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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 15, 1900.

OUR JUBILEE.

Fifty years ago today the Deseret News made its first appearance. It was then a weekly newspaper, small in size and with limited facilities for work in the field of journalism. In those times and in the circumstances that surrounded the comparatively few inhabitants of this isolated region, it was a remarkable venture. That it lived and prospered and increased in size, influence, circulation and prosperity until it occupies its present proud position, is evidence of the readiness of the early settlers of Utah to support literary enterprises, and their desire to spread abroad intelligence for the benefit of mankind. To-morrow we will present to our readers a fac simile of the first number of the "News," which they can compare with the Saturday edition of the present. We will also publish a splendid illustrated supplement, which we believe our patrons will admit is the finest ever issued in these parts. Everybody should obtain a copy, and see that accompanying the regular number they receive the fac simile and supplement. We are grateful for the support received by the Deseret News from the beginning until today, and rejoice over the brilliant prospects that shine upon us for the future.

PARTISAN APPOINTMENTS.

It is not very often that we find reason to be in accord with the views of Dr. Beatty, a member of the City Council from the Fifth municipal ward; but we must say that we approve of the views he has expressed in reference to the question of the appointment of men for the fire department. This is how he is reported in a morning paper, in reference to the attitude of the City Council as to the nomination by Chief Devine of nine firemen, seven of whom are said to be Republicans and two Democrats.

"This is a Republican administration and I favor Republicans for all positions where they are competent, but if a Democrat is more competent I would vote for the Democrat. I will endeavor to select men for city positions on the same principle that I would follow if selecting them personally. I prefer Republicans, but if a Democrat is the more competent I will stand by him."

In another morning paper he is credited with these pertinent remarks:

"I will never vote for the confirmation of appointments on the lines of partisanship in the Council. The only criterion in selecting men for positions in the employ of the city is their efficiency. I consider that the chief of the fire department has made a thorough examination of these men, and I shall consider that he has selected the best nine men for the places that he could find. I shall not vote against the confirmation of two of them because they are Democrats."

It appears that in consequence of the establishment of a new fire station, which is a necessary adjunct of the department, ten firemen in addition to the number now employed are required for that station. Chief Devine, we understand, has had a large number of applications for these positions. In order to prove their qualifications or otherwise, he has put sixty-five of them through a course of tests of efficiency, and the nine whom he has nominated have given the best evidences of suitability for the work to be done. It is stated that he did not inquire as to the political sentiments of these men, but considered simply their fitness as firemen. It turns out that two of them are Democrats in politics, and this has occasioned a great uproar in the ranks of the Republican officials.

It is to be expected, in view of the methods which are employed by the respective political parties of this country, that favor will be shown to members and workers of the party in power. As a rule, Republicans will appoint Republicans and Democrats will appoint Democrats. When other things are equal, perhaps there cannot be found very much fault with this system, as political matters are now regulated here. It appears to us that the question of fitness should be considered before mere party requirements. It will be conceded by conservative people that the heads of departments should be in complete harmony with the party in control. There may be other officials who should be in the same condition, but this policy ought not to be carried into extremes.

The plan of turning out of place efficient working men whenever there is a change in the political complexion of the city government, does not recommend itself to thoughtful minds. It is not for the best interests of the public. While it may be necessary for party purposes to give preference in public office to persons who have labored for party success, the general

welfare ought to be first considered, and all business, public as well as private, should be conducted on business principles.

Another thing should be kept in view. The heads of departments ought to have considerable discretion in the choice of their subordinates. Usually they are the best judges of the kind of help they need, and in the present instance it seems that the fire chief has made close examination and practical tests before deciding upon the appointments. It looks a little strained on the part of the majority of the city council to reject two men out of nine on strict partisan considerations. The general public will view it in that light, and it will not reflect favorably upon the present administration.

It should be remembered that changes are not at all improbable. It is one party in power today, and another tomorrow. However wrong it may be thought, parties like individuals are given to retaliation. Memory is usually sharp as to injury, and revenge is still a very powerful incentive to fallen humanity. The source of one party may be used, still more highly measured, by the other party when opportunity is afforded. We suggest to the present majority that a little conservatism and consideration for the views of a large body of citizens would be wise, and therefore it might be well to halt before deciding to be too extremely partisan.

