

## DESERT EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 15, 1900.

## THE WATER BONDS IN DOUBT.

There seems to be a streak of what some people would call "ill-luck" attending the last issue of water-bonds in this city. Their way has been obstructed from the first moment of the proposal to issue them. The purpose in view of their promoters was excellent. Their manner of proceeding may have been somewhat faulty.

The necessity for the expenditure of more money than could be obtained by way of taxation, in order to provide for a larger supply of water for domestic purposes and a better system of distribution, was evident to every taxpayer who investigated existing conditions. So pressing was the need of this that considerable amounts of money were expended, with the expectation that the bonds would be authorized, or that some other measure would be adopted to provide for those expenditures.

The difficulties that have arisen in the way of the realization of funds from the bond sale, appear to have been caused by mistakes on the part of the city authorities, in the conduct of the preliminaries to the election and their official proceedings afterward. Several errors of this kind delayed the sale of the bonds, and now the question of the legality of their issue is raised, causing still further delay, with the probability that the whole proceedings may fall through and a new election be required.

The questions of the right of the city to issue the water bonds, in view of the debt limit for general purposes having been reached before that issue, and the expenditure of money for necessary water purposes in anticipation of the funds to be derived therefrom, may probably be settled favorably. But the errors said to have been made in the appointment of the polling places and in the time of the canvassing of the votes, may have the effect of rendering the election void.

The suit now instituted is not intended to obstruct or prevent the sale of the water-bonds, but as a precautionary measure on the part of the firm that intended to purchase them. While it may occasion a little further delay, it will be the means of settling several very important doubts which have arisen over the legality of the issue, and more particularly in the manner of calling the election and the time of the canvass of votes.

Whether such deviations from the letter of the law are of sufficient importance to invalidate the bonds election, seeing that the people interested are not in any way injured thereby, that there is no contest in which personal or official interest is involved, and that no element of actual or intended fraud appears in connection therewith, will have to be determined by the court, which will doubtless construe the law liberally, in view of all the circumstances existing and connected with a transaction, entered into for the essential welfare of the inhabitants of this city.

It is evident that there has been a lack of knowledge as to the technical requirements of the law in reference to the proceedings in this bond issue, and the case to come before the Supreme court of the State, may be the means of spurring the officials in fault to be more careful in the future, as to complying strictly with the provisions of our State statutes.

## A BETTER WAY.

The great delay in counting the votes cast at the recent election in Utah has occasioned much complaint, and inquiries are made whether it is not possible to devise some better and quicker method for determining results. So many mistakes are made, so much suspense is involved, official counts reverse so many conclusions, that great dissatisfaction is felt at the present cumbersome and slow proceedings.

The solution of the trouble can be found in the voting machine. Years ago the Desert News pointed out the value of this contrivance, for facilitating the manner of casting ballots and recording the results of elections. These machines have since been thoroughly tested in the east and found to fully answer the purpose. They prevent much confusion in voting, and give the results so quickly and accurately after the polls are closed, as to settle at once the question of majorities and pluralities. Delay is avoided, errors are impossible, and disputes over the count are out of the question.

The objection to the voting machine when it was first offered, was the expense. That has been considerably lessened. By grouping small districts, which are necessary now with the system in vogue, a few machines would serve the purpose for a large number of voters, and the aggregate cost would probably not exceed the expense now

involved, as the number of persons employed would not be so great as at present.

The Constitution of the State provides for the use of voting machines, when they are ordered by the Legislature. So long as the secrecy of the ballot is preserved, "the use of any machine or contrivance for the purpose and registering the votes cast at any election" is permitted. (Art. IV, sec. 8.)

This is therefore a proper subject of legislation, and the senators and representatives-elect would do well to inquire into the subject, and see as to the advisability of introducing the voting machine into Utah elections. We are of the opinion that it would be found economical, in the end, as well as much more satisfactory than the present dilatory and imperfect method of arriving at election results.

## EXPANSION BY IRRIGATION.

Somebody has calculated that by the reclamation of the arid regions of this country, room would eventually be prepared for about forty million inhabitants. It is necessary to keep that fact in view, in order to realize the importance of the irrigation congress which meets in Chicago next week. The question before the nation is the reclamation of about a million square miles of land which is fertile and well adapted for cultivation, could it be watered at the season when moisture is most needed.

