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Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 1, 1905.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Seventy-fifth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene on Thursday, the 6th of April, and adjourn Friday afternoon until Sunday morning, and close Sunday afternoon.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held on Friday night, commencing at 7:30.

The special Priesthood meeting for the General and Presiding Authorities of the Church will be held in the Assembly Hall on Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

The general semi-annual conference of the Deseret Latter-day School Union will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 9, 1905, at 9 o'clock, p. m. Officers and Sunday school workers are requested to attend and all are cordially invited.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOSEPH M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

A NOTABLE EXPEDITION.

The gentlemen in command of the expedition to the San Juan country under the auspices of the Commercial Club of this city, started today on their journey. After reaching Thompson's Springs, on the Rio Grande Western railway, they will proceed by team and wagon southward to Bluff City, where they will make their arrangements to go on their adventurous trip to the North-west into a region practically unexplored. They will have experienced mountaineers and cowboys as scouts, with some knowledge of the country to be explored, and it is expected that they will add greatly to a correct knowledge of the antiquities of the American continent.

Mr. S. T. Whitaker, recently director general of the Utah World's Fair Commission, Mr. H. L. A. Culmer, the well known artist and mineralogist, and Mr. C. W. Holmes, an enterprising gentleman, son of Col. E. F. Holmes, former president of the Commercial Club, are the gentlemen in charge, and we expect that on their return they will furnish to the public, through the press, many items of information that will be of great interest and value. The Deseret News presents today an illustrated article, giving all the data attainable in advance of the expedition. That which we present is reliable and will doubtless be attractive to the great body of our readers.

The region which is to be explored was once occupied by the Cliff dwellers, if not by people of a still more ancient race. It lies between the San Juan river and the great canyon of the Colorado river. It is a rough and rocky and mountainous district, and so far as investigations have been made there, contains ruins and relics of a past age that will give much information concerning the pre-historic people, and their works, who once dwelt on this land and who have perished and passed away.

To the Latter-day Saints the antiquities of the Western Hemisphere are always a subject of deep interest. Believing in the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, they have learned much of the history of the people who flourished here ages ago. The explorations of travelers, and the descriptions of the evidences of a bygone civilization by archaeologists, have to them a fascination greater than that excited in ordinary readers of history and the developments of modern times. They are convinced that two distinct civilizations existed on this land, as described in the Book of Mormon, and that the different tribes of Indians as they are called, which now roam the prairies and mountains of the North and form a large portion of the population of South America, are the descendants of the men and women of Israelitish stock, who by divine direction were brought upon this land 600 years before the Christian era.

They were preceded several centuries anterior to that period by a small colony from the plains of Shinar, where the Tower of Babel was built. The Book of Mormon gives many particulars concerning those peoples, their buildings, their temples, their religion, their customs, their wars, their decadence and overthrow, and also predictions concerning their future. Every discovery of ancient ruins on this continent helps to confirm the truth of that record, and adds to its unpeakable worth to the scientific world and to the student of theology.

We hope that while the members of the expedition that has started for the San Juan region are not going there for the purpose of demonstrating anything in relation to the record here briefly treated of, they will find in their

travels and investigations much concerning the Cliff dwellers and other people of remote times, and be able to furnish to the public sketches and photographs of the principal objects of interest there, and obtain specimens of the relics left of the land, that will demonstrate the value of the expedition and reflect credit upon themselves and upon the commercial organization in this city which had the enterprise and public spirit to organize it. We wish the gentlemen abundant success, and safe return.

A SCATHING ARRANGING.

The Rexburg, Idaho Current-Journal has a scathing editorial headed "Fred T. Dubois." It is founded on the invitation extended to him by the Mothers' Congress at Washington to speak to the ladies on the subject of "The Purity of the Home." That paper remarks:

"What an inspiring thing it must have been to these well meaning mothers to listen to this pure, clean, spotless representative of the American home throw mud at the people who helped elect him to his high office. 'Could they but have read the secrets of his life and heart, and seen the interior of the whitened sepulchre, how they would have hid their faces in horror, and cried out for very shame.'"

The Current-Journal then proceeds to exhort the Senator from Idaho for his defamations of the "Mormon" people before the good women of the Congress, and gives a brief history of the course pursued in reference to plural marriage, showing that only a very few persons in Idaho are now in that relation, and what it has cost the "Mormons" to conform to the demands of the country, and says further:

"And yet Senator Dubois and others like him are not satisfied; they have heard of two or three sporadic cases of polygamy since the manifesto was adopted, and the whole people are held up to reproach, and designated as law breakers. How unkind this is, how unjust. Again, because some aged brother still calls the mother of his children by the sacred name of wife, and visits her, he is to be sent to prison, and the unhappy wife is to be cast into the wilderness, like Hagar of old, to perish of thirst and hunger. All sympathy and love is to be forever withdrawn from her, and she is to be henceforth looked upon as an outcast. This is the program outlined by Senator Dubois, and eagerly endorsed by the Christian Mother's Congress and other reform associations throughout the land. And all this is for the protection of the home and the advancement of Christianity."