There are many public positions which ought not to be filled simply from party motives. Educational offices, for instance, should be above such influences. There may be reasons sometimes why parties should divide on the appointment of a superintendent or other school officers. But as a rule, extreme partisanship ought to be excluded when matters of public education are at stake. Judicial positions come in the same category. In either case adaptability, experience and fitness should be paramount. Mere party exigencies should be placed in the rear.

These remarks are intended to apply to no particular party, but to all organizations for political purposes. In local affairs, particularly in municipal government, the best men for places should be secured, regardless of the opinions they may entertain in reference to national questions. The motto should be "Good and wise men should observe to uphold." Our city fathers would do well to view the matter in this light.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

The total eclipse of the sun on the 29th of last month was, according to all descriptions, as far as they have been published, a grand and inspiring spectacle. The entire path of the moon's shadow was studied with observers, and it seems that most of them had an entirely unobstructed view. Elaborate preparations were made for observations, and when they are all completed and compared a great scientific harvest will be found to have been gathered.

Special attention was given to the course, Garrett P. Serviss, who reported the phenomenon from Columbia for the New York Journal says in part:

"When the totality began the shadow did not sweep through the intervening territory as expected, but there was a sudden darkening of the western and southwestern horizon of what looked like an enormous bank of deep purple black clouds, gathering and gradually mounting higher and higher until it reached the mid-heaven, and then the whole landscape was enveloped in a light resembling a faint moonlight. The corona appeared with great suddenness, stood forth with extreme distinctness, and every astronomer instantly recognized that it had a typical form, the type of corona which is characteristic of the minimum period of sun spots. It consisted of four distinct ray-like streaks, extending two east and two west from the sun. The largest of these reached, as seen with small telescope, at least as far as the planet Mercury, which appeared very bright in the darkened sky, about two and a quarter degrees directly west of the sun. The streaks of light in ray in miles must have been not less than four millions of miles. About the poles of the hidden sun burst forth the mysterious curving rays, which seemed to indicate the influence of magnetic forces on a gigantic scale. Looking at the corona and at the polar rays the impression that the sun is an enormous dynamo machine was overwhelming."

The evidences with which the light appeared after the totality was over, was noted especially by English observers at Washburn, N. C. One of them gives this graphic report:

"A very curious phenomenon, witnessed and commented on by all, was the extreme rapidity with which the light returned when totality was over. For ninety seconds only could the delighted astronomers and enthusiasts gaze upon the unearthly vision, which seemed indeed to belong to another world, and to be composed of the stuff that dreams are made of. Suddenly, as they looked and looked, endeavoring vainly to imprint the image upon the retina of the memory, a bright, blinding star of light sprang into being upon the limb of the sun, before whose increasing glory the ghostly vision began to pale and fade, yet all reluctantly, as if loath to then the line streamers went first, and then the disk of totality began narrowing on the further side of the sun till it finally disappeared, though not till full fifteen of twenty seconds after the totality was over. Then, at this great wave, the sunlight flooded back upon the country with all the hues of the rising sun, the stars disappeared, and the observers drew a deep breath of wonder, regret and joy that their anxious work was over, and over so successfully. And then they were able to notice with what excessive rapidity the light had returned, obviously vastly quicker than it had disappeared. As there is at present no theory that will account for this phenomenon, which is not at all what might be expected, this point alone will afford food for speculation and research."

Among the most interesting observations were those on the so-called "shadow-bands," not formerly investigated. The New York Evening Post has the following report on this subject:

"In observing the shadow-bands, two assistants watched closely a white sheet spread on the ground, four square to the points of the compass. They were instructed to place long rods along the hands and note the direction of the movement. The direction of the rods this placed was afterward carefully measured by Professor Bragg with a compass. The observations of the shadow-bands were confirmed by other members of the party standing nearby. They unite in testimony to the reality of the bands, their rapidity of movement, and general wavy character, some being straighter than others."

While easily observable, they required close attention to account of their fineness. Their distance, estimated, was from one to two inches."

The sun, although the object of close observations since the beginning of astronomy, is not by any means clearly understood. The most common idea is that it is a vast world enveloped in roaring flames, from which the planets are but so many sparks, some of which are extinguished while others are in process of cooling. But another view is that the sun is cold, and that its "flames" are but snow-storms. And between these extreme theories, there are numerous variations.

