

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING
(Sunday excepted)

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
(In Advance.)

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| One Year | 15.00 |
| Six Months | 7.50 |
| Three Months | 3.75 |
| One Month | 1.25 |
| Saturday Edition per copy | .25 |
| Semi-Weekly per year | 2.00 |

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.

Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the post office of Salt Lake City as second class matter, according to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY - SEPT. 18, 1909.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The 9th Semi-annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, October 3, at 10 o'clock a.m. A full attendance of the officers and members is hereby requested.

When the Conference adjourns on Monday afternoon, it will be until Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 10 o'clock a.m.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Monday evening, October 4, commencing at 7 o'clock.

The first Sunday of October being Conference, it is suggested that Sunday, Sept. 26, be observed as fast day in Salt Lake, Ensign, Pioneer, Liberty, Granite, and Jordan stakes.

A special Priesthood meeting will be held in the Assembly Hall on Saturday, Oct. 5, commencing at 10 o'clock a.m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDSOR,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene at the Tabernacle, Sunday evening, Oct. 3, at 7 o'clock. All are invited.

SUNFLOWERS.

The fields of gold that surround our towns and hillsides have everywhere decorated extensive areas with the superb golden glow of this large western sunflower, the *Helianthus annuus*, or, incidentally, of the botanists.

The extraordinary numbers of these thirtify annuals have this year given to our landscapes at this season welcome suggestions of warmth and splendor from their masses of brilliant bloom. This bright coloring, heightened by the strong sunlight and the transparent clearness of our mild September atmosphere, gives to our surroundings a beauty that we suppose is not surpassed by that of places more famed for their natural attractions than are the valleys of this State.

What we had in mind to say, however, was that this prolific and ever present species has an economic as well as an aesthetic value; and many are the uses to which its seeds, fibers, and gums could probably be put—if we only knew.

Several writers on agriculture have shown that sunflower seed is good poultry food, and that a few rows of the plants near the poultry yards are also good summer shade and protection. Some who grow sunflowers for chickens advocate gathering the heads and threshing off the seed and storing it for winter use.

Mice and rats are fond of these seeds; and if the seeds are stored loose, these pests will destroy many of them. A safe method of storing the seeds with the seed adhering is said to be to tie them in bunches and then to suspend them from rafters in the barn or some other building where there is available space. In this way the heads can be fed during the winter and the chickens will get the full benefit of the seed.

But every individual owning a piece of land can join in this movement, simply by setting out trees or shrubs upon his vacant spaces.

The season for fall planting will be open to us very soon now, and land owners who desire to understand the methods of this work may be advised of a few salient facts in relation to it.

In the East it is generally regarded as better to set out fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, vines, perennial roots and bulbs in the fall than in the spring. Of course, the work often can be done as well in the spring as in the fall, but many times the soil and season are unfavorable, and the proverbial spring rush comes on so quickly that the work may be slighted. In the fall the soil is almost always comparatively dry and works up in a perfect condition for ideal covering of the roots of the plants, which is one of the essentials for success in making root trees and plants grow. If the work must be delayed for a few days or a week or more, little harm is done so long as the planting can be done before the ground freezes.

"In this way," says an agricultural authority, "we have had sunflowers to stand and produce feed for our hogs in January, when the ground was covered with snow, and the hogs have roamed and stored them, a few each day. No seeds were lost."

As to the complaint that the birds eat the seeds, if the plants are left standing, this is true to only a limited degree, and is fully compensated by the presence of the goldfinch, the tiny, black and yellow, feathered singer that, especially at this season, and later, frequents the sunflower beds. This delightful bird swings at the stalk, perches on the heads, pecks at the seeds, and gives forth its sweet call from among these plants, in a most entertaining way.

In the fall of the year, when bird food is plentiful, it is chiefly the seed-eaters alone, especially the sparrows, that take to the seeds of the sunflowers. Hence, by permitting the sunflowers to remain standing near the grain fields, the attention of the English sparrow might be somewhat

diverted from the field crops to the wild plants.

Poultry keepers claim that it will pay to plant enough sunflowers for the hens, and a few extra ones for the birds. A writer in the Inter-Ocean says this:

"The birds are welcome to all the sunflowers and they want to eat, and place, and if it grows nicely, and none of them could be induced to come and visit us and stay with us, we would plant more sunflowers for them to eat."

On all accounts, the sunflower is a glorious old weed, well armed against its insect enemies, wearing a crown of beauty at this season, a fine specimen for school art, a wonderful suggestion in nature study, an incentive to outdoor recreation, and a blessing in disguise, even to the farmer. We heartily wish that every school teacher would introduce the children to regard affectionately this wonderful and common plant, with a view to knowing something of its use of appreciating its attractiveness, and the service it renders, as well as learning from its open manifestations, some of the conditions and laws of plant life.

FUSION IN NEW YORK.

In New York, too, as previously noted in these columns, an effort is being made to get rid of the corrupt administration, by united effort. A committee of one hundred has just sent out invitations asking that representatives of the Republican organization be appointed to meet with a subcommittee of citizens to consider candidates for a fusion ticket. Arrangements for separate conferences with representatives of the Democratic Union, Voters' Federation and other bodies that have a real membership, and are willing to enter into an uncompromising fight against Tammany Hall were to be completed at an early date.

The closer the confession of the so-called American organ of Sept. 16, is scrutinized, the more evident it becomes that it is characteristic of that party mouthpiece.

