national officers, is no trifling, except to the uninformed, the frivolous or the unscrupulous, in whose hands the ballot is hardly to be considered safe. The exercise of the duties of citizenship should be considered a sacred trust, not to be trifled with.

He or she who wishes to vote with full knowledge of what they are doing should in the first place endeavor to master the principles about which the different parties contend. Truth is eternal. It does not change from day to day. Circumstances may change and necessitate deviations from the onward course from time to time. The skillful pilot encountering hidden or visible rocks will turn now to the right and now to the left on his winding road along a dangerous coast. But his course is set. His goal is one. It is so with the principles that should govern in public, as well as private life. If they are true they are the same today as yesterday, and remain so for ever, because they are founded in honesty, purity and truth.

To grasp these principles, American history and American institutions should be carefully studied. This history furnishes the key to most of the questions that divide one party from another. These institutions suggest the way in which the key is to be applied.

One thing should always be borne in mind. In political controversy, as in religious discussions, there is ample room for courtesy, toleration, and that broadmindedness which permits one to see even in an opponent an honest gentleman. No one has a monopoly on truth and honesty. To all good citizens the public welfare is paramount. In the degree they are striving to advance that, they are entitled to the respect of all other good citizens, even if some of them believe they have a surer and more direct way of reaching the same goal. "All roads finally lead to Rome." There should be no necessity for ill-feeling on any of them.

## HARD WORK FOR CHILDREN.

Frequently we hear of wonderful accomplishments by children, when they are put under necessity. Here is one told in the Beloit, Kansas, Gazette:

"A remarkable story comes to us of a year's work done by a couple of Bloomfield township children. Notwithstanding the fact that he is an invalid, T. J. Duncan rented 100 acres of wheat ground last fall, and his children a girl of 16 years of age and a boy 14 years old, plowed the ground with riding plows, the girl harvested it, and the boy followed with the drill. A man was hired to run the harrow, the children doing most of the balance of the work. The threshing has been completed and the 100 acres yielded 4,000 bushels of sixty-one-pound wheat."

Such an attainment by a girl and boy, with the assistance indicated, borders on the marvelous for their powers of physical endurance. Certainly they were worked altogether too hard for persons of their age. But the results give a lesson of return for diligent work which might be an incentive to some young people to perform much more labor than they do at present.

We are opposed to such burdensome labor as causes young people, or older ones either, to drudge, drudge day in and day out; though many people are under the necessity of doing it. But we are sincerely of the opinion that if hundreds of young folks who are now to be seen wasting their time in idleness in this and other larger cities of the State were placed under the necessity of doing some hard work for a living, it would be a blessing to them. Parents make a blunder when they work themselves almost to death to rear their children in idleness. The wise man's saying, "Train up a child in the way he should go," means training him up to a reasonable amount of respectable labor, that he should continue therein, and not be an idler; for the latter is anything but a blessing to himself or the community.

China is suing for peace. Unless it is careful the response will be peace.

Russia is coming down from the north, and neither China nor the other nations should fail to recognize the fact.

The Chinese have shown themselves great as butchers; but as fighters they are so badly managed as to appear despicable in the sight of civilized troops.

Those nations that stored Japan from giving China a few stripes more in the war of 1894 now wish they had minded their own affairs a little longer.

The deadly race crossing is claiming more victims. If there is one branch of railway legislation which needs attention, it is that which allows unprotected grade crossings on public highways.

It took a "stroke of lightning" to break the hot spell in New York, and several people were killed in the break. The loss is regrettable, but the change in weather is a great relief.

The prospect of saving the surviving foreigners in Peking grows more hopeful. The Chinese government is getting through its head the fact that it will not be safe to produce any other result.

Minister Conger says he will "hold on" in Peking till Gen. Chaffee gets there. The plucky minister may be sure that the hero of El Caney will lose no time in accomplishing anything possible to the force under his command.

No you don't China! Peace talk is all right after the legationers are released. But neither Li Hung Chang nor any other Chinaman can get a peace conference while Chinese guns are trained on American representatives in Peking.