The Current-Journal thus turns the tables on the Idaho politician and compares his character and career with those of the great body of the people whom he is engaged in maligning:

"When Senator Dubois prates about the purity of the American home, we cannot help wonder what kind of home he was brought up in. What could have been the teachings of the home that has afflicted his fellow-citizens with such a product. In all Latter-day Saints homes the children are taught to speak the truth, to bear false witness against no one. These lessons could never have been taught him, or else he has long since forgotten them, for no one could tell more untruths about his neighbors than he did the other day before the Mothers' Congress. In the homes of the Latter-day Saints children are taught to be temperate, to leave strong drink and tobacco alone. Senator Dubois was evidently not a teetotaler, for he is in this kind, for he is no stranger to the saloon. The 'Mormon' home teaches purity and virtue; it seeks to instill into the heart of the boy that he must guard his purity, and he would be a disgrace to his father if he were not. Was Senator Dubois ever taught that lesson? If so, he has not always remembered it. The 'Mormon' boy is taught in his home to fear God and love his fellow-men. Our senator must never have learned anything of that kind in his pure Christian home, for he loves no one except himself, and fears neither God nor the devil. The 'Mormon' teaches that the love for country and its institutions, a respect for the flag that symbolizes its glory, and the boy is taught that he must not only be willing to die for his country, but he must be willing to live for it, and help maintain the liberty which it guarantees. Were such lessons taught Fred T. Dubois? Evidently not, or he would not be engaged in this kind of a campaign. During Cleveland's administration they were all Democrats, and now they are Republicans. Of course this is as false as his other statements. No doubt some of the 'Mormons' like other people, sometimes change their politics. But if there is one in their entire number who has changed often from Mr. Dubois we would like to know his name. He would be a political curiosity. We are of the opinion that our senator has belonged to as many parties in the last twenty years as any man in the United States. If a change of political opinion is a crime, then Mr. Dubois ought to be one of the first to suffer for it. He should have been disfranchised long ago."

The article concludes with a defense of the people whom F. T. Dubois has so grossly defamed, and asks what "inducement he has offered to gain their support for his political ambitions, and whether it seems strange to him that 'Mormons' do not fall over each other to help him take away their rights. The entire article makes good reading, and we regret that lack of space forbids our reproducing it in its entirety.

SCHOOL CONFLICT IN CANADA.

Canada is agitated by a school controversy which is of considerable interest to this country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his bill for the creation of the two new provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, has incorporated clauses providing for the maintenance of sectarian schools out of public funds. Exception is taken to this clause by many, particularly Protestants.

The law provides, in part:

"That a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion of a province, or of any portion or subdivision thereof, by whatever name the same is known, may establish such schools therein as they think fit, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor; and

"That the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein and make the necessary assessments and collection of rates therefor; and

"That in such case the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools shall be liable

only to assessment of such rates as they impose upon themselves in respect thereof.

In the appropriation of public money by the Legislature in aid of education, and in the distribution of any moneys paid to the government of the province arising from the school fund established by the Dominion Lands Act, there shall be no discrimination between the public schools and the separate schools, and such moneys shall be applied to the support of public and separate schools in equitable shares or proportions."

The effect of this last clause, it is asserted, will be to fasten sectarian schools upon those provinces, and this prospect is not relished by all Canadians. Even the organ of the Liberal party, of which Sir Wilfrid is the leader, opposes the scheme, on the ground that "the highest interests of all parties, for the present and for the future, will be best served by Parliament dealing only with federal matters, and leaving to the legislatures of the provinces all the duties and responsibilities which the Confederation Act intended to be provincial."

The question, according to the Christian Guardian is one that concerns the entire Dominion. It touches it, that paper thinks, at the deepest core of its national and social life. "It is the question as to whether, in the great and rapidly growing provinces of the Northwest there is to be fastened a demoralizing, disintegrating educational system, setting race against race, and creed against creed, neighbor against neighbor, and man against man."

