

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, OCT. 15, 1900.

## "THE ONLY WAY."

Registration of voters will be resumed on Tuesday, October 16. The offices of the registry agents will be open from 8 a. m. till 9 p. m. Citizens of either sex who will be entitled to vote at the November election if registered, should be sure to secure this privilege. The majority in this city are as yet unregistered.

We have explained, several times, that the laws of this State require an entirely new registration in the years of a presidential election. Therefore the old registration will not count. We have also stated, repeatedly, that there will be no house to house registration this year. It must be done, if at all, at the office of the registry agent of the voting district in which the applicant for registration resides.

We have received a number of questions in regard to this matter, such as whether a sick person may be registered at home, if the registrar is willing to take the trouble to call; whether the registration may take place on another day in October than the days mentioned in the statute; whether it may be attended to before 8 a. m. or after 9 p. m. on those days, if the agent is willing to do so gratuitously, etc., etc.

To all of these queries we have to say NO. In our opinion the law is intended to limit registration to the days, and hours, and places designated in terms that can be readily understood. We think the specification of those dates and places is exclusive of all others. And we regard as very unsafe and inexpedient, any attempt at registration contrary to the wording of the statute concerning it.

The days now left for registration, this year, are Tuesday, October 16, Tuesday, October 16, and Wednesday, October 17; the time, from 8 o'clock in the morning till 9 o'clock in the evening; and the place, the office of the registry agent of the voting district in which the voter now resides; no other day, or time, or place is authorized by law.

If any mistakes have been made in these particulars, they should be rectified while there is time. If a registrar has departed in any instance from these requirements of the law, the person improperly registered had better be registered legally, or trouble may arise of a serious character, especially if the individual should attempt to vote at the November election.

Objections to these restrictions of the law are useless just now. The law must be observed or votes attempted to be cast will be illegal. Five days should afford ample time for everybody entitled to vote to secure registration. Inability to register through sickness or infirmity, is no worse than inability to go to the polls. Voting can only be attended to at the times and places designated by law, and just so with registration.

No one should be foolish enough to blame the registrars for asking the questions required by the statute, or for demanding the production of naturalization papers when that is deemed necessary. Blame the law if something or somebody must be complained of. The elective franchise is a sacred privilege, worth all the trouble attending its acquisition. Every citizen entitled to it should comply with the conditions to its exercise, cheerfully, properly and in good time.

We repeat, it is useless to procrastinate. Do not leave registration till the last legal day for the business. The bulk of the remaining registration ought to be done on Tuesday, October 16th. Rectify all registration mistakes, if any have occurred, on that day. The respective parties are closely watching each other and advantage will be taken of errors. Let everything be attended to according to law. That is the only way to be safe.

## TO "DIVIDE UP."

A great many students of present economic conditions view the future with alarm. They predict a time, when, unless some adequate remedy is found, combinations will destroy legitimate competition, control legislation, the pulpit and the press, imperil traffic, regulate all commerce, centralize wealth, and utterly destroy free government. They think the general trend of affairs is toward a revolution more sanguinary than any by which mankind has sought to break the yoke of serfdom.

Many remedies are proposed. Among these is one set forth recently by Mr. J. A. Conwell in a little volume entitled, "Our Nation's Need, or, Let Us All Divide Up and Start Even." The title indicates the views of the author on the cause of the disease from which modern society is suffering as well as the cure. In all seriousness he proposes a general division of the national wealth between the citizens. He explains how it could be done and defends it on the ground that it would be honest and beneficial to the

country. He admits that the problem of division would be one of the greatest difficulty, but that we are prepared for it, and that it can be solved, and that such a solution would be infinitely better than its alternative—a terrible war.

Mr. Conwell bases his argument largely on certain provisions of the Mosaic law, and the Christian practice in the first Church, and the great question is therefore whether the conditions prevalent during the golden age of the Hebrew era and the primitive Church are in any sense comparable to present conditions. Otherwise the reasoning is false and misleading.

When Israel crossed the boundaries of their promised land, the nation was divided into tribes and families. By law each tribe was given a portion of the land, and each family a part of this portion, amounting to about twenty acres. By law it was further provided that these allotments should not pass from one family to another, or from one tribe to another, except temporarily. The land was reserved for Jehovah. It could not be sold; it could not be alienated. Every fiftieth year a readjustment took place. "In the year of Jubilee the field shall return unto him of whom it was bought, even to him to whom the possession of land did belong."

