DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS.

Utah is now approaching the most critical period of her history. Up to this point her political business, so far as her relations with the general government are concerned, has been managed largely at Washington. Whether her citizens have any rightful accountability in that respect or not, they have not been privileged until now to exercise any in matters of serious importance. Her political household is now by grant of Congress and the President formally transferred to her charge. Her people are given the liberty thereby to erect within the Territory a structure of state sovereignty to their own notions of economy and good government, which are confessedly able to the provisions of the enabling act. This is a great and a grave responsibility. Upon the wisdom, strength and perfection of that structure will depend the future happiness and prosperity of the coming State of Utah. As to what is wise or expedient in the case, men will hold vastly different opinions. There will be associated in the work those who believe that the future greatness of the State will turn wholly upon the success or failure of a particular political party in obtaining control of the establishment. There will be others who may have conceived the not uncommon feeling that nothing to the premises can be safe or desirable that does not emanate from themselves personally. And there will be no end of notions and crotchets or special lines of policy which will be intended into the question, and all must be harmoniously disposed of if possible in order that we may not only adopt that which is the best but support it unanimously.

But leaving minor differences to the discretion of those who shall be immediately entrusted with the work, the News has a word to say on a question of general principle which, as it believes, lies at the foundation of the whole business of government. In most of the states and in the nation at large, the main use to which parties and all auxiliaries of elections seem to have been put is the forcing of partisans into office, their qualifications for public trust being determined largely if not entirely upon the quantity and firmness of their partisanship. Against this system we emphatically protest. We understand perfectly what the politicians think of this sentiment. The rule of strict party allegiance has been a characteristic doctrine with that class of statesmen from the beginning. But we feel safe in asserting that not only the plain logic of party government but the entire experience of modern politics antagonizes the principle of subordinating the question of personal incapacity or the party of the candidate for office to that of his party affiliations. It is for the development and maintenance of correct principles of government that parties are instituted. Before a people can possibly have a desirable government they must secure honest and capable men in the places of authority. In the hands of any other class of persons, no matter what might be their party title, the play at policy is either a roaring farce or an infamous humbug.

In this work therefore of setting up the machinery of the state of Utah, we want at the front the best men to be found in the Territory. The State constitution at least is not in any sense a party instrument, unless perhaps a corrupt policy shall make it so. The registration for the coming election of delegates to the state convention is now in progress. Every citizen of Utah who has a patriotic interest in the future of the Territory should be considering who in his district would be likely to wield the most influence for the good of the State in the framing of that constitution. The qualities for such a duty depend upon first of all patriotism; without this, sagacity, influence, and all the rest are liable to be turned to a mischievous purpose. After this comes the question of ability, of which there may be as many parts as you please, and though it is impossible to find them all combined in one person, it should be the business of every voter to find as many of them in his candidate as he can.

MARRYING COUSINS.

The question is again asked:

Are first cousins prohibited by law in Utah from being united in such close marriage?

No; they are as free as those of no relationship to wed each other. First cousins are, however, the closest relatives who can be legally joined in wedlock in this Territory.

The inquiry above stated doubtless arose from the incident at the Salt Lake county clerk's office, where a couple applied for information on this topic and were told that the law forbade such marrying. It was also stated that the attache of the office inquired of several attorneys and each confirmed the statement. If this be the case, then the legal gentlemen referred to must have forgotten themselves, for the statute is quite plain on the subject. The congressional law, passed in 1887, makes it an offense "if any person related to another person within and not including the fourth degree of consanguinity, computed according to the civil law, shall marry," etc. The Territorial enactment of 1892 uses the same language. The degrees of consanguinity are traced through a common origin or source. For instance, from parent to child is one degree, that is, the relationship of those two classes is the first degree of consanguinity; brother and sister have the relationship of the second degree, and uncle and niece of the third degree. Following the same unswerving rule of tracing through the common head, first cousins have the relationship of the fourth degree of consanguinity. This is the computation of the civil law, which is simple and easily understood, not only by judges and lawyers, but by other people who give the subject attention. As the fourth degree of consanguinity is exempted from the inhibition of the law, it follows that first cousins, so far as the legal aspect of the case is concerned, may be properly joined in wedlock.

INDIANS AND LAND SHARKS.