It will, no doubt, be a surprise to many to learn that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his defense of the obnoxious measure actually ascribes all the ills of the United States to our school system, of which we are justly proud. In a recent address he said:

"We live by the side of a country, a great nation—a nation for which I have the greatest admiration—but whose example I do not take in everything. In the schools of which these morals and these dogmas might be taught in which all do not believe. When I compare these two countries, when I compare Canada with the United States, when I compare the status of the two nations, when I think upon their future, when I observe the social condition of the civil society in each of them, and when I observe in this country of ours a total absence of lynchings and almost total absence of divorces and murders, for my part I thank heaven that we are living in a country where the young children of the land are taught Christian morals and Christian dogmas. Either the American system is right or the Canadian system is right. They cannot both be right. For my part, I say, and I say it without any hesitation, I know that we are in the right, and in this instance, as in many others, I have an abiding faith in the institutions of my country."

According to this, one serious affliction the United States, is the absence of sectarian teachings in our schools. And this was seriously maintained by a prominent statesman!

Canada, we should think, had better keep its school system entirely free from sectarian influence, and leave each church free to reach out for the growing generation by means of Sunday schools and other missionary agencies. Religion cannot be taught in the same way as geography, history, or grammar, and every effort to do so ends in failure. The religion that goes no further than the head, is no protection against criminal tendencies. Only when it becomes a regenerating power can it save the individual from the temptations that beset him, on account of heredity, or environment, or both.

ACCOMMODABLE ENTERPRISE

We have received the first number of Utah Commercial Advertiser, a periodical that will appear in this city every week, under the auspices of the Western Guide Publishing Co., of which Mr. W. D. S. Harrington is the manager. The paper will be devoted to the business interests of Utah and surrounding States and Territories, and will especially advertise the practically unlimited resources which here are awaiting development. The first number of the publication presents a very neat appearance, and its contents, both original editorial and contributed, is of the kind any loyal citizen would like to see distributed abroad, especially among prospective settlers and investors. We hope the new literary venture will prove a success, as it deserves. A publication of this kind is very much needed, to proclaim to the world the facts concerning the true status of business affairs here, and the opportunities offered. The Advertiser starts out to do this, and it should be liberally backed by business men and the general public.

AN APPEAL FROM AFRICA.

In the current number of the Century appears a notable article—an appeal to Christendom from Africa. It is written by a native chief of the "dark continent."

This spokesman for the African race suggests that a "council of friends of Africa" be called and that men of all countries interested in the subject be invited to present papers on topics relating to the salvation of Africa. Let intelligent natives, missionaries, and travelers from different parts of the "Dark Continent" present papers relating to the dealings of Europeans with natives. At such council, he believes, a definite plan could be made for the protection of Africans from the evils of civilization." Let this petition, he says, be sent to the great governments on behalf of Africans and from this same council let there be a society formed, the duty of which shall be to see that laws made by these governments for the protection of natives be carried out; that complaints from the native chiefs shall reach the colonial or the home government; that native women in particular shall be specially protected, and, when abandoned by a European husband, that such husband be made to support her and her children.

Thus a pathetic appeal comes from the Africans, to the civilized, and professedly Christian, nations of the world for justice. The Africans ask for the privilege of living in their own land, of working their own soil, and being ruled by some of their own race. They ask for the right to eat and drink what they think good for themselves, instead of having deadly poison poured down their throats.

Very likely Christendom will close its

ears to this cry for justice. For the partition of Africa seems to be irrevocably decreed. But the failure to listen to the demands of justice in this instance, constitutes one more offense against God Himself, that will be considered on the day of final accounting.

A LOST SECT HEARD FROM

In the beginning of the last century, Joanna Southcott, an English domestic, gathered a number of followers—in the neighborhood of 100,000. She taught that she was the woman spoken of in the 12th chapter of the Apocalypse, and she prophesied that "Shiloh" would come in 1814. But "Shiloh" failed to appear, and her followers fell off. For many years, very little has been heard of the sect, but now some of them have again appeared before the public. A New York dispatch says that 32 men and women came, the other day, to that port from Australia, claiming to be members of the sect founded by Joanna Southcott. They have come to this country, it is said, to found a colony in which to live and await the coming of the Millennium, which, they think, will occur in 1916. According to the dispatch they call themselves Israelites, and assert that they are the lost tribes of Israel. Only one tribe of Israel, they say, is now lost, and they expect to find that tribe before the end of the world. They have been living in Australia and are being taken to Michigan by five members of the colony near Benton Harbor, which is said to number 400 persons. Their abode they call "The House of the Lord."

If the Czar refuses to come to terms he may be driven to them.

"Millions for continuing the war; not one kopek for indemnity"—Nicholas.

Peace talk is prevalent and also cheap. It is the indemnity that costs.

The Beef trust will be glad when Lent and the investigation are over.

This spring weather makes winter overcoats feel uncommonly comfortable.

Quo warranto proceedings against the judge of the juvenile court are now in order.

San Domingo's creditors are to be paid. And man never is but always is to be blessed.