In addition to this, every seventh year debts were wiped out. "And this is the manner of the release: every creditor that lendeth unto his neighbor shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the Lord's release." Thus the law provided for a regular restoration of the economic equilibrium. The growth of an oligarchy of land owners, or a creditor class, was guarded against. The original division of the country was in the main restored at regular intervals.

But it is to be remembered that the observance of this law was made possible on the principle that there was no individual property right in land. The entire country was common property, that is, it was recognized as belonging to the Lord. The right to use for a certain length of time could be transferred, but not the title to the land itself. The general adjustment at the year of jubilee was not a division of national wealth. It was not in any sense equivalent to taking away a farm from its owner and giving it to another. It was not an equalization of property. The rich were still rich, and the poor, poor, and the law expressly recognized the fact that there always would be poor among the people. It was a wise law, but peculiarly adapted to Israel as the people of God. Under present conditions, as governments now are organized, and property rights recognized, it can have no application. To take the property of the rich and give to the poor would be theft just as much as if the rich, by shrewd business methods or otherwise, should take that which belongs to the poor.

It is conceivable that by law the accumulated wealth of the citizens could be confiscated and divided between all, but would the result be different from what it was in Greece, when Lycurgus thus adjusted the land ownership in his State? Did his efforts prevent the tyranny and oppression that shortly after reduced the country to anarchy?

Nor is it possible to see how the primitive Christian practice of having all things in common could be established in countries where millions are involved, and a great majority do not recognize Christian ethics in business transactions. The author of "Our Nation's Need" certainly is mistaken, if he holds that an essentially "Christian" practice, based upon the doctrine of human brotherhood, can be applied to a community that knows of no brotherhood except that of gold.

But Mr. Conwell, notwithstanding this, has uttered a truth that may be considered prophetic. For the salvation of mankind from all errors, both doctrinal, moral and economic is in a return to the fundamental principles revealed from Heaven. When God is recognized as the Father, the Lawgiver and the Ruler, the present perplexing problems will be solved. But the first concern of reformers should be the establishment of righteousness among men. The world needs "regeneration" first, through the acceptance of the Gospel. Then social and economic conditions will adjust themselves. All systems are good when the people are good; no system is adequate to secure the happiness of a people steeped in sin. The Savior came to cleanse the people from sin first. That accomplished, all the consequences of sin, both temporal and eternal, will be removed.

## WHAT NEXT?

No wonder that those who are in a position to view the Chinese situation from a near by standpoint, anxiously ask: "What next?" For a considerable time the diplomats of the powers have been playing football with the "peace" terms. Notes have been passing to and fro, only to be "considered" and filed away. The Chinese government, instead of coming to the table, has absented itself to some place where it cannot be reached without much loss of time. The result is infinite delay in the proceedings, and an enormous expense incurred by the powers for the maintenance of their armies and naval squadrons in Asia. This delay seems to have the quite natural result of encouraging the Chinese reform societies to further exertions. Had the powers from the beginning formulated a plan of treatment and carried it out with unity of purpose, some results might by this time have been obtained. But the juggling exhibitions indulged in by the cabinets, have given the disturbers of the peace time to rally again. Secret societies are again being formed under the name of Triads, and their object is, no doubt, identical with that of the "Boxers." They are said to have showed unusual activity in the vicinity of Hongkong, and to have planned a general rising in the southern provinces, on the lines of the Boxer rising in the north.

That the western powers are strong enough to cope with any and all such risings, is not doubted, but it is remembered that the Taiping rebellion was extinguished only at the cost of about 10,000,000 lives, and the question

is whether the "Christian" world is again at the point of drenching China's soil with human blood. An overabundance of jealousy and consequent lack of unity among the powers may result in something like that. History may be repeated. Waldsee may have to follow in the sanguinary track of Gordon.

The powers are, of course, still insisting on a day of reckoning, a account of the atrocities committed, as a warning, and a safeguard against similar crimes in the future. But as in individual cases of just retribution, so when nations are involved, its corrective effects are neutralized, or wholly lost, when the operation is so slow as to obliterate the line of connection between the crime and the punishment. Whatever primitive measures against China may be adopted in the future will be much less effective than swift and just retribution would have been. As a matter of fact, the real culprits in the Chinese outrages may make good their escape and never be reached by the avengers of the murdered foreigners. The Chinese rose, if accounts are true, in order to preserve their country from the encroachment of foreigners. The present hesitation among the powers to come to an agreement is taken as an evidence that complete dismemberment of the empire is the ultimate aim of diplomacy. What will the effect be upon the masses of the empire? In all probability, as long as this policy hangs as a threatening cloud over the Chinese horizon, the people will be in a state of unrest and irritation, and agitators will find numerous followers. The bands may become consolidated, and the West may have to face a furious storm, sweeping everything in its path. That may be the next chapter in the Asiatic drama.