The confession begins with the statement that "The American party has made good its pledges" and "accomplished more than its most enthusiastic friends had fondly hoped." It would make the sort of Mayor the committee desires. But both Mr. Low and Mr. Irvin have declined to be considered, and there is no reason to expect that either can be prevailed upon to change his mind. There is also considerable doubt as to whether the Republican organization will consider seriously the names of the two candidates who headed their unsuccessful tickets in 1903 and 1905. The party was started with the determination on the part of its originators of driving one of the best senators Utah ever had out of the United States senate, and then gradually disfranchising every "Moormen." Some such pledges were probably made, but it is evident to all now that it has utterly failed in this, and, God willing, it shall always fail in such un-American fashion.

All over the country the taxpayers are waking up to a realization of the necessity of united effort against municipal pirates who regard public offices as so much "spoil," legitimately belonging to the "victor." The conscience of the "American" people is being touched by the finger of God, and good citizens are coming together against the element that wants to control offices in the interest of gambling, debauchery, and graft. This is one of the encouraging signs of the present time.

PLANT TREES.

The project to unite in one great national organization all who desire to support the movement for the conservation of the national resources is one of the best signs of approaching results in this splendid undertaking.

The constitution of the organization states that the erosion and soil wash should cease, that arid and semi-arid lands should be reclaimed by means of irrigation; that swamp and overflowed regions should be drained; that the waters should be conserved as to promote navigation and develop water power in the interest of the people; that the forests, which regulate our rivers, support our industries and promote the fertility of the soil, should be preserved and perpetuated; that the minerals found so abundantly underneath the surface should be so used as to prolong their utility; that the beauty, healthfulness and habitability of our country should be preserved and increased.

The truth is the party started in with the most corrupt administration in the City ever had. When matters had come to such a pass that citizens were in revolt, Mr. Bradford was induced to step in and save the situation. As Mayor, Mr. Bradford has tried to do his level best, but he has been fought and hampered by party leaders, so that his influence has been very much minimized. And in the matter of the stockade it is understood that he was simply betrayed by party advisers. Mr. Bradford might have saved the City from many of the consequences of the victory of self-seekers over the better element had he not too often yielded to bad counsel. As it is, matters could hardly be worse than they are.

The City is in debt to the limit. Taxes are higher than ever in the history of the City, and the cost of living has risen in proportion. Corruption stains the streets at night unchecked. Gambling is going on in the open daylight. The organ has said that the blunders of one official has cost the City \$100,000. How much the blunders of others amount to has not been stated. Is it not time to seek a remedy for the "mistakes" of the past?

CARE OF MILK.

The praiseworthy activity of the state officials who are working in the interest of pure food has lately been centered mainly on milk.

Their tests of this product show that even careful dairymen fail to understand how delicate and susceptible to germ infection and to deterioration from any form of uncleanness milk really is.

Absolute cleanliness and a low temperature are the essential conditions of good milk.

Housekeepers cannot be too frequently reminded that the milk surface should never be exposed to the air in open vessels, and that in the preparation of milk foods extraordinary care should be exercised.

For example, in the whipping of cream, all the utensils should be rinsed anew with hot water before this operation. On the latter subject the Maryland experiment station states that for best results cream should be held at as low a temperature as possible—60° to 65° degrees Fahrenheit—for at least two hours before whipping, and should be whipped in a cool room.

Far good results cream should be from twelve to twenty-four hours old. This gives the opportunity for the development of a small amount of acid in the cream. The acid effected a separation of the cream from the milk and albumin, and thus facilitated the incorporation of air in whipping.

It is especially necessary to instruct the shipper to wrap the cans with unusual care, since our dry atmosphere is much more dangerous to any exposed surface than is the air of moister climates. It should be borne in mind, also, that plants usually thrive and produce best that are grown in the same climate and similar soil as those in which they are to mature. Plants secured too far from home are likely to dry out and perish in shipping and refuse to thrive in a new soil and climate. This, however, is not always the case; a plant com-

ing from some distant section of the country will often grow wonderfully in a new locality. But with standard plants it is best to purchase near home.

Those who intend to set out trees and other plants in the fall should make their selections and have their orders in ahead of shipping time. Deal with agents and nurserymen who are known to be honest and who have stock that is up to grade and will grow. All plants purchased should be shipped against fungous disease and injurious insects—a requirement that is enforced by law at the instance of the tree inspectors.

As soon as the trees arrive, prepare a deep trench and cover the roots with deep and well manured soil. Before planting, cut off any injured or decayed roots and settle plant in the hole prepared for it so that none of the roots will be bent or cramped. Cover them and work among them the moist and richest soil that has been dug from the hole, draining the soil with the hand or root as it is being placed. Bank up the soil around the tree or shrub three or four inches, so that it will shed away excessive rain and be level or slightly rounding after settling. Cut back the top of the tree one-fourth to three-fourths, according to the kind, to prevent undue evaporation of moisture from the plant and to make the top balance to the root system.

In this way the owner of every city lot and of every country homestead as well could materially assist in the great movement for forestation in the treeless West. It should be taken up in earnest by all the people who desire to contribute to posterity a heritage of wealth and beauty as part of the land itself.

REMARKABLE CONTRADICTIONS.

The closer the confession of the so-called American organ of Sept. 16, is scrutinized, the more evident it becomes that it is characteristic of that party mouthpiece.

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