Unsuccessful candidates for the juvenile court judgeship have a Brown taste in their mouth.

The Russians are game and for that among other reasons the Japanese propose to bag them.

Better Cassie Chadwick in an autobiographical note on the lecture platform. You can shut the book up.

"We are getting to be a race of gamblers," says Dr. Parkhurst. The doctor may be, but we aren't.

If April 1 were the only day in which fools reign supreme, what a happy, pleasant world to live in this would be!

The San Francisco police have ceased trying to solve the Stanford mystery. After all, was there really any mystery about it?

Even if that Rockefeller money is tainted, the prudential committee can easily fumigate it and so kill the microbes, rendering it harmless.

Rev. Washington Gladden and other protestants are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Rockefeller's gift horse has got the glanders.

If the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University can merge to advantage, why cannot the University of Utah and the Agricultural College do the same thing?

"Little Charlie," Chinaman, has been arrested for being in this country without a proper certificate. Had Charlie had his just deserts for that Alta murder, he would now be in that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

Some of the protestants against Mr. Rockefeller's gift talk as though he were Satan and had led the prudential committee up into the top of a mountain and offered them the whole world. He is not the one nor has he offered the other.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Northwestern Christian Advocate.

The sculptor who was told by a fellow artist that he could not make a perfect figure out of a certain block of marble, replied that as that particular stone was sent him to be formed into a statue, it was his business to make as good a figure out of it as he could. There are people of whom it is manifestly impossible, in a short lifetime, to make anything but what is commonplace, or at least, what the world, with its inability to see, calls commonplace. Still we should always remember that a soul started on its way toward the divide has the capacity for endless improvement. It is as though a statue, having been formed according to a certain standard of excellence, had the power in itself to grow into greater and greater beauty.

Public Opinion.

The result of the competition, in which Miss Helen Miller Gould offered three prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 for the best essays on the comparative merits of the Revised Version of the Bible (Protestant) and the Douay Version (Roman Catholic), has been made public by the Rev. Dr. W. W. White, of the Bible Teachers' Training School, New York. Two hundred and fifty-six essays were received. The first prize was awarded to the Rev. W. T. Whiteley, a Baptist clergyman of Preston, England, the second prize to the Rev. G. H. Beard, a Congregationalist clergyman of New Haven, Conn., and the third prize to Mr. Charles B. Dalton, an Episcopalian, assistant-master in Trinity Parish, New York. The judges in this contest included President Patton, of Princeton Theological Seminary; Chancellor MacCracken, of New York University, and the Hon. Whitelaw Reid.

The Interior.

We by no means suggest a general refusal to perform any marriage ceremony.

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monies in which divorced persons are concerned. On Presbyterian grounds no such undiscriminating negative attitude is possible. But every minister invited to officiate in a wedding of this character ought to consider his duty very carefully, not merely as a matter of his personal relations but also as a matter affecting the policy and moral effectiveness of the denomination.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Among the varied contents of the April Century Mr. Melville E. Stone's story of "The Work of the Associated Press" is perhaps of the most general interest. This is the first of a series of articles on the largest newswriting service in the world, and recounts Mr. Stone's interviews with the Pope, the President of the French Republic, the Emperor of Germany, the King of Italy, and other authorities. American country are ranked of unusual historic interest and architectural beauty, and Mr. Whiteley revisited this region in preparing these articles. Of unique interest is "Africa's Appeal to Christendom," written, not by an American or English missionary, but by Prince Moussa Masagoul of Ghendimail, of the British Protectorate of Sierra Leone. There are further chapters on "The Immediate Future of the American College," by Arthur T. Hadley, president of Yale, and on "President Roosevelt as a Reader. There is plenty of humor with occasional touches of pathos, in the number's varied list of fiction. The editorials discuss "Changing Russia," "On the Good Citizens Yet Living," and "The Future of the Metropolitan Museum—Again."

A worthy subject for a powerful pen is the life of Pere Lacombe, which A. C. Laut contributes to April Outlook. Lacombe lived for half a century among the Indians, nursing them through plagues, fighting by them in their wars and teaching them a religion they could understand. Widely different from this is E. J. O. Alsop's account of the Holy City of the Hindus, with vivid photographs and descriptions of the strange customs of these remote people. Spring Work in the Garden tells of hot beds, cold frames and tools; laying out a garden, planting flowers, raising vegetables and fruits, and finally gives many hints for keeping a good lawn. Frauds in Horse Dealing, shows that the methods of high finance are not unknown to stable hands. Arthur Chapman tells how to build a Land and Water Aquarium; William C. Harris advising where to fish and what to wear, and Ralph D. Polne writing about the School and College World—112 Dearborn St., Chicago.

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