## THE WAR IN AFRICA.

It is now a year since the commencement of the South African war. The skirmish at Mafeking in which the English troops were compelled to retreat, took place on the 13th of October, 1899. Today the conflict is practically ended. General Dewet is still in the field, and General Botha has refused to surrender, but their forces are scattered. Their ammunition is nearly exhausted and their tactics are confined to guerrilla warfare. Kruger has left the country, and Lord Roberts is in full possession. It has taken Great Britain a year to overcome the African foe, but she has nevertheless succeeded.

The result as regards Great Britain, is much more far-reaching than can be judged from the strength and size of the subdued adversary. Had Great Britain failed, her South African colonies would have been lost. The Afrikaner Bund would have triumphed over the empire. And the effect of this might have been felt throughout the world. The British victory means a firmer consolidation of the numerous colonies with the British Isles. It is also a lesson to the European powers of the strength of Great Britain in the hour of danger. For it must be apparent to them that the forces that hastened to Africa at the call of the government, from Asia, from Australia, from America, as well as from the Isles, would again hasten to united action, in vastly greater numbers. From this point of view, the war, deplorable as it was, may be worth its cost to the conquerors.

## CHICAGO WOMEN IN POLITICS.

Do women want to vote? Is a question which the Chicago Times-Herald answers in the negative, as far as that city is concerned. And the reply is based on figures.

In the year 1894 the women in Illinois were given franchise to a limited extent, and that year, 29,815 Chicago ladies availed themselves of the opportunity of registering and voting. In 1896, only 5,636 registered. In 1898, 1,488. This year they have almost entirely declined to go near the registrars. The novelty being worn out, the fascination is gone. It may possibly be that the impression is growing back east, that woman's power to purify politics has been overestimated.

It may be that Chicago politics in particular are too coarse for a dainty hand. But whatever is the cause, the fact itself is certainly remarkable. It is so different from the experience of the West.

If you have not registered, register tomorrow.

Hypocrites come in various forms, as witness the loquacious gyrations of many persons now prominent before the public.

You can register at the office of the registry agent of your voting district and not elsewhere, from 8 a. m. till 9 p. m. tomorrow.

San Domingo wishes the United States to become its creditor instead of Belgium. Doubtless the island government wants a safe place to fall when the time comes for foreclosing the mortgage.

Lord Roberts has thanked Gen. Buller for the latter's ability as shown in the South African campaign. But the shadow of Lord Roberts' Spion Kop report hangs like a pall on the newer piece of baggage.

Abuse is no argument. Vilifying an opponent is not an answer to his contention. Banter does not meet reasoning, and calling names only shows the weakness of a cause or the imbecility of the defeated browbeater.

Gen. Chaffee's influence among his associate commanders in China is said to be greater than that of any of the foreign officers. This comes from the superior statesmanship shown in the handling of the American policy the past few months.

The British elections are over, and from the London dispatches one must conclude that out of very shame at their own conduct, the English should never complain of alleged abuse and misrepresentation in a political campaign in America.

A significant illustration of the real weakness of the Tagal insurrection as an organized movement in the Philippines, is given in the ease with which

company F, Twenty-eighth Infantry, recently captured by a party of guerrillas, has been rescued.

Both great political parties have made their forecasts of the result of the election. The people may now weigh these carefully, ascertain which appears to be most reasonable, and wait for November 6th to reveal the accuracy and fairness of the judgment displayed.

It is very gratifying to know that Capt. Devereaux Shields and his fifty-nine gallant comrades, who were captured by insurgents in the Philippines, have been rescued and are now in safety. "When this cruel war is over," Americans as well as Filipinos will have cause to rejoice.

The American soldiers refused to have anything to do with burning the Chinese city of T'ai, recently destroyed by the allies. One would think that the persistent dignified and humane attitude of the American government regarding China would make some of the other powers ashamed of their wanton policy.

Emery county's great coal fields have become the object of solicitude by capitalists. The opening of quick means of communication into that section of Utah is a boon greatly needed by the people there, who, in their own interests, should not fail to follow a policy that will encourage and invite friendly relations with capital.

Many Salt Lakeers will regret to hear of the death of Major Nounnan, who was once a prominent and successful citizen of Utah. His unfortunate weakness for strong drink shattered his health and brought him to poverty, but his uniform politeness and kindly and gentlemanly bearing, created for him a regard that nothing could efface. Rest to his weary soul!

