

THE "DESERET NEWS" IN NEW FORM.

The DESERET EVENING NEWS is presented to its readers in new form. Modern taste seems to prefer the eight page, reduced size style to the four page blanket sheet, which for a long time was held in public favor.

This journal has endeavored, from its first issue, to keep pace with the times, to adopt mechanical and other improvements, and to inhale and breathe forth the spirit of general progress.

It was our intention to commence the New Year with this enlarged and altered form, but the work involved in the change proved too much for the time anticipated. We hope our readers will appreciate this effort for their benefit.

A little less than three years after the pioneers entered the valley of Salt Lake the first newspaper between the Missouri River and San Francisco, Cal., was established. Modest, indeed, and unpretentious was this publication, but its principles as outlined in its prospectus, and as expressed in its pages, will illustrate the men and the intellects which projected and published it.

The date of the first issue was June 15, 1850. It was a small eight-page weekly. It was printed on a Ramage press, built in Philadelphia. The press is still in the possession of the Deseret News Company, and is carefully stored away as a relic of great value and of interesting associations. To members of the craft it forms a suggestive and instructive study.

The size of its bed is 19x25½ inches, and its height is five feet three inches. The framework of this press is made in sections of wrought iron, thus rendering it suitable for transportation. It is strongly bolted together. Its ribs, bed and plate are of cast iron. This press was brought in wagons over the plains, and this incurred weeks of toil and great expense in money.

The NEWS was published weekly in its original form until November, 1851, when it was enlarged and issued regularly on the first and fifteenth of each month.

In 1854 the DESERET NEWS was changed into a weekly, but issued in the same size as the semi-monthly. In the same year paper was first made in Utah, by the old hand-worked method. On this paper the DESERET NEWS was printed. In 1854 type was also first made in Utah. It was cast at this office in the primitive manner, with hand moulds brought over the plains by the pioneers.

In 1855 the DESERET NEWS was changed into an eight page quarto. In 1861 the Pony Express dispatches were regularly published and formed an important epoch in the history of the paper.

In 1860 a paper mill was brought into Utah. It was made by Gavitt, of Philadelphia, and was at the time the perfection of paper making machinery.

In 1864 a Hoe cylinder press was brought over the plains, and in the fall of that year the DESERET NEWS was first printed on this press.

In 1865 a Semi-Weekly edition of the NEWS was added, and in November, 1867, the DESERET EVENING NEWS was issued as a daily, the Semi-Weekly and Weekly being continued.

In 1869 a Chicago Taylor cylinder press was put in, on which the NEWS was thenceforward printed. This press was the largest and most perfect at that time in the Rocky Mountains.

In 1869 type was first made in Utah by improved machine process, at this office.

In 1872 the first stereotype outfit was introduced into Utah by the Deseret News Company. In 1872 the first electrotyping was also performed in Utah.

In 1884 a Fourdrinier paper-making machine was brought to Utah, also by the Deseret News Company.

In 1885 a Potter press, book and job, two revolution, was put in by the News Company. In 1887 a Potter press, newspaper, two revolution, was obtained and the DESERET NEWS printed on it from that time till today, when it is first printed on the Bullock perfecting press, one of the best of its kind in the United States.

The DESERET NEWS Company has still in its possession all of its printing presses, and also all the old machinery for the manufacture of type and paper. These of themselves would form an interesting collection among the curiosities of Utah.

The NEWS establishment has now in use one Potter book and job press, two revolution, one Potter newspaper press, three Gordon presses, and one Bullock perfecting press with a capacity of from 15,000 to 20,000 impressions an hour. All the machinery is run by steam power.

The first number of the DESERET NEWS, as already stated, was issued June 15, 1850. Its editor and proprietor was Dr. Willard Richards. In looking over the first volume today one cannot help reflecting on the past and its eventful history, and offering a tribute to the memory of those grand old pioneers who planted the printing

press in the recesses of these mountains, where nothing but sand and sage and salt met their gaze.

One paragraph from the prospectus of the DESERET NEWS as published in the first issue reads:

"We hold ourselves responsible to the highest court of truth for our intentions, and the highest court of equity for our execution. When we speak, we shall speak freely, without regard to men or party, and when, like other men, we err, let him who has his eyes open correct us in meekness, and he shall receive a disciple's reward."

This matter speaks for itself, and shows the metal of the founders of the Utah Commonwealth. In these early pages of the DESERET NEWS can still be heard the ring of that genuine metal, though the hands which wrote the lines and the tongues which sounded the words are now still. But great men live forever, and though we do not see the forms of those brave old sires among us, yet their spirit lives and will live eternally.

Single copies of the NEWS sold for fifteen cents, and farm produce was the currency of the day.

The first number contains a report of the United States Senate proceedings of February 6, 8 and 12, 1850 inclusive. The names of Seward, Hale and Chase are mentioned. These good old fathers are also gone. Their principal topic was slavery. A petition, it appears, was presented by Mr. Hale for the abolition of slavery and asking Congress to propose a plan for the immediate and peaceful dissolution of the American Union.

In a note to this the editor of the NEWS says:

"We hope we shall never again hear of any portion of the American people petitioning Congress to do what it has no power to do, even if it had the disposition. Let our Union remain forever, peacefully!"

These were the words of a true American, a "Mormon" leader and churchman, whose patriotism and religion went hand in hand and whose utterances, when Utah was isolated from the world, show the sentiments of the Mormon people toward the nation.

The first number contains the report of a \$1,000,000 fire which occurred in San Francisco on Dec. 24, 1849. Also the message of President Zachary Taylor to the House of Representatives, dated Washington, Jan. 21, 1850. The message relates entirely to California and the territory ceded to the United States by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. One paragraph relates to Utah. It says:

"The part of California not included in the proposed State of that name is believed to be uninhabited, except in a settlement of our countrymen in the vicinity of Salt Lake."