What can be done by means of irrigation has been shown by the marvelous results of private enterprises. What would be accomplished, were the national government to undertake the gigantic work of constructing reservoirs and canals on a scale necessary to bring the entire region under cultivation can best be judged from the transformation that has taken place where only a few years ago the lizard reigned almost supreme in his realm of burning desert.

The deliberations of the irrigation congress will be of special interest because the government so overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of the country is committed to the policy of furthering the object for which it convenes. The platform recommends "adequate national legislation reserving control of the distribution of water for irrigation to the respective States and Territories." This should insure prompt action on any feasible plan that may be brought to the attention of Congress.

To utilize the immense resources of the country for the purpose of providing homes for settlers, sites for manufacturing plants and thriving cities is a policy of expansion to which there can be no objection, even if millions of dollars are required as a first investment.

## STILL LOOKING FOR LEONIDS.

There has been some talk lately about the possibility of the appearance this month of the meteoric shower which predicted for some years past, so far has been looked for in vain at the dates set.

Miss Rose O'Halloran, a lady who is much interested in astronomical studies, now states in the San Francisco Call, that the last appearance of the Leonids in great numbers took place in 1867, and as their period is computed to be about thirty-three years, they are really not very much overdue as yet. The great swarm is likely to appear at any time until the 15th of this month. The morning hours are the best for observations, and the western sky, the zenith and the radiant point the most favorable directions.

Should the swarm fail to appear to view again, astronomy will be confronted with a fact no less remarkable than those previously observed in connection with this body of wanderers in space. What has become of them? Have they been absorbed by the heavenly light bearers whose immense orbits they may have approached too near? Or has the creative Power on whose command worlds are organized, used them as raw material for some new habitation to receive intelligent beings, capable of knowing and adoring the Creator? Astronomy is a very old science—and very young. It is exceedingly fascinating, and profitable in proportion as those who pursue it read the true meaning of the language of the stars, which is, to "proclaim the glory of God."

## DECLINE OF CIVILIZATION.

It is a significant fact that on the very eve of this division of time, as the last hours of the nineteenth century are silently floating away with the unceasing current of time, many a thoughtful mind is seriously apprehensive that there is a world-wide reaction against the civilization that is the crown and the boast of our age.

The latest to sound the alarm in this direction is a Russian author, M. Engelhardt, who, in an article quoted in the Literary Digest, summarizes the political activity of the world in two propositions, the truth of which is but too painfully apparent. He finds that the civilized nations, especially the strongest of them, are natural, irreconcilable enemies, because each aims at world-domination; and that the so-called savage nations are the prey of the civilized powers, and subject to dismemberment and grab. "This is the philosophy of the over-man; it is the philosophy of Nietzsche in practical operation, and it is called the carrying of civilization to the lower races. Death, or submission to exploitation."

The author, in looking around the stage of the world, finds confirmation of these propositions in all directions, but no stronger evidence than that furnished by the race hatred exhibited in a country like the United States where 10,000,000 human beings, because of the color of their skin, are subjected to insults, punished without trial, assaulted, burned at the stake, and otherwise maltreated. The same spirit is in operation in Europe, where periodical attacks upon the Jews occur, and the inference is that, "we may expect, in the coming century, such colossal 'sociological experiments' as will make the Sicilian Vespers and the Bartholomew massacre pale into insignificance."

Such views the thoughtless may regard as pessimism, but that is merely closing the eyes to an impending danger. It does not aver it. It is possible to deny seriously that much of the religion of the world is but a cloak for the grossest selfishness? That right and

duty are recognized only as they are supported by power and wealth? When morality has no place in national and international relations, how long will it remain a civilizing force? Is not a time at hand, in which truth and brotherhood seem to be, as the Russian author suggests, but "ridiculous terms?"

Still, mankind is not lost. Civilization is bound to triumph over savagery, truth over error, and right over wrong. Human progress is like the tide, now rising and then falling, but each succeeding wave goes farther than its predecessor, and the general effect is the covering of the entire beach. It may be that at present a reaction is about to set in, but it will not be lasting. Civilization may fall, but each succeeding civilization will rise higher than those that are past. In the fact that Providence superintends the affairs of mankind, there is a sure guarantee of the final triumph of that which is true, just and good.