That is a great victory achieved by the city in the notorious conduct case. Particulars will be found in our local columns. This final triumph adds laurels to the brows of the lawyers who have fought the battle for the municipality. City Attorney Hall had the special aid of Richards & Varian, and the result shows the benefit of special counsel of talent and experience, in special and difficult cases. The result is just as well as judicial.

A conference of the Spanish-speaking nations is called to meet in Madrid next month. There is a significance in the fact that the United States, which now contains a large representation of Spanish-speaking people, has not received an invitation to participate. This is well set-off, however, in the fact that the Central and South American republics have given Spain notice that they will not be drawn into any entanglement which will array them against this country. They know the power that befriends them.

J. B. Clayton, a wealthy Englishman who has just died, provided in his will that his property should go to his two daughters only on condition that they reached the age of 35 years without marrying either an American or a Hebrew. The gold-accumulating Englishman probably thought that at 35 his daughters would be old enough to keep their wealth from falling into the hands of scheming Yankees or money-hunting Jews. But the hardship of the provision is not so great when it is recalled that one of the Misses Clayton is now 34½ and the other 33 years of age.

## ARMY AND NAVY OFFICERS.

New York World.  
The bureau chiefs at Washington at the same time announce that they "are estimating on the basis of an army of 100,000 men for the next fiscal year," and further, that "if McKinley is re-elected," a regular army will be of that strength permanently. They frankly say that "the situation in the Philippines will necessitate the retention of a strong force in those islands for years."

Chicago Times-Herald.  
It is difficult to see why Secretary Root should recommend a permanent regular army establishment of 100,000 men, as it is said he will do in his annual report. For, though such an army could not be construed as a menace of militarism in a country of seventy-five millions, it could hardly be regarded as a necessity. The need of professional soldiers on this continent is really reduced to almost nothing.

Chicago Record.  
That almost forgotten philosopher, Josh Billings, once described a beautiful storm on the Erie canal. The waves dashed to the very stars. The hurricane shivered the timbers of the doomed canalboat. The most melancholy result would have followed had not the dauntless hero jumped ashore and turned off the water. Thus it may be said that if the 100,000 voters of the United States ever have occasion to tremble in their boots at the thought of a standing army of 100,000 Americans they can promptly vote it out of existence and thus recover their wonted calm.

## MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN.


The navy department is prepared for proposals for the construction of six armored cruisers, and bids will be received until 12 o'clock noon, on the 7th of December next. These vessels are to be superior craft which although classed only as cruisers will be as efficient as battleships. The tendency toward speed and power in the construction of speedy battleships; and in order to secure speed, some of the heavy equipment of ponderous battleships has been reduced. The idea has been to make battleships more like fast cruisers, and to bring up the first-class cruiser class toward the level of the battleship.

## CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER.


Much interest was taken in the recent naval maneuvers at Newport, R. I., where torpedo boats and warships were pitted against each other, the former defending the coast against the latter. It was claimed at first that the torpedo boats had won most points in the game, but the decision of the board was unequivocally the other way. The torpedo boats have been "destroyed" according to the rules of the game, without having scored more than one hit. The believers in torpedo boats made all that was possible of the one hit, and profess confidence that in actual war the boats would give a better account of themselves than in the sham engagement.

## LOS ANGELES EXPRESS.


There has been a most vivid interest displayed by the people of this country in the possible developments in naval warfare which might result from the employment of submarine boats. Public curiosity has been upon the qui vive ever since the Holland boat was projected and since its completion there has been impatience to have a demonstration of its utility. There has not




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## Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

been a fierce desire for war, but there has been a feeling that we would be pretty well fixed if one should occur.

San Francisco Chronicle.  
When war with Spain was imminent the torpedo boat Somers was bought by us from the German government. The administration was probably influenced in the purchase as much by the fear of the boat falling into Spanish hands as it was by the desire of adding the craft to our own Navy. So far our experience has gone with this torpedo boat up to date it would have been far better for us to have let Spain secure her. She has been a costly toy. The Germans showed their wisdom in selling her. She never was seaworthy. She came to grief in attempting to cross the Atlantic under her own steam; was detained in an English port because of the outbreak of hostilities until the war was over. Was then brought over on the deck of another vessel; put in the Brooklyn navy yard to be repaired and strengthened, and recently emerged from there to be sent back again for more repairs, because of the discovery of new evidences of structural weakness. She is now out again and running the risk of an ocean voyage to Philadelphia. We have had no such trouble with vessels of our own design and construction.

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