

sanship." They exercised the inherent right of freemen in declaring boldly that men should rouse themselves to the proper use of their power as electors, and they exercised the duty of wise leaders in telling how the ballots could be used to the best advantage.

All this the NEWS regards as true Americanism, and as a notable admission of the influence that men may patriotically wield for the benefit of their fellows. Yet we recall with amusement that it is not so very long ago since esteemed cotemporaries nearer home held up their hands in pious horror whenever the word "politics" or "election" or "votes" was used by prominent men in this vicinity in the most general, patriotic and non-partisan sense.

OUR ANNIVERSARY.

This issue of the DESERET EVENING NEWS (Nov. 21) is the first number of its twenty-eighth volume. Twenty-seven years ago today a few subscribers in this city who had expressed themselves willing to indulge in the luxury of a daily paper, were served with our first copy. The number of subscribers was very small, so small in fact that the problem of supporting a daily paper out of their patronage appeared to be one for which there was no solution. But the subscription list grew, and so did the paper.

But the most interesting reminiscences of this paper's past are not of a pecuniary character. Its columns have recorded the daily developments of the growth of this commonwealth, which is now about to enter upon the glories of statehood, and from them might be gleaned a very complete history of that growth, during twenty-seven years. The story, as drawn from these columns, would not need any coloring of fiction nor exaggeration to read marvelously. Then, too, the paper has given its readers the principal events of the world, day by day, as the electric current has brought information of them to this remote mountain region, and if a "constant reader" could but remember all he has seen in these columns, his memory would be a wonderful encyclopedia of modern history.

But fighting falsehood has been almost as much a part of this paper's work as recording facts. For years and years the weary work of exposing the mendacity of the enemies of the people of Utah went on in its editorial rooms. At times the flood of falsehood seemed greater than any human power could stem, or even perceptibly check; but the paper had a duty to perform, and it did it courageously. It put upon record the facts and the truth, with exposures of their opposites, and left the result to the future. The NEWS has lived to see the day when there is little call for effort from it in this line; when there is comparatively little disposition being shown, especially in our own country, to slander or misrepresent its constituency, and for such a state of things it feels most thankful.

At twenty-eight it is said that a young man acquires his maximum physical strength; and the NEWS hopes to exert during its twenty-eighth

year, a greater power for good than it has ever exercised before.

BY THUMB OR METER?

Referring again to the metric system of weights and measures, a friend calls our attention to an article in the latest number of the *Carpet and Upholstery Trade Review* (New York), which points out that as a matter of fact, that system is the only legally recognized one in the country, an act of Congress in 1866 having authorized its use in the United States, at the same time establishing the exact relations between the meter and the yard; the common system is wholly unauthorized by law or decree, its only endorsement coming from custom and popular use. The paper referred to puts itself on record against the innovation the NEWS asks for, but its strong reasons will hardly pass current with thoughtful people. In substance they are to the effect that "the names are awkward; it does not seem at all natural to say that 'a miss is as good as a myriameter,' or to refer admiringly to a person as being 'every centimeter a man.' With such trivialities we fancy few adherents for the old system will be won.

The unit of comparison was taken by the ancients from the human body. The Hebrews and Egyptians took the length of a man's foot for the purpose; the Greeks and Romans added the thumb, or inch, the finger and the palm. These measures of primitive origin have been employed in almost all nations until modern times; and yet the "awkwardness" would seem to be all on the side of a system so crude and arbitrary. It should be interesting to local patriotism to know that the United States standard is a so-called "correct yard," which was 36 inches on a British scale of brass made by a celebrated English artificer and obtained by this government in 1814; and from this standard, sets of measures were made in 1836 and sent to the governors of the various states.

On the other hand the metric system takes for its standard the meter, which, as every schoolboy knows, is a little more than three inches longer than a yard, and is one ten-millionth of the distance from the earth's equator to the pole, measured along a meridian line. In the custody of the government authorities at Washington to this day are copies of the standards of weights and measures according to this system, which were constructed by a distinguished commission of scientific men representing the international bureau of weights and measures, formed in Paris in 1872 by the great powers.

The improvement which the metrico-decimal system possesses over the one still in use in this country, but fast disappearing entirely from continental Europe, would seem to be so manifest that it needs no argument. All that can be said against it is that it would be an innovation and for a while beset with difficulties of introduction. But the people of Utah are essentially of the pioneering spirit, and as reformers are always searching after and seeking the establishment of the best. We apprehend that the sneer as to its "awkwardness," and the suggestion

that we must wait until others move out in its adoption, will alike fail to impress the metric system unfavorably upon this community.

RIGHT KIND OF IMMIGRANTS.

Now that "Greater Salt Lake" has become the slogan, the question is being discussed: "What can we do to induce immigration?" Relative to this subject it is proper that certain experiences of the past should be recalled. For two years or more prior to last spring, in this city holdups were of frequent occurrence. The same may be said of burglaries, and of the successful exploits of sure-thing men. There was an affluence of proof that this city was infested with gangs of criminals working in various lines, and for some months we had a soup house at which hundreds were fed daily. Last spring the industrial army movement took root here, and upwards of a thousand individuals signified a desire to follow "General" Carter towards the rising sun.

The whole city was anxious to see that army on the march. Meetings of business men were held to raise funds and make arrangements for moving it eastward. The city and county authorities were appealed to, and at the risk of straining points of law they responded with substantial aid, and at last the army got out of the Territory. Not only did a large body of men leave under "General" Carter, but hundreds took their departure singly or in groups. It is not desired to speak disrespectfully of the departed, but immediately after they had gone, the police experienced a remarkable relaxation of activity and anxiety, pedestrians on the streets after nightfall breathed easier, and as for a soup house we had no earthly need of such a thing any longer.

The departure from our midst of this element was a great blessing to those who remained, and if such a thing is possible we should avoid doing anything that will bring back the bipeds we were so glad to get rid of, or others of similar kind. Immigration is desirable in order to further the movement for "Greater Salt Lake," but the kind of immigrants we want first are those who are seeking investments and not employment. Until work shall be provided for the idle workers now here, it will be folly to induce the immigration of those who live by their labor. To advance the city's growth fastest, give it no more laborers than can find employment; to retard its advancement, discourage its enterprise and dampen its public spirit, bring in an army of working people for whom there is nothing to do.

To strengthen our credit and brighten our prospects with strangers, make it the fact that our laboring classes are self-supporting and that charitable organizations find no necessity for exertion. To discourage investors, let it be known that hundreds among us are eating the bread of benevolence. The quickest way to acquire wealth, prestige and power is to keep busy what workers we have already; to furnish employment for all there are among us who need it. This, rather than an indiscriminate in-