The statement in a dispatch from Washington that the Yuma Indians are entering Mexican territory and corrupting the Coerpah Indians, and will have to be taken care of by the government, is denounced by Arizona people as a misrepresentation of the actual condition, got up in the interest of land grabbers. They say the tribes are on the most friendly terms and have been for thirty years. They have intermarried, some of the Mexican Indians coming on this side of the line to live, and some of the Yumas proceeding to Mexico in the same way with the families into which they married.

Now that the role of the Mexican government to give to each family of Indians residing on government land eight sections, or about twenty acres, is to be applied in the Coerpahs and others south of the line, and some of the Yumas who have taken up their abode with the tribes to which their wives belonged are coming in for a share of the apportionment, objection is raised on the part of white men who want to secure as much as they can of the rich land there. To do this they want the Indians who have changed their residence to be disqualified from receiving the allotment; and a like scheme is being worked to exclude from the benefits of the Yuma reservation allotment in Arizona those Indians from the Mexican tribes who have been living on the reservation.

It is said that a movement has been instituted on the part of philanthropic white men to set the facts before both the Mexican and the United States governments, that the Indians referred to, who number several hundred, may not be deprived of their rights to land in one or the other country. If it is decided by the two republics that the aborigines must return to their own country, then it will be insisted that the nation where they belong should give them their share of land. As the members who have crossed the border north and south about equally balance each other, the allotment of land by both governments would be then about the same as it is now insofar as leaving the Indians as they are, and the land grabbers would be disappointed in their scheme. If this object is accomplished it is believed that Mexico and the United States would agree that it would be cheaper to make the allotment to Indian families as they now are rather than attempt to move them. Under the view of the case as it is presented by the Arizonans, it is to be hoped that there is enough of strength and vigor in the movement by the friends of the Indians to see that the latter are not robbed, as they usually are in deals of this kind.

AUTHORITY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

The pastoral letter of the Catholic Bishop Watterson and the decision of Satolli, confirming the decree of the bishop, directed against liquor dealers professing Catholicism, are creating much uneasiness in circles interested in the strong drink traffic. The question is now discussed whether the influence is to throw the full force of the church against that traffic in not extended as whether the pronouncements is merely for effect or for purposes not yet fully unveiled.

The Catholics from a few days before Thanksgiving last year. At the time a member of one of the Catholic societies told Bishop Watterson that preparations were making by the society for an entertainment and that food and dancing were among the features. The bishop expressed his disapproval of the entertainment and published a pastoral that the Catholics with a Christian creed in attendance. With the opening day of the fair the bishop and the society were informed that the bishop would be in attendance at the society's rooms, and the society would be in session for the purpose of the society's affairs. The society, fighting for the cause of beer, not yet satisfied, directed another appeal to the pope's representative, at the same time endeavoring to assign the bishop before the national convention of the society—a proceeding unheard of in the history of the Roman church.

In his second decision Satolli lays down the general principle that it belongs to the office of a bishop to find out what is good for the people of his diocese, and that he has power to command, forbid, counsel, or permit to be done whatever he may judge conducive to his own duty and the good of the church member. He further declares that Bishop Watterson's decree ought by no means to be subjected to the judgment of "every private individual every assemblage of simple Catholics or citizens," and concludes as follows:

Therefore those things which the Right Reverend Bishop has commanded in his decree I approve, and I decide that they are to be observed, but if they be considered by some to be in the general interests of some, they will have to be patiently borne for the good of the many and the honor of our Catholic church.

This decision and the premises on which it is based deserve the closest attention. It is evident that it vests the Catholic bishops with almost unlimited authority, or rather it reveals the vast powers entrusted to the discretion of those ecclesiastical officials. As to the liquor traffic it seems clear, according to this declaration, that any bishop who may find that the vendors of the diverse requires its suppression, he can prohibit it in all its forms so far as Catholic members are concerned, under penalty of the ban of the church. And he is responsible only to his superiors in office.