The opportunities for a close study of the phenomena from which a theory can be formed are few and far between. Science is doing her best to unveil the mysteries of the vast expanse, as well as those near at hand, and the beauty of it all is that science proceeds on the line of truth, she comes into the most intimate and harmonious relations with revealed religion.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION.

Lately some protests have been heard against the immigration of Japanese to this country. Special legislation for their exclusion is being urged on the plea that the Japanese element is as much of a menace to the American workingman, as is the Chinese.

Naturally the Japanese is a different subject than the Chinese. The Japanese subjects claim that there is a civilizational and social customs which fit them to rank with our civilized people, and an army and navy which, in point of efficiency, are quite equal to those which obey the commands of other governments. They admit that there is no reason for any discrimination being shown against them.

They admit that the United States has a perfect right to enact exclusion laws, if these are directed against all nations alike, but they refuse to admit the justice of subjecting them to regulations different from those that obtain with regard to the European nations.

This reasoning should have especial weight at a time when all the civilized world seeks an opening for its commerce and industries in eastern Asia. What consistency is there in closing our doors to the Asiatics, at the same time we are demanding them to hold their gates wide open to us? The Japanese especially can get along tolerably well without America, and this country can do without Japan, but if we deem it necessary to ask for certain favors, there should, for the sake of consistency, be reciprocity in the matter. If the Occident fears the Orient, its best policy is to let it severely alone.

GROWTH OF THE PLAINS.

Men yet live in Utah who remember the strong antagonism of politicians of three-score years ago to the acquisition by the United States of the Great West; and those of the younger generation can read in history of the opposition to western expansion, voiced in a speech of Daniel Webster, who asked, in the United States Senate:

"What do we want with this vast, worthless area? This region of savages and wild beasts, of shifting sands and whirlwinds of dust, of cactus and prairie dogs? To what use could we ever hope to put these great deserts, or those endless mountain ranges, impenetrable and covered to their very base with eternal snow?"

To that part of this inquiry which names the mountain ranges, Utah has given reply in the agricultural, mineral and manufacturing wealth that has been added to the nation's storehouse. As to the alleged "vast, worthless area" of deserts, there is something of interest in this response given in a description of Kay county, Oklahoma, which appears in the Kansas City Star of Tuesday of this week:

"Less than eight years ago this country was a wilderness where the coyote roamed untroubled over the plains of primeval buffalo grass. In all the country heretofore there was not a farmhouse or village. This year the country has had six million bushels of wheat on hand that cost the original owners nothing more than a race of a few hours on a fast horse. They expect to get 70 cents a bushel at least for this wheat and many dream that it will be up to \$1. If they get 70 cents a bushel it will amount to \$4,200,000. But wheat is only one half the story. There are large acreages in oats that is expected to yield from 70 to 75 bushels to the acre, and corn as tall now as a man's shoulders its endless acres of vivid green shimmering in the sun as it pushes taller and fields of alfalfa, millet, barley and rye, that clothe the world and meet the sky for miles and miles across the rolling prairie."

The United States "wants" something of this western country now, and the figures of production show it does not want in vain. The Great West is truly great under the hand of thrift and industry, and the blessings of Divine Providence which cleared the pathway for this vast section of country to come under the government of the great Republic.

AN ANCIENT COIN.

A respected correspondent sends us the following clipped from a Chicago paper, the particulars of which came from Wisconsin. He regards it as evidence of the antiquity of civilization on this continent. It is possible that there may be something in that opinion, but still there is the probability that the relic spoken of may have been dropped by some one at a much later date than that given of its coinage. However, we print it, as it may be interesting to many of our readers:

"C. A. Iffert, a German teacher and instructor in German in the public schools of this place, is the fortunate owner of a piece of money, coined about 200 B. C. The coin is a Roman denarius, coined by the family of Calpurnia. So far as known there is but one other of this country—the one bought by the government for the national museum."