Japan is most gracious to the United States. She has consented to allow American soldiers and their animals in transit to China, to embark at Nagasaki if necessary. It is only another act showing how thoroughly modernized and civilized she has become.

France has replied to China's criticism on the foreign ministers refusing to leave Peking under a Chinese escort. The Mongolian is given to understand that France stands by her minister—a very proper course to pursue under the circumstances. The Chinaman will learn that whatever else he can do in safety, he cannot play double with the more civilized powers.

As anticipated in the "News," the result of the allied advance from Tien Tsin has brought from China a proposal for peace. The worst thing the internationals could have done would have been to hesitate. Their pluck and determination in going ahead materially increased the hope of saving the besieged legationers. The result is another evidence of American foresight in dealing with Chinese character. The relief force must go on.

There is no alliance between the United States and Great Britain, and no need of it. When the interests of the two nations are identical, as in the case of rescuing the foreigners from their perilous situation in Peking, the genuine friendliness and good sense of the two nations enable them to work in perfect harmony, which would not be improved by an alliance; and when their interests are separate a combination would be out of place. Uncle Sam's policy of no entangling alliances is all right.

Some people are trying to make a stir about the United States yielding to Great Britain in the Alaska controversy, because a temporary arrangement has been made regarding some of the territory in dispute. But if the investigation has developed that that particular portion of territory rightfully belongs to Britain, as seems to be the case, it is not "yielding" to relinquish it. It is only square, honest dealing. And Uncle Sam is in duty bound to deal as squarely and fairly with Great Britain as with China or any other nation.

The prices of purebred cattle are taking a climb which soon will carry them out of reach of even the moderately wealthy, if the "fad," which the movement surely has attained to, goes much farther. In an auction of Shorthorn cattle, held at Chicago on Tuesday nearly sixty animals, all of them acknowledged to be fine specimens of their breed, were put up for sale, the average price received being \$782.50 each, the highest record yet made. One red holter calf, Mayflower V, bred at Ascot, England, brought the remarkably high price of \$2,600. The animal will be two years old on September 10th of this year.

Here is a lesson for sweet young ladies, in the remark of a gentleman to-day, who said, "Passing a house the other day, my attention was attracted to an unusually handsome young lady. Suddenly she spoke to her younger sister, and I involuntarily caught my breath, to realize that my head was on a I looked again, and it was the same face, but not a trace of beauty was left in my mind through the ringing of the snaphair retort that had come from pretty lady." Young ladies, remember that beauty can be made only skin deep, but it is the ugliness of a cross temper that goes clear to the bone.

## ON TO PEKING.

Kansas City Star.

The news that the advance on Peking is really in progress is received with delight in the United States. For the present America must be content to be represented by only 1,600 men with the allied column, but there is no doubt that the United States soldier will be found where the heaviest fighting is on. The campaign about Tien Tsin showed the powers that, while America had few troops there, those few were a factor to be reckoned with. The urgency of the United States undoubtedly hastened the advance on the capital.

## San Francisco Chronicle.

It is not conceivable that the allies should attempt a movement, expected to be seriously opposed, with no general, or with more than one. In fact, there is probably some arrangement or understanding in regard to leadership, although no general has been formally designated. But while the allies doubtless expect to reach Peking, it is certain that there is a Chinese force of sufficient strength to prevent their doing so, provided it were properly led. This, however, there is no reason to expect. The Chinese seem to have no power of effective organization either for military or civil purposes. Even with good leadership they could not endure long, for the supply of modern arms and ammunition and of disciplined soldiers to use them is limited. But the allies must have a very contemptuous opinion of the Chinese fighting ability if with an army said not to exceed 30,000 men they propose to march to Peking and at the same time guard 100 miles of road behind them.

## Chicago Record.

Remembering the effective resistance made by the Chinese in Tien Tsin when the allies attacked them last month it is somewhat questionable whether the 20,000 men in the expedition reported on its way to Peking will be strong enough to take the place of the British legation and succor the foreigners therein.

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