But is this authority limited only to the regulation of that traffic? It does not appear so, for when the papal allegiance lays down as a general principle that among a bishop's duties is that to find out what is good for the people and prohibit what he thinks is not good, it is evident that the gates are thrown wide open to dignitaries with episcopal authority to scrutinize every field of activity on which a citizen or society of citizens is engaged, be it mercantile, professional or political. It is a logical sequence from the principles laid down, that if a bishop fails to ascertain what is politically as well as morally good for his Catholic flock, and to "recommend" what in his judgment is good, he is negligent of one of his duties. It is hard to erase the impression that in the little tussle between the bishop and the liquor dealers an occasion was found to intimate to the clergy that their interference in matters not strictly (according to the American view) coming under the jurisdiction of the church, will from now on in this country not be countenanced by the highest authorities. Of course, there is nothing surprising in this except the frankness and openness with which the policy of Rome is acknowledged. Further developments will show more clearly what the pope's representative really has in view in his new famous decision and what the consequences will be in other affairs than those directly involved.

COMFORT FOR TEA DRINKERS.

Tea drinkers may find some consolation in the fact that the war between Japan and China is not likely to increase the price of tea, at least at present. The crop for the year has been gathered, and there is a very large share in supply; and the conflict now on, while it is confined to the Mongolians, does not interfere with the working of the tea plantations in India. The only effect the opening of war has had so far as the tea market is to reduce the price of the new article about $1 per hundred pounds, caused by the Japanese crowding in an unusual quantity in order to realize the cash. And in this connection it may be interesting to quote from the department of agriculture report, showing that Japan produced last year 83,180,000 pounds of tea, of which only 229,775 pounds was retained for home consumption. These figures show a condition wholly divergent from the usual idea of the Japanese, who are popularly supposed to be constantly steeping and sipping the fragrant drink. Instead of that the report shows that they use a very small quantity of the chief production of their country. Perhaps they are like the small boy who was urged to take a second piece at someone's party, and who replied with a "No ma'am, thank you, I works where they're made."

One of the most interesting articles in the August number of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, certainly the one that will be perused with especial interest by local readers, is a paper on "Utah," by E. W. Sloan, for many years connected with the Herald of this city, and afterwards with the Journal of Logan. Numerous extracts from the paper have been quoted in the press, and the description written by a resident of the Territory for the whole country is of the clear, lively style and always characteristic of Mr. Sloan's literary work.

An average crop of cotton this year, which is a high average for the localities that lost during the war, will have Japan eleven hundred years to sell all the Chinese. This may be a conjectural way of stating it, but it will give a good idea of the immensity of population in the Flowery Kingdom.

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C. E. CROSBY, Manager.

"East Lynn."

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		Limit.	
Brigham,	$ [illegible]	$ [illegible]	10 days
Logan,	[illegible]	[illegible]	15 "
Franklin,	[illegible]	[illegible]	15 "
Preston,	[illegible]	[illegible]	15 "
Oxford,	[illegible]	[illegible]	15 "
Pocatello,	[illegible]	[illegible]	15 "
Idaho Falls,	[illegible]	[illegible]	20 "
Market Lake,	[illegible]	[illegible]	20 "
Soda Springs,	[illegible]	[illegible]	20 "
Montpelier,	[illegible]	[illegible]	20 "
Stockton,	[illegible]	[illegible]	20 "
Ophir,	[illegible]	[illegible]	20 "

Trains for Brigham and Cache Valley will leave Salt Lake at 8:30 p. m. For Brigham, Oxford, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Market Lake, Soda Springs and Montpelier will leave at 8:30 p. m.

Special arrangements will be made for through coaches from Salt Lake to Soda Springs and Montpelier, without change.

This will probably be the only excursion of the season to Northern points.

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SIGNS of the TIMES

NO SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT IN SIGHT. HOW SHALL WE MEET THE SITUATION?

When Senator Teller said a few days ago that he could not now foresee the result of which these recent conditions were leading us, and perhaps it is well for us that he could not, he said many people to thinking very seriously.

But fortunately the American people are not given to yielding to difficulties, but to overcoming them. We anticipated a great increase in trade and began some months ago making preparations to meet it by preparing ourselves to make prices lower than ever before and to bring business with less profit than ever before, relying on times to come that will stimulate a normal and healthy condition. We have not laid off any of our help, but have employed a large number of new hands, opening books and stores in new fields, and largely increasing our manufacturing department, and are remaining in operation a large increase in the number of our men. In fact, our goods and our selling schemes are doing a very satisfactory business.

We are now making a very creditable business and for $14.25 and for $18.50, $18.75 and $20 suits this year we have that. Remember that the cost raises $25 and $30, while our prices for the very finest worsteds are proportionately low.

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