"Mr. Iffert's coin was found here about three and a half feet below the surface, while a company of workmen were excavating for the foundation of an icehouse for the brewery. The man who picked it up took it for a nickel, but after discovering his mistake, sold it to the present possessor for 10 cents, or rather two glasses of beer. The coin, no doubt, is worth \$1,000 or more. It is of about the size and thickness of a nickel, and is a bronze composition, weathered with silver. On the obverse side, in bold relief, is the figure of a head facing to the left. On the reverse side are two human figures

in the act of walking, facing to the right; each is carrying something resembling a lance in his left hand, while the right is leading on some object behind. Above their heads and between the two figures is a representation of an anvil and a pair of tongs. There is no dating on either side.

"How the coin came to be here is a matter of conjecture. The most plausible theory is that it was lost by the French traders who frequented this region during the seventeenth century. As one of the Swiss colony, whose descendants now form the thrifty town of New Orleans, ever owned a coin of the kind. Further, it could not have worked its way under the soil to such a depth since 1845, when the first Swiss came to Wisconsin and brought this land under cultivation for the first time.

"Temple sums have been offered Mr. Iffert for his coin, but he is not anxious to sell."

That little bill owing by Turkey has not been settled yet, hence Mr. Griscom has been prodding the Sultan again. Keep it up.

Money does not bring health or produce happiness, but its possession and judicious use go a long way in smoothing off the rough corners in life.

Historian John Clark Ridpath is seriously ill. From the nature of his ailment, on a man of his years, there is little human prospect of recovery.

However optimistic may be the pro-British view of the South African war, when the large British army can be held in check for two days, the conflict has not degenerated to guerrilla warfare.

The deadly kerosene can has claimed forty victims in Texas this far this year. Surely a goodly proportion of the population there is prone to go out of this existence in a blaze, though it be not of glory.

The lucern crop in the State this year is immense, the prospect now being that it will exceed all former years, and thus be a valuable asset to the farmer; for the demand is so steady that prices will drop but little.

A dispatch from Chicago intimates that sympathetic strikes there are soon to be a thing of the past. Not while Chicago is as it is; for the status there is anything but conducive of a reign of peace over employers and employes.

The Canadian premier has introduced a bill in parliament assessing each Chinaman in the Dominion \$100 as poll tax. If the Chinese had tried to sell each Englishman in their country in the manner proposed, how quickly they would have been "brought up standing." It all depends on the ownership of the ox.

New York has had another sickening tenement house disaster, there being seventeen victims this time. If it were not that those tenement houses were occupied by poor people only, there might be hope for better municipal regulations regarding means of escape from the buildings.

There is a little cloud between the United States and Germany. The latter has Albert Flehm, an American citizen, in prison in an effort to draft him into the German army. There is just one way to settle the dispute amicably, and that is for Germany not to impress and that is for Germany not to impress service.

Admiral Dewey now says he is thankful the people do not seem to want him as a presidential candidate. Doubtless the admiral is coming to realize with the people that there are some positions better than one of the sprinters in a presidential race, particularly if he should happen to be the one destined to lose.

We have received from the International Navigation Company, of New York, a type measure, useful in the composing room, and ornamented with a sea view of one of the fine steamships of the Red Star line. It also contains a list of the company's fleet of twin screw vessels with their tonnage, for which the company will please accept our thanks.

The fact that British soldiers are magnificent "stayers" when defending a besieged place does much to dispel the anxiety that otherwise would be felt for the garrison of Kumassie, in the British Gold Coast colony, which is now surrounded by 10,000 Ashanti warriors. If the blacks should gain possession of the town, a fearful massacre would be sure to follow.

The present crisis in the Cape Colony ministry is brought about chiefly by the effort of Cecil Rhodes to dominate political matters there. Thus far the Afrikaners have escaped being under that rich man's thumb, with the probability that they will not go there without severe pressure from the home government. The question now is whether Mr. Chamberlain will supply this.

It is just possible that Russia and Japan have reached an agreement as to what share of China they will strike for at present. In case of a break. Such a thing would be an advantage to Japan, in averting a war with a stronger power, while the Russians would not have serious objections, since it would avoid uncomfortable complications, and Russia could bide her time to crowd Japan back again.

Dewey says "Keep the Philippines." No doubt Uncle Sam will follow the advice, if it is a little late now, so far as its public utterance is concerned. But it shows just where the hero of Manila stands on the subject, and is an answer to the inquiry urgently made some time ago as to the advice he gave the President, when the latter asked him prior to the making of the treaty of Paris.