It is exceedingly necessary, though, to have a just estimate of the forces that are at work. The Hebrews and the pagans that saw in Christianity, when it first appeared as a factor in the world's affairs, only blasphemy and folly, perished in their futile struggle against it. They overestimated the old systems of which but empty forms remained. They failed to realize that they were on the crest of a falling wave that already had spent its strength against the shores of time, and that following it came another with irresistible force. The world today is largely in a similar position. It does not perceive that the heavens have again been opened and that another wave is being lifted up and is rolling onward independent of adverse winds. It will roll, though, until the knowledge of the Lord cover the earth as the waters the bottom of the mighty deep, and mankind finds itself at the beginning of the new era, in which truth and brotherhood shall be realities and not only forms of speech. To anyone open to the lessons of history, the very decline of civilization and the apparent triumph of barbarism are signs and promises of the early dawn of the glorious millennial day.

## SUPPRESS THE MOB.

If there are well founded fears that a mob is about to take the law in its own hands in the case of the alleged murderer of the little girl near Limon, Col., the authorities should take the steps necessary to prevent the contemplated crime, even if it takes the entire State militia to do it. Generally, lynchings occur as the result of outbursts of popular indignation, as unexpectedly as the eruptions of slumbering volcanoes, but in this instance the guardians of law and order seem to have fair warning. They expect a mob to commit one of the outrages for which this country has become a byword among civilized nations, and if they do not prevent it, as they certainly have the power to do, they must share the responsibility as participants criminals.

For the criminal, if he is guilty as alleged, there can be no sympathy, but for the preservation of public morality and the maintenance of civilized conditions it is absolutely necessary that crime be punished as provided by law. Crime is no remedy for crime. It only adds to the terrible sum total already existing. There is no flabby sentimentality in this view. It is simply the statement of a well known fact, which no community can ignore except at its own peril. If State officials are too cowardly to perform their duties, in this case, it is earnestly to be hoped that there, in Colorado, are citizens capable of viewing the matter in its true light and manly enough to demand respect for the majesty of the law. If the laws are inadequate, they may be changed as experience and wisdom suggest, but to allege that any inadequacy in the penal code justifies a mob in murdering even a murderer, is to reason from the standpoint of the class of anarchists that spread terror throughout the civilized world.

Louisiana has recently set an example worthy of imitation, in the conviction and sentencing to life imprisonment of two would-be lynchers. That is not too severe retribution for the crime of lynching. It is really treason against the State, as the mobs committing it usurp the authority delegated to the courts and other public officials. The law-abiding citizens of Colorado should insist on their public servants maintaining the law, even if force has to be met by force. Mob violence has become well nigh a national disgrace, and heroic measures may be needed to stamp it out.

New treaties with China will contain "most favored nation" clause.

The irrigation congress will be water on Chicago's wheel this year.

The Chinese are getting their almond eyes opened as never before.

Before bringing the empress dowager back to Peking it would be well to catch her.

To the county commissioners and the candidates: Many happy returns of the day.

Germany is using her "mailed fist" with the indiscriminate use of a "full" pugilist.

Mr. Kruger refuses to be interviewed. This is one of the sure evidences of his greatness.

Vice and crime are holding a carnival in Chicago. In Salt Lake they are holding a sort of pink tea.

A crusade against bad roads is to be started in Chicago. That is right. They should be stamped out.

General MacArthur has abolished the censorship in Manila. This is the severest time it has been abolished.

The failure of W. L. Strong & Co., for nearly \$5,000,000, shows that the battle is not to the Strong alone.

There would be no need whatever for the Bible in the schools were the Bible in the house more frequently consulted.

The French, doubtless, are so greatly perturbed over the disclosure of the secrets of the manufacture of their new field gun, because heaven is supposed to

be on the side of those having the heaviest artillery, and when their secret is gone, gone is their best ally.

The Prince of Wales no longer has his trousers creased. This is a new wrinkle for those who follow London's fashion.

Mark Twain's daughter is going on the vaudeville stage. If successful she may eventually take "A Tramp Abroad."

Chevyenne papers say there is a big rush for the Big Horn country. May they all come out at the big end of the Big Horn.

The Sultan of Morocco refuses to pay indemnity for the murder of Marcus Essigian. The Sultan is getting a little too Test-tive.

Japan is abreast with the most civilized western nations. Members of the Tokyo city council have been charged with accepting bribes, and warrants are out for their arrest.