Ignatius Donnelly, the candidate of the Peoples' party for Vice President, by way of illustration of an argument against the two great political parties of the nation, asked the question, what would be the result if ten horses were hitched to the front of a cart, and ten horses of equal power to them were hitched to the back of the cart. His solution of the problem was that the cart would remain immovable. Our idea is that it would be pulled to pieces. Curious, isn't it? how different minds view the same question looked at from different standpoints!

DANGER IN CHINA.

Chicago Record.

Whatever considerations of self-interest the various powers may discover in the possibilities of China's dismemberment, they have become for the moment secondary to the claims of common humanity. Human life is at stake. The latest reports from Tien Tsin leave no room for doubt that men, women and children of the Christian nations are in peril of murder. Many have already been slain. Whatever the other powers having citizens or subjects in China may decide to do, the United States has its duty plainly defined. Its residents in the disaffected country are in need of protection.

Denver Post.

The growing complications in China have for the time being absorbed much of the interest heretofore given the war in South Africa. From the tone of English papers it is evident that the people in England are greatly disappointed at the barrenness of results in the occupation of Pretoria by the British army. The first impulse led them to believe that with the occupation of the Transvaal capital the war would be at an end, but now they are becoming gradually convinced that the resources of the Boers are by no means exhausted and the end is still far off. Meanwhile the situation in the Orient becomes threatening, while the British army is occupied many thousands of miles away. It does not seem clear to anyone what game Russia is playing. There is but one thing evident, that Russia has been preparing for just such an eventuality all along and that today it has the upper hand and whatever may be its intentions they will be carried out, as England is in no position to offer marked resistance.

London Daily Mail.

The United States have secured definitely pledges as to the maintenance of the open doors and their intervention would not produce friction, danger of disorder yesterday. When asked whether England or Russia act alone, we have no desire to precipitate a world-wide conflict, yet our movements are regarded with much suspicion by many Russians that serious complications might ensue should we land a large force. The same applies to Russia, face to face with ourselves, but the United States have the traditions with Russia, and a community of interests with England. Their action would therefore secure the hostility of neither power. It need scarcely be said that they would have the moral support of the British people and our material support also, if only the policy of our government in the far east were stronger than it is.

Boston Herald.

That is a surprising, and not very creditable, admission which Admiral Crowninshield made to a Washington correspondent yesterday. When asked what further steps the navy department would take to re-enforce Admiral Kempf at Taku, the chief of the navigation bureau met the inquiry with a double plea of inability and indifference. "I cannot see," he said, "that we can do anything more. We have little concern with affairs in China. Our field is the Philippines, and we need all the forces we can spare for service there."

San Francisco Chronicle.

North and South America are our legitimate spheres of influence, and we are content with them, and with the lodgment already effected in Asia. The sooner Europe understands that we will not interfere in Asia except to defend our own possessions the better. So long as we retain our traditional attitude our relations will be cordial with all European countries. The moment we begin to help them to bear the white man's burden that moment the row will begin about "not telling fair." All this President McKinley sees plainly, and his course on the Chinese question shows that he will keep us out of all entanglements. There is no "imperialism" in his designs. That issue is as dead as the "trust issue," or even sixteen to one. We will keep our own and accept no more.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The intention of our government, following the example of other powers, has been to limit its interference in Asia to the maintenance of the open door for our legation and for the protection of American citizens. And it is to be hoped that these precautions will be sufficient to secure the safety of the foreign population from the flood of hatred which is sweeping over China and threatening the extermination of all foreigners.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is evidently no time to enquire into the motives, whether of fear or of policy, that have actuated the strange demand who has been so long the dominant power in China. Whether she has simply gone mad, whether she is yielding to the boxes in a frenzy of fear, or whether she is playing a deep game to save herself by throwing China into the arms of Russia, or another power, all these are interesting questions, but in the present emergency somewhat academic. The fact remains that so far as the world at large can know to the contrary, her latest action is a defiance of the powers that she practically equivalent to a declaration of war.

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 Whilst busy with her spring cleaning, should remember that now is the time to exterminate Bugs, Cockroaches, Moths, etc. Our Japanese Powder, Liquid Insecticide and Camphor Balls will do the work effectively. For sale only by the reliable
Godbe Pitts Drug Co.
 SALT LAKE CITY.