The American soldiers transported their supplies to Peking in the regular army wagon. What a strange sight for the Chinese, those iron-axled, big blue box wagons, with four mules, attached must have been.

The late Henry Villard, famous as a railroad man, was, in his earlier days, a newspaper man. He reported the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, and he also reported the first Lincoln campaign. During the civil war he was a correspondent. In 1866 he married Fannie, the only daughter of William Lloyd Garrison. His was a remarkable career, one well worth studying by young men.

The saying that "corporations have no souls" is not always borne out by the facts. The action of the board of directors of the Utah Sugar company today, in deciding to raise the price of beets next season from \$4.50 to \$4.75 a ton, will be a boon to the farmers that will no doubt be appreciated, especially in view of the fact that the extreme drought of the past summer reduced the yield of beets considerably below the amount that had been expected. The factory has been a blessing not only to farmers in its vicinity but to the whole State of Utah.

John Porter, the negro accused of the murder of Louise Fort at Limon, Colo., has confessed. And now it is said that the citizens of that place are preparing to lynch him on his return to the scene of his crime, and that it is proposed to burn him at the stake. His crime was horrible in the extreme, one calculated to arouse all the indignation of human nature, but the State of Colorado cannot afford to permit an equally horrible crime to be committed within her borders, if she can prevent it. And she should prevent it if it requires the calling forth of all her resources. If the law is allowed to take its course the conviction and punishment of Porter are as certain as a thing human can be.

## CUBA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago News.  
The first business of the Cuban constitutional convention, called together at Havana by the United States, was, by Gov. Gen. Wood, was to manifest its satisfaction with the manner in which the governor general had carried out the delicate duties intrusted to him and to resolve that the same satisfaction be sent to the President of the United States. "The delegates elected to the constitutional convention, assembled at their inaugural meeting, greet with satisfaction the President of the United States of North America, and they are satisfied with the honesty demonstrated in the fulfillment of the duties made in favor of liberty and independence of the Cuban people."

Baltimore Sun.  
The form of oath adopted by the delegates indicates a disposition and desire to take charge of the island without consulting any power outside of it and to disavow subordination to any power. "We solemnly and publicly, so the oath runs, 'renew our allegiance to or compact with any State or nation, whether made directly or indirectly, swearing to the sovereignty of the free and independent people of Cuba, and to respect the constitution which this convention may adopt as well as the government established by it.' This seems to be pretty explicit. There may be grumbling against the United States for spending some hundreds of millions to expel Spain, but it is proposed to take the United States government at its word and make Cuba free. If the convention gets its wish, Cuba is to be as free as Venezuela, and no annexation, protectorate or suzerainty is to be countenanced.

Sacramento Record-Union.  
The Cuba convention has entered upon the work of framing a constitution for New Cuba. It will consume the better part of three or four months, if not longer. When completed it will have to be given to the people for their consideration, and it will be fully six months probably before it will reach the President. It is not expected that it will be an instrument free from grave errors. Constitution making is a serious business even among the most skilled; what then must it be among a people wholly new to such work. Happily there have been called to the task a very intelligent body of men on a whole and the belief is that perfect sincerity and unimpeachable loyalty to free institutions imbues most of them.

## AFTER THE JUNTA.

Sacramento Record-Union.  
Washington dispatches say that the Federal army in the Philippines has taken steps to cut off the Hongkong base of the Luzon rebels by appealing to the British government to close down the Aguinado Junta at Hongkong. When Carranza went to Canada and set up a Spanish base in 1898, England on our application banished the Spanish lieutenant and sent him spinning out of Montreal. A precedent was thus set that England will probably adhere to now.

## San Francisco Chronicle.

A Washington correspondent reports that the administration is likely to request the British government to suppress the Philippine Junta at Hongkong, as one of the means of establishing order on the Philippine Islands. It has been long apparent that the Junta, entrenched at Hongkong, has been the chief source of aid and comfort of the insurgents in the archipelago. The latter have drawn much of their war supplies thence, and in the most of the work of the fleet in Philippine waters at present is given to watching the coasts of those islands in which the insurgents are still active to prevent the landing of arms and ammunition shipped thither through the agency of the Junta.

New York Mail and Express.  
While there is no official authority for the report from Washington that this

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Mens' Provo Mills Suits, all wool, these suits are worth \$10.00 as much as any eastern \$12.50 suit, for	